

REES' Pieces

Poking head out of the "foxhole"

The attitude and aggressiveness some Canadian's have expressed, one should be weary or afraid to poke their head up out of the foxhole for fear of being criticized, ridiculed or worse. It is catastrophic how we have switched from "peacekeepers" to garnering global attention by holding the capital city, and other parts of this great country hostage for nearly a month.

Yes, even here in Colchester County, I was called onto the mat for a story in the last issue. I have been in this business for nearly 60 years and have seen nothing like the disturbing events which have become more frequent over the last couple of years. Like many Canadians I was proud most of the nearly 38-Million of us maintained our own identity and strived not become overly Americanized.

But not now.

I few empathy for the leadership at the Canadian Truckers Association, whom I feel were "hookwinked" as being the initial purpose of the Freedom Convoy. Yes, truckers did have some reason to complain and demonstrate. A large number of people had empathy for their cause and supported them. As the weeks went by, we learned Freedom Convoy was not organized by the truckers, but by right wing groups who had various objectives including "overthrow the existing government", while attracting \$-millions in USA donations.

I am not saying the existing government does not have flaws, and some big ones, but what evolved is not the Canadian style we are used to. To learn many USA politicians and their followers were supportive of the Freedom Convoy. Many were very visible and open in their support and Millions of USA\$\$\$ were donated to support the cause.

It is embarrassing and very unsettling a large number of Canadian MP's and some senators were openly supportive of the demonstrators, even meeting publically with them on the demonstration sites. I have many friends who are on the conservative side of the political spectrum and their word to me is "I am very conservative, would never vote Liberal, but I am a Progressive Conservative. I am not supportive of the current Conservative Party".

I am informed from these friends; there is no leadership race for the Conservative Party. It will be a coronation as there does not appear to be anyone who will step forward to take the leadership away from the current leader, who has demonstrated a high level of Trump-like American activities.

I am not taking political sides, but if we keep going down this slippery slope Canadian complacency will destroy democracy and way of life Canada has enjoyed for decades. It is time for all Canadians regardless of political stripe to develop a backbone and wrestle the publicist attitudes away from those who want to make Canada more like the Americans and other "radical rightwing groups" gaining prominence around the world.

Are we going to stand up for democracy and human rights like our forefathers or do we want Canada to go down a slippery slope to be more like the Chinese, Russians and Americans? It will take months if not a couple of years to change the trajectory we are headed. I can't do it, nor can you, but "we" including all of us can regain control. That is the challenge to you.

Unfortunately, the Mass Casualty Commission has not been gaining support as we had hoped. More and more people are of the belief the Commission's will not deliver the healing results needed. Even though I have not expressed public opinion on the matter, and have been most supportive of the local people who have had their lives changed forever, but I get calls, nearly every day, from people who are dismayed. Most disturbing to hear them say, "I fear, the commission is looking more and more like a sham. Essentially it will be a cover-up protecting federal and provincial governments and with results in which the RCMP will be most pleased.

To the deepest feelings of my inner self, I hope all those who are speaking out in dismay are wrong. But the tenacity to deliver different results seems invisible and perhaps non-existent.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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OP-ED

The following is an op-ed from Brian Comer, Minister responsible for the Office of Addictions and Mental Health.

Nearly two years ago, our province experienced a horrific event.

When the news broke, disbelief and heartbreak were felt in every home and community across the province. This soon spread to include homes across the country and around the globe.

To this day, we grapple with the impacts, and we continue to mourn the loss of those who were senselessly killed.

We came together in this

time of grief. We reached out to families, friends and neighbours in support and in an effort to try and make sense of what had happened.

Today, February 22, the Mass Casualty Commission begins a series of public hearings. The hearings are part of an inquiry to find answers about what happened and why it happened. These hearings will feature testimony from numerous witnesses who will speak to the horrific events.

At times, what we hear will be sad or disturbing. Everyone will process what they're hearing in different ways. Feelings of sadness, anxiety and fear are normal and are to be expected. But you don't have to

process these feelings on your own. I want you to know you are not alone.

If you just need to talk to someone or if you need help, there are places to go and people to listen any time, day or night.

211 Nova Scotia has community support navigators standing by 24/7 and can connect you with someone who can help.

Additional services and community resources can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

I encourage you to make use of these resources, whether for yourself or to navigate how to help someone else.

Please keep yourself well and, as you have done before, check in on your family, friends and neighbours. Please be kind to one another.

To the families and communities who lost loved ones, your province continues to support you in your journey to healing.

Hon Brian Comer is Minister responsible for the Office of Addictions and Mental Health, Province of Nova Scotia.

Statement on Avian Influenza in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's poultry industry is on high alert against avian influenza and asking for help from their neighbours to prevent the spread of the disease. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a commercial flock in Western Nova Scotia.

The flock was ordered depopulated and CFIA has established a restricted movement zone of 10 km around the infected premise. CFIA advises that in most cases AI is a viral infection that only affects birds.

In the rare cases that it is transmitted to humans, it is almost always through direct and prolonged exposure to infected birds. AI is not a foodborne disease and is not passed on to humans as the result of eating poultry or eggs.

In an emergency, the N.S. poultry industry works together through its Poultry Emergency Response Planning Committee made up of stakeholders from all poultry sectors. The Committee issued a Red Alert to all commercial operations on January 31.

The poultry industry in N.S. is a key driver of



Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canada

our rural economy and AI is a highly contagious threat that causes us significant concern. Our provincial Chief Veterinary Officer was proactive in contacting us when the first suspected case was found in a wild goose east of Halifax. Since then, the N.S. industry has been following enhanced biosecurity protocols to prevent the spread of the disease. CFIA now has authority over the restricted zone, and we are cooperating fully with their instructions.

The industry is calling on all Nova Scotians to be vigilant against AI. Our efforts on-farm are only one piece of the puzzle. We're asking anyone who raises domestic fowl on their property to watch for signs of AI and take all precautions to keep their birds away from wild birds. For the public, if you see a sick or dead wild bird, please report it online through the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative.

Remuneration for Council By-law Amendments

By Maurice Rees

First Reading of remuneration for Council By-law Amendments passed at the February 24th council meeting on motion by Councillors MacKenzie and Sandeson with Councillor Parker opposing. The amendments are confined to: Provides discretion to Council to reduce remuneration of Council members who are: Removed from their Committee assignments; or Granted an approved leave of absence; or Subject to cor-

rective action under the Code of Conduct for Members of Council.

Remuneration Review: Council shall review the remuneration amounts in Sections 4, 5, and 6 of this By-law, at least two months prior to each Municipal Election, beginning with the Municipal Election in October

2024. Any reductions made under section 9A of this By-law shall be reviewed monthly by Council.

Free Playgroup for Children

Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre is offering a FREE Playgroup at several locations on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Those in the immediate areas are urged to contact 902-895-0200 to discuss arrangements at the following locations: **Monday:** Great Village at the Faith Baptist Church Hall; **Wednesday:**

Debert at the Debert Fellowship Centre and **Thursday:** Tatamagouche at the Tatamagouche Fire Hall. The sessions are held 10:00-11:30am from September to June.

Playgroups are a fun, FREE play and social time for parents/caregivers and their children from birth to school age to enjoy together. Each session consists of free play and art

time, a healthy, peanut-free snack, provided by Maggie's Place, and ends with circle time - songs and stories and active fun.

All families are welcome to join. Please contact to register due to COVID protocols. For more information, contact 902-895-0200 or check out the website www.maggiesplace.ca or look check on Facebook Maggie's Place-Colchester.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

BASS RIVER:

Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:

Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites

NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:
Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chignois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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

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