

REES' Pieces

Be Strong! Be Brave! Be First! Be Safe!

Prior to and since Confederation, Nova Scotians have exhibited traits of strength, bravery, compassion, and doing what has been right for country and colleagues. A year after CoVid-19 took over our lives, we have continued with these traits. Most of us went even further, by demonstrating a willingness to obey, when then Premier McNeil said, "Stay the Blazes Home". Heeding his request resulted in Nova Scotia being Canada's leader in fighting the virus and the safest province in Canada.

This has led to many wishing to move here, including former residents deciding now is the time to "return to their roots". Some people are purchasing properties in a virtual manner, without ever viewing the property. Prices have escalated to historic highs and the number of properties sold continues to escalate.

Concern is being expressed the upsurge in pricing is pushing ownership far beyond the reach of most Nova Scotians, but that is a story for another day.

Nova Scotia's safeness, from the virus, is exhibited by 53 of the total 72 deaths occurred at a sudden and uncontrollable outbreak at Northwood Senior's Complex. Since its beginning in 1962 Northwood has evolved into the largest not-for-profit continuing care organization east of Montreal.

Yes, all deaths are unfortunate, but with only 20 province-wide, excluding Northwood, Nova Scotia quickly rose to be the safest province in Canada. Being strong, brave, and a desire to succeed we are able to hold our heads high for being Canada's pandemic fighter regardless of which matrix is used to determine results.

Obedying the request of political and health officials got us to this enviable position. Unfortunately a small number defied everything – not stopping travelling, refusing to wear masks and social distance – causing May's recent upsurge of over 1,600 cases and more patients in ICU's than a year ago.

Thanks for them we are in a lockdown banning us from: shopping in traditional ways; throwing many in the hospitality and retail sector out of work; unable to visit family and friends, and prohibited from travelling outside our town or municipality.

When you encounter some who defy all, extend your appreciation for their actions contributing to loss of employment; travel restricted to your municipality and an increased level of loneliness.

Additionally, if you see someone not adhering to protocols, do everyone a favour. Call the authorities. It is not snitching. It is your civic duty to protect the health and safety of all citizens.

When we exit the most recent upsurge things will start returning to the "new" normal, permitting us to travel province-wide, return to work, students will be back in school and the economy will start rebounding.

Those to have stayed on the straight and narrow obeying every request will continue to exhibit a high level of nervousness, because we are unsure if the person next to us has been vaccinated. Traditionally, the "honour system" has been enough, but as has been demonstrated there has been a small number of non-conformists, who were less compassionate continuing not to heeds warnings and requests.

For those who were good "foot soldiers" doing as requested to lessen the pandemic – proof and confirmation is lacking. We need to be "totally" sure. Government should find a way to reward us. We don't expect government to put something in our pockets, or to give us a medal.

Simply respect and recognize us for our efforts.

Politicians could provide the "assurance" with one simple act. Issue a new health card, which included coding showing we are totally vaccinated, when and with what vaccine.

A decision of this nature would not create a new bureaucracy, would be economical and not infringe on anyone's constitutional rights and be automatic upon vaccination. Businesses could start swiping Nova Scotia Health Cards, to ensure added safety and as a marketing tool.

The new card would be used as admission requirements permitting concerts and sporting events to be held with safety to help rebuild the economy letting us lead a comfortable safer life.

Nova Scotia would be the country's leader assuring CoVid protection. This simple act would permit us to be: Be Strong! Be Brave! Be Safe! and Be First!

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

SQUEAKY WHEEL GETS THE GREASE

Dear Editor:

May's Covid infections has been nothing short of depressing. If we heed health protocols, we will work our out of this mess.

Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade and other organizations have been active with regular in-camera meetings with numerous government officials advocating for the province's small business owners. I commend them for their hard work, but must call them to task for something they have not done.

They have missed a great opportunity to members and

general public, in their mandated areas, by hiding their "light under a bushel". To seek "retail fairness", whereby large grocery stores, drug stores and big box stores would be permitted to sell only essential merchandise would help protect thousands of "mom and pop" family businesses, who have been forced to close.

All retail operations should have been closed for a short period. Those defined as providing "essential" services should have been required to submit an operational plan in order to re-open. The larger retail entities should have been

banned from selling non-essential products.

I ask why the world's largest department store retailer would be permitted to sell televisions, home entertainment systems, clothing and anything in their store? Every business permitted to re-open should have been required to submit an operational plan on how their stores would be re-configured to sell only essential products.

Chambers and other business organizations should have been "pro-active" by issuing press releases not just to their members, but to all media so the general public was aware of their efforts. A

consistent media blitz would have demonstrated their efforts to force government to act.

The chambers have missed a great opportunity. We all know the SQUEAKY WHEEL GETS THE GREASE.

Maurice Rees, Maitland, NS
(Maurice Rees is publisher of The Shoreline Journal based in Bass River and is a member of Newspapers Atlantic, a media organization representing community newspapers throughout Atlantic Canada)

Small Businesses Want to be Treated Fair

By David Ritcey

Over the last two weeks our office received countless calls and emails from small business owners in the community, looking for help. The third lockdown has created additional hardship on small businesses with limited support and leadership. I am standing with small business owners to ensure they are treated fairly.

This government has decided restrictions where there are clear winners and losers. Let's be clear we're not 'all in this together' when small business is going extinct, and entrepreneurs are on the brink of financial ruin.

Every day from small business owners are just asking for a fair playing field. Businesses will disappear and personal lives will be squashed, with self employed businesses that do not qualify for the recently announced Small Businesses Impact grant. This government inaction is destroying the lifeblood of our communities.

Small business owners are not looking for special treatment, they just want to know the government has their back. Instead, their backs are against the wall just hoping they can hold out long enough for this lockdown to come to an end.

On Friday (May 21), the premier announced there would be increasing support for qualified businesses with the implementation of the

Small Business Impact Grant Part 3.

This program is set up to support small businesses affected by the ongoing provincial COVID-19 restriction and the province will top up payments made to all small businesses that qualify under the program by \$5,000.

If you are a small business owners, the application for this grant can be found through the following link: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/small-business-impact-grant/>

Truro and Colchester have always had a strong and vibrant business community who are there to support local fundraisers and causes however they can. Now it is our turn to rally around and do what we can to support them and see them through a third lock down. **SUPPORT LOCAL.**

Being required to stay close to home provides a great chance to keep your support local. This not only supports these business owners and their families, but helps to ensure we have a place to shop locally once the pandemic is over. Consider ordering take out, shopping or purchasing a gift card for later use.

If you are unsure of which stores and restaurants are open, Interactive Truro: Hub Connect provides an up to date list and map of all the great small businesses which are open for take-out and curbside pick-up - <https://hub-connect-townoftruro.hub.arcgis.com/>

To all the small businesses



David Ritcey

who have been impacted by the latest restrictions, we hear you, we support you and we stand with you. We will get through this together.

As the province lockdown continues (April 28 to date unknown), our office continues to be closed to walk-in traffic, but as always available for calls or virtual meetings. If you require assistance, please call 902-897-0884 and we will be happy to provide any support and assistance you require. We are still maintaining our regular office hours: Monday to Friday.

If you know of anyone who would be interested to receive my bi-weekly newsletter, please provide them with my email mlaritcey@bellaliant.com to be added or ask them to telephone my office at 902-897-0884.

I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve as your MLA. Please contact me if you have an issue or concern!

David Ritcey is MLA for Truro
Bible Hill Millbrook Salmon River

Crawford MacPherson Retires

Crawford MacPherson will be retiring from the Municipality of Colchester at the end of May, after 35 years of service. He has been a long serving as

the Director of Community Development. Currently, Crawford is taking some of his unused vacation prior to his retirement.

In the interim, Paul Smith will be serving as the Acting Director of Community Development pending the completion of a recruitment process due to commence in the days to come.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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

EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Maurice Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20

ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.50 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$45.00

HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

All rights reserved. Material published in The Shoreline Journal may not be reproduced in an form without prior approval of the publisher. Material to be returned to sender must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

1996 Heritage Award recipient. Listed with Canadian Advertising Rates & Data (CARD) and Bowden's Media Monitoring Service.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada. | **Canada**

The publisher is not responsible for minor errors in ads, which do not lessen the value of the item(s). The publisher is not responsible for space beyond that portion of the advertisement containing the item(s) in error. Letters to the editor are subject to editing or rejection, must be signed by the author and contain a phone number.



NEWSPAPERS ATLANTIC
TRUSTED | CONNECTED | TARGETED

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:

Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:

Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel

Hampton Inn & Suites

NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op

Ken's Grocery

Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore

Best Western Glengarry

Holiday Inn

MacQuarrie's Pharmasave

(Esplanade)

Rath Eastlink Comm Centre

Colchester East Hants Health

Centre - Coffee Shop

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

Each classroom at the following

schools will receive a copy of the

Shoreline Journal:

Bass River Consolidated;

Great Village Elementary; Debert

Elementary; Chignois Elementary;

Central Colchester Junior High

School; Parrsboro Elementary and

Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the

Shoreline Journal in additional

locations. If you have a suggestion, or

wish to have the Shoreline available

from your store, please contact:

Maurice Rees, Publisher,

902-647-2968, or E-MAIL:

maurice@theshorelinejournal.com