

REES' Pieces

Consultation Lacking

Premier Stephen McNeil best rein in all is cabinet ministers and lay down the rules in caucus to be as committed and as transparent as he has indicated his government is going to be throughout his tenure.

For a year, the young government seemed to be doing just fine, and wrinkles were few and far between, but since the turn of the year it's been one calamity after another.

Just to be sure "calamity" was the proper word, I Googled "calamity" and here is what popped up on the screen: ca-lam-i-ty - k lam d / - noun: **calamity**; plural noun: **calamities**. Meaning: an event causing great and often sudden damage or distress; a disaster.

I don't think, McNeil's Liberals have lost touch, or are intent on creating disasters, but would prefer to think with the slowing economy; poor performance based outcomes in education based on national scoring; rising health costs, and burgeoning debt load, their plate is full. And they are trying to solve too much too fast?

Take for instance, Leo Glavine's changes to healthcare. Voters were eager to see any changes, as much as we hate them, implemented successfully. The mediator didn't do what he was asked. He continued to make rulings after removed from the position. Quickly, the plan failed to get implemented as scheduled. Voter faith and trust plummeted. Hence, the first wrinkle in the sheets.

Next rising to the shame podium is Finance Minister Whalen. Before proceeding, I agree a subsidy of up to 65% is perhaps too rich. Now here is where I find fault with her processes.

When she campaigned for leader of the party, her one big thing was to establish a "Heritage Holiday" in February. She got her wish and we now have a "Heritage Holiday" in February. The cost of the holiday is far more than what she planned to save on the backs of movie makers. Taxpayers pick up the tab for lost production.

Then she devastates heritage and culture by implementing changes to the movie industry without consulting with industry. Unfortunately for Whalen, the public sided with the movie makers. End result, there's "a lot of crow to be eaten". Now instead of a second wrinkle, there's a large rip in the sheets. Credibility has been lost making it more difficult for the Liberals to implement major changes in other areas.

Problems created by Whalen could have been avoided, if there had been consultation. Industry would have accepted changes, if consulted and listened to.

We're not done yet. There's more to come. The Ivany Report called for doubling the tourism/hospitality industry to \$4-Billion within 10 years. A mammoth task and everyone needs to be on board, and heading in the same direction.

Within the past week, I met with Glenn Squires, president of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS). Like me he feels the government is severely lacking in its capacity to consult with and listen to what industry has to say. The anticipated repeal of the Tourism Accommodations Act is going to cause even more trouble.

Squires told me, we've been consulting with them, but they are not listening. I don't know what their agenda is, but they are not listening. I even called the minister responsible telling him, if the media asks me, "I'll tell them I don't support it".

You might know Glenn Squires. I met him thirty five years ago, when he was manager Holiday Inn, at the end of the MacDonald Bridge, Dartmouth.

Today he owns Pacrim Hospitality, Halifax, which owns or manages over 2,000 hotel rooms across Canada. He's one of the larger hotelier's, and in 2015 expects to build 8 or 9 more hotels, most of them in Atlantic Canada. Locally, the Holiday Inn, Truro is a Pacrim property and he just sold it interests in Super 8, Millbrook.

Apparently Episode 3 in the Wrinkles Saga is going to be the hospitality industry, unless McNeil acts quickly to consult and listen to tourism industry leaders. With an industry targeted to double to \$4-Billion by 2024 and to be the backbone of rural Nova Scotia, the last thing we need is a dysfunctional industry.

Any guesses on Episode 4?

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

An Open Letter to Elected School Board Members:

Through my attendance at recent CCRSB meetings, I am now knowledgeable of the fact that, as of the enactment of "An Act to Amend Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-96, the Education Act, Respecting the Clarification of School Board Members Duties" on December 6, 2012, you, the elected school board members must "respect that the superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school board". The word 'respect' as used in this directive does not mean what it means to a mere layman, "to consider worthy of high regard", but means "to refrain from interfering with", and that in no uncertain terms. Your duty is *not to interfere* with school board staff. Do you, the elected

board members, feel the ground shifting beneath your feet? Why did you present yourselves for election to a school board? To make a difference? To give back to your community? To give yourself a step up in politics? To help generate and maintain a progressive and successful school system? To help direct a management staff in this effort?

Now that you cannot 'interfere' with the day-to-day activities of your staff, how are you to answer the concerns of your constituents? The fact is most of the concerns expressed to you will be in regards to the day-to-day management of the school board - parental concerns mostly, about their children, their children's teachers, their children's school.

How will you answer them? "I've passed your con-

cern on to the superintendent, he will see to it"? What kind of an answer is that? You are the person they elected. You are the person they trust. You are the person they want to handle their concern. You are the person designated to do just that. And you can't do it - it's the law.

Perhaps the day of elected school board members is coming to an end, just as the day of local school trustees came to an end. Not all at once, but little by little with duties and powers slowly taken away "to make things easier for you", "so you will have more time to attend to important governance matters", "so you will not have the difficulty of all getting together at an inconvenient time".

What will we, the ordinary citizens of Nova Scotia, do

when our elected school board members are no more? We will have no say in matters of public education. There will be no checks or balances on the activity of school board staff who will be accountable to no one and thus be free, legally, to follow whatever path they want regardless of the consequences.

What a wonderful world it will be.

Carol Hyslop
Wentworth, NS

"RECC Needs Our Support" - Andrew Lake

Andrew Lake, newly installed president of the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is concerned criticism of Rath Eastlink Community Centre's management continues to overshadow the merits of the facility. "It's easy and sometimes natural to bring about criticism. However, it's time to reflect on the value that the RECC brings to the community" he said in a statement following public criticism about the deficit projections forecasted for RECC.

In reflecting on some of the benefits to the area, Lake mentioned, the Masters Grand Slam of Curling October 27 - November 1. The event will showcase the top 15 men's and women's curling teams in the world bringing lots of fans. The large contingent of media will also showcase many local assets in the area.

The recent Colchester Home Show brought in close to 4,000 people, offering many business leads for the vendors present. The facility has drawn numerous entertainers including Blue Rodeo, the Harlem Globetrotters with 3,100 attending.

A swim meet hosted by the RECC in December drew 300 participants. Truro and Colchester used their economic development officers to conduct a study to determine the economic impact of that event and calculated the spending benefit to local businesses at \$137,000.

There were over 4,000 visits to the facility's fitness centre and 5,700 Colchester and Truro residents used the RECC's swimming facilities in March.

"These events generate remarkable economic activity to the region, with restaurants, hotels and retailers flourishing. This provides opportunities for local business that gets returned to the community in the form of employment, taxes and community involvement. Let's not forget about this," says Lake.

For more information, about Chamber activities of his support of RECC contact Chamber President Andrew Lake at (902) 890-3205.

Parrsboro Creative Putting \$50,000 to Work

By Maurice Rees

The Parrsboro area is moving ahead quickly to complete the remaining steps to create a sustainable tourism plan for the greater Parrsboro area. In early March a \$50,000 project was announced under the Strategic Tourism Expansion Program (STEP), which is being led by Town of Parrsboro, who ensured Step 1 of the process was completed.

The first step included an analysis of the region's economic, environmental and social attributes.

On April 29th, Parrsboro Creative, the group carrying out the remaining steps will host a meet and greet to provide a networking reception

for supporters and to introduce it's new Director of Marketing and Communications.

The \$50,000 commitment includes: The Government of Canada's \$30,000 investment in Parrsboro's STEP project, through ACOA's Innovative Communities Fund (ICF). The Government of Nova Scotia is contributing \$10,000 through Nova Scotia Tourism Agency's Competitive Edge program. The Town of Parrsboro is contributing \$10,000.

Future work involves building on Step 1 to effectively promote existing tourism products and identify new opportunities. The process will focus on strategic planning, capacity building

and experiential product development to create a sustainable tourism plan for the greater Parrsboro area.

The greater Parrsboro area is home to the world's highest tides and some of its oldest dinosaur bones. The Town of Parrsboro is leading a new project to leverage the region's many assets and develop a coordinated plan to expand the area's tourism industry. The Town is implementing Tourism Atlantic's STEP: Strategic Tourism Expansion Program.

Parrsboro is the fourth community in Nova Scotia to undertake STEP, after the Bay of Islands area on the Eastern Shore and the communities of Baddeck and Louisbourg.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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

EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • ALL PARTS OF NS: \$26.00 plus HST = \$29.90
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$28.00, plus HST = \$32.20 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$40.00
HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

All rights reserved. Material published in The Shoreline Journal may not be reproduced in an form without prior approval of the publisher. Material to be returned to sender must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

1996 Heritage Award recipient. Listed with Canadian Advertising Rates & Data (CARD) and Bowden's Media Monitoring Service.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities. **Canada**
The publisher is not responsible for minor errors in ads, which do not lessen the value of the item(s). The publisher is not responsible for space beyond that portion of the advertisement containing the item(s) in error. Letters to the editor are subject to editing or rejection, must be signed by the author and contain a phone number.



NEWSPAPERS ATLANTIC
TRUSTED | CONNECTED | TARGETED

The
Shoreline
Journal

Here's where
to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BELMONT:
A & N General 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
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

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
94 Esplanade Truro

We are interested in placing the
Shoreline Journal in additional
locations.

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

Maurice Rees, Publisher
902-647-2968,
or E-MAIL:

maurice@theshorelinejournal.com