

Buy and Employ All Local Services"

The announcement hours of service at the Community Credit Union, Bass River branch will reduce from approximately 32 to 12 hours further illustrates the problem being faced outside the urban core.

As young people leave the homestead, more families move out west, and "real" country folk continue to age rural areas are facing a dilemma, which if not curtailed, will see the end of rural life as we have known it.

It's not a new trend; in fact it's been happening for the past 30 years. Take a drive along the shore from Onslow to Advocate Harbour and note where houses once stood and families lived and survived.

Yes, there are families still living there, and enjoying it immensely, but everything is different. Highland Village, once a vibrant community is not much more than a signpost on Highway #2. When you get off the beaten track and go to an area like Londonderry, you'll see the remains of a community which at one time was one of Nova Scotia's most prosperous.

Without any stores, or commercial services, the area's vibrancy revolves around what is now known as The Thirsty Church.

Many who grew up in the area are now seasonal residents returning in the summer to enjoy the beauty and to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. We enjoy them while they are here, but more than doubling the population over a four month period does not make a year. Without that four month peak, many of the businesses would have closed years ago.

Now let's look at today's situation.

Each year smaller rural schools close and children travel longer and further on schools buses; rural churches close or amalgamate faster than we want to accept; delivery of government services via offices located in rural areas is rare, if it exists; healthcare is miles away, except for a local doctor's office.

On the technology side, high speed internet is being completed across the province, although there are still hundreds of families who are not so fortunate; cable TV is rare, but with about \$400 in up-front costs, satellite service is available; along Hwy #2, there are almost as many "nonreception" cellular areas, as there were potholes before the road was re-paved the last couple of years.

Thank heavens the major road surfaces in West Colchester have improved. If you are an early morning riser, starting shortly after 5:00 a.m., up until about 8:15 it's like a caravan as people hustle to town to work in complete darkness. The situation repeats itself in late afternoon, until dark.

How do we energize ourselves and convince elected officials more attention needs to be devoted to improving the living and business climate in rural areas? It's hard to convince "young potential farmers" to stay, when the chicken and pork industries are a shadow of what they were five years ago, beef farmers are the next victims. It's hard to convince young families to move to rural areas, when they have to travel for shopping, organized recreation, employment opportunities, and medical and government appointments.

We know lottery terminals and smaller NSLC outlets are about the only government controlled services penetrating rural areas in the last decade. Is that because there is so much tax revenue to be gained?

Could an increase in "home offices" for the public service employees to deliver service locally help restructure our economy? New Brunswick is now accessing the construction quality of all schools build prior to 1980. There are plenty of school buildings in rural areas, which still have construction integrity.

One way to stop the erosion of rural areas is to decentralize government. Maybe each time a school is to be closed, governments, federal, provincial and municipal should be forced to relocate government offices to fill former schools.

Considering the foregoing, it's no wonder the Community Credit Union branch in Bass River is reducing to 12 hours of service to the public.

Rural erosion needs to stop. The "Buy Local" initiative needs to be expanded to "BEALS" - "Buy & Employ All Local Services". I wonder which party or municipal officials will step forward to help.

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, BOM 1BO (902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@thesborelinejournal.com

To The Editor:

I would like to take a moment to commend all the people of Nova Scotia who decide to take a stand against what we don't feel is right. It's so easy to say "why bother", "what's the use", "won't make any difference anyway", but I think there is power in coming together for a cause whatever that cause may be.

Whether it is grouping together to try to make the government more accountable, raise funds for a seriously ill child or the everyday giving from our volunteer fire fighters, church members, and numerous others, who volunteer their time for community organizations that make the basis of why we are so proud to be Nova Scotian.

My sincerest thank you goes out to you all, Betty (Giddens) Jennings

Dear Editor:

Business people and non-profit organizations making monthly remittances to government are going to be challenged to do their banking during 12hr/wk. Our branch and its friendly staff are a pleasure to do business with. Many businesses will be forced to pull their accounts, which will no doubt determine the viability of having a financial institution in West Colchester. This move flies in the face of com-

munity economic development.

Anita McLellan Economy. NS

Dear Editor:

October 11 to 16 will mark the College of Family Physicians of Canada's seventh annual Family Doctor Week in Canada. This week is dedicated each year to recognizing the success and achievements of the many family physicians practicing in Canada.

Every day, family doctors diagnose and treat illness and injury in Nova Scotia. They promote disease prevention and provide quality care for families in our province. Family doctors possess unique skills and knowledge that qualify them to provide comprehensive care to each member of the family regardless of age, sex or med-

Family doctors are the first point of care for the citizens of Nova Scotia and it's the family doctors who diagnose and treat most of the province's medical problems. Being a family doctor means being a part of a community. Family doctors do more than simply see patients. They advocate on their patients' behalf and they work with government to ensure Nova Scotians are receiving the best possible care.

Family physicians are an integral health care resource providing primary health care services to the people of our province in health clinics, community settings, hospitals, nursing homes and even patients' homes.

Doctors Nova Scotia proudly acknowledges the outstanding contributions of Nova Scotia's family doctors for their dedication to their patients and to the delivery of high quality health care in the province.

On behalf of all your colleagues in Nova Scotia, we say thank you!

Jane Brooks, MD, PhD, CCFP President, Doctors Nova Scotia www.doctorsns.com

Dear Readers.

As Nova Scotia's representative to the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, I am proud to acknowledge the efforts of fire departments and elementary schools across the province during Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 3-9.

I'm appealing to all parents to support your youngsters when they come home excited to help make your home more fire safe by participating in the "The Great Canadian Fire Drill." Throughout October, children in grade K-3 will be taught how to create and practise a home fire escape plan. Plus, classrooms and families can win valuable home safety prizes from our public education partners Scholastic, Duracell and Kidde Canada!

Help Nova Scotia be a leader in "The Great Canadian Fire Drill." Please register your support at www.safeathome.ca/drill. Complete your family escape plan, practice it, then print out your personalized "We Did The Drill" certificate!

Remember these family fire safety tips: 1. Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside sleeping areas. 2. Install fresh batteries in smoke and CO alarms at least once per year. 3. Replace ALL smoke alarms over 10 years old - battery operated and hard-wired. 4. Never tamper with smoke alarms

Thank you for helping prevent fire tragedies. Do the drill!

> Deputy Fire Chief, Brent Denny Nova Scotia Representative Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

Nova Scotia has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the country. Every year approximately 60 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in the province. Of those, half will die from the disease. October 24 to 30 is Pap test Awareness Week and Doctors Nova Scotia reminds women that regular Pap tests are the best protection against cervical cancer.

Pap tests can find abnormal cell changes in the cervix, which then can be treated before they have a chance to become cancerous. Almost all cervical cancer is preventable if cell changes are detected early enough.

Early changes to cells in the cervix can happen without pain or symptoms. If these changes aren't found and treated, they can develop into cancer. Regular Pap tests prevent approximately 95 per cent of all cervical cancers. However, Pap tests don't detect ovarian

All women are encouraged to have their first Pap test within three years of becoming sexually active or at age 21, whichever comes first. Women should have a Pap test every year for three years and if all three test results are negative (normal or clear), they can have Pap tests every two years after

Most women who have had a hysterectomy no longer need a Pap test although some still do. If you are unsure how often you need a Pap test, you should talk to your family doctor to determine when and how often you should be screened.

Doctors Nova Scotia encourages women to make an appointment with their family doctor for their regular Pap test. For more information about the importance of regular Pap tests or to request your Pap screening history, contact Cancer Care Nova Scotia's Cervical Cancer Prevention Program at 1-888-480-8588.

Sincerely,

Jane Brooks, MD, PhD, CCFP President. Doctors Nova Scotia www.doctorsns.com

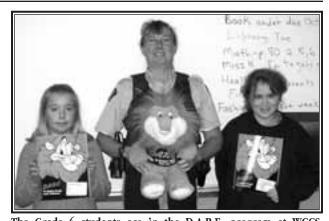
New Columnist Needed

The Shoreline Journal is on the search for a local person to supply a nature-oriented - "bird watchers" column, says Maurice Rees, publisher. I was personally saddened when Fran advised me that due to failing health he would not be able to continue with his monthly column, "Nature Notes

Fran's column has become one of the most interesting in the paper, and because of his passion for bird watching, it has become one of the most popular

columns in the paper. I realize Fran cannot be replaced, but we are actively searching for someone to continue to report on the vast number and variety of migratory birds, who visit our shores, either as part of migratory flight patterns, or because they get blown off course from storms originating in the USA Gulf Coast.

Prospective columns should contact us at: Box 41, Bass River, NS, BOM 1B0 maurice@theshorelinejournal.com or via phone: 902-647-2968



The Grade 6 students are in the D.A.R.E. program at WCCS. Cst. Jane MacDonald of the Bible Hill Detachment is leading the program. Show in the picture (left to right) Kate Bowers, Cst. MacDonald, Sydney George and Darren the mascot. (submitted)

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) 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 & CIRCULATION**: Dorothy Rees

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: B0M / B2N - \$23.00, PLUS HST = \$26.45 • **ALL PARTS OF NS:** \$26.00 plus HST = \$29.90ALL OTHER AREAS OF CANADA: \$28.00, plus HST = \$32.20 • USA SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$40.00 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 an 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.

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.

