

# Rees' Pieces

## A Disturbing, Embarrassing Time

In addition to not having the fine weather we enjoy at this time of year, March and particularly April have been an embarrassing time to be a Nova Scotian. Of course the April 18<sup>th</sup> fire at the A.J. Walker building, which destroyed our store and put us temporarily out of business, did not help.

It's a discouraging event to see your wife's store being consumed with smoke and realizing if all the merchandise in there had been purchased, sales would have been in excess of \$60,000.00. But those 3,000 pieces of apparel suffered so much smoke damage; they are not usable in a retail environment and will never enter our new store.

Within two weeks, we will be open again – just across the street at 914 Prince Street. A smaller space but manageable. Just about that time, our new online store, which will eventually permit customers to order on-line choosing from over 800 different designs, submit their own design or photo for a customized unique t-shirt, sweatshirt or hoodie.

But let's get back to the root of my frustration and disappointment.

First of all, my feelings are not solely based on the self-inflicted death of young Rehtaeh Parsons. From the examples I'll use, you can see we are at the crossroads of situations going back nearly 40 years.

Global eyes have been focused on us for a variety of reasons. Citizens have been dismayed and complaining about numerous things for many years. So now let's have a look at a few things: A former Digby resident is taking Halifax and Ottawa to court for being wrongfully imprisoned for 37 years; Fenwick MacIntosh is a free-man because he won his appeal to the Supreme Court. His lawyers claimed the length of time it took to bring him back to Canada and face the courts did not permit justice to be carried out appropriately.

The death of Rehtaeh Parsons, who claimed she was raped and then suffered an extensive bout of cyberbullying, is the straw which broke the camel's back; enraged local citizens and caused the global media to focus on us.

We started to realize the magnitude of the situation, when within 24 hours for the Prime Minister to make a public comment. He then met privately with the family. Having the police say there was nothing they could do, and then re-open the case, along with education officials stating policy was followed, only caused the public to be further enraged.

It was like Nova Scotia's pride about the beauty, opportunities, and our quaintness hit a brick wall, when the front page of Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Globe and Mail featured Rehtaeh's photo with about half of Page 3 dealing with the case.

A subsequent CBC national radio show interviewed another parent, whose daughter has requested to be transferred from the school because teachers and staff at the school did not protect the students. The mother referred to two vice-principals as "bold-face liars".

Premier Dexter took quick action to accompany the parents to Ottawa, the next day Canada's Justice ministers met to discuss ways to change the laws. Legislation has been introduced and received at least the first reading at the Legislature in Halifax.

With publicity like this is it any wonder citizens are upset and discouraged about how taxpayers are treated? It's not that one thing has happened, but it appears to become systemic over several decades. The public's perception of legislators, public service staff, education officials and law enforcement are at an "all time" low. The public feels others have been slacking off; not enforcing existing legislation; nor going the extra mile to deal with the public's concerns, then become reactionary when they are not perceived in a good way.

Right now all are under the taxpayer's microscope. Part of the public's disenchantment is these are well paid professionals, great employment benefits and eventually great pensions, yet the average citizen's life is void of these situations.

The public always has the last say. It will be interesting to see what they demand as appropriate treatment for those who are not elected and who they choose to punish in the upcoming election.

Maurice

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*

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Dear Editor,

In 2013, we mark the Year of the Korean War Veteran and the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice.

As a member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, I am part of its Operation Legacy, a group of committed young people who are dedicated to preserving Canada's military heritage.

Throughout the year, tribute will be paid to the more than 26,000 Canadians who served in the Korean War, including the 516 who gave their lives. To learn more about this anniversary and Canada's role in the Korean War, we encourage the public to view The War Amps vignette, Canadians in Korea, on The War Amps YouTube channel ([youtube.com/warampsofcanada](http://youtube.com/warampsofcanada)).

Projects like this are part of Operation Legacy's goal to carry the remembrance message into the future. With the slogan, "It was their war, it is our legacy," we pledge to never forget the sacrifices of those who fought for the freedom of South Korea.

Sincerely,  
Mark Allison, 15  
Hunts Point

To the Editor,  
**DNR Fire Tower Closures a Real Concern to Rural Areas**

Recently, I was informed the Department of Natural Resources has shut down five fire towers, in Colchester and Cumberland counties this year. Their reasons, I was told, was cutbacks in forest protection and a decrease in reported woodland fires in these counties. This is a complete lack of foresight and judgment by upper management and the Minister of Natural Resources in this province.

On clear days, trained tower operators are constant-

ly scanning the areas within their districts (and beyond) for any smoke that appears. Its location is immediately reported to DNR, which in turn is forwarded to the volunteer fire department(s) within that jurisdiction. Forest fires are also reported by the general public, but not all fires can be detected by the travelling public in remote areas (ie: lightning strikes, campfires, etc.) or the many woods roads which are less travelled.

During 2012, the Helitack fire crew's positions were eliminated. Reason: a wet summer and not enough fires to justify funding the crews within the DNR Forest Protection budget. This is appalling when you consider the cost of putting out a large wildfire, which can cost millions of dollars, not to mention the cost of property damage, or loss of life.

If people believe that a large wildfire cannot happen in these counties, or any other counties in Nova Scotia, think back to 2008 in Halifax County with the Porter's Lake fire. Over 1900 hectares burnt with extensive damage to both woodland and properties, including homes.

Food for thought: The cost for six small fires last year to be put out paid for the wages of fire tower operators within Cumberland County (New Yarmouth, Kirkhill, Springhill and Sugar Loaf). The cost for a fixed-winged aircraft from Greenwood during the 2012 fire season, for aerial patrols (contracted out) would be considerable. I'm not criticizing the use of fixed-winged aircraft, but it is highly unlikely that an airplane can land on a bog or small open areas in the woods, which the Helitack crews are able to do with a helicopter and fire suppression equipment.

I urge rural land owners, users and volunteer fire

departments to contact their MLA, DNR Forest Protection (Shubenacadie) or the Minister of Natural Resources about these senseless cutbacks before a wildfire disaster happens.

If a fire department doesn't get a call for a period of time, do they sell one of their trucks? If EHS doesn't get an emergency call for a period of time, do they lay off some of their responders? I highly doubt it.

**Stan Corbett, Bass River (Retired) DNR Forest Technician**

Dear Editor:

As one who enjoys reading the Shoreline Journal and who has always had a keen interest in politics, I have made an observation recently and it disturbs me.

I have noticed pictures where there have been announcements of Federal Support for industry and business throughout Colchester North and that various levels of Government have been pictured at these events. But one level of government, our local MLA, Karen Casey, has not been in the pictures.

I found this strange because I know Karen for the past seven years has attended most everything that happens in our communities. You can always count on her to be there to show and give her support. I was curious about this so I called her and was sad to learn that she was not at these events because she had not been invited nor made aware of the announcements.

The invitations for these announcements would come from the office of the Member of Parliament, Scott Armstrong. To learn that our local ELECTED MLA had not been invited was bad enough, but to learn that the CANDIDATE for the PC Party had been was even more galling.



Elected officials from the Municipality were invited and indeed they should be. These announcements are a time for all elected members to help celebrate and support our local businesses and communities.

Partisan politics should not play a part. I am disappointed that Mr. Armstrong is using his position to exclude our MLA. Karen is continually fighting for our local businesses and communities and should be invited to celebrate their successes with them.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Betty MacNeil**

## 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

**DEBERT:**  
Barnhill's Superette  
Debert Mini-Mart

**FIVE ISLANDS:**  
Masstown Market Five Islands

**GLENHOLME:**  
Double "C" Truckstop  
Glenholme General Store

**GREAT VILLAGE:**  
Wilson's Gas

**MAITLAND:**  
Frieze & Roy General Store

**MASSTOWN:**  
Masstown Market

**NORTH RIVER:**  
Grant's Grocery

**ONSLOW:**  
Onslow Market

**PARRSBORO:**  
CrossRoads Co-op  
Ken's Grocery  
Wright's Pharmasave

**TRURO:**  
Atlantic Superstore  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave  
(Esplanade)  
[tshirtsrus.ca](http://tshirtsrus.ca)

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*If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:*

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## Investors prefer the fee-based model for Portfolios

By Kim Inglis

According to PriceMetrix, investors have been steadily transitioning to a fee-based pricing model for their portfolios. The just-released report aggregated data representing 7 million retail investors, 500 million transactions, and over \$3.5 trillion in investment assets. PriceMetrix found that, from 2011 to 2012, fee-based assets increased from 26% to 28% while average household assets increased 13% from \$435,000 in 2011 to \$491,000.



in 2012.

Investors prefer the fee-based model over traditional commission-based accounts

for many reasons, but transparency often ranks at the top of the list. Investors in fee-based accounts pay a set percentage typically tied to the size of the account. Since everything is covered in one inclusive fee, investors know precisely what they are paying for. There is no longer any confusion regarding the cost for professional portfolio management, as most firms report these costs directly on monthly account statements.

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