

REES' Pieces

Important things to do

There are several things which we must be aware of and respect the importance of each with sincerity on a regular basis. They include: pay attention to health; protect family and loved ones; be a good citizen; know and protect the integrity of our county; do the best we can at work; respect the rights and freedoms of others.

In addition we must do what we can looking out for the welfare and betterment of seniors, youth, armed force members, veterans, law enforcement and those not as fortunate as ourselves. Yes, it's a tall order but as Canadians that is who we should be.

Sound philosophical? No. It's just being Canadian.

To be all of that there is just one thing we need to do. We need to vote on May 30th.

We've celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge, which historians claim, although costly in terms of lives lost and thousands injured was the turning point in World War I and Canada became a Country.

Sacrifice of those lives contributed to freedom, we enjoy today. Think of the oppressed and somewhat homeless people who are fleeing their native land in search of what we take for granted. If for no other reason than to respect our forefathers, who gave so much, we need to get off the couch and vote.

It's not as simple as going behind a screen placing an "X" alongside someone's name then wiping our hands saying, "I did my duty". We must place our mark with the one we feel will do their best to uphold Canadian values.

Look at what's happening globally in recent years in some of the largest democracies. The electorate has become so volatile and frustrated, pollsters have not been able to get it right. The lack of concern being shown in the United States for parts of its citizens may be its undoing over time.

Before we look around the world, let's have a quick peek at Nova Scotia's voting patterns since 2003. The 59th Legislature of the General Assembly (2003-2006) was distributed as follows: PC's, 25; NDP, 15; Lib, 10; Ind, 1 and Vacant 1. The 60's Legislature (2006-2009) comprised: PC's, 21; NDP, 20; Lib, 9; Ind, 1 and Vacant 1.

In 2009 Darrell Dexter's NDP was elected to form the 61st general assembly (2009-2013) with the following seating arrangement: NDP, 31; Lib 14; PC's, 12 and Ind, 1. The 62nd Assembly (2013-2017) began with Liberals, 35; PC's, 10; NDP, 9 and Ind, 1. Standings at dissolution on April 30th, was Lib, 34; PC's 10, NDP; Ind, 1 and Vacant 1.

Now let's look around the globe at the electorate's recent volatility surprising many: Justin Trudeau rose to power with a very large majority in 2015 gathering all seats in Atlantic Canada; the Brits voted to leave the European Common Market in June 2016; Donald Trump surprised the world with a victory over Hilary Clinton in November 2016; France just elected a 39 year old banker as president. Neither he nor the run-off candidate had previous political experience. In fact, none of the traditional ruling parties were in the final run-off.

Scotland is anticipated to hold a referendum to leave the United Kingdom to strike out on its own. Last week, BC's long serving Liberals under Premier Christie Clarke were elected with a minority. The final outcome will not be known until mail-in ballots and recounts are completed. The NDP now rules Alberta, and Kevin O'Leary, until he withdrew, was leading to be the second leader of the federal conservatives.

At the time of this writing there is two weeks to go in the election campaign. No party has really gained any traction. Saturday, May 13th the running Corporate Research Associates (CRA) poll for the Chronicle Herald, conducted May 7-11, was suggesting: Liberals 41%; PC's, 29%; NDP, 27%; Green Party, 2% and Atlantica Party, 0%. Of 501 Nova Scotians polled, 363 were decided or leaning; 19% did not know; 5% did not plan to vote and 3% refused to say.

Yes, I have my preference, but I'll not tell you. Back to my opening message, in honour of veterans and forefathers, please vote on May 30th.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0
(902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Dear Editor:

Did you know that methane emissions from fracking are at least 2.5 times higher than our government has estimated? Methane is the

major source of climate pollution and contributes to climate change. We need to urge our government to take action against this pollution and invest in Clean energy alterna-

tives NOW!

It's time to clean up this fracking mess.

Gail Matwichuk
Five Islands
gailspeedles44@outlook.com

ROV Deployed to find a Solution

By Maurice Rees

The Fundy FORCE site is a beehive of activity with plenty of vessels in the water working to retrieve the Cape Sharp Tidal turbine from Minas Channel.

Removal was attempted in April, but problems were encountered disconnecting the turbine from the sub-sea cable which transmitted electricity from the turbine to land-base. At that time Cape Sharp through emails from an Emera address indicated activity would continue every two weeks until the turbine was removed. Now that we are into mid-May only a few more days remain in the current tide cycle to permit extraction of the turbine from the turbulent tides.

After the cable was disconnected, the turbine could not be removed, because a mooring or other cable had become entangled around the base and the turbine. Several days and many hours were spent by divers try-

ing to untangle and free the turbine to permit safe removal.

Finally a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) was deployed to determine the problem and the best solution. On May 17th, a Cape Sharp Tidal spokesperson indicated that process would take several days.

Area fishermen are complaining the increased activity of vessels in the area is endangering their livelihood. They are reports catches have dropped significantly compared to last year as the best runs of herring occur at this time of year.

Near the end of the normal working day on May 12th, Melissa Oldreive at FundyForce sent the following message to numerous stakeholders: "In follow-up to the marine advisory sent last month, we want to let you know Cape Sharp Tidal has notified us they plan to continue preparing for turbine retrieval over the coming days (weather depending)".

Cape Sharp Tidal Turbine Remains at FORCE Site

By Stacey Pineau

(Editor's Note: Previously some people have accused us of being anti-tidal power and against Cape Sharp Tidal. We have constantly asked questions and worked to present balanced reporting. When investigating a particular story, we have felt answers were vague or not answered. In this particular case, we asked a Cape Sharp Tidal spokesperson, "What is your understanding of the comments and input from fishers, with whom you consulted with in Parrsboro and Advocate?". The response was I'd rather not say, you contact the fishermen directly, should they wish to talk to you.

As a result we sent an email containing 17 questions or subjects to which we wanted answers. The following is the "unedited" reply from Stacey Pineau, speaking on behalf of Cape Sharp Tidal).

As you know, there is an operation taking place at this time related to the retrieval of the turbine. In April, during a planned recovery of the turbine, OpenHydro determined that there is a line (possibly a mooring line or other marine line) around the turbine system, likely entangled around the subsea base tubes.

In recent days, the operations crew has worked to determine the best approach for removing the line. Their focus has been on removing it in a way that is safe for the crew and doesn't result in damage to the turbine. After careful review and consideration, they have decided that a remote-operated vehicle (ROV) will be used to further assess the line. The ROV work began at the FORCE berth site at the start of this week (May 15) and is expected to take a number of days to complete.

After the line is removed, the operations focus will turn to turbine retrieval. We must complete this work in certain tidal windows. We are currently in a tidal window in which it is possible for this operation to take place. However, our plan is to take the necessary time to understand and do this work

carefully. It is possible that the retrieval work will extend into future tidal windows.

Once it is retrieved and before it is brought to the Port of Saint John for upgrades, the operations crew would like to conduct operations work involving the turbine. The timing will depend, in part, upon when the turbine is retrieved. The location for this work is still being determined, and it would take at least five days.

We are sharing information with both local stakeholders and regulators about this activity. We did meet with lobster fishers who fish in the area east of Spencer's Island, near Advocate, to get their input, as this is a site that is under consideration. We were seeking information from them to determine if we might be able to work in this area.

No media advisory was sent regarding this meeting because it was intended for a specific group of fishers. The fishers did express concerns, but it was also a frank and productive dialogue in my opinion. I believe it is most appropriate for the fishers to share their personal comments and opinions with you directly. I believe this is the approach that is most respectful to them.

The work is meant to further inform on the performance of the turbine. The proposed operation involves lowering the turbine for hydrodynamic tests, then raising it back onto the Scotia Tide barge for adjustment. The turbine will remain in the recovery frame of the barge during the entire operation.

For this work, criteria being considered include water depth, clarity and water current considerations - a minimum depth of 20m is required at all times and current of less than five knots for safety. These operations criteria are required to ensure the safety of the team involved with the work and to help keep the amount of time required as short as possible.

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PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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