

REES' Pieces

Will there be two elections this year?

There has been so much going on during the last month, it is difficult to know where to start. For instance, near the first of the month provincial Liberals chose Iain Rankin as their new leader, who will automatically become Premier Stephen McNeil's replacement. There is a major uproar, which started in Bass River, about the EHS response times which has also evolved into complaints about volunteer Fire Fighters, not being involved in or receiving messages about local 911 events.

Winter finally arrived last weekend with depending where you lived a dumping of 12-24 inches of snow, followed by freezing rain, which turned to rain as temps rose overnight to 12-13. Tuesday morning an onslaught of cold air turn everything into a skating rink.

Recently two matters things have been much in the news and a third matter, at the county level, will become very contentious. As we stay somewhat isolated from Covid-19, within our own bubble, people have lots of time to dwell on "discussions" happening while joining friends for coffee.

First the conjecture there might be two elections this year. Many believe Prime Minister Trudeau might pull the plug and send us to the polls before the end of June. In Cumberland-Colchester the announcement by at least two people who will seek the Conservative nomination to run again incumbent, Lenore Zann. So far Colchester Councillor Tom Taggart and David Phillips, Business Development Officer for the Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity have announced their intentions to seek the nomination. It is rumoured a professional in the Truro area medical field will also seek the nomination. No candidates from Cumberland and Amherst areas have reached the speculative stage.

The number of current Liberal MLA's who have indicated they will not be seeking re-election continues to rise, giving speculation newly installed, Premier Iain Rankin (sworn in Tuesday, February 23) is facing a quandary - when to send us to the polls. By law, he must call an election by May 2022. The 40th Nova Scotia general election was held on May 30, 2017. His problem is not wanting to be in the election cycle close to a Federal Election. It appears to be a guessing game. Will Trudeau go before end of June or wait until later this fall?

So far, according to my memory, the following Liberals will not be seeking another term. Included in the list with the year first elected in brackets includes: Stephen McNeil, (2003), (former premier), Karen Casey (2006), Leo Glavine (2003), Geoff MacLellan (2010), Gordon Wilson, (2013), and most recently Mark Furey (2013).

The second saga is that 100+-Million Americans have been afflicted with a major winter storm, including a week-long deep freeze throughout the entire state of Texas. Imagine Dallas receiving a foot of snow. After the temperatures started to moderate, thawing and melting of snow started, the real damage was with the number of frozen pipes which have basically demolished entire homes. Interesting photos included a chandelier with icicles almost a foot long; ceilings which had fallen due to excessive water dripping from the room above and kitchens with up to three inches of water.

Texas has experienced cold spells in each of the last three decades, but state leaders and electricity executives failed to implement winterization changes mandated by various investigative commissions. All of Canada and many USA states successfully operate power generation and natural gas plants during more severe winter conditions. It is estimated the repair costs will exceed that from Hurricane Harry, which was in excess of \$18-Billion (USA dollars).

Colchester Council is facing one of its most difficult "stick-handling" decisions of all times, as it discusses implementing a Noise By-law. It will be far more contentious that the recent uproar from its 2019 dog and kennel by-law.

In today's legal climate, rest assured following implementation there will be several court battles naming not only the county, but individual councillors as people seek solutions to "unintended consequences". Legal bills will mount and taxpayers will be paying through increased insurance premiums and settlement costs if it reaches that stage.

Until next month.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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The War Amps Key Tag Service Celebrates 75 Years

Dear Editor,

The War Amps Key Tag Service is celebrating a milestone this year - its 75th anniversary! The service has not only been reuniting Canadians with their lost keys, it has been helping to make a difference in the lives of amputees. To date, more than 1.5 million sets of lost keys have been returned to their owners. Al-

though it's a free service, donations enable the Association to operate its many programs for amputees, including veterans and children.

I was born missing both feet and was enrolled in The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program at a young age. With this support, I grew up knowing I wasn't alone and that I had a wealth of re-

sources to draw from. Through the Association, amputees are also eligible for financial assistance for artificial limbs which allow them to be active and independent.

The War Amps 2021 key tags are being mailed to Nova Scotia residents next week and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support. The Key Tag Service

not only protects your keys, it allows amputees across the country to reach their full potential.

Tim Verney
War Amps Regional
Representative
Nova Scotia

OP-ED

Let's Pitch Food Waste

By MARIE-CLAUDE BIBEAU

Every year, over half of the food produced in Canada is wasted. Crops are left unharvested in the field. Food spoils during transportation. Reusable by-products are cast aside during processing. Retailers and consumers fall short on selling and eating food before it spoils.

According to the experts at Second Harvest, it's like building 95 CN towers out of wasted food every year. Uneaten food often ends up in landfills and creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. A staggering 8% of all greenhouse gases worldwide are the result of food waste.

Food waste is a major challenge - and a major opportunity.

We've all heard the saying: "Reduce, reuse, and recycle." Well, it turns out those three 'Rs' are all key to taking on this mountain of a problem.

The team at Enterra Corp. is more than up to the challenge. Enterra runs a large state-of-the-art facility just north of Calgary. Every day, they gather 130 tonnes of surplus fruits, vegetables and other food from local farmers, grocery stores and food processors. They bring the waste back to their facility and feed it to large colonies of black soldier larvae. The larvae are then dried and offered as a nutrient-rich pet food and plant fertilizer in an attractive packaging.

Altruism isn't driving Enterra's success - it's a viable business model to recycle food waste. Our Government recently announced an investment of \$6 million to help them expand.

We need more Enterras. A lot more.

Last November, our Government launched the \$20-million Food Waste Reduction Challenge, offering cash prizes to innovators with solutions to prevent or divert food waste at any point on the food supply chain, from farm-to-plate.

We launched the challenge, not knowing what kind of response we would get.

We were thrilled at the response. Already, 343 proposals have poured in from all across the country, from start-ups and entrepreneurs ready to tackle this issue in Canada. A first round of winners will be announced in the coming months and another round of applications will be open in the spring, this time focused on new technologies that extend the life of food or transform food waste into new foods or value-added products.

While we're making good progress on re-using and recycling waste, the biggest challenge remains waste prevention - preventing food waste before it ever happens. And we can all start with a simple solution right in our own homes. Some of us are unsure about is whether to eat food after the best-before date. The best-before date indicates to consumers that if the product has been properly handled, the unopened product should be of high quality until the specified date. Best-before dates are about food quality and not food safety.

Being confined at home during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped us all discover (or re-discover) the joy of cooking. Personally, I enjoy the challenge of cooking a delicious meal using the forgotten ingredients in the back of my fridge.

Tackling food waste is a challenge for all of us. It's a key focus area for the Food Policy for Canada, which our Government launched two years ago. Reducing food waste can save us money, support those in need, create new business opportunities, and reduce GHG emissions. Whether it's a multi-million dollar business venture or a back-of-fridge stew, let's keep working on solutions.

The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau is Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Volunteer Recognition Voting February 25 & 26

By Maurice Rees

Cumberland residents will have an opportunity to participate in an on-line voting on February 25th and 26th to select the county's volunteer for the 47th Annual Provincial Volunteer Recognition ceremony, which is being held in April.

Each year, one outstanding volunteer or group of volunteers from the Municipality of the County of Cumberland is selected by Municipal Council to attend the provincial

awards ceremony and luncheon as the Municipality's Volunteer Representative. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's ceremony will

be taking place virtually on April 26th.

Councillors were given until February 23th to submit their nominee(s) for this prestigious award. The Provincial deadline for submissions is March 1st, 2021. The selection process for the Municipality's Volunteer Representative

Award is as follows: Councillors are invited to nominate an individual, a youth, a family volunteering together for the Volunteer Representative Award and, a new category this year, Nova Scotia Strong Award.

One outstanding volunteer will be selected via an online vote February 25th and 26th of county residents. The chosen volunteer's nomination form will be sent to the Provincial Volunteer Awards Committee for recognition.

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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