

REES' Pieces

Were lessons learned?

Was the election campaign too long? Did the regulations passed by government and mandated for Elections Canada help in the voting? Was the electorate happy when they got to the polls?

To answer the questions posed above regarding the election. Yes the campaign was too long. It was difficult for all parties to engage the number of volunteers needed to provide true democracy and by voting day thousands of volunteers were too tired to really care. They just wanted it over.

If you wish to take lessons on how to make an already irate electorate even more frustrated and madder to the point they threw their ID card at those working the polls on October 19th just follow what Elections Canada was forced to do.

Tom Taggart's situation with his elderly mother not able to vote even though she has lived in the community for over 80 years is shameful. Shame on Elections Canada for implementing what they were asked to do. Even more shame should be heaped on the politicians and public service that developed the legislation.

I worked the polls as Information Officer and never have I seen so many cynical, mad and irate people in one room in one day. In the two polls, which I worked, approximately 275 people cast their votes. I'm almost positive that 8-10% more votes would have been cast if the requirements were different. Voters showed up with only the card received in the mail telling them where to vote. Without proper ID they could not vote. Many in the community of Maitland have only their post office box showing on all ID including their driver's license. Not acceptable even though they were on the voters list.

On the extensive list of proper ID, the first item was driver's license. When showing a PO Box, that was not enough according to Election Canada regulations. In my mind, the requirements were confusing. After some discussion which included all those working the polls, we decided to accept a driver's license even if it did not show a civic address. We were more or less forced into it, when several potential voters tore up the card received in the mail, threw it at the poll clerk, cursed and left.

It's hard to tell someone "No you can't vote", when it's your neighbour, or you have known them most of your life. Let's hope the new government makes voting a more pleasurable experience.

I regularly watch the US political maneuvers for their forthcoming 2016 presidential election. It's amazing how much traction Donald Trump has gotten. Not going to comment if he will get the GOP nomination to go up against the Democrats, or if he would be a good president. However, he has been pushing the "right buttons" to lead in almost every poll.

Lately some have been saying he is the USA's version of Canada's Ron Ford. We are just done with an elongated federal election campaign, but think of our friends south of the border, they are in it for 15-18 months. This time next year we'll be into municipal and school board elections.

But here is where I wonder if any lessons have been learned? Provincially, and federally we have known for some time even the Canadian electorate, as a whole, are not happy campers. The astute municipal councillors and mayors who wish to be elected need to take immediate steps to avoid the possibility of "Anybody but my Current Councillor or Mayor", (ABCC or ABCM) campaigns.

If they have not been respecting the electorate by full disclosure or consultation, they best change their ways. Voters will not be happy if they feel left out or used. A case in point is the way Colchester Council seems to be handling the Palliser Property.

Sure they have promised consultation on what will evolve there. Much better to ask residents and business leaders for their opinions, rather than spend thousands of dollars on a consultant developing a plan, then go to the public. Rather than being true consultation, it could appear to be asking them to "rubber stamp" on how an additional amount approaching \$150,000 had been spent.

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
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Dear Mr. Rees,

Who will protect the cats from the provincial SPCA?

I've been a volunteer at the Truro SPCA for two years. It is a good place. The people who work there are wonderful, caring people. My gig is mostly the cats. I play with them, give them affection, and try to socialize the ones who are afraid of people.

You would think it might be a sad place with fifty or so abandoned cats. But it was just the opposite. The staff went out of their way to make it like a second home for

these cats. It was heart warming to go there and see cats and kittens running around, chasing toys, climbing on cat jungles, jumping in and out of cat tents, or just lounging on top of the cages, taking it all in. The "long timers" were given the run of the place and could be found hanging out in the laundry room, or in the office with the girls. There were always lots of other people visiting and playing with the cats.

A few weeks ago there was a drastic change. All the cats were in their cages and it was

very quiet, with the exception of a number of cats crying to be let out. This is because the provincial SPCA has decreed that in order to decrease the spread of infection, the cats are not to be let out of their cages. Ever. If you were to contact them (1-844-835-4798), the official line is that they are allowed out. What they might not tell you, is that you must get a bucket of javex solution and mop the entire room before letting another cat out. They will also say they are planning a free-roaming room, but this will

only be for a few cats. It doesn't help the other 45 cats.

The Truro SPCA often has cats that are there for up to a year. I feel that locking these cats in a 3 by 3 foot cage for such prolonged periods of time for any reason, is disturbing, misguided and the epitome of cruelty. I implore the provincial SPCA to consider the psychological welfare of the cats in its care, to reconsider this decision, and to explore a more humane way to combat the spread of infection.

Sincerely, Linda Weeks,
Truro NS

Playing Their Way to a Positive Start in School

Let's Play Together: A Guide for Parents of 4-Year Olds is designed to help families support children's early development through play. It is available in French and English and contains tips for easy low- to no-cost activities that families can do together. The guide also includes books that match each area of development.

"We recognize the importance of having a strong foundation in the early years. We also know that encouraging children to play is not just about fun - it is how children develop and learn about the world around them," said Karen Casey, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. "Government needs to continue to respond to the changing needs

of families, and this is one way we can help support families before children come to school."

The guide will be distributed to families as part of Grade Primary registration. Copies will also be available in child care centres, early intervention programs, family resource programs, SchoolsPlus and Early Years Centre sites and online at novascotia.ca/education. Books in the guide will be available at public libraries.

The 3Rs: Renew, Refocus and Rebuild, Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education, contains a number of actions to support preschool children and their families. Learn more about the action plan at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/educationreview/>

Greg Sharpe Benefit Supper

Greg is 45 years old, married and has two children. He currently lives in Londonderry.

Greg grew up in Great Village and has always been athletic throughout school and since.

He was in track and field in school and also played volleyball, softball, broomball among other sports over the years.

Last year Greg was diagnosed with Metastatic Esophageal Cancer (esophagus cancer). He had radiation to shrink the tumour but ultimately

has to have a section of his esophagus removed to be rid of it. His recovery was slow but he couldn't be kept down as he recovered to play a full season of softball in the summer of 2015.

Unfortunately over this past summer, further spots have been found in his liver, lungs and lymph nodes.

On Saturday November 7th, Greg's friends and the Barkhouse family are having a benefit fundraiser in Great Village.

The event is a 'Potluck Supper and Silent Auction' at the Royal Canadian Legion in Great Village.

Supper gets started at 3:30 with take outs and then eat in at 4:30 until 6:30.

The silent auction runs throughout and ends at 7:00.

Meal is \$10 per person. Donations for supper and auction are appreciated.

Contact Scott Bird for more information. 902 899-0230 (text or call)

Come help raise funds for a special man and his family in this time of need.

KEN'S CORNER

By Ken Kennedy

First of all I would like to thank whoever is/was responsible for the new pavement on Plains Road in Debert. The workers did a tremendous job on ditching and patching from MacElmon Road to Masstown Road and especially around the train crossing. I just hope and pray they will have that portion along by Baptist and United churches completed by this time next month. What they have done though is a blessing to drive over.

I am not going to mention the federal election just completed except to say I think the leaders of all parties need a good long rest.

The editorial cartoon in

today's (Oct.21) Truro Daily News says it all, I think. It gives a listing of the percentages of garnered votes per political party with the bottom line showing 99.9% "just glad it's finally over!"

I must say I'm a bit disappointed that no one, seemingly, has picked up on my letter to the Daily News editor about the cultural, historical, and tourism benefit of promoting the former Board-landing Bridge crossing the Salmon River in Lower Truro in the 1870's.

I know the county is paying a huge sum for consulting services to upgrade the former Palliser Hotel property but here's some free advice fellas: Sign up a bunch of local actors to re-enact the sailors loading and loading timber at

the bridge site at high tides during the tourist season. This should create some further excitement after the bore goes through.

Now, just to show you I am not always as serious as I look, sometimes, here is a bit of levity especially for the losers in the recent election, courtesy Coffee News: "Too many people expect wonders from democracy, when the most wonderful thing of all is just having it." (Walter Winchell).

Hands up who remembers the Walter Winchell radio show? Well, I see there's a few old timers reading the Shoreline these days! Don't you men remember holding your nose in school so as to try and imitate poor old Walter's radio voice? I did.

The Shoreline Journal

Here's where to find us:

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Dominion Chair Factory Store

BELMONT:

A & N General Store.

BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarries Pharmacy

DEBERT:

Barnhill's Superette
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:

Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:

Double "C" Truckstop
Glenholme General Store

GREAT VILLAGE:

Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:

Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:

Masstown Market
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