

# REES' Pieces

## Are we Brave Enough?

The first anniversary of the release of the Ivany Report has just passed, and some people are starting to get restless. John Bragg a very important contributor to development and release of the report is unhappy with the apparent lack of moving forward and feels if something doesn't happen soon we may have missed the short window of opportunity afforded by the report.

Bragg also stated the public service should be reduced by 15%. In an interview the other day on CBC Radio, Ray Ivany was a bit more conciliatory, but you could tell he is getting concerned, as all of us should be.

Some sympathy for McNeil's Liberals is needed, because they needed to get their ducks in a row. If the newly elected government had marched forward full force, they would have faced two problems: an internal revolt larger than what John Savage faced and the general populous would have been so angry McNeil's crew would have been the province's second consecutive "one term" government with Dexter's NDP being the first.

In my estimation, the government has been slowly planning its strategy and letting all the pundits and media make sure the Ivany Report was thoroughly dissected and everyone has had time for its importance to sink in. The prescription for cure will be painful. Painful might not be the correct word, but Nova Scotian's don't like change.

The painful part will come in getting people to change their physiology. To turn the ship around as a result of the Ivany Report is going to be a long slow process and probably not possible if the government, employees and general public are not receptive to change.

McNeil's cabinet started making changes where the most money is spent – Healthcare – by reducing the number of district board to two, the province and the IWK and collapsing the number of collective agreements from approximately 50 to four. Next probably will be education as McNeil says he will not agree to negotiations we cannot afford (see last issue). 2015 could be a tumultuous year regarding labour negotiations and getting this ship back on the right course.

The provincial government's hands are tied. Dexter's NDP made an agreement making layoffs almost impossible. To achieve John Bragg's call for 15% of the province's 10,000 civil servants, many obstacles might be overcome.

If McNeil keeps to the course he is projecting of standing up for the taxpayer, I can see a disrupted civil and if education follows healthcare the 2015-2016 school year might start late and teachers would not be paid over the summer. If McNeil digs his heels in and the teachers are not eager to settle, I could see him making them a final offer, which if refused he'd pull the plug and call an election asking for a mandate to get tough with teachers.

I've mentioned that to a few very political people (none of them Liberals). Their response was there would be no sympathy for teachers and he would win a mandate larger than in the last election

I found it interesting that Bill Black's article in the Chronicle Herald on February 22, he referred to John Bragg's call for 15% reduction. In this column in the October issue, I reported on the size of the civil service (not including federal employees) base on the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), which concluded if governments in Atlantic Canada adjusted the provincial and municipal staffing levels to the national average, based on population, annual savings of \$1.9-billion would be achieved. The combined deficit in Atlantic Canada was \$1.1-billion on 2012-2013

Keeping federal employees out of the calculations, and calculating only on local and provincial staffing there are 84 employees per 1,000 population nation-wide; 96 in Atlantic Canada, while Nova Scotia tops the list with 99 per 1,000 population.

Most of Nova Scotia's deficit could be solved by reducing the size of the civil service for provincial and municipal governments.

Are we brave enough to cut McNeil loose to do what is necessary to eliminate the deficits and get us onto the road to economic growth? Time will tell.

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

### Maurice.

I came across your contact information, while looking for the cemetery where my uncle rests. His name is Dennis Bazylewski. His name appears on Page 19 of the July 2010 issue as part of the four page feature listing the names of veterans buried in area cemeteries.

It says he is buried at Clarke Cemetery, Onslow (before ball field). I'm from Manitoba and have never been to Nova Scotia. I tried Googling the cemetery and couldn't find much.

Onslow seems to be close to Truro, NS. Can you confirm that would be where the Clarke Cemetery is? I don't want to make a trip out East

only to find out I was going to the completely wrong spot. :)

**Donovan Yaciuk, Manitoba**  
*(EDITOR'S NOTE: I've already confirmed the location of Clarke Cemetery. We always try to assist people looking for specific information on our area. If anyone knows where Cemetery books, other records, or data might be located, please contact me at: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com and I will send it along.)*

### Dear Editor:

The recent Supreme Court of Canada decision on assisted death has brought much attention to the issues faced by people with life threatening illnesses and their families. The Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative

Care Association (NSHPCA) believes that everyone should have access to high quality care that includes people's family's doctors and specialists when needed.

Timely access to service and supports will increase the opportunity for people to live well until they die. Tragically, this is not the case for many people as access to hospice palliative care services varies significantly throughout this province.

Improving access to hospice palliative care must remain a public policy priority. Allowing people to have quality of life until death will require a multifaceted approach which includes:

- 1) better access to hospice palliative care services
- 2) caregiver support, including respite, grief and bereavement services.
- 3) education, training and research to support all healthcare providers,
- 4) advance care planning so that people can express their wishes for end of life care to those closest to them and be provided with a clear understanding of the options and supports available to them.

Sincerely  
**Colleen Cash, Executive Director**  
**Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association**  
Box 103, Lakeside, NS B3T 1M6  
902-818-9139 www.nshpca.ca

## Londonderry Community Council News

By Brenda McMullen

Well, the Londonderry Community Council finally got a meeting squeezed in between snowstorms. Debbie McMullen will be doing a supper for the Hillcrest Cemetery the first weekend in May. Watch for further details and dates.

We've had our fair share of snow now and more to come. On Sunday, as I listened to the wind and watched the snow come down, Linda Harrington was listening to waves and enjoying the sun. Makayla O'Brien had a great trip to Cuba. She was glad to get home...maybe a little bit homesick, I bet in a few more years Tanya may have to go get her.

Glad to hear that Anne Spencer is home from the hospital. Council didn't know she was in until she was out. A very successful benefit was held for Terry Ruston at the Debert Legion, supported by family and friends. The family would like to thank everyone involved for their support. Our thoughts go out to Greg Sharpe and his family as he continues his ordeal. I understand he is still in Halifax.

Also, our condolences go out to the Smith family in the loss of Bertha Smith.

Whyatt McMullen goes down everyday to see how the guys are going on the road repair...did you know that some of the equipment can wave to you.

I now know why you get all those PJ's for Christmas...I've played dress up for the past few days...no sense getting dressed; I can't get off this mountain. So....we wonder what Shelly Mattix thinks of the new puppies? Mickey told her the dog was spaded....SURPRISE!

You know its been a long winter when your neighbours don't recognize you. I can hardly wait

for spring...will Vonnie R. be able to tell me and Cindy apart (?)

Remember when we drank hermit wine out of the bottle - no glasses needed. The younger bunch are now into wine making and they drink theirs out of wine glasses. It has the same effect just makes you look stylish...or so they think!

The card parties usually held at the Community Hall are on hold until further notice. Let's hope there's no more snow (we now have more than our share and we don't want to appear greedy) and spring comes early.

On a final note, remember, Anne Spencer loves her boys out west.

## EMO to Provide Flood Damage Relief

Continued from page 1

"I encourage all constituents who believe they may qualify to make the necessary contacts and applications for assistance. This is an important program made available by the Province of

Nova Scotia," said Casey

Application forms are available online at [www.novascotia.ca/emo](http://www.novascotia.ca/emo) and at Access Nova Scotia centres. For more information call toll free at 1-866-424-5620. The deadline for applications is April 30.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Are you 90 or 90+?

The Shoreline Journal is planning its 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday celebration for all current and former residents in our coverage area, who will be celebrating their 90<sup>TH</sup> or 90+ birthday this year.

In order to complete our plans we need to know who in our area fits into this category. So that we do not miss anyone, we are asking relatives or friends to register these special residents with us.

Simply sent the person's name, birthdate, and contact coordinates. Deadline for registering is March 15, 2015.

The party will be held at Economy Recreation Centre on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Send details to:  
Maurice Rees, Publisher

The  
**Shoreline**  
Journal

Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0

PH: 902-647-2968, or

E-mail: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) 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](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

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 - \$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  
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 through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities. **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

**BELMONT:**  
A & N General Store.

**BIBLE HILL:**  
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
MacQuarries Pharmacy

**DEBERT:**  
Barnhill's Superette  
Debert Mini-Mart

**FIVE ISLANDS:**  
Masstown Market Five Islands

**GLENHOLME:**  
Double "C" Truckstop  
Glenholme General Store

**GREAT VILLAGE:**  
Wilson's Gas

**MAITLAND:**  
Frieze & Roy General Store

**MASSTOWN:**  
Masstown Market  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

**NORTH RIVER:**  
Grant's Grocery

**ONSLow:**  
Onslow Market

**PARRSBORO:**  
CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave

**TRURO:**  
Atlantic Superstore  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave  
(Esplanade)  
tshirtsrus.ca

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](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)