

# REES' Pieces

## It's Time To Decide

*This column will be difficult to write because of the sadness from the loss of our good friend Tom MacLean. It's not that he had input into this column, but his contributions to life in general made it easier to achieve many goals. The difficulty is an emotional one because such a good friend has passed.*

Canada is in a predicament, that a democracy of our stature should not be facing. Unfortunately, we are such a meek and mild society we often fail to stand up and be counted for what we believe in where it affects us the most, ourselves.

If countries are required to rise to the challenge to solve a global problem, or to extend a willing hand of help and assistance, Canada is at the front of the line, as a caring society. However, on an inward basis we seem to crumble when it comes to fighting for what is best for Canada.

In Egypt, Libya and many other countries, citizens are willing to lay down their life to achieve democracy and have the right to cast a meaningful vote. However, Canadians are so passive they don't even take the interest to take an hour to go to the polls to cast a vote. SHAME ON US.

Except for a few mutterings from some of the churches, Canadians have even rolled their eyes that advance polls were open on Good Friday, the holiest day of the year. If all the MP's we sent to Ottawa in 2008 would have cared, an election date would have been set to avoid such an instance. I'm not getting up on a religious soapbox, but using the matter to make a point.

Sure people have grumbled about an Easter weekend full of election crap, but was there an outcry worth listening to? NO. The same thing holds true about the multi-million dollar downloading announced recently by the Dexter government onto the municipalities. If you wish to learn what will happen to your municipal tax bill, I suggest you read Tom Taggart's column on page 5. In any other country, but Canada, there would have been an instant uprising.

The same situation will apply to last week's announcement, Nova Scotia Power is expected to apply in July for a 9% rate increase to come into effect next year. Most of us will huff and puff about the matter, but rarely will we see a sustained effort to develop any opposition.

We get more irritated and take more action, if there is an illegal body check in a hockey game. We complain about immigrant workers taking our jobs, yet we don't have enough doctors, engineers, construction and transportation workers.

In the two great wars, Canadians were a the head of the line, when it came to using our back bone, and preserving democracy, yet we tolerate excessive spending, fraudulent and criminal activities by politicians or civil servants.

Some may say May 2nd is time for Canadians to decide who runs the country for the next while by voting in the election. While that statement is true nearly 40% of Canadians did not vote in the 2008 federal election. There are fears voter apathy may increase and we will be approaching a 50-50 split.

The antics of many politicians has caused apathy. However in reality, we can not blame the politicians. While it may be true only a few have directly caused the problem, all elected MP's are to blame because they have failed to "rein in" their colleagues. The blame rests solely at our own feet. We have failed to demand accountability and transparency. Although it's the federal election which is bringing forward the debate, all levels of government are failing us, and we do nothing.

I wonder how long it will take before we find the gumption to forcefully stand up for what should be ours - efficiency, transparency, and accountability causing effective changes be made?

I vote every election. Hence I have a right to complain. If you don't vote next week, you have very little right to complain.

If you wish to be another bump on the log, stay home on May 2nd. However, if you believe in Canada, get out and vote. It's time we took the initiative to vote, then demand action.

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

Dear Editor:

April 13, 2011

Today there are about 300 people in Atlantic Canada who are in need of an organ transplant and hundreds of others awaiting tissue transplants. One single organ donor can save up to 8 lives, and provide 40 tissue transplants to enhance the lives of many others.

April 17 to 24 is National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week and doctors in Nova Scotia encourage all Nova Scotians to consider

the possibility of organ and tissue donation. By considering donation you are giving hope to thousands of Canadians who are waiting for potentially life-saving transplants.

Each year in Nova Scotia, hundreds of people get a second chance at life because of organ and tissue donations. Four years ago, my brother was killed in a car accident and my family made the decision to donate most of his tissue. Although his death was very tragic, it was healing to

know that it was not for nothing and he was able to give someone else the opportunity he could not have himself.

In Nova Scotia you can register your wish for organ and tissue donation on your health card upon renewal. You can also contact MSI and submit a donor registration form.

If you have registered as a donor, health professionals still need to ask your family for consent before recovering organs or tissue. Donation can take place only if your family provides final

consent.

Whether you're an organ and tissue donor or not, doctors in the province encourage you to talk with your family about donation to ensure your final decision is honoured.

For more information about donating and how to register, visit [www.legacyoflife.ns.ca](http://www.legacyoflife.ns.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jane Brooks, MD, PhD, CCFP  
President  
Doctors Nova Scotia  
[www.doctorsns.com](http://www.doctorsns.com)

## Debert Elementary School Notes

By Linda Harrington

Grade 5 & 6 students took the Wii Bowling Challenge from 2:30 to 3:30 on April 18th for Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kid's Sake. Over \$1500 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Well done!

The winners of the quilts were Garry Gallant and Sonya Barnhill. A huge thank you to Gerene Chisholm, who donated these hand-made quilts to the school. Thank you to all who bought tickets. The money raised will help purchase a new sound system for the gymnasium.

Students and staff took part in Earth Day activities by cleaning up the school grounds on Thursday, April 21st. Miss Langille is taking her Drama students to the CEC Musical, Disco Inferno on Sunday, May 1st. Perhaps these students may one day be performing in one of these Musicals.

A special thank you to Sobey's employees for their generous donation to the Breakfast Program. Donations such as these have helped keep the Breakfast Program running into June on Wednesday and

Friday mornings.

The new Primary students for 2012 will be attending one of two half day of classes on either May 11th or May 18th. Parents and new Primary students will attend a "Welcome to School" evening on May 31st beginning at 6:30PM.

Grade 4 students are heading to the Wetlands at the Subenacadie Wildlife Park on April 28th. Students will be using the camera kits from the CCRSB Technology Dept. to create their own technology projects.

Mrs. Loughead's class has been writing very creative works of poetry this month. April is Poetry Month and many classes have been spending extra time reading and writing poetry.

New LCD projectors have been installed in each classroom. Two classes are being trained on how to use a 'Mimeo' to make white boards into "smart boards".

A warm welcome to Miss Choi, a Korean exchange student who has been working as a Student Educational Assistant for the last few months. Miss Choi lives in Debert with Susan and Glen Reilly. She is a University stu-

dent studying Commerce and is here in Canada to improve her English.

May 23rd is Victoria Day, no classes on this day.



Miss Choi, a Korean exchange student working at Debert Elementary School, helps Emma Chisholm (right) display the two quilts her mom made and donated to the school to raise money for a new sound system. Garry Gallant and Sonya Barnhill were the lucky winners. (Harrington Photo)

## Vote on May 2

By Maurice Rees

On Monday, May 2nd Canadians will have the opportunity to vote for the candidate or political party of their choice. In Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley voters are returning to the polls after electing Scott Armstrong in the November 9, 2009 by-election created to fill the seat following the resignation of Bill Casey, Independent.

To bring to our readers, the opinions of all five candidates in CCMV, we have included a questionnaire completed by each candidate. You will find their responses elsewhere in this issue. Across Canada only 59% of voters exercised their right to vote. Hopefully voters will make their way to the polls and an increased number of their will cast a vote.

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PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

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