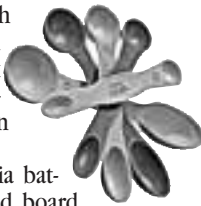


# Dorothy's Kitchen Korner

Last month I started this column with the turmoil in the education system with school boards wrestling with the Halifax directed exercise to provide the outcome if there was a reduction of 22% in funding.



Accused of fear mongering the media battles continued until the minister briefed board chair in Halifax. As suspected cuts were no where near 22%. There certainly are plenty of problems within the system, and we are no closer to solving them than we were last fall.

The problem stems from the fact that everyone agrees with cuts, until it starts to affect their turf. It's going to take some harsh negotiations between governments, school boards, unions representing all the workers, and parents.

The expenditure imbalance has been growing for many years. I'm not confident we will see proper changes implemented. Let's face it, the unions will not suggest cuts to right-size staffing levels, and the government is not brave enough to engage in alligator wrestling.

The only way it could occur would be pressure from parents and electorate at large. Unlikely to happen because there is no strong organization, and Nova Scotians are too docile to bring government and all parties to the education system to the table.

But instead of fretting about problems, let's get into the kitchen. Thanks to Teresa McNutt and my long time Sydney friend, Freda MacDonald, now Freda Cook, I've got two great recipes.

Here's a note from Teresa:

*Here is a sinfully sweet treat, that we like to say they are so good you just have to ignore the calories. We were given the recipe without a name, but upon research we have found that they are called Cuban Lunch*

### Cuban Lunch

1 cup peanut butter chips • 1 cup butterscotch chips  
1 cup chocolate chips

Melt together, about 1min in the microwave

Add:

1 cup chopped peanuts • 2 cups crushed rippled chips  
Drop in spoonfuls on waxed paper and let sit.

There are many variations to this, we have seen them with different measurements for the ingredients and also saw one with coconut in it.

Freda sent along this recipe for Zucchini Loaf

### Zucchni Loaf

3 eggs • 1 cup of oil  
2 cups white sugar • 2 tsp vanilla

Mix well 3 cups of flour 3 cups grated zucchihi, 1 cup raisins, 3/4 cup walnuts, 1tsp salt, 3 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp soda 1 tsp cinnamon. Makes two loafs

Grease and flower loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour in a 350 oven. If your oven runs a little hot, set at 325.

Many people grate up zucchini and place in the freezer in pre-measured quantities, so they can make some favourite recipes on cold winter days.

Remember, I need more recipes.

**Please take a few minutes to send along a few of your family's favourites. Please send to:**

Dorothy Rees, c/o The Shoreline Journal,  
P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0,  
or email to: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

### Notes from our Federal Capital

Recently, our government released the Seventh Report to Canadians on the Implementation of the Economic Action Plan. The report was released by Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, who was joined by Julian Fantino, Minister of State (Seniors).

The Report to Canadians says the Economic Action Plan is on track to deliver \$28 billion in stimulus in its second year. These investments will provide long-lasting benefits to Canadians through a modernized, greener infrastructure, a renewed science and research base, a highly skilled workforce, lower taxes and a more competitive business environment.

Some examples in our riding include a new Waste Water Treatment Plant in Amherst, federal funding for the new Civic Centre in Truro, a new Agricultural Innovation Centre in Bible Hill, and the expansion of the Fundy Ocean Research Centre and expansion of the Fundy Geological Museum both in Parrsboro. In addition, road work projects have included work on highway number two to Five Islands and work on the North River bridge.

While the first phase of our Government's extraordinary response is nearing its end, our Economic Action Plan will continue to play an enormous role in achieving the economic potential of this country and increasing the living standards of Canadian families well into the future.

Minister Flaherty cited several key statistics to highlight the progress made

### Notes from our Provincial Capital

As school boards and the Department of Education continue to identify savings within the education budget, it is important that parents and teachers become part of the dialogue. As we know, over 85% of the budget received by school boards is required to pay salaries and benefits for all their employees. This includes teachers, custodians, maintenance staff, teacher assistants, school principals, consultants, technicians and all other support staff. The terms and conditions for these employees are negotiated through contracts between the unions representing the employees and the government.

In many respects the flexibility school boards have is clearly defined by the negotiated contract. One such item in the contract refers to professional development days. The number of days available for teachers to be involved in professional development is determined in the contract between the NSTU and government. Any change in that number would also have to be determined through negotiations. However, school boards do have some flexibility in when, where and how this professional development is delivered. In some cases there is a system wide shutdown of all schools and all teachers participate. I have heard from parents a system wide shutdown is preferred so that their children, regardless of age are all home on the same day.

This makes child care easier for parents to arrange. In addition the savings in fuel alone for school buses for one day would be thousands of dollars.

I would be the first to recognize and support professional development in any profession. I would also be the first to acknowledge that from a classroom

### News from our Municipal Council

The last month has been a bit interesting and controversial at council. The blended garbage rate caused quite a stir. Just to explain a bit about this subject. The proposal was to blend the garbage rate into the general rate, the purpose was to streamline the rate. I initially supported this. However it was going to disadvantage 23 % of the residents of the county, mostly those in the urban core.

The thing that most do not understand is that there are many cases in our tax system that disadvantage those that live in the rural parts of the county. Two examples are the 9% that all residents pay to operate the wastewater treatment plant and the 14% of the general rate that goes to police protection. It is a stretch to think residents of the shore receive the same level of police protection as those in the urban core. I do not want to open up a rural urban split in this county as I believe we will be much more successful if we work together. However, I feel we must address these disadvantages as we did with the garbage. Last week I went to a meeting in Debert about the expansion of Home Hardware. I was very disturbed to learn the expansion was being delayed because a small portion of the property required for this expansion has been deemed to be a wetland. I don't want to give the impression that it will be held up, only that it will be delayed, I believe unnecessarily. As I understand it there is a low area that holds water during heavy rains and in the spring. In order to get a permit from the Environment Dept, they must find a area 2 times the size of this wetland and create a wetland out of good dry land.

Before I start to rant, I need to say I do not blame this on the local staff at DOE, but on the bureaucrats in Halifax, whom I feel have lost all touch with reality. It's much in the same vein as I talked about last month with stream bed maintenance around bridges.

On one hand you have a Company [Home Hardware] which has been very good to this municipality not only as tax payers, but as a company that has cre-

in implementing the Plan's first phase: (1) More than 26,000 projects have been completed or are underway under the Economic Action Plan. These projects have put Canadians to work across the country and have contributed to a strong labour market recovery, with close to 400,000 jobs created since July 2009. (2) Close to 85 per cent of the jobs created since July 2009 have been full-time jobs and more than 90 per cent have been high quality jobs in high wage industries.

The Report to Canadians noted the Government has also shown flexibility in allowing its partners an additional construction season beyond the March 31, 2011 deadline to complete their infrastructure projects under four stimulus funds. For more information on these projects please visit our government's website: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n11/11-010-eng.asp>

Please feel free to contact me with any issue you have of concern. You can reach me at 893-2455 in Truro, 667-8679 in Amherst or toll-free 1-888-752-0552 or visit my website [www.scottarmstrongmp.ca](http://www.scottarmstrongmp.ca) and I am also on Face Book and Twitter.

**Scott Armstrong, Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley**



teacher's prospective being required to be out of your classroom for in service can be disruptive to the teaching and learning in the classroom. For many teachers, in particular in high schools that are semestered, any loss of teaching time is a concern. One solution that has been suggested is to have professional development training outside of the 195 days in the school year. This however, would also have to be agreed upon by the union membership and its leadership. Currently, most teachers are working well beyond the 195 school days required. In a recent survey in the Truro Daily News, the poll question was asked "What do you think of MLA Karen Casey's suggestion that removing profession development days out of the teaching year is something that should be considered?"

48% - Great idea. Hope someone listens to her.

36% - Makes sense, but good luck making it happen.

16% - Bad idea.

Now that the debate on education is on everyone's mind, it is important we focus on the quality of teaching and learning as a priority and look at cost savings which do not have a negative impact on students.

**Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North Ph: 902-893-2180**



ated I believe in excess of 225 good paying year round jobs and are in the process of doing a \$28 million dollar expansion. How many jobs do you think this will create and how much more taxes will they then pay the County???

On the other hand you have a bit of a wetland or for lack of a better word a SWAMP. Now in order for this company to complete this expansion they must take twice as much good dry land and create a SWAMP. Now I don't know about you folks but I have done a bit of hunting and traveling around the woods in Colchester County and I never realized that we had a shortage of SWAMP LAND here.

It would be different if this was New York City and were running out of habitat for birds, beavers, muskrats etc, but we are not. This is another case of what I would call lack of common sense. I really believe high paid bureaucrats need a reality check. If they really want to do something really constructive they should re-think their policy on spreading bio-solids on agriculture land or find a way to dispose of them in a more environmentally friendly way like using it for cover on a municipal bale fill which is totally contained.

One more quick point. Over the past week our Mayor has taken a bit of a beating over the chain of office. I have received many calls and e-mails criticizing him. I just want to say that this was not Bob's idea, it was brought up by some other well meaning councilors who believe in and feel strongly about protocol. It really has snow balled from there and unfortunately Bob is taking the brunt of it.

Think happy thoughts, spring is just around the corner.

**Tom Taggart, Councilor District 10, Municipality of the County of Colchester**



The Season  
of Giving is here

A Wonderful  
Gift for the whole year...  
12 Months of the Shoreline Journal

Please send this Personal Gift Subscription to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
If RENEWAL: Sub # \_\_\_\_\_ New: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country/Special Mail Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

This Personal Gift Subscription comes from:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

HST: 890564404RT0001

Enclose Cheque or Money Order payable to The Shoreline Journal

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M, B2N and B6L - \$23.00, plus HST = \$26.45 • ALL PARTS OF NS: \$26.00 plus HST = \$29.90

ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$28.00, plus HST = \$32.20 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$40.00

MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0

### Notice to Readers and Advertisers

#### 2011 Deadlines and Publishing Dates

ISSUE	DEADLINE	PUBLISHED
April 2011.....	March 22 .....	March 30
May 2011.....	April 19.....	April 27
June 2011 .....	May 24.....	June 1
July 2011 .....	June 21.....	June 29
August 2011 .....	July 19 .....	July 27
September 2011 .....	August 23 .....	August 31
October 2011.....	September 20 .....	September 28
November 2011.....	October 18 .....	October 26
December 2011 .....	November 22 .....	November 30
January 2012 .....	December 13.....	December 21

For more information contact us at:

The Shoreline Journal, Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0  
Ph: 902-647-2968, Cell: 902-890-9850

Email: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

The  
**Shoreline**  
Journal