

REES' Pieces

If Unstoppable, Let's Plan

Every month when I sit down to write, Rees' Pieces, I have a multitude of topics in the back of my mind. However, this month, the idea factory has failed me. When I looked there was nothing there, so here goes. Guess this will be similar to going for a drive on a Sunday afternoon with no destination in mind.

In looking back at the last couple of months, things have been busy, but not hectic. For the first time in years, in fact decades, I did absolutely very little work between Christmas and New Years, then extended my idleness into the first two weeks in January.

When I did go back to work, I caught a cold, and the persistent cough lasted much longer than I wanted. Spoke to a friend, who says his cough has hung around for upwards of six weeks.

Many were talking about the flu or lack of energy. I was unaware how they were feeling, until about noon on a Friday. Just after lunch I felt a bit off kilter. Decided I might have a Friday afternoon since tummy was full from lunch.

OMG, it hit me like a ton of bricks. Without word of a lie, other than bathroom privileges and to get more fluids, I stayed in bed until 9 am on Monday. I was not sick to my stomach, but not in living memory, did I feel so weak, tired and unable to stay awake.

While I confined myself to bed, when awake, I had plenty of time for idle thoughts. The beauty of our countryside, whether NB, NS or PEI kept popping into my mind.

Then at one point instead of thinking of our beauty and inviting views of our countryside and seashores, I decided to look negatively for ways that rural beauty could be taken away from us and what would our situation be at that particular time.

Immediately, clear cutting of our forests came to mind. The problem with clear cutting it's been around for 40+ years. Our leaders of tomorrow don't realize the beauty of what our country side used to be like. Even today there is very little public outcry about continued clearcutting. Look at our countryside: wildlife habitat has been ruined forever; there is no vegetation or tree strands to hold back the water, which comes rushing down mountains and hillsides including Cobequid and Wentworth. More clearcutting in a area, nobody bats an eye.

My second concern is Wildfires not because of Shelburne and outside Halifax which suffered \$-billions of damage, but because of the thousands of acres of Fiona devastated forest land. There should have been a major public outcry to hold government accountable to clean up the mess. Timber could have turned into saw logs; 2 x 4 studs, chips etc. Thousands of jobs could have been created. Landowners could have been paid a premium price or a guaranteed market for the volumes they salvaged from the forests. I'll bet the provincial government has done very little toward Fiona clean up or remediation. My concern is with all the downed trees spread across thousands of acres in Northern and Eastern Nova Scotia which could be a tinder box, awaiting for just one spark from a lightening storm.

There are two cases of severe ruination of our rural beauty and in both cases, the economic benefit compared to ecological and environment damage is questionable. For the past 50 years, we should have been tree farmers. Our economy and environment would be much better.

The third way our countryside may altered to some degree is wind farms. Mere mention of a new wind farm sends people rushing for a protest sign. Within the last decade forthcoming changes are unstoppable, and that includes green energy and what every is needed to produce it.

If it's unstoppable, we need to bring everyone together, to find ways to extract the best deal possible for municipalities; community organizations, residents within the shadows of the towers from the multi-national developers while preserving wildlife habitat, environment and beauty.

Government must lead, but the public needs to hold them accountable for benefits and bonds which will cover the cost of decommissioning.

Maurice

World Premiere set for October 2024

Submitted by Joy Hewitt

The Cantabile Society of Truro Invites Maritime Singers to Join Dr. Paul Aitken at Carnegie Hall for a Spectacular Musical Journey. Dr. Aitken, co-owner of the Maple Inn in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, and a seasoned performer on the Carnegie Hall stage, has been invited to open the 42nd season of MidAmerica Productions on March 15, 2025.

His newly-composed, 25-minute choral/orchestral work, inspired by the urgent theme of climate change, brings together the liturgical Latin Mass texts and secular

English writings, creating a powerful and hopeful artistic expression.

Having twice graced the Carnegie Hall stage as a guest conductor in 2010 and 2023, Dr. Aitken is calling upon the rich vocal talent of the Maritimes to be a part of this historic concert residency in New York City from March 12-16, 2025. Singers will have the unique opportunity to contribute to the world premiere of Dr. Aitken's groundbreaking work, which is set to be premiered in October 2024 by the Cantabile Society of Truro, under the artistic direction of

Chris Bowman.

"I wanted to create a hybrid work of art that interweaves the liturgical Latin Mass texts with secular writings in the English language. My goal was to write a work that deeply addresses the heart of climate change while remaining hope-filled and inspirational in its trajectory," Dr. Aitken shared about his upcoming composition.

The concert's success and the full presentation of the new Mass with choir and orchestra are dependent on funding, but the anticipation for the performance is already building. Singers eager to be part of this extraordinary musical experience are encouraged to contact Joy Hewitt at cantabilemanager@gmail.com for more information.

Dr. Aitken and his wife, MacKenzie, have made Parrsboro their home since November 2020, where they own and operate the historic Maple Inn. Reflecting on their journey, Dr. Aitken expressed, "Parrsboro is the perfect place to create beautiful pieces of art; we couldn't be more happy with our new hometown."

All passionate choral



Carnegie Hall

Where the Canadian Tire used to be

By James Gilbert

From Bonavista to Vancouver Island, it's Canada's small towns that give this country character. As I travel from coast to coast, it's the small towns that hold my interest. Fall fairs smelling of french fries and cattle manure, local events put on by a bevy of committed volunteers, places where you know police officers by name and curl with them on weekends. Places where everyone knows where everything is (or was at one time).

In this age of Google Maps and GPS, asking for directions has gone by the wayside. However, technology doesn't always work and cell service isn't global so asking a local is the way to go. Problems arise as landmarks often have their own colloquial names, known only to residents, and often serve as places to turn at, or to look out for, leaving a visitor perplexed.

"It's next to where the Canadian Tire used to be" is a personal favourite of mine as is "next to the Orange Lodge" and you go off searching for an orange coloured building. For anyone new to Canada, the name Canadian Tire must really be baffling. What is the Canadian Tire? Is it like the big nickel in Sudbury? Why do so many Canadians need new tires? Why does the old location serve as a landmark? I just

tell new visitors to Canada to meet me at Tim's, that can't possibly cause any confusion.

Once I saw a poster announcing an event with the date, time and the name of a building as the location (without an address or map insert). Assumptions are made that residents would only ever attend events in their town. I travel and write about these places and events so for me, it's important.

While visiting friends in a town near Toronto, I mentioned that there had been rioting on Queen Street during the G20 summit. "What? Rioting on Queen Street?" "We never heard anything". They thought I was talking about Queen Street in their town and I was guilty of thinking "city-centrally".

Outside of St. John's, Newfoundland I asked where the nearest grocery store was. "CBS" was the answer. When I inquired about the meaning of CBS, I was told like I was missing brain cells "Conception Bay South". I was supposed to know, you know.

If you ask for directions in the city of Guelph, Ontario, you're likely be directed up or down "The Hanlon". It's actually Highway 6, well, Highway 6 North specifically but everyone knows it as The Hanlon. I specified Highway 6 North as it runs north from Highway

401 but on the other hand, Highway 6 South runs south off the 401, but the next exit east. Making perfect sense.

On Vancouver Island there are two directions, "up island" and "down island". Life only gets complicated when you're told "This ferry's full, you'll have to catch the next one....tomorrow".

Once I volunteered to help pack up and move a set from a play held at a small town theatre. We needed to drop everything off at a storage location described as "underneath where Hanson's used to be". I followed the others cars rather than risk getting further instructions.

Friends of mine were setting up their new restaurant just as the Shoppers Drug Mart across the street was closing and moving to its new location. I was elated. I could now join in and tell people the restaurant was..... "Across the street from where the Shoppers used to be". Although I'm not a resident, at least I'm now considered somewhat of a local geographer.

James Gilbert is a travel writer, photographer and life time student.

He can be found on Instagram at: [canadianhikingadventures](https://www.instagram.com/canadianhikingadventures) as well as his blog [canadianhikingadventures.net](https://www.canadianhikingadventures.net)

singers are invited to seize this exceptional opportunity, as the Maritimes takes center stage at Carnegie Hall in March 2025, joining Dr. Paul Aitken in a celebration of music, art, and the enduring spirit of hope.

For inquiries, please contact: Joy Hewitt, Choir Manager, Cantabile Society of Truro, 902-814-5676, or cantabilemanager@gmail.com

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

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