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The Shoreline Journal

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0
Publications Mail™ #40048924 - VOL. 17 NO. 5
MAY 2013 **\$1.95 + HST**

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS May 2013

On April 21st, 2013, Colchester RCMP assisted by the General Investigation Section executed a search warrant at a residence on Station Road in Great Village and arrested two local residents - 26-year-old man and 63-year-old man at the scene without incident. The search of the property resulted in the seizure of suspected stolen property including rifles, handguns, chainsaws and all terrain vehicle. Police also seized approximately 40 harvested marihuana plants and a large quantity of harvested marihuana. They were released from custody, to appear in court a later date.

The Andrew Yorke Memorial Bursary is for students graduating from grade 12 going into post secondary education who live in the Five Islands to Bass River area. Please send a letter explaining "What Education Means to you". Please include what school you are accepted and what program you are enrolled in. Mail letter to: Carole Fisher, 2896 Hwy # 4, Glenholme NS B0M 1G0. Deadline May 20, 2013.

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board ended its school review process for 11 schools at its monthly meeting on April 17th. The School Review Process continues for Highland Consolidated Middle School and East Pictou Middle School while the Board. A "Notice of Motion" to be dealt with at the May 15th meeting means Board members will vote on whether or not to delay the closure of Bass River Elementary (set for closure June 30, 2013) and Wentworth Consolidated Elementary (set for closure June 30, 2014).

Official Opening of the Debert Military Museum will be held on Saturday, May 25th with Flag Raising at 11AM followed by BBQ and more!

A ceremony to honour Canada's first Inuit Priest, Simon Gibbons, originally from Red Bay, Labrador will be held in Diligent River on Sunday, May 19, 2013 commencing at 1:00 pm. A 5.5 foot granite sculpture, plaque and interpretive panel will be unveiled at that time.

5th Annual International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers ceremony to be held at Veterans Memorial Park on Sunday, June 1st. A motorcycle motorcade leaves Bass River Plaza at 10:00 am, a marching parade from WCCS will arrive at the park for ceremonies to commence a 11:00 am. MLA Karen Casey, MP Scott Armstrong, and MP Peter Stoffer are speakers. A full reception and student display will be held at the WCCS gymnasium For information: vmp.br.ns@gmail.com

Colchester's Mayor and Councillors are being applauded for holding the line on tax increases for both the business and residential sectors. The 2013-2014 budget of \$21,339,870 holds the residential rate at 84 cents and \$2.25 for commercial on each \$100 of assessed property value. This is the second year in a row, the rate has been held.

A plaque designating the Five Islands Lighthouse as a municipal heritage property will be unveiled at special 100th anniversary celebrations to be held at the Lighthouse Park on July 14, 2013. A dance will be held on the 13th. 100th anniversary celebrations and unveiling will be held rain or shine on the 14th.

\$95-Million is the annual tourism revenues generated in Colchester County and Town of Truro in 2010, which generated \$787,000 in municipal taxation, according to figures provided by the province. These statistics were included in a presentation to municipal council by Joyce Mingo, CNTA on April 25th.

HUMOUR CORNER: Sitting on the side of the road waiting to catch speeding drivers, a police officer sees a car pattering along at 24 mph. He thinks to himself, "This driver is as dangerous as a speeder!" He turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five elderly ladies - two in the front seat, and three in the back, wide-eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand. I was going the exact speed limit. What seems to be the problem?" The officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that "24" was the Route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. "But before you go, Ma'am, I have to ask, "Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken." "Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. We just got off Route 128."

Local Strawberry Devistation

By Linda Harrington
Hands move swiftly, yanking out plant after plant, filling garbage bags as if they were weeds...and as the bags add up, so does the monumental loss. Just at Millen Farms it has taken two weeks to remove all the plants from just under 100 acres.

Strawberry farmers in the Great Village area have been hit with what could be called the "perfect storm" for an agricultural crop, with the total loss of revenue expected to be in the millions of dollars.

Strawberry plants in this area have been attacked by a mutant virus, formed when two virus strains came together. The virus was then carried from plant to plant by the strawberry aphid.

The virus restricts the growth of the strawberry plants, reducing the number of berries they produce.

Curtis Millen, of Millen Family Farms, has been farming for 38 years (since he was 14 yrs of age) and says he has never seen anything like this, "And I hope I never will again."

Mr. Millen has become the spokesperson for strawberry growers battling the problem in the Great Village area. They are all busy trying to control the problem and get healthy new plants into the fields as quickly as possible but they want the public to have factual information, not just rumours.

"The strawberries themselves have nothing wrong with them and would be perfectly safe to eat," says Millen. "We, as responsible farmers, are taking a proactive approach to try and stop any further spread by removing our plants."

Problems with the plants were first noticed last fall within nursery stock was shipped to the US. This is an annual business for two of the



Patti Weir was all smiles after picking up her Keno Atlantic lottery winnings of \$25,000 in Moncton on April 12th. She bought her ticket at Glenholme General Store, where she works part time. (Harrington Photo) See story on page 3.



Pearl & Daisy Natural Soap Company products were recently spotted at an orange juice information center outside of Orlando, Florida. Nice to see International exposure for a local company. (Harrington Photo)

Signs of Spring

Yellow Rumped Warbler!

And a Palm Warbler!

Multi-Detection Approach

Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker Responds

By Linda Harrington
After receiving a letter to the editor from Bass River resident Stan Corbett, concerning the closures of fire towers in rural areas, the Shoreline Journal contacted the Honourable Charlie Parker, Minister of Natural Resources for comment.

Mr. Corbett's letter is on page 4.

"We take forest fire fighting very seriously here in this Province and we are actually modernizing our fire detection system to improve our response time. We are actually going to a multi-detection approach, a combination of fire towers, aerial detection and of course public help in reporting fires," says Minister Parker. "We will still have 14 towers in the some of the more remote locations within the Province and also we have contracted an aerial detection system, which we used just last year. Of course a number of other Provinces use that."

He states most of the fires are now reported by people working in the woods, such as the industry workers, department staff or the general public and says most of the fires are actually close to homes where people are very quick to report them, often using cell phones. He says in 2012 only about 7% of the fires were reported from fire towers.

When fire index is high or extreme, the surveillance planes are put into the air. Minister Parker says areas are not always at the same fire index at the same time, thus allowing the Department to send the planes to specific areas of the Province where the need is greatest. "They also have the advantage in that they can get a handle on the fire, and see what's there, and whether a response is needed from the Department", he says.

The aerial surveillance contract is with Central Valley Aircraft, out of Waterville, Kings County. The hourly rate is about \$160/hour for the pilot and observer. The total expenditure can vary from year to year. The Minister said because last year was an early spring, the costs ran close to \$100,000 but with the weather so far this year, it may be less in 2013.

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