

REES' Pieces

Pets, children, tourists or Coyotes?

Increases of coyote attacks on humans has captured a lot of attention recently and rural residents are concerned. Prominence started with the mauling death of Taylor Mitchell, an up-and-coming singer-songwriter by a pack of run-a-muck coyotes in Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

To understand the problem, step outside at night. From you verandah you can hear coyotes calling the pack to a late night feast of recently killed wild game, farm animal or pet. So far only one human.

Coyotes have become more brazen and are often seen lurking around school property, or the shores of lakes in cottage country. To put it mildly, coyotes are everywhere.

The closest problem was in South Maitland. Susan Sinclair was taking a mid morning stroll along an abandoned railbed, which has become part of the walking trail system at the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre & Lookoff and the Visitor Information Centre at the end of the Gosse Bridge in South Maitland.

She was attacked by a coyote, which raced across a small pond up an embankment to grab her pants, leaving a large bruise on her thigh. Thankfully she was able to scare it off.

The site is important to the tourism sector. In 2009, the site recorded the second highest percentage increase in counseling tourists for all the Visitor Information Centres in Cumberland, Colchester and East Hants areas.

Natural Resources Minister John MacDonell has announced, starting this fall, a \$20 bounty will be paid and trappers will be hired on an on-call basis for future incidents. Wildlife specialists within his department feel a bounty will not solve the problem.

One wildlife expert whom I spoke to says that the quickest solution will be to permit the carrying of centre bore rifles for the purpose of hunting coyotes. As of March 31st, only a shotgun can be transported in a vehicle. A shotgun is as effective in killing a coyote as a baseball bat.

Nova Scotia's problem with coyotes dates back over 20 years. During that time, the province has lost about 80% of its trappers and a similar proportion of big game hunters. The coyote population could be seriously exploited if MacDonell would make it easy to obtain a permit to carry a rifle at this time of year. April and May are the birthing season for coyotes. A pregnant female killed at this time is equivalent to killing 8-10 coyotes at another time of year.

Trapping will remove about 2,000-2,500 animals per year. What isn't stated about trapping is the number of pets who fall victim to the traps or snares. Abandoned railways beds are a super highway for coyotes. They can travel long distances with ease as its also used by deer, rabbits and other prey.

If MacDonell was real serious about reducing coyote attacks on pets or humans, he would have encouraged 2009 long gun hunters to become involved. Readily simple to implement: Call a toll free number, provide hunting license number, rifle model, serial number and the area to be hunted. A confirmation number could be provided on the phone and the permit sent in the mail that day. Simple, easy and done within five minutes.

One wanna-be coyote hunter, I spoke to said he could easily hunt and kill about 100 coyotes a year. If we had 500-1000 long gun hunters involved, we'd drive the coyotes back from heavier populated areas.

We have about three weeks to get an upper hand on the problem, before females give birth. In Nova Scotia coyote litters range from 8-15 pups. If we can take out 1,000 females before mid-May, it's the same as trapping 8,000-10,000.

The government is dealing with a "hot potato". I hope members sleep comfortably. Essentially, their options are pets, children, tourists or coyotes.

If you agree stronger action must be taken, I suggest you contact your local MLA, and the district office of Department of Natural Resources.

If you do nothing the next incident could involve a family member, pet or livestock. If you wish, send me a letter or email and I will ensure your opinion is delivered to the appropriate people.

Emails can be sent to: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Maurice

Two Local Stories at Colchester Historical Society Museum

By Dale Ells

Horse Power to Horsepower: Colchester's Romance with the Automobile As the automobile craze took hold in Nova Scotia during the years before the First World War, some residents of Colchester County were in "mortal terror" of the horseless carriage.

In the words of one resident "autos are a worse curse to the country than potato bugs." The Colchester Historical Society Museum's summer exhibit on the first floor will feature artifacts, photographs and stories about Colchester's adjustment to and acceptance of the "horseless carriage". We'll also be featuring buses, taxis, trucks and service stations found all over the county.

The Golden Age Automobile Club and various individuals will be providing assistance and items for the display and antique cars will enliven the opening. Exhibit opening: Saturday, May 29 at 2 p.m.

A Favourable Opportunity: The Planters Choose Cobequid The exhibit will explain the several events leading up to the Planters' arrival here in 1761. The key individuals

involved will be identified as well. The Exhibit Opening: Saturday, June 12, at 2 p.m., in the third floor meeting room.

Learn about the representatives of New England settlers along with Chief Surveyor Charles Morris as they explore Cobequid in July 1760. Their findings were part of the process that resulted in the first New England settlers, now called "Planters", to arrive here at the end of May in 1761. This was just the start. During that summer of 1761 the favourable opportunities in Cobequid were further promoted by Alexander McNutt in the North of Ireland. On October 9, 1761, the ship Hopewell sailed into Halifax Harbour bearing settlers for the future Londonderry Township.



CEHHA Staff Win Two Prestigious Awards

Colchester East Hants Health Authority staff received the Aramark Award for Achievement in Environmental Leadership and the Award for Innovations in Quality Worklife at a Health Association Nova Scotia event on Monday, March 26th which recognized outstanding leadership by health service organizations in Nova Scotia. Cumberland Health Authority is the recipient of the Big Strides in Quality Worklife Award.

The Aramark Award of Achievement in Environmental Leadership was sponsored by Aramark Healthcare. This new award recognizes organizations in Nova Scotia that have made a significant effort to improve the environment through grassroots or staff-led initiatives. Activities include, but are not limited to projects, policies, and/or advocacy in their organizations or communities. The recipients demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship, education and/or sustainable practices.

Helga Hoffman-Ortan, an operating room nurse from Colchester Regional Hospital is this year's winner. She was recognized for her work to introduce green practices in the Colchester Regional Hospital OR which have dramatically

reduced the amount of waste generated through the OR. The award also recognizes her leadership in founding a Green Team; supporting planning for the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified hospital in Nova Scotia and spreading the Green message provincially amongst her peers. The award included a \$5,000 to support ongoing green initiatives/projects, a trophy and a plaque of recognition.

The Innovations in Quality Worklife (QWL) was sponsored by Johnson Inc. This new award recognizes a health organization in Nova Scotia that has signed the Quality Worklife Quality Healthcare Collaborative Charter and that has demonstrated innovation (s) in their efforts to create and maintain a healthy healthcare workplace. Mental Health Program staff with the Colchester East Hants Health Authority received the award in recognition of a Mental Health First Aid Program they launched in the district, which has helped prepare staff to recognize and respond to mental health first aid needs. More than 300 individuals have completed the program. Team members were presented with a \$5,000 prize to support ongoing work in this area, a trophy and a framed certificate.

Celebrating the Planters 250TH



A significant time in Colchester County's rich cultural history will be marked in 2010-2011 as residents celebrate the 250th anniversary of the arrival of settlers from New England and Ireland.

Known as "Planters," these settlers occupied rich, dyked farmlands left vacant following the Expulsion of the Acadians. These lands were in areas then known as Truro, Onslow and Londonderry Townships.

A Planters 250 Committee has been established to help co-ordinate and promote anniversary activities over the next two years.

Representatives of prospective settlers came to this region in the summer of 1760 to view lands, and settlement began in the spring of 1761. Recognizing this, the celebration will be extended over nearly two years, beginning in April 2010 and continuing to December 2011.

Refundable Drive on May 22nd

By Chris Urquhart

A Refundable Drive in Masstown will be held on May 22. I hope that you have been saving up your refundables for our Church. Pick up will begin at the Church at 9am. If at all possible, please have your refundables at the end of your driveway for easy pick up. This also stops us from having to wake you up! You can also bring your refundables to the Church at any time prior and during the drive or call either Kay 662-

2140 or Chris 662-3550 for pick up. If you have a big load of refundables we will gladly pick them up rather than have you drag them all the way down your driveway! Please remember that refundables are items on which you paid a deposit, not milk containers. Thank you for keeping these for us. If you would like to help out with the drive in any way - doing pick ups, sorting, etc. please call either Kay or Chris and we promise to find you a job!

Truro-Colchester Tied as 3RD Most Cost Competitive In Canada

Truro-Colchester tied for third place when it comes to the cost of setting up and operating a business in Canada. In the Atlantic Region, the numbers look even more impressive. Within the four Atlantic Provinces, Truro-Colchester ties with Fredericton for second spot, and just behind first-place Moncton.

The latest survey numbers from international business consultants KPMG place Atlantic Canada in a very cost-competitive position versus the United States and the European Union, with Truro-Colchester edging out most of its Canadian competitors.

The survey looks at component costs such as labour, leasing costs, transportation, utilities and taxes. It focuses on 11 manufacturing sectors,

including agri-food, chemical, aerospace, metal components, plastics, telecommunications and precision manufacturing.

Nationally, the lowest-cost business location is Sherbrooke, Quebec, followed by Moncton. That places Truro-Colchester and Fredericton in a tie for being the 3rd most cost-competitive location in all of Canada!

Using an index of components where the U-S average business purchase and operating cost equals 100, Sherbrooke has a cost ranking of 91.2, Moncton's number is next at 91.3. Truro-Colchester and Fredericton are tied at 91.8, only fractionally more expensive than the best two cities in the entire country.

The information was released by KPMG on Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

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