

Condolence Messages from Elected Officials

The Shoreline Journal reached out to all elected representative who represent citizens of Colchester in the areas most affected by the tragic mass murder events on April 18th and 19th. Their comments follow:

Lenore Zann, MP

On the morning of Sunday April 19, 2020, the citizens of Cumberland-Colchester awoke to discover a devastating tragedy had played out in our normally peaceful little corner of the world.

Words cannot express my sorrow for the families, friends, fellow workers, & communities who, overnight, lost someone dear to them - and in such a horrific way. My heart goes out to everyone affected by this senseless act of violence.

Meanwhile we Northern Nova Scotians are strong. We will rise again to fight another day.

Lenore Zann, MP Cumberland Colchester



Lenore Zann

Karen Casey, MLA, Deputy Premier

As our province grieves the recent loss of life from the tragic events of April 19th and 20th, let me express my sincere sympathies to families and friends who have been impacted. There are no words that can help to ease your pain, but I do want you to know I care.

I have represented the area for over 14 years, I grew up here and I return every year for several months in Bass River. These communities are special places for all of us where we felt safe and where we enjoyed our neighbours, our friends and our families. I do hope the senseless and violent acts of one individual will not prevent us from returning to that peaceful sense of community.

I am saddened to know that these acts have left many in our communities with scars that will never heal. However, as the healing process begins, let us be comforted and strengthened by the love and care we have for each other.

Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North



Karen Casey

Larry Harrison, MLA

Shattered by tragedy; mended through compassion. May we find solace in memories, in love, in solidarity. I pray for the lives lost, for their families, for our communities.

While physically distanced, we will move forward together. God bless.

Larry Harrison, MLA, Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley



Larry Harrison

Mayor Christine Blair, County of Colchester

Words cannot describe the sadness we are feeling as we mourn those lost to this senseless tragedy. The news has been shocking, and continues to be indescribably shocking. Families of lost loved ones are still coming to terms that this nightmare is indeed reality.

On behalf of Colchester County Council, I would like to extend our sincerest sympathies to all the families, friends and community members affected. Our hearts go out to you. Please know your Council is reaching out to you with heartfelt support, as is our province and our country.

We especially acknowledge RCMP Constable Heidi Stevenson who was killed in the line of duty as she bravely worked to serve and protect her community. We thank all first responders for their selfless courage and heroic efforts and extend our profound appreciation for all involved. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Life will forever be different. With love, support and strength we will face this tragedy together; we will get through this together.

Sincere condolences, Christine Blair, Mayor



Christine Blair

Councillor Bob Pash, District 9

My deepest heartfelt thoughts be with you all at this time. Anything I can do for you or just a chat call me 902 899-0271. God bless you all.

Bob Pash, Councillor, District 9



Bob Pash

Councillor Tom Taggart, District 10

It is truly difficult to know what to say to those directly affected by this unspeakable tragedy. Even to those I have never met. We love you.

We truly wish we could help in some way. I can say, with all certainty, based on the hundreds of messages I have received from all across this Country their hearts hurt too. They wish they could help.

If there is anything I can do or can help find who and how to do, please contact me in full confidence at 902 899 7768 or ttaggart@colchester.ca

Tom Taggart, Councillor, District 10



Tom Taggart

\$\$\$-Mega-Million Lawsuit Probable

By Maurice Rees

Surviving family members, concerned local citizens and many Nova Scotians are clamouring to voice their extreme disapproval of the RCMP using a Twitter message to alert citizens' of the ongoing danger of a active un-captured gunman on the loose in West Colchester instead of using the EMO phone and cell phone emergency alert messaging system late night or overnight of Saturday, April 18/19.

The outrage has increased the call for a Class Action Lawsuit or Public Inquiry. Friday, April 24th the Chronicle Herald published a story, which suggested very large class action lawsuit was probable. In Saturday's Chronicle Herald, contributor, Jim Vibert's regular article called for a Public Inquiry to get to the bottom of the matter and bring all facts out into the open. Earlier in the week, Premier McNeil was quoted as saying he called EMO officials in to work

around midnight Saturday in preparation of assistance and to issue a possible alert. RCMP have indicated they were not contacted by EMO until almost mid-morning Sunday and at the time RCMP gunned down the assailant in Enfield, a message for transmission via the EMO alert system was being prepared.

Ray Wagner, a Halifax lawyer, whose firm has handled many class action lawsuits when contacted by Maurice Rees, publisher, The Shoreline Journal, indicated the probability was very high that some sort of action could be forthcoming. The Herald article in which he was quoted on Friday indicated more than likely the Province and RCMP would be named.

Rees asked if it was possible or probably County of Colchester could be named, he replied yes, they could be named but it would be improbable because they would have less financial resources

than the RCMP or the province, plus their involvement was to contract RCMP and EMO to provide a service.

Wagner said without seeing a file, from his experience there would be two probable courses of action. The first being a Class Action lawsuit brought forward by several complainants, which would be easier, faster and more efficient than several individual cases. He added that backlogs in the courts would be a deterrent for a multitude to several individual suits.

He pointed out the most probable course of action would be a public inquiry. An inquiry would probably be preferred by the general public as all aspects of the case would be held in the public domain and instructions given at the calling of an inquiry could ask for resolution and finding of award of damages.

Other professional sources have suggested, a public inquiry would be faster, and it's

possible award of damages for a larger number of people and surviving family victims could be in the \$\$\$-Mega-Millions for a award settlements.

One bereaved husband, whose wife was a VON worker said if EMO had been used he would not have allowed his newly-pregnant wife to go to work on Sunday. He alluded to the fact if EMO system had been used as many as six or seven lives may have been saved.

Thirteen of the twenty two victims were gunned down in the Portapique area. Other victim sites, which occurred several hours after the carnage in Portapique, were Wentworth with four victims; Debert suffered two fatalities; Shubenacadie had two including RCMP officer Cst Heidi Stevenson and Milford had the last victim, prior to the assailant being gunned down at the Irving Big Stop, Enfield, when he and an unmarked RCMP vehicle containing several members both stopped at the pumps to refuel.

Media Descends on Nova Scotia

By Maurice Rees

The Media from around the world has descended upon Portapique and other parts of Nova Scotia since the world became aware of Canada's largest mass murder, which claimed the lives of 22 residents plus an unborn baby and the assailant.

Municipal officials have reported being contacted by media from around the world. CNN has had several lengthy reports, although CNN contributors have not been visible within the province. ATV and CBC film crews and reports have been camped out at the entrance to Portapique Beach

Road since Monday and sporadic visits to other locations.

Newspaper reporters have visited each of the victim sites particularly Portapique, Wentworth, Shubenacadie and Enfield. Many people, including this publisher, have been contacted from other out-of-province media consulting to gain other relevant and background information to develop their story. This publisher has received two calls from the New York prominent publication, The Wall Street Journal. One interview on Tuesday, April 21 lasted just over half an hour.



Deadline for the June issue of
The Shoreline Journal is May 19

Assailant's Troubled Past

By Maurice Rees

The assailant who put Portapique on the global map by creating Canada's largest mass murder of 22 victims including an RCMP officer, who had 23 years service, had a troubled past which court documents show he was known to police, and had run-ins with tenants, business associates and family members. The 51 year old dentist, who operated his business from a main location in Woodside, Dartmouth also owned three properties in the West Colchester area. In 2001 as a result of an assault charge against a 15 year old boy, the assailant in January 2002 please guilty and was given a conditional discharge, nine months probation and prohibited for owning any guns.

Court records indicate he had a checkered history by police for trouble with tenants, family members and was embroiled in a property ownership matter, which a self-employed autobody shop owner, who faced monetary problems in 2004 went to the assailant to financial help to save his business. In the ensuing months, the assailant got ownership of the property and used the Residential Ten-

ancies Board to evict the autobody technician from his home.

Social media and court documents also detail additional problems in 2010 with his uncle over property in Portapique. There were other social media posting's about other incidents, but we decided not to delve into them and the story became quite clear.

Council Approves \$5,000 for Each Victim

By Maurice Rees

Colchester council, at a special meeting on Thursday, April 23rd, approved \$5,000 be provided to families of all 22 victims for funeral and related expenses following the tragic mass murder which started in Portapique on the evening of Saturday, April 18th and ended at the Big Stop, Enfield mid-morning of Sunday, April 19th.

The matter was originally approved at a special meeting on April 20th, but council agreed to "reconsider the original motion, deciding to make amendments to strike out the words "up to" in the original motion and to include wording for funeral "and related" expenses.



The CAO and Solicitor advised for Council consideration, about the possible complexities and delays in issuing funds for associated expenses including payment to survivors of the victims if there are issues of executors; determining who within the family can be issued a payment; and, problems with issuing payment if something is probated.

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