

# Dorothy's Kitchen Korner

Last month I mentioned how the days are getting longer, an open winter, students would soon be enjoying March break and Maurice wanted to develop a green thumb. Our open winter changed suddenly on the weekend before Valentine's day. We were in Moncton for a trade show and weather caused most people to stay home. Attendance at the show was down more than 50% and we had to stay in motel another night.

And yes, Maurice is becoming more insistent he wants to grow a green thumb. The latest is at least 50 strawberry plants, some raspberry and blackberry canes, along with some vegetables including beets, cukes, squash and some pumpkins. Oh my, what a nightmare that will be. I can see it now.

When we were in the grocery store the other day, he drove home his point again. A 28 oz can of Del Monte peaches was on the shelf for \$4.29. Next he'll want peach, pear and apple trees.

There are times, when we wonder what is coming next. I was scurrying around searching for a great recipe for this month. Needless to say I was coming up empty handed and to some degree wondering where I could find a great recipe.

Had to put away the worrying and get ready to head off to the winter carnival in Debert, as Maurice and I had been invited by Bruce Hillier to be judges for the Saturday night events. Judging would be for the banner, additional props, mascot and the skits presented by each team.

So nice to see the creativity of local people either for costumes, artistic ability and script writers. Without a doubt it was great fun, or should I say it was a hoot. It's been a long time since I've seen so many people working together to literally "make fools of themselves" in presentation of the skits.

My background was growing up in an urban setting in Sydney. I assure you it would be next to impossible to find such creativity and togetherness as displayed at the Debert Legion on Saturday night. Mingling with people always has a positive impact.

During the evening, in talking to the other judges, the conversation got around to discussing the Shoreline Journal. Casually, I mentioned, I'm always looking for recipes. Then just as I was starting to try to solve the lack of recipe problem, in comes an email from Jackie MacKay Glen, Debert, one of the fellow judges from the night before.

Here is her note: "Good Morning Maurice and Dorothy. I hope you had a good evening at the Winter Carnival. Here is the recipe for the fudge squares I was talking about. I will look for some other old recipes to share with you. Have a great week."

### Fudge Square Recipe

2 cups Brown Sugar • 2 blocks margarine (1 cup)  
2 eggs • 2 cups flour  
1/4 tsp salt • 2 tsp baking powder • 2 tsp vanilla

Mix together put in 9x13 well greased pan and bake 350 for 25 minutes. Start checking after 20 min.

### ICING

2 cups Brown Sugar • 1 block of margarine  
1/2 cup of milk

Boil these ingredients for 2 minutes  
Add: 1 3/4 cups icing sugar and vanilla

Beat until smooth. Pour over squares and cut when set. (Blue Bonnet Margarine was used in this recipe, Yummy Squares for the Sweet Tooth).

*I need more recipes. Please take a few minutes to send along a few of your family's favourites or recent nutritional ones added to your family's menu. Please send to:*

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The  
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Journal

## From our Federal Capital

### A Tribute to my Friend, Senator Fred Dickson:

In February, Nova Scotia, and all Canada for that matter, lost a great champion with the death of Senator Fred Dickson. With his passing I have lost a neighbor, colleague, political mentor, and a dear friend. This month's column is dedicated to my personal reflections on this great man.

Most of us will never have a full comprehension of the impact Fred Dickson has had on public policy in Nova Scotia. An accomplished lawyer, and key advisor to Premier John Buchanan, Senator Dickson played a key role in the negotiation of Nova Scotia's offshore oil royalties. Specifically, he fought to ensure that Nova Scotia was entitled to the Crown Share of our offshore benefits. This eventually led to almost a billion dollars in revenue being transferred to Nova Scotia from the Federal Government with more money to come as the agreement will apply to future royalties. The perpetual nature of this agreement will mean his work will benefit future generations. When called to the Senate by Prime Minister Harper, he worked tirelessly on national energy issues and dedicated his last years to focusing on health care policy. In fact, from his hospital bed he was speaking to the Prime Minister's Office on health care reform in his final days. I was honored to call Fred Dickson a friend. He was my neighbor as I grew up in Truro, and remained a family friend and trusted mentor throughout my life. His sage wisdom and timely advice have meant more to me than I could ever properly convey. Fred had a unique way of crystalizing what people were really concerned about, and what we could do to try to make government work for the people. I will always cherish the memories I have of talking politics with Fred in his living room. This allowed me to hear many stories

## News from our Provincial Council

### Post secondary education – Can our students afford it?

Most students in Nova Scotia who graduate from public schools look forward to continuing their learning either through community college, private college or university. This post secondary education gives them the background, skills and knowledge they require to gain employment and join the workforce. Every student in Nova Scotia deserves that opportunity.

One of the responsibilities of government is to work with post secondary institutions to help make that education affordable. University costs are high, some of the highest in the country. It is the responsibility of government to work with universities to control these costs. This has been achieved in the past through a Memorandum of Understanding which speaks to such things as operating grants to universities, a freeze on tuition and capping tuition. On January 5, 2012 the NDP government, through their Memorandum of Understanding with the universities sent a clear message to students and their families that post secondary education is not a priority. In fact, the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations called the agreement "the worst of its kind".

Economists continue to emphasize that in difficult financial times the last place a government should cut spending is in education. Unfortunately the NDP government is doing the opposite. In fact, it is one of the first places they have chosen to cut spending. Does this demonstrate that this government values education? I think not.

## News from our Municipal Council

Hi Folks, Thankfully winter will soon be coming to an end and I for one am looking forward to spring. For County Council spring is also budget time as we must complete our budget to set the tax rate for 2012-2013.

I have thought a lot about this over the past couple of weeks. There has been a lot of talk over the past while about county spending, what programs we support and those we do not, or have not to date. The current hot topic is the Marigold Center. Our Municipal government each year gives funding to a lot of not-for-profits, ranging from community halls to Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, to ground search and rescue. This time of year we get a line-up of groups and organizations, (all very deserving) looking for funding. It is very difficult at times to say no. Where do you draw the line?

As I said I have thought a lot about this. I do not regret any of the decisions we made or the support we have given to community organizations. However it is time to re-access. I believe over the past year or so residents have faced too many increases and we must do our best to hold the line.

Residents have had to absorb a 2% increase in the HST, probably close to 10% in electricity costs, 3.9% in property assessment and a very significant increase in the cost of gasoline and heating fuels, which in turn drives the cost of groceries. It is my hope we as a council will show leadership and do our best to hold the line.

Please note: I say this without ever seeing the draft budget as yet, so I have no idea what might await council. The 3.9% increase in assessment will for the most part be negated as the Municipality will face the same

from his long and distinguished career in politics. I would listen intently to Fred's stories, feeling as though I had a front row seat for many defining moments in Nova Scotia's history. His sons Colin and Ian became lifelong friends and teammates. Later as we both served in Parliament, Fred in the Senate and I in the House of Commons, we shared several files. Many colleagues often would listen to Fred pontificate on a public policy issue and, as those who knew Fred will attest, he often spoke in riddles and demonstrated his ideas through a labyrinth like thought train. He could be more profound in a minute than most could be in an hour if you were smart enough to listen and think about it. All politicians and public servants should follow Fred Dickson's example: the best interests of his province and country were his driving his every action. Prime Minister Harper deserves great credit for recognizing Fred's skill and contribution in appointing him to the Senate. A more deserving appointment for Nova Scotia would be hard to find. The Senate, and the Parliament of Canada are better off for Fred Dickson's presence, even if the term ended prematurely.

We have all lost a great friend and a great Nova Scotian. May God bless him and his family at this difficult time.

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 Facebook and Twitter.

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



In 2011/12 the NDP government reduced the operating grants to universities by 4%. In 2012/13 they further reduced the operating grants to universities by 3.1%. That is a reduction of 7.1% or \$75 million in two years. In fact, that leaves Nova Scotia as the only province in Canada to slash education funding at this time. The new agreement also gives universities lots of room to raise tuition. As university costs continue to rise and as their funding continues to be cut, there is one place that they can go to increase their revenue, this is through student tuition and student fees.... on the backs of our young people.

This should be the time when government shows real leadership and supports the province's growing knowledge economy. Our best investment as a province is in the education of our people. We need to make post secondary education affordable to more students. The Premier has stated that our universities and students are the best hope for Nova Scotia's future. They represent significant economic growth opportunities for Nova Scotia. Knowing this to be true, why is Nova Scotia the only province in the entire country investing less, not more, in higher education? Our students deserve better.

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



challenges as residents in terms of increases in electricity. We currently spend close to 1 million per year for electricity and gasoline. We have no idea what surprises might be coming in the form of down loading by the provincial government, which currently eats up in the range of 46% of our revenue. Having said all this, I am confident council will do its best to hold the line.

On the positive side, last spring I became aware the threshold set by the Municipality which allowed low income home owners to apply for a property tax reduction was set at just below what a normal family of 2 would receive in their pension. I asked council to have staff review this policy with the purpose being we would raise this threshold to allow those on a fixed income, particularly seniors to qualify for this reduction.

The purpose of this was to try to reduce the burden on those struggling with the costs of staying in their own home. I am pleased to say that this policy will be passed at Thursday's Council meeting. This changes the threshold from \$27,500 to \$29,150, I hope this allow the majority of seniors on a fixed income to qualify. There is also been increases in the threshold for single families and families of 3. For more info you can call the County tax office @ 897-3150 or call me at 647-2025

SPRING is right around the corner. Tom

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



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