

REES' Pieces

My Only Heat - Under the "Collar"

Is the Nova Scotia government and highway supervisors saving salt and use of equipment until next year? In the following paragraphs, you'll learn why I would ask such a question.

When one is "hot under the collar", it's a good idea not to head directly the keyboard to passionately write their monthly column. Such is the case with me. On Monday, February 13th, I couldn't wait to get the keyboard to express my disappointment with the state of snow and ice removal, or lack thereof, on Nova Scotia's Highways. However, I made the decision to wait at least a week.

Let me set the stage. Dorothy and I were in Moncton working on the weekend and felt the full affects of 20 cm of snow followed by a mildness, then freezing, which made driving equal to taking your life in your hands. As a result we stayed an extra day coming home on Monday morning. In Moncton it was blistering cold and at -16 and salt would not work.

Overnight City of Moncton and NB highway crews had done an admirable job of clearing streets and highways. Once on the highway, I thought this is going to be a breeze. Roads were clear except for a rippling of ice along the right hand side of the road. All was fine across the marsh at Sackville, near the Radio Canada International towers and then through Aulac to the actual spot where the highway enters Nova Scotia.

Exactly at that spot, within a distance of 20-25 feet, coming up the grade by the Nova Scotia welcoming tourist bureau, the roadway turned into a nightmare. A complete sheen of rutted ice cover lay ahead of us across the rest of the Tantramar Marsh, which was the worst, then on past Amherst it was still rough going and nerve racking until we reached the Cumberland end of the toll highway.

On the marsh several vehicles were in the ditch, including an 18-wheeler, which turned 180 degrees and was heading towards Moncton. At that particular time, I thought if I were Bill Estrabrooks, I'd be relieving some-one of their duties around here.

Once we got to the toll highway life on the road improved. All was fine until we passed Masstown Market and entered provincially cleared highway. From there to Truro it was life in your hands. On the radio, there were constant reports of ice covered highway and many vehicles resting in the ditches between Truro and Halifax.

Regardless of how Department of Transportation officials wish to spin it, there is no way they can convince me it was thaw freeze cycles and too cold for salt to work. If the Cobequid Pass, which has a reputation for bad driving experience during and after a storm can be basically clear, why not the rest of the roads.

Are they saving the salt for next winter and keeping equipment in the garage to last longer? Or, is it a matter of supervisors not being as good as their counterparts on the Cobequid Pass? One thing for sure, it is not the guys and gals behind the wheel of those monstrous snow clearing and salting vehicles. They only do what they are told.

Wonder what state we would be in if we had experienced a normal winter?

This example of ineffectiveness and not delivering good service is not limited to department of highways. Look at the recent reports out of the south shore, where students have been failing and falling behind in provincial testing. Also on the south shore, I hear that as soon as the province anted up money for the Bowater paper mill, the large contracts were transferred to other mills in Quebec. The Liverpool crew, now left with crumbs, is facing another prolonged shutdown. Speculation is rife the mill may not remain open in 12 months.

Economic troubles in the European Union does not bode well for exports especially live lobster, which is the backbone of many coastal communities. The economic pinch is here for all Nova Scotians with rapidly increasing cost of gasoline, heating fuel and electricity costs.

All this is pointing to the fact Nova Scotia is in hard shape and could soon hit the concrete wall. Where will it all end?

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.
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Hello,
I live in Debert and I'm tired of reading The Shoreline Journal online. I want to pay for a subscription! It's such a fantastic paper. Do I simply send a cheque to the address on the website?
Regards,
Abbe Vance-Appel

Dear Maurice,
Over the years I have worked with journalists connected to both large and smaller newspapers. For the most part I have enjoyed those writing for the smaller publications far more, as they were more enjoyable and passionate people.
Such was the case recently working with Linda Harrington, who took the time to write a very exact and informative article on my recent book, Hugging The Huge Father, which celebrates some of my relatives who I had the pleasure to work with years ago on my family's former dairy farm.
Linda took the time to meet with me (and my uncle Lorne) on a very chilly Sunday afternoon, and it was then I realized just how passionate and professional she is, more than skilled as a photographer, and able to ask worthwhile questions in order to build her eventual article.
I just want to push everything aside, and thank her, and Maurice, for helping to promote my latest book, and to offer a brief glimpse into a part of Masstown's important past, the Putnam family farm.
Many thanks,
Chad Norman

Dear Editor
Here's my renewal for my Shoreline. Even though I am 91 year, I don't want to miss out on my contact with area of my "yesteryears". Please forgive the delay in sending this to you.
Sincerely, Dorcas L. Knight
Sanbornvill, NH, USA

Dear Sir:
Sorry, I forgot to renew my subscription last month. I hope this does not arrive too late for the February issue.
I grew up in Five Islands and I like to read about what is happening on the "Shore".
Sincerely, Grace Goodwin
Southampton, NS

Dear Maurice
Again, what a welcome when "The Shoreline Journal" arrives.
Believe me, each page is read many times.
Thanks so much
Edie Bogle
Grosse Point Park, MI USA

To: Shoreline Journal
It was so nice of you and appreciated more than words can say.
Thank you so much for your article about me, your fundraising, care, love and support.
Love
Holly Grue

Woman's Institute of Nova Scotia Celebrates 99th Anniversary

By Sheila Richards
Did you know that February 19 -25, 2012 was Women's Institutes week in Nova Scotia when over 700 members celebrated their branch's 99th year in this Province. Branches across Nova Scotia marked this occasion by leaving up their white Christmas lights and illuminated them or placed yellow and blue ribbons on mail boxes to denote a WI member lives there.
The majority of members wore their WI pins with pride. Several branches decided to participate in church services to commemorate WI week. West Brook/Halfway River had an interesting meeting answering their Roll Call with facts about jewellery.

After their business meeting each member showed a piece of antique or old jewellery and narrated a story about the piece. As usual, the meeting concluded by the serving of a delicious supper by the hostess and lunch committee.
The program about jewellery is one of many contained in a book of suggested programs prepared by a committee for use in the branches. These programs are very informative, factual with new programs added regularly, the latest being "Time for Tea".
Sheila Richards is Cumberland/Colchester District Director, Public Relations Officer for the Women's Institute.

March Deadline is March 20
Shoreline Journal

Great Village & Area Notes

By Florence Adams
Dianne Millen had the misfortune to fall several weeks ago and broke her ankle. It is healing very well, and she has proceeded from a cast to a felt boot though still very painful.
Sympathy is extended to Jack Leeman, family and friends on the death of his sister, Betty Denton; to the Akerman family and friends on the passing of Harland last week. Harland grew up in Great Village retiring here several years ago.
Tracy Miller has been home from college to spend the March break with her mother Gertie Miller. All students are worried about the threatened strike of their teachers.
Six members of the Isabelle Pope UCW of St James met at the home of Carrie McCully on February 8th. The

devotion was led by President, Eileen Eaton, assisted by Cindy Smilie, Meredith Layton and Carrie McCully was "Why are you weeping?" from a book by Betty Radford Turcotte.
Cindy Smilie reported that the overflowing boxes delivered to two indies families were gratefully received.
The world Day of Prayer on March 4th was discussed and printed service will be used in the church service at St James. The meeting was followed by a pleasant social hour.
The storm on the weekend just before Valentine's Day made our roads almost impossible for travel; ice under the snow. Thankfully there are, once again, returned to their usual winter conditions.
Sorry to have so few news notes, but I have been in hospital all week and didn't feel up to looking up more.

Great Village Fire Brigade

By Kathy Simpson-Giles
Plans are in the works for the Annual Fireman's Auction, once again to be held this spring. Please keep us in mind with spring cleaning and set aside anything that you might want to donate. Watch your local notice boards for updates.
Before I forget, congratulations to our dart team, who finished in first place after regular season play in the CFFA league. We wish them all the best in the playoffs. We all want to send best wishes to Art Muike for a speedy recovery.
This time of year, with the drastic changes in temperatures, it is a good idea to keep

an eye on your flues. If it is flu season, then it is also flue fire season.
Thanks to all who donated bottles for the bottle drive last month. Thank you also to John Ross and Sons who sent someone to pick them up for us.
As always, you can purchase your civic number signs by calling 668-2314 and Betty will be more than happy to take your order. These are of great help to us when looking for you in an emergency.
If you have a few hours a month that you can spare, we are always looking for new members. Feel free to join us on Wednesday evenings or give Terry-Lynn a call at 655-2015.

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.

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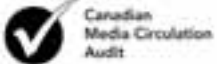

EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • **ADVERTISING:** Maurice Rees • **CIRCULATION:** Dorothy Rees
Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

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

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