

REES' Pieces

Where's the common sense?

(This column was written on April 17th. Since then the number of CoVid-19 cases have surged to new highs, bringing the centre part of the province to a standstill, and borders will remain closed for another month. This will definitely impact my prediction of a June 15th election. It is more reasonable to assume we might go to the polls later in August. To avoid a summer campaign an election date of September 21 is more probable suggesting the writ could be dropped August 20th.)

What I am going to write is primarily based on data from the United States, but the essence of the message, "Where is the common sense" is not foreign to Canada.

USA banned administering additional doses of the J&J vaccine because six people out of 7-million administered vaccines suffered a blood clot reaction. This meant 6,999,994 people received the benefit of the vaccine.

Meanwhile eight people, plus the shooter were killed in a mass shooting at a FedEx plant in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was the 45th mass shooting incident in the United States within 30 days an average of 1.5 incidents per day. In USA a mass Murder is one where at least four people, not including the shooter, were killed or injured.

Legislation has passed through the US House of Congress yet 100 senators have failed to act. Current president, Joe Biden was a senator almost two decades ago.

My question is: "Where is the common sense"? In the free world – primarily Canada and USA politics has become so polarized common sense is not-existent. USA leads the way, but unfortunately Canada is not far behind.

Here's a Canadian example. Climate change is of concern and we wish government would do more, but at the same time we resist paying the freight to make it happen.

Conservative leader, Erin O'Toole, understands the dangers behind climate change. During the AGM he pleaded with the executive and delegates to recognize Climate Change. To his dismay and many Canadians, the next day the executive and registered attendees refused to include "climate change" as a recognizable problem and voted not to include it as part of the party platform. I won't say what I would have done if "I was Erin O'Toole", but you can guess.

The Liberals are not "lily white". Far from it, they have amassed a long list of things lacking common sense. Close to the top is a lack of immediate action to eliminate sexual discrimination and sexual abuse by cleaning up the military brass. Canadians revere our military, but when sexual abuse or discrimination of any kind is paramount we become irate, and demand immediate action. Culprits should be punished not over time, but RIGHT NOW!

As normal taxpayers, we have a role to play. When something is wrong we should be raising HELL, demanding immediate action. Our problem is we are too "laid back". We want things to change, but are fearful to take action, because we might be "singled out".

Nothing will change, to our complete satisfaction, unless we "raise hell and demand action".

Here's a local example of how to achieve change. In Nova Scotia the Bio-diversity Act was re-introduced. Within 10 days about 4,000 private woodlot owners and the industry formed a coalition demanding action. Backed by a strong advertising campaign, their demands gained traction. Sources indicate former Premier McNeil, Karen Casey, MLA and former MP, Bill Casey reached out and snapped Premier Iain Rankin's suspenders, which added to the forming revolt in the party caucus. Immediately, many parts of the Act were changed. It passed a week later after three hours debate. This demonstrates change happens if we organize and apply pressure when we are adamant.

CoVid-19 surges have changed the probability of an early Federal Election. To get ahead of the Feds, I predict we will be going to the polls on June 15th or 22nd. In Nova Scotia the writ is normally 34-36 days. If Rankin is to pull the plug, he will have to do it by May 4th or 11th for an election on June 15th or 22nd, (35 days).

That's my pick, but I can be totally off base.

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

Frustrated by Oversight

(Two photos supplied by Mr. Harpell, to accompany this article, are printed on page 2 of this issue)

Dear Editor:

Reading the pieces by Tom Taggart in the April issue of SHORELINE, I found myself frustrated by how he conveniently uses oversight to ignore some very obvious problems with his stand against the Biodiversity Act.

First, he rails against the "city folks" behind the government's push to implement the act.

Yes, of course. That explains all those folks who were part of the blockades in Digby.

It explains why there are so many members from every section of the province in The Healthy Forest Coalition. It explains why there were so many people who, at numerous sites across NS came to support Jacob Fillmore during his hunger strike. It explains why a dozen or more of my friends and neighbours are in agreement with the act. (We live in the Brookfield, Clifton, Tatamagouche areas.) That is why woodlot owners who

earn a good living from their woodlots have spoken out in favour of the act.

That has to be it! We are all part of a city-special-interest group plot to enact a nefarious piece of legislation to rule the province with an iron fist.

He states, "They often use dramatic photos to inflame rhetoric to advance their view". He conveniently ignores the point that the dramatic photos are of the results of the practices of a small number in the industry which shows a total disregard for the forest wildlife, plants, and soil in rural areas of the province rather than the "city" environments,

Nor does he indicate that the act was necessitated because of the actions of industry on Crown (the people's) land.

The full-page ad in the Chronicle Herald, paid for by a non-existent (fake) entity, showed just how far the forest industry would go to control the regulations that manage their operations. Their "We are the kings. You are the serfs. You do as we tell you." attitude was evident. The ad was telling

people to rise up and oppose Bill 4. Sadly, some bought into this fake, self-serving scenario.

Also, the ad was an attempt by an industry sensing an uprising by the people of the province to force major changes in the practices used to "manage", with devastating results, our Crown lands.

The Lahey Report, reports from their own Natural Resources staff, two Auditor General Reports, and two lawsuits were putting an unfavourable spotlight upon the industry which has, for decades, ruled the roost and dictated to the government departments how the industry was to be run. The tail wagged the dog.

Forest Nova Scotia saw the writing on the wall and didn't like what they read there. So they created a fake group and produced an ad full of false claims and fear mongering "statistics" in an attempt to divide the support of the citizens of Nova Scotia; the city folks and the rural folks

The thousand of Woodlot owners who support the bill know that they were not the ones creating the problem the act was meant to rectify. It was those companies who left the areas harvested looking like moonscapes. These were the

"dramatic" photos pointed out by Mr. Taggart.

Those supporting the bill are not anti-forestry. We are, instead, advocates for a sustainable future in the industry that is not all about plantations.

When do you, Mr. Taggart, feel we should stop the decimation of the animals and the destruction of our fragile land? Once they are gone?

Jim Harpell,
Shortt's Lake,
Colchester County

Community Grants Requests Not Approved

The following five community grant requested were not approved at the recent meeting Additions and Deletions budget meeting.

Truro Homeless Outreach Society - \$35,000. Boutilier - motion to deny. Planning to sell building and relocate. Parker - not right place for it. Want to support, but one year too early. Come back next year and let us know where they are. Taggart, must engage these people. Do not want to give this amount but want to support. Blair - request for wages for person. We can not support wages. Denied

NS Adopt Highway Program, \$2,500. Colchester Historical Society - Already receive \$10,000, requested additional \$15,000. Blair - last two years gave an additional \$5,000. Request denied.

Nova Scotia Legacy Society - \$10,000. Blair: really believes in society. Purpose is to hire consultant. Policy can not support wages. Blair, Johnson, Taggart (support but not too deep), Benoit, but not to \$10,000. Stewart - want to support, but not for operational activities. Motion defeated. Only Taggart and Benoit supported.

Colchester Society for Athletic Excellence -



Request for \$25,000. For LED Lights already installed. Boutilier - Over 50% from around the county. Cooper would not support building on the flood plane. Taggart - ballfield in Great Village, which players from Truro. Apply to Truro for application and give this group the proceeds, also tennis court in Debert. Request denied.

Legislation Modernizes Municipal Operations

Government is amending the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter to modernize local government operations. The change will allow municipalities and villages to hold virtual council meetings. The amendment also increases accessibility for citizens to publicly participate and view council

meetings.

Municipalities and villages have been allowed to meet virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic under the provincial state of emergency. The amendment supports councils holding virtual meetings once the state of emergency is removed.

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

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Maurice Rees, Publisher,

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