

Rees' Pieces

Add Profit Controls to Rent Control

Everyone is concerned and often complaining about the cost of food. Yes, it has skyrocketed, and appears out of control. Seems like retailers, not just food, but across the spectrum have learned the habit of how to increase prices. Basically, it's raise the prices, putting their hands over their ears so they don't hear the screaming.

Cost of food is not the real problem, although is it a contributor. Our increased cost of living centres around things totally out of our control: price of gasoline; electricity; clothing; beer and wine; rent; bank charges; mortgage costs and many more.

The governments are reaping the benefits. I just wish all levels of governments would take care of the residents by bringing down the "big hammer" on companies who are making excessive profits. I have a suggestion on how it might be done, but I'd also bet there is not one level of government willing to give my suggestion a second thought.

In Nova Scotia Houston's government imposed "rent controls", which supposedly would ensure major increases in rent were not possible. However, we have learned there are so many ways to get around what was intended it's not a small crack that only a mouse could squeeze through. No, the holes or cracks are large enough to drive a moving van.

If rent controls were supposed to work, let's consider things at the other end. Let's fight for "Profit Control" on every business. So now let's do a bit of math to explain: If a company's sales volume was \$1-Million and they netted 10%, there would be \$100,000 profit. In the next year sales doubled to \$2-Million, there should be \$200,000 profit. All fair and good.

Now let's explore this: If sales stayed at \$1-Million, but profit increased to 13%, profit would be \$130,000. Reasons why, I am not going to explore. If there we had a "Profit Control" program, perhaps companies should be made to pay (an additional tax) of 50% of the increased profit.

Those are small numbers for today's business. Imagine the dollars involved, in companies doing \$900-Million. If they had excess profits rising to 13%, their excess profit would be \$270,000, of which \$135,000 would be paid to the "Profit Control Account".

Under my method, the amount of monies paid would be MEGA bucks.

By applying to all businesses, one of two things will happen: First, additional money will be raised from the excessive profit tax. That money should be used to provide a national health care program for dentistry or paying for all prescriptions. Just a thought.

The second thing which would happen and is probably the most important. Everyone, including business executive loathe paying a cent more than required. Once in place, the program would slow down the rapid increases passed along to customers. If you apply these ways to theory, if not one red cent was paid into "Profit Control Account".

You might ask what is the long term benefit? It eliminates inflation. Gets us out of the mess we are in. I'd bet, across the board, prices would be reduced. We would be more competitive on a global basis, allowing us to reap the benefits from global investments.

My second hatred, is waste. It is estimated 40% of the food grown is wasted, or left to rot in the fields. If that problem could be solved one of two things would happen: We'd have lots of food, so nobody went hungry, or we could create more jobs to process the 40% of wasted food and feed more of the world.

All this theory, if turned into reality, would have only two results.

Canada would be inflation free. People around the world would look "in awe" at Canada as the primary (#1) global food supplier.

My other moment of happiness involves the Mass Murder Commission has delivered its final report. Not that I agree with or think they went far enough, but it's over.

Now we can move forward with HEALING.

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



Unsightly Proposed By-Law Gets Reaction

By Maurice Rees

Normally, we would publish this as a normal article, but because it started off similar to a "letter to editor" we will continue as a letter, because it voice's individual statement of facts and opinions.

What seemed like regular coverage at Colchester council's monthly meeting on March 30, 2023, has gained traction and certainly increased the exchange of emails, not because of what is proposed in Colchester County, but taxpayers reaction in neighbouring Cumberland County.

We (at the Shoreline enjoy when readers get involved) so we will capture the essence of emails on the topic until publication deadline. We will provide ongoing discussion in chronological order as received.

On April 2, 2023 at 12:30, Shoreline avid reader and "long standing fan" Bill Kempt send an email to several people and copied the Shoreline Journal as follows:

Good morning all,

I noticed this article on page 2 of the April, 2023 edition of "The Shoreline Journal" and found it interesting because the by-laws article also stated that there was a penalties section in their law.

I have not yet gone to the Colchester Municipality

website to read their actual by laws but I did review again our own by laws on these matters. Our bylaws came into effect fourteen(14) long years ago on March 4th, 2009. They appear to be adequate BUT FOR ONE MAJOR FLAW.

You can read them for yourself on our municipal website under Municipality of Cumberland Policy, By-Laws, Section 345 (1).

As mentioned the Municipality of Cumberland's descriptions of "Dangerous and unsightly" properties appear adequate enough as it includes "properties containing ashes, junk,... derelict vehicles... items of equipment or machinery or bodies of these or parts", "constitute a fire hazard", and "poor state of repair". Our By-Law even notes concern that junk might be... "an allure to children who may play there to their danger" and also that a property might be... "offensive to a person" or that "the condition of which seriously depreciates the value of land and or buildings in the vicinity".

All well and good BUT for the major flaw — which is—failure of our local government to enforce the laws they have put on the books. Nearly two decades have passed and no action of which I am aware? We are paying substantially high taxes in support of a governing body that refuses to fully govern.

Should an outside agency determine that dangerous circumstances exist then it's possible that action might be taken; but apparently "unsightly" is deemed to be "in the eye of the beholder". One man's junk being another's art — so to speak.

Consequently "the eye of the beholder factor" means we have by-laws that the promulgating authority is not (or has not yet) prepared to enforce.

The Colchester article caught my eye for that very reason, because Colchester, having belatedly passed dangerous and unsightly property by laws, is (perhaps?) actually prepared to enforce them.

I believe that enforcement of the law being the case in Colchester, their property values will be better maintained and their community safer than ours.

Your thoughts?

Bill

April 2, 1:43 pm: It took just over an hour at 1:43 pm for Stephen Leahy to respond to the 26 people on the original email to say: Bill, Fully agree.

April 2, 2:05 pm: At 2:05 pm on April 2, Earl Chase, said, "Realie don't think Lisa nor her commissioners can lead by example Or enforce any bylaws (Do as I say not as I do)" Earl

April 2, 2:06 pm: A minute later response to the growing movement by H/E, who did not want his

name used, jumped aboard saying, "Bill, "Totally agree. Some violations are in eyes of beholder, but some are blatant violations on many levels.

Nothing is /has been done by authorities for decade(s).

continued on page 9

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; Chignanois Elementary;

Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and

Parrsboro Regional High School.

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Maurice Rees, Publisher,

902-647-2968, or E-MAIL:

maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

The Shoreline Journal

WELCOMES YOUR STORY CONTRIBUTIONS

property owner has been given 30 days to clean up the property.

Residents and local businesses complain about the property regularly. Benoit asked committee for possible solutions. Councillor Tim Johnson recommended it should be handled by the dangerous & unsightly premises committee. If not cleaned in 30 days, the building inspector follows the order and cleans up the property.

R. Simonds provided insight that it should go through the 30-day course, and a deci-

sion could be made afterward. Clean up is required by March 10.

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/Londonerry, 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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