

REES' Pieces

Void of specifics and timelines... what will be fixed, how and when

I don't know about you, but my head is spinning, wondering where the province is headed. Seems like we are at a cross-roads or an intersection with more options that I wish to consider. Here's a few of the "key words", which is causing me concern. "Fix" is now changed to "repair"; hold out your hand and someone will fill with money; is 2% CFA property tax, the proper way to go?

I could go on and on with probabilities of significant or severe change in direction for Canada's Ocean Playground. Since last summer's provincial election, it seems every time we turned around, Premier Houston or his minister's were announcing they had given out another large amount of money to another group.

The success of handing out money is to put it where it will do the most good for the largest number of Nova Scotia residents. Currently affordable housing is our most urgent problem. Based on population HRM equates to half the province. It's the government's responsibility to ensure the remainder (rural areas) receive an equal amount of money and commitment as was bestowed upon HRM to ease the housing shortage with nine sites designed to provide over 22,000 housing units.

Let's go back and start at the beginning. Houston's most frequent election promise was "I/We will fix healthcare". It's too early to access the success of that promise, but the strategic long term fixing plan announced before the end of the spring session of the legislature seems to be void of specifics and timelines, of what will be fixed, how and when. Now about two weeks (at time of this writing) following the announcement, the most common reaction from residents and pundits is not favourable. The strategic plan has landed similar to a deflated basketball amounting to little more than "splat". Ironically, instead of maintaining, "we will fix", the current terminology has shifted to "we will repair". Only one word difference, but the anticipated outcome is much less and breaks a promise.

In order to fix healthcare, there are three important changes: First to eliminate shortage of nurses local nursing schools must be reestablished at regional hospitals. Perhaps, graduating nurses might not be "Registered Nurses (RN's)", but what is wrong with designation of "Registered Nurses Assistants (RNA's)? Being able to get their training closer to home will increase the number of those entering the profession; lower the cost of education, and provide more workers at each facility. After all I remember "candy strippers" when I was in hospital for nearly four months in the mid-60s'.

A similar approach of on-site training, almost as an apprentice, for those whose have become a "doctor" in a foreign country, but don't meet our qualifications in language, or other training. Those wishing to relocate to Nova Scotia, from a foreign country could receive onsite training by being assigned to medical clinics in rural areas. While serving their apprenticeship, they would fit into the medical system somewhat similar to a Registered Nurse Practitioner role, which is the current fad.

While in training and being mentored by our "favourite rural doctor" the rate of pay could be similar to earnings of a Registered Nurse. The resident doctor would be paid approximately 1/2 of a RN's salary for his/her mentoring while receiving the benefit of having an additional professional within the clinic. Maybe it could become a succession plan for when the resident doctor wanted to retire.

There is a vast difference between an automobile and a human, but apprenticeships work well in the automotive industry, and over time, they become "red seal" mechanics. Is there really a difference in approach?

The third area to "fix healthcare" all hospitals must be directed to change their procedures so when an ambulance delivers a patient to a hospital, the ambulance must be released to go on another call within 30 minutes. Perhaps temporary receiving rooms, like "portable classrooms" used for students in school could be established for hospitals. Temporary patient rooms worked well during the pandemic and there was very little complaint.

Think outside the box, but keep the promises, "We will fix..." which caused you to be elected to a majority government.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Editor,

Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. When I was four years old, I was playing outside when I slipped on the grass and fell underneath a riding lawn mower. I lost my left leg below the knee.

I grew up in The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, and today, I help pass on the Association's PLAYSAFE message. With lawn cutting season here, I want every kid across the country to know

they should never be around lawn mowers.

I accept who I am today, but I wouldn't want anyone else to go through what I did. I hope that by sharing my story, it will prevent even just one child from being injured.

If you would like to learn more about how to play safe and hear stories from other young amputees like me who have lost limbs in accidents, visit waramps.ca/playsafe.

Zoe Gottwald, 16



The War Amps



Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade members posed for a group photo and offered congratulations to the members receiving Honorary Memberships for 50 Years of Dedicated Service. (Harrington Photo)



A celebration for 50 Years of Dedicated Service was held for five members receiving Honorary Membership in Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade on May 8th. Left to right- Chester Sabeau, John McKay, Walter McElhinney, Charles MacKenzie and Bill MacKinnon. (Harrington Photo)

MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning Youth Summer Programs

As part of the Portapique Community Build-Up project there will once again be 4 free week long youth summer camps by the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning last year was a big success with rave reviews by the youth that attended. We will update our facebook page and email out details as they become available.



The Shoreline Journal

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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; Chiganois 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,
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maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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