

REES' Pieces

Three great leaders

Last month I complimented three elected leaders who I thought were doing an admirable job. In case you missed it, the three were: New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Stephen McNeil. In addition to all three deliver the hard cold facts, don't sugar coat anything; have a very calming, believable method of delivery what is amazing is they continue to do daily updates, or at least from Monday to Friday.

I was talking to an acquaintance who works in an IBM-related printer problem call centre and they mentioned the change in type of calls since President Trump released his three phases of guidelines of "Opening America up Again" on April 16th. The inbound centre handles calls from all over North America and the surge in call types were from churches in the mid-west, who had computer printer problems and were in a mad rush to get printing projects completed for church services for the weekend of April 19th.

My colleague said the origin of the calls changed within minutes of Trump's announcement. When he looked at the map of USA, he noted the majority of the calls were from Republican states who seem to methodically follow every word Trump utters.

Within a few hours I was speaking to another person extensively involved in Nova Scotia's agriculture sector who mentioned the fear of what will happen this November if the USA goes ahead with its 2020 Presidential Election and Trump, for some reason, is re-elected.

The world is a changing place, but in the instance of USA, other than Trump most politicians have tried to stay away from politicizing the CoVid-19 pandemic. However as we get closer to the fall, perhaps starting as early as September, the gloves will come off and there will be lots of blame across the USA political field as who is most to blame.

You can already see some of it from media reports indicating Trump wasted four to six weeks in late January to March by downplaying the potential impact of CoVid-19 and failure to ensure orders were placed for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and ventilators, which at one point the State of New York indicated a need for 40,000 of the expensive machine when there was only approximately 10,000 in the federal government's reserve stockpile.

Now to dwell on some of Nova Scotia's immediate problems there is an urgent need for approval of immigrant workers for the agriculture sector. Three farms in the Great Village / Bass River area have requested approximately 400 workers for this season. As of April 18th only 47 had arrived and farmers have not been able to get reassurance more will be approved for late May and June arrival.

Total requirement province-wide is approximately 1,400, but only 200 arrived during week of March 16th. This coming week will be able to determine how much can be harvested, or if farmers have decided either not to plant or plow the plants into the ground.

With thousands of summer students out of work, and thousands other having lost their jobs with the provincial CoVid-19 shutdown, once could say the human resources are there to replace immigrant workers. However, the reasons we need immigrant workers is it has impossible to get Nova Scotians to do the work. It is a shame Canadians have lost the work ethic which was prevalent in the two or three previous generations of our ancestors.

Two other areas are going to suffer the wrath of CoVid-19. The first will certainly be the 2020 tourist season as many operators as of mid-March do not have approval or any indication if approval will be forthcoming to open this year. As of this time, it would appear only resident Nova Scotians will be permitted to do some "day-trips" which will be good for more rural areas as people will refrain from going into urban area, for obvious reasons. There will not be an large concerts many, including, Stan Roger's Festival in Canso is history for this year. Soon we can expect the Wharf Rat Rally, Digby will announce its cancellation for this year. 2020 will be a year everyone will want to forget.

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

April 5, 2020

Below is an email sent today to all Nova Scotia MLAs, MPs and Senators.

Good Morning Honourable Nova Scotia Members of the Legislature;

When two mayors, the MLA and I questioned the safety of co-locating both 911 communication centers in downtown Dartmouth, the RCMP ac-

knowledged that this could be a problem, but they had a backup plan. On both occasions they told us that "technology now allows us to flip a switch and transfer all Nova Scotia 911 and dispatch calls to New Brunswick".

Attached is a letter from the Honourable Carl Urquhart, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for New Brunswick which debunks

those RCMP statements. (Letter located nearby). There is no "switch" and there is no such plan. Also attached is a recent letter to RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki and Assistant Commissioner Lee Bergerman on this topic.

With unpredictable and unprecedented demands now facing our Nova Scotia first responders, now is not the time to experiment with our 911

communication and dispatch safety system in Nova Scotia. I am sure that the safety of your constituents is your priority. This RCMP decision affects every corner of the province of Nova Scotia. Please ask that this plan be halted.

Thank you for considering this issue,

Bill Casey, Former Member of Parliament

Commissioner Brenda Lucki, Commissioner of the RCMP, Ottawa, Canada.

Assistant Commissioner Lee Bergerman, RCMP Commanding Officer, Nova Scotia., Dartmouth, N.S.

Decision Made With Wrong Information

Good Afternoon

The decision to co-locate the two major Nova Scotia 911 police communication call centers together in downtown Dartmouth was made with wrong information and should be reversed.

In August of 2018, you may recall that I met with a very senior RCMP official at the Delta Hotel in Halifax. I was assured that at that meeting that co-location now was safe because "technology now allows the RCMP to flip a switch and transfer the Nova Scotia 911 calls to New Brunswick".

In February 2019, the Mayor of Colchester County, Christine Blair, the Mayor of Truro, Bill Mills, Stephanie McNeil from MLA Zann's office and me as MP met with another very senior official from the RCMP at the Holiday Inn in Truro.

That Senior RCMP Officer told us exactly the same thing. Co-locating the 911 call centers was now safe because... "technology now allows the RCMP to flip a switch and

transfer the Nova Scotia 911 calls to New Brunswick".

Attached is a copy of a letter from the Honourable Carl Urquhart, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for New Brunswick which debunks that statement. Minister Urquhart served in the RCMP and Fredericton Police Service for a total of 33 years, and has also served as a volunteer firefighter. He has first hand knowledge of emergency response systems.

Regarding the notion that 911 calls from Nova Scotia could be instantly transferred to New Brunswick, Minister Urquhart's letter says "there are no such ideas or discussions in New Brunswick" and that New Brunswick is in the process of "implementing technical and operational changes" until 2023, and therefore "the province remains jurisdictionally and provincially focused". There is no backup in New Brunswick.

With the co-location of the two 911 emergency call centers, Nova Scotia would lose

the geographic separation required by all leading 911 emergency response authorities for a safe 911 communication system. Again, I have provided the RCMP with four reports by the leading professionals in this field. If the RCMP can provide even one credible report that says that geographic separation is no longer a requirement for a safe 911 system, please send me a copy. My first request for this information was in February 2019 at the Holiday Inn meeting.

Clearly the RCMP senior management made this decision with wrong information. Considering this fact, and that we are in the middle of an unprecedented global corona virus pandemic, I urge you to reverse the decision to co-locate the two major 911 emergency communication centers together in downtown Dartmouth. Now is not the time to experiment.

Sincerely, Bill Casey, Former Member of Parliament

Dear Editor:

I (Bill Casey) sent the following data to an assortment of Ministers, MPs and MLAs Senators on April 16, 2020.

RCMP Would Keep Expensive Space Vacant for 17 Years

This is hard to believe. At a stated rental rate of \$547 per square meter, the building occupied by the RCMP Divisional Headquarters in Dartmouth might be the most expensive office space in Nova Scotia. Much of that expensive space has been vacant and empty for seven years, since the building was built in 2013.

In the attached two paragraphs from internal RCMP documents, it is clear that Public Works, the landlord, is "pressuring" the RCMP to address this wasted space, and has given the RCMP two options:

Option 1: The RCMP could "share the space" with other government departments.

Option 2: The RCMP could keep the space empty but they would be required to pay an extra financial charge" of \$164,100 per year for the empty unused space. (Already vacant and unused for 7 years)

When the RCMP was considering the six locations for the new RCMP 911 Emergency Call Center for Nova Scotia, five of the proposed locations were in Colchester County, one was in Dartmouth. Millbrook First Nation was the first to make a proposal for this project.

If any of the Colchester proposals were to be accepted, the attached RCMP "Estimated Costing Options" score chart shows

that the RCMP has chosen **Option 2** to keep the space vacant in Dartmouth for an additional 10 years and pay the 10 year extra "financial charge" of \$1,641,000.

There would be no such charge if the RCMP had chosen to take Public Works recommendation and "shared the workspace". Only by keeping it empty, does the extra "financial charge" of \$1,641,000 apply.

On the RCMP score chart, the \$1,641,000 "financial charge" for the empty **Dartmouth** space was then added to each of the five **Colchester** proposals including the **Millbrook First Nation** proposal. The **Dartmouth** "financial charge" is listed on the score

continued on page 5

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
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:

Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:

Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites

NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:

CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:
Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chignois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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

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.

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: Maurice Rees

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N / B6L - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • OTHER PARTS OF NS: \$28.00 plus HST = \$32.20
ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$30.00, plus HST = \$34.50 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$45.00
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 any 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. | 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