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# The Shoreline Journal

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## Little Dyke Residents Fight Back

By *Maurice Rees*

People who live in West Colchester's Little Dyke area are demanding a moratorium on plans by New Brunswick's Irving Family to expand a gravel pit in their neighbourhood to ten times its current size. At a public meeting held on May 19th residents agreed to take their fight to candidates of the three main parties in the May 30th provincial election.

Property owners formed the Little Dyke Residents Association and have held several information sessions. Approximately 50 properties border Little Dyke Lake which is close to the proposed expansion. The May 19th meeting included representation by nearly 50% of the property owners.

When contacted concerning the May 18th meeting, Karen Casey responded, "I

have attended and initiated meetings with residents to hear their concerns and to have OSCO administration and site management attend. That previous information session was organized by me so that residents could pose their questions to the company".

She continued, "I have also delivered a letter on behalf of...and signed by some of the residents...to the Minister of Environment". I was not aware

of nor invited to the May 18th meeting.

The association has discovered the area contains five "species at risk" and one "Endangered Species". According to the Provincial GS ranking, there are 49 Rare Species within five kilometres of the proposed expansion. Of the 49 Rare Species five Species at Risk are: Red Knot, Common Night Hawk, Barn Swallow, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Canada Warbler. The Red Knot is now listed as "Endangered" by COSEWIC.

Little Dyke Lake is fed by an intricate series of underground springs. Residents fear expanding the current gravel pit to 10 times its current size could affect the groundwater system, jeopardizing successful farming operations, in addition to damaging the environment.

Ian MacFadden, a member of the Association, is a property owner on Little Dyke Road for 25 years, and his family's connection with Little Dyke Lake as property owners goes back over 85 years. MacFadden says residents in the area have already tolerated a major expansion by Irving-owned OSCO in 2007. "And now to hear the Irving Group has plans for other 20-years of noise, the destruction of natural water tables and marine life? We're not going to stand for it, and we want our political representatives to declare that they stand with us."

Carol McNutt, a member of the Little Dyke Residents' Association, has studied the 91-  
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There were lots of smiles and mutual admiration at the May 2nd, Volunteer Recognition, when 31 volunteer firefighters serving a combined 1,678 years, were recognized by the County of Colchester and Town of Truro. Pictured above are Crawford Purdy, 60 years chats with Doug Boyce, 71 years, while Mayor Christine Blair stays close to Mr. Boyce. Special Feature on pages 14-15. (Rees Photo)

## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS June 2017

**STRESS RELIEF** - The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

On May 7th, a dead bottlenose dolphin was reported on the shoreline of the Shubenacadie River, near South Maitland in Nova Scotia. Reports of a few other stranded bottlenose dolphins in Nova Scotia in the past, it is uncommon to see them. A field assessment of the carcass confirmed it to be an nearly 10ft adult female. Working against the extreme tides of the Bay of Fundy, measurements were taken and an on-site necropsy was performed by MARS staff. While collecting samples, the necropsy also revealed the dolphin to be pregnant with a near full-term fetus. However, the cause of death has not yet been determined.

**Cobequid Eco-Trails Society** wins Summit Award at Hike Nova Scotia's annual Hiking Summit held in Tatamagouche on April 29th. The Summit Award is presented to an organization or individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to the growth and development of hiking in Nova Scotia. The Cobequid Eco-Trails Society (CE-TS) formed in 2007 focuses on development and promotion of non-motorized trails in Colchester County. It has an emphasis on environmental appreciation and stewardship. CE-TS and community volunteers have designed and developed the Gully Lake Trail system creating over 30 kilometres of hiking trails. Local dignitaries were on hand to launch the Summit including the Honourable Karen Casey, MLA for Colchester North, Her Worship Christine Blair, Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester and Jim Baird, Chair of the Tatamagouche Village Commission.

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A pair of eagles discuss their future plans in Lower Debert. (Harrington Photo)

## Taggart Focuses on High Speed Internet

By *Maurice Rees*

At a recent meeting of Colchester council, councillor Tom Taggart had set his sights on doing whatever was possible to bring high speed internet to resident of the entire county. He originally asked for council's consideration to host a summit to bring all the players together to see what could happen. After discussion, it was decided to send letters to try to get some activity moving forward.

In recent months municipalities were encouraged to apply for funding under Ottawa's \$500-Million Connect to Innovate fund, but the application deadline was April 20th.

Following council's meeting, I spoke with Emerich R Winkler Jr who operates NCS Network and is busy setting up fibre like internet services where a cluster of customers

would benefit from beaming signal from another location. For instance he is going to beam fibre over the air to Port Greville from Canning but would still have to erect poles or towers as repeater to send the signal to other residents not in the "line-of-site" from Canning.

During our meeting, I inquired what might be possible along Highway #2 from the Masstown / Glenholme area to Parrsboro. He explained Bell Aliant already had fibre along Hwy #2, but they ask very high fees to tap into the service. Even though there is fibre in Port Greville, Bell Aliant asked \$213,752.80, plus other fees to tie into their equipment in Port Greville.

If initiatives evolved to install backbone fibre it would cost approximately \$15-30K per km to implement, which is

totally uneconomical based on population density in West Colchester. To run from Masstown to Parrsboro would cost at least \$3-Million to run along the highway, plus costs to take from the main cable to individual properties for fibre to the home or business.

Yes, it is possible to improve internet speeds in rural areas, it's a matter of the magnitude of investment and possible return on investment. The situation gets even more muddled, because efforts are afoot to deliver the fastest high speed internet possible from satellites. Even though rural areas need and are demanding immediate availability of high speed internet, an investment of large sums of money might not be a wise decision.

Based on what is happening globally, there is an under-

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## Peacekeepers Day at Veterans Memorial Park

By *Janet Maybee*

May 28 is International UN Peacekeepers Day and once again Canadian peacekeepers will be honoured by a special ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River.

It has become a tradition the event begins with a Peacekeepers Motorcycle Parade at 10:30, followed by a march of all veterans from the Bass River Fire Hall to the park. This year, in recognition of Canada's 150th anniversary, there will be a special and stirring addition to the parade: the Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy.

The program for the 11 a.m. service includes recognition of RCMP Peacekeepers by a stalwart Newfoundlander,

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