

Rees' Pieces

Shoulder to the wheel; feet in the fire.

Do Nova Scotians spend too much time looking back into our past and not enough looking ahead? Don't for a minute think I am against appreciating and preserving our history. Our ancestors struggled and worked to build a great Canada. We need to maintain the same level of determination to go forward, as difficult as it might seem.

As much as we relish the past, we need to learn from our ancestors and use their skills to look forward and determine what type of Canada we wish to hand down to our grandchildren. They had a vision and we must continue that.

Let me give you an example of how the lack of looking ahead has cost a lot of jobs and money. In an article in the Chronicle-Herald on April 3rd, reporter Joann Alberstat wrote, "NSP nearly covers loss of mill income".

She was referring to Nova Scotia Power being able to find ways to save all but \$4-million of the \$83-million income lost when pulp mills in Point Tupper and Liverpool closed. The \$83-million was the amount which Bowater Mersey and NewPage Port Hawkesbury would have contributed to the cost of operating the power grid. It said nothing about energy usage.

In 2011, when the Utility and Review Board ordered a discount via a load-retention tariff, energy costs and problems in the pulp and paper sector were well known. Now that the horses have left the barn, it's too late to close the doors, but it tells us something.

Had the drastic measures taken recently by Nova Scotia Power been taken prior to or in 2011, perhaps Bowater's would not have closed and taxpayers would not have been on the hook for mega-millions to reopen the Port Hawkesbury mill. When push came to shove, it happened.

If Nova Scotia Power can eliminate or recover all but \$4-million of an \$83-million additional cost in such a short time, why wasn't action taken earlier? Going forward, we need to demand accountability from elected officials. With NS Power able to find ways to offset this large cost, there are lessons to be learned.

Rather than spending our time looking back, we need to ensure "push becomes shove, before another major industry or sector of the economy goes belly up, or thousands more of our youth and trained workers head west, because they don't believe we have the tenacity to tackle molehills before they become mountains pushing us further in debt than the \$15-billion we already owe."

Ray Ivany and his five member committee have given us the blueprint. I wonder if we are strong and determined enough to implement it, or are we simply going to give it lip service?

To work our way out of a poorly performing economy and massive debt, this province's taxpayers need elected officials, business leaders, energy and communication companies to look ahead. We haven't had that in the past; let's hope we find the resolve to implement it now.

One doesn't need to be a Rhodes Scholar to realize NS Power has protected its shareholders by finding a way to offset an \$83-million income loss. NS Power's cuts, after the mills closed, have impacted negatively on some of their employees and more of them will be hurt with more cuts. If similar action, in bits and pieces, had been taken at the turn of the century thousands of Nova Scotians would still have their jobs in Queens County and Port Hawkesbury areas.

If the \$83-million reduction in energy grid costs had been implemented starting in 2000 would the two mills still be open? If possible to do now, it could have been done then.

Just how much have the mill closures cost taxpayers? How much have we committed to Port Hawkesbury and how much more will governments invest to rejuvenate the economy in the Liverpool area?

For the next three years, it's up to the current government and citizens to find the locks to the doors to keep the horses in the barn to prevent the next crisis.

As taxpayer's we have two roles: Pitch in to help rebuild the economy; even more important keep elected officials accountable, shoulder to the wheel and "feet are in the fire".

Otherwise we will fail. If we fail, all are to blame.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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See What We Can Do Together

CNIB volunteers do small things. They read letters and old post cards. They go for walks and help pick up the milk. They organize photo albums and record collections. They help with little, everyday things.

But helping with everyday things isn't little. It's extraordinary. CNIB volunteers do small things and are EXTRAORDINARY.

CNIB provides programs and services to ensure Canadians who are blind or

partially sighted have the confidence, skills and opportunities to fully participate in life. Our volunteers are there every step of the way. Together we offer a guiding hand, a welcoming ear, and a return to independence for many people.

In honour of National Volunteer Week (April 6 - 12), CNIB would like to thank its eager and dedicated volunteers. Together we're making a big impact.

Jeff deViller
CNIB Volunteer Services Coordinator

Hello, Editor Rees:

As a former Birch Hill (Judge Fulton Road) resident (of many, many, many years ago), I'm doing another documentary — Corbett's ID* (Investigative Day) — and need some information about the Ishkinish (?) River, near Truro ... I haven't been able to track any info down on the Net ... If you can help me out, I would certainly appreciate it ...

Kerwood (KAYE) Corbett
editorcorbett@gmail.com
P.S. An avid B.C. reader of the Shoreline Journal on the Web.

Looking for an exciting venture? Buy a house!

Betty Ann DeWitt

Buying your first house is an exciting venture. The mortgage rates are excellent right now. There's never been a better time to stop throwing away money on rent and build up some equity. The important thing to remember is not to get in over your head. Bank take backs seem to be rife in our often struggling economy.

Many times young people especially, have gone to their banker all excited and raring to go, and find the price range they can start shopping for their first home is much higher than they ever dreamed. The first home buying fairy tale can end happily ever after with some simple cautions. My advice to the young is to purchase quite a bit under the top limit they are approved for.

It's great to have a nice

home with all the bells and whistles, to start a family or entertain your friends, but if you are very active, enjoy lots of time outdoors, love to travel, spend many hours away from home just being young; it might be best not to push that limit. If you can't afford pizza and a movie on Saturday night, even the fanciest house on the market won't make you happy.

The newest and nicest homes still need some sort of financial output for simple maintenance. If you're strapped for cash life won't be as carefree as it should. When one of life's costly little hiccups come along, and trust me it will, you certainly need a soft, affordable place to land.

Perform your due diligence and protect yourself as much as possible. It's a lot of money to play fast and loose with. Work with a banker you

have faith in. Hire a Realtor® you trust to guide you.

Remember that any Realtor® can show and assist you with any MLS listing. You do not need to call the name on the sign to view it. Pick a good Realtor® and let them work for you.

Get a home inspector to find the things wrong with a home that you can't see. Even new homes are not perfect. He/she will also have some great tips for general maintenance for future. Have an appraisal. The banks usually insist on this and pay for it, but if not, make sure you have one. You might be willing to pay the asking price for a home you love, but that does not mean it will be worth it. Realtors® can provide you with comparable sales to help make sure you are not over paying for a home. Appraisers can guarantee it!

The Shoreline Journal

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You wouldn't get a Vet to operate on your Grandma. Don't let anyone but professionals help you buy your home. Shop wisely and enjoy every minute of your home buying experience. You'll want those memories to be special in a good way.

Betty Ann DeWitt is a Realtor® with Royal LePage Cumberland Realty and can be found at: www.realestateparrsboro.com

Charity Spring Luncheon in Wentworth

By Hope Bridgewater

The Wentworth United Church Women are also known as the Wentworth Quilting Bees raise funds for charity by quilting every Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm. After promoting a public supper in February, members of the UCW decided to prepare another public meal, but this time on Saturday, April 12, from 11am to 2:30 pm. Both meals were organized to raise funds for charity.

Members volunteered their time and money to organize and bring all the essential items for the meal to the church hall. The menu

consisted of a variety of soups: hamburg, turkey noodle, split pea/ham, tomato rice, cream of broccoli, carrot, and corn chowder, and a variety of sandwiches: ham/cheese, turkey/cranberry, egg salad, and tomato. Dessert was vanilla ice-cream sundae with a choice of sauces: blueberry, chocolate, or butterscotch.

Visitors were greeted by Ethel Gilroy (UCW Treasurer) who was selling tickets for the lunch and Janice Smith who was selling baked goods (date squares and lemon meringue pies) and quilts.

Serving the luncheon were:



The Wentworth Quilting Bees are dedicated to raising money for charity. Shown above are: Vernon Sprague, Winston Patriquin, Peggy Patriquin, and Eleanor Sprague enjoying the public luncheon prepared by the Wentworth United Church Women to raise more money for charity. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

Debbi DeLong, Eleanor Sprague and Betty Duizer Logan. Organizing and preparing the food in the kitchen were: Marie Duranceau (UCW President), Martha Wilson, Twila McMaster (UCW Secretary), and Richard Logan. Betty Curry was the floater, helping out where and when

needed. In addition to the UCW members already mentioned, other UCW members helped as well during the organization of this event.

The funds were raised for charity in order to help make this world a better place. As for the luncheon, one person exclaimed, "That lunch sure hit the spot."

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www.theshorelinejournal.com

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