

REES' Pieces

Consult, Consult & Consult...

You know the old sayings, It never rains but it pours, or You are in Nova Scotia and if you don't like the weather, hang around it will change in five minutes.

Recently it's hard to keep positive and smile as the news just keeps spiraling downward. It took longer than anticipated, but the previous government's investment into the former TrentonWorks plant has come to an end. Bankruptcy proceedings are expected to start almost immediately.

Eager to spend money, but short on doing due-diligence to determine if making parts for windmill turbines was a sound investment, thanks to Dexter's NDP government, the taxpayers are now on the hook for its 49% equity stake of \$56-Million, of which, not one cent had been repaid.

The money is lost let's face it. I'm not an economist, nor am I experienced in heavy fabrication, but surely a facility which at one time employed 1200 people making railcars could do it again. Within the last couple of years, we've heard CPR and CN must build thousands of new double walled tanker cars to transport crude oil, gasoline and other chemicals.

Before the bankruptcy courts sell off the machinery piece by piece then bulldoze, the century old icon, I believe there are enough experienced workers and executives with business smarts, to develop a sustainable business plan.

The province and Pictou County, in particular, has been devastated by the downward spiral of the plant over the past 15-20 years. Maybe it's time to consult, consult and consult some more.

Start off with town hall meetings with local residents and former employees advising what they think can and should be done. Another million or two is not going to make a difference, but if we can put the right heads together, lobby Ottawa and both railroads, not for money, but for contracts. It might be a wise move.

Bombardier has been lobbying for about \$3-Billion to keep their C-Series new plane program alive. While investing in the Trenton plant Dexter's NDP helped navigate and secure a 30 year shipbuilding contract. We can develop our own plan to enhance Pictou County.

It's time for every Nova Scotian to roll up their sleeves and help. Every year Atlantic Canadians send upwards of \$1-billion in cash to Upper Canada as investments in RRSP's, Mutual Funds and other investments to save on personal income taxes and grow their retirement funds.

What would happen, if a large portion of those funds were invested in Trenton? What would happen if individual Nova Scotians (maybe also our Atlantic Canadian colleagues) owned and controlled the plant? You know the answer. It would be wonderful.

With broad based ownership across the region, the pressure would be on all Atlantic Canadian MP's to deliver the goods. Not money from Ottawa, but working as hard as they can to secure contracts. We already have a 30% competitive edge against the Americans.

Many trades-people have returned from Alberta and are desperate for work. Let's develop the plan, put people back to work, while at the same time setting the wage scale at 50-60% of the going rate in Alberta, but institute profit sharing.

With the Canadian dollar trading at around 70US cents we have a competitive edge, which will last for 5-10 years and it will take equally as long for the oilsands to come back to a shadow of what it was two years ago.

Think about the local economy if the Trenton plant was employing 500-750 people each making \$40-\$50,000, plus their share of profits. It wouldn't take long for the provincial economy to turn around. Not that this one project would save our economy, but it would motivate everyone to believe "Yes We Can" instead of "No We Can't".

I urge Premier McNeil to call upon Nova Scotia's leading business executives to step up to the plate at \$1.00 a day (no expenses) to offer their services for the next 12 months. Once he has 15-20 executives, he then asks them each to select three or four people (local citizens), whom they will mentor to build the plan to put the former Trenton plant back into business.

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

A SALUTE to Volunteer Firefighters, By Jim Alexander

On Feb 1, 2016, at approx. 6:00PM we had a garage fire that quickly engulfed the garage and spread to our house. Emma (my daughter), her friend Myah, the cat and dog and I got safely out before the fire had spread to the house. Weeks have passed and we are starting to get settled.

I wish I could personally thank, and shake the hand of every Firefighter who fought the fire that night that lasted for approximately 6 hours. These men and women left their personal lives, homes and family to try and save mine! I have a new found respect for these men and women who operated in a well organized, professional and caring manner. This is in no way saying I am surprised. I just feel that I did not fully appreciate the level of expertise involved. Words can not explain, and I hope everyone reading this will never have to understand as well as I do.

Firefighters from Debert, Great Village, Onslow Belmont and Cobequid districts were on the scene until well after 12:00 that night, wearing heavy gear and breathing apparatus. In and out of the house, in teams, trying to extinguish the fire, sweating in the heat, searching in the dark and smoke in a structure, that by the end, was somewhat unsafe. At one point a fire fighter who was coordinating part of the operation asked if I would like to get some things to minimize the loss. Initially "sentimental" items were removed, then larger items. I mention this as I am speechless as how to describe the sight of four brigades of firefighters carrying the majority of our possessions from the house to the driveway and to the neighbour's garage.

I could offer more exam-

ples of the efforts made by these men and women, but in short, the point I want to make is thank a volunteer firefighter for what they do, some day you may need them and they will be there in more ways than you may have imagined.

Please share, like, comment, etc. (On Facebook). MOST importantly thank a volunteer firefighter for doing what they do and support your local fire department fund raisers. These fund raisers help pay for equipment!!!

Again...THANK YOU.

Emma & Jim, Mabel (cat) and Spartacus (dog).

Dear Maurice:

I just got a response from Doug MacInnes on the big problem people littering and garbage in general. The law should be changed in two ways. One is do not give litterers a fine, but rather have them clean up for a week and have sticker on their bumper.

The garbage is mostly from containers. Make the same suppliers take back their containers. This is what takes place, where one of my family lives in Switzerland. No picking up of anything. Everything goes back to the supplier.

Plus make companies like Tim Horton's have biodegradable everything. Canada has much to learn from other countries.

Sincerely, Walter Rodler, Debert, NS

Dear Maurice:

This note is in regard to the Sustane Technologies, Chester article you wrote in the last issue, about their process to keep municipal waste from landfills. There would be no need for such a company if all the suppliers of goods would be made to take back their supply containers and such.

This is the case in some countries, like

Switzerland, where one of my relatives live. No green bins needed. They take back all supplied containers to what we call a superstore here in Canada. They dump any returned items onto a conveyor and the machine sorts the various containers and they are returned to the supplier when new supplies are shipped to the superstore.

When I was growing up on the farm we dumped our compost to the back of the barn. Most of the containers in those days were glass or metal, not plastic. That's something to look into.

Furthermore, TISLA and EINSTEIN where both right on. Our supply of power is not on earth. I know what they meant. Problem is we need to have a universal government all over the world.

Einstein is among a few that know. If mankind had an IQ of average 160 to 170 we would possibly not have war and all the resource we are all putting into war could be put into energy to run our planet greener.

Among those lines of known theory, the most used design in the universe is 3, rather 3.14. This is part of my invention, just look at the shape. Did you know the genetic design in all of mankind is 3.

Sincerely, Walter Rodler, Debert, NS

Dear Editor,

I am a left arm amputee and a graduate member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program. I was recently fitted with a myoelectric arm thanks to public support of The War Amps Key Tag Service.

My myoelectric arm helps me complete the tasks I run into during everyday life. Not only does it make things easier, but it allows me to become more confident and able in public settings.

2016 marks the 70th anniversary of The War Amps Key Tag Service and to date, more than 1.5 million sets of lost keys have been returned to their owners.

Although it is a free service, donations provide young amputees with financial assistance for artificial limbs and, while growing up, allow us to go to regional seminars with our parents where we learn about the latest in artificial limbs and meet others just like us.

Thank you to everyone who has supported The War Amps Key Tag Service, which has helped Canadian amputees like me for the past 70 years.

Sincerely, Kellie Jackson, 19 Conception Bay South, NF

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

- BASS RIVER:**
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store
- BIBLE HILL:**
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
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- DEBERT:**
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Maurice Rees, Publisher
902-647-2968,
or E-MAIL:
maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Tips to Keep Safe During Winter Activities

Health Canada is reminding Canadians about health and safety information relating to winter activities for children, whether in a team sport like hockey or at outdoor fun such as ice skating or tobogganing.

Tips and links: Prevent head and eye injuries by making sure your child wears the proper safety equipment for whatever sport he or she is playing. All helmets must be in good condition, fit properly and have a chinstrap. If you are not sure of a helmet's quality or condition, don't buy it.

If you purchase a face protector separate from the helmet, be sure you have all of the hardware and instructions for proper installation and ensure it is listed as compatible with the model of helmet you have. Avoid the chance

of injury by not allowing your kids to sled near roads, parking lots, rocks, trees or fences, and never skating or playing near open water.

Dress children warmly and in layers, watch for frostbite on cold days, put sunscreen on exposed skin (UV rays are a hazard even in winter and on cloudy days), use a neck warmer instead of a scarf and remove drawstrings and cords from clothing to prevent these items from getting caught or tangled on objects.

For more information, visit Canada.ca. See also ready-made articles for sharing such as: Keep your kids safe while playing hockey; Quick tips for staying safe while enjoying winter sports; and Essential steps for fitting a hockey helmet.

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/Londonberry, 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

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

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