

REES' Pieces

Organ donation plan, the right move.

The past month has been full of twists and turns. Seems like everything is jumping all over the place. Along with varied weather we had high winds, which knocked down some magnificent barns, and flipped over some trailers, in between plenty of rain, and the occasional snow squall. Then next day everything was calm.

I was pleased to see the government bring in and pass "assumed approval", where it applies to organ donation. In 95% of the cases, I detest and am against assuming people's approval. Remember the public's uproar with the Telco's and cable companies.

However, I feel where it comes to organ donation, it was the right move. Yes, some people were adamant in their opposition and I can understand why. Regardless how you feel, it is necessary to understand at the time of your death, nothing happens without approval from family members, so there is a "way out".

There is a shortage of donations, and some people succumb to their affliction as a result. My personal feeling is if I spend most of my life trying to help and be kind to people, then in death, if I can help someone with an organ donation, I'm all for it.

Probably, the remainder of this writing will be all over the place. So here goes.

I'm still seriously peeved at the process being used to bring quality high speed internet service to rural areas. In the beginning, when \$195-Million provincial funding was announced, I was hopeful things might "gel" and we could see implementation. However, when people in urban HRM were appointed decision makers, I knew were in trouble.

My sources tell me Cumberland and Colchester Counties are getting their act together and an RFP is expected in a couple of weeks, with a closing in mid-June. I've been involved behind the scenes to some extent, and have an understanding of what could be possible. To deliver internet service, which would be G5 ready, to the two counties would cost upwards of \$40-Million.

If Cumberland and Colchester each committed \$1-Million, and the province and the Feds each contributing \$6-7-Million, installation could begin as I've been told \$\$\$ required for the remainder is a slam dunk.

If someone wants to know more about the inside scoop, call me. Professionally, I can't reveal all that I have learned. However, call your MP, MLA, or councillor to apply pressure.

Three surprises came to the surface during the April 25th meeting of council. Each had several segments to them.

Budget: I anticipated a small raise in the tax rate. Council had held the rate the last couple of years, but it had to be this year. Not a good political move to wait until 2020/2021, as there is municipal election in October.

Policing: Council has complained about the cost of policing with concerns a number of RCMP assigned to the municipality were non-active for variety of reasons, including sick-leave. Without checking back to files from month's ago, memory tells me there were four non-active members. There was discussion either get the human-power up or get a credit on the account.

I expected council to push for credit, but during budget deliberations they choose to ask for a reduction of three officers.

However, the big surprise, when it was indicated there's a move afoot to consult with Truro Police Service about providing policing to the county. Maybe Colchester will go alone, but let's see where this goes.

Code of conduct: This evolved two years ago when there was a major uproar. It wasn't clear how loathe council was about adopting one. It took Mayor Blair to remind council Department of Municipal Affairs has mandated one must be introduced. Staff are to report.

The other shocker was a letter which Councillor Taggart asked to be moved from "closed" session to "open" session. It dealt with a request my Millbrook First Nation to have 943 acres of land they have purchased in 13 parcels be set aside to create Millbrook Indian Reserve 27D. (see the headline story this issue). Astonishing to see the initial comments around the table. Council is to reply by June 7th.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Editor,

(The following is a letter from a friend of Christine Urquhart, Rev. Ian Harrison. Please read it carefully and if you can, sponsor him in his "Gutsy Walk". Thanks).

Dear Friends and Family,

This will be my second Gutsy Walk in which I will be participating and seeking donations. For those unfamiliar with my story, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in April 2016. It was for me, like many afflicted with it, life-altering. I was 37 years of age at the time.

Less than a week after finding out what I had, I underwent emergency surgery in the form of a colectomy, which entailed the removal of all of my large intestine and the majority of my colon, leaving me with an ileostomy. Three more surgical procedures followed in the attempt to reverse the ostomy, which finally

came to be in September 2017.

Since then, there have been various other complications, many owing to my dialed-down immune system, such as C. difficile infection and shingles (yes, you can contract it even before age 40!) At present, I am being monitored for further instances of inflammation, now mostly located in my rectum, which gets well-used in all IBD people.

Compared to what I've read others having gone through, I consider myself most fortunate that pain has not been an ongoing factor, and my diet at present is not monumentally affected. I owe so much to the surgeons, nurses, and GI specialists who have helped see me through these past few years, not to mention the unanticipated hurdles along the way.

I am also blessed to have the support of devoted family and friends whose patience and perseverance outweigh even my own. I support the Gutsy Walk

on behalf of myself, my brother (who also has Crohn's), and all those who struggle with the many varieties of these conditions.

The numbers of people being diagnosed are steadily increasing, particularly in the Maritimes. Some are fortunate that their meds and treatments happen to be covered by insurance or government plans, but for many, they are not, and they are anything but cheap.

Even when I was in need of ostomy supplies, my own insurance company would not pay the up-front costs, which can run into the hundreds of dollars during the initial stages. Some employment sectors are wonderfully sympathetic and supportive of people with these conditions, while others have been let go and left searching for a workplace that will honour the unpredictability of their lives in dealing with this disease.

The more research we are

able to fund, the closer we can come in finding a cure. The more exposure we are able to attain through this walk and our organization, the more we are able to support and empower those who fight the battle every day.

The probability that you know others besides myself (family members, friends, etc.) who have been diagnosed, or who are exhibiting similar symptoms and are waiting for referrals, colonoscopies, or just to be taken seriously, is all too likely. Any contribution you can offer to this cause is most appreciated.

Rev Ian Harrison

(You can reach Ian at: 178 Pleasant St. Truro B2N 3S6 phone number: 902-843-2252 and email address: revharrison4@gmail.com)

Dear Editor

It's 2019, it's time!! Time for live streaming of Colchester County Council committee & council meetings. The taxpayers of Colchester County deserve to see and hear - as it happens, debate on issues that affect our lives and pocket-books. Whether it be the millions spent on seasonal tourist attractions or sporting venues, reasoning behind limited garbage & recycling pick up, heck - the reasoning behind multi colored bags. Who and what decides what county roads & sidewalks get built and or repaired. What thought process goes into licensing dog kennels? Who will police us and why not the RCMP? Who is going on what junkets to exotic places most of us can only dream about? And why are they going, who is paying for it? It's time for us to see who is spending our property tax dollars on so many issues and why.

I challenge taxpayers to take a minute or two to view council & committee minutes (It will only take a minute or two). Minutes are limited, no debate is recorded for our reading pleasure. I've read more informative and accountable minutes from PTA meetings. The quarterly newsletter from the county informs the taxpayer of what council has done-after the fact, never asks our opinion or position on important issues. Media coverage is minimal at best, and generally covered only by a small monthly paper limited in distribution.

I've taken the time to speak with the mayor (who encouraged me to write a letter) and a few councillors on this issue, I have heard every excuse in the book - no internet in some areas, chambers are open for taxpayer attendance. Some councilors will grandstand for the cameras. None of those excuses cut it any longer. We are

in a technical age where live streaming is the norm. Partner with the NSCC Digital Tech program - give a student something to put on a resume. Facebook Live is free!! Yes - I said free!! I suspect more taxpayers will tune into a broadcast of council than the handful that might attend a council meeting. I also suspect taxpayers will have more to say on decisions that affect us, before they are made-maybe that's the problem.

We do not need a costly and lengthy study by staff. You have been given some solutions - you seemingly make decisions on a lot of topics easily, quickly, quietly and without consultation - you can make this one as well. Municipal elections are coming in just over a year - let's see if you deserve re-election - open council to transparency and accountability.

Sherri Richard

Correspondence Presented at April 25TH Meeting

By Maurice Rees

The month of March was not a good one for issuing building permits with a value of \$2,972,000 compared to \$4,121,500 for March 2018 for 20 permits in 2019 compared to 31 the year before. However, with March being final month in the fiscal year it was a different story. Fiscal year 2018/2019 processed 371 permits for a value of \$45,430,140 (average value \$122,454) compared to 416 permits valued at \$39,103,611. (\$93,999 average permit value). Year over year the average value of each permit had increased by \$28,495.

In year to date - January to March 2019, 53 permits brought value of \$6,229,562 (Average \$117,539) while the same period a year earlier, 59 permits had value of \$6,091,500 (average \$103,246).

Three correspondence items were received for information from:

Letter requesting that May 13th be proclaimed Falun Dafa Day; Blain Henshaw, Director of Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame requesting the Municipality become a Gold or Silver sponsor of NSCMHF Annual Induction Event which will be held at the Best Western Glengarry in September and Autism Nova Scotia 2019 Sponsorship Package for the 10th Annual Walk the Walk for Autism Event. Each group will receive an acknowledgement letter.

The 10th annual Walk the Walk - stepping in the Right Direction for Autism will be hosted on Saturday, June 22nd across the province. The autism society is in the process of establishing a new chapter in the Truro area.

Council did approve a proclamation request from Donna Lugar, NS Representative, Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation requesting that May be proclaimed Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) 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.

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