

REES' Pieces

An era when no one is happy

With over 60 years (will be 61 in late October) in various roles in publishing and I have done them all it's a weird feeling to be in a world when "no one" is happy. In October 1963 as a grade 10 student, I landed a part-time job at the Woodstock Bugle, which as a start-up weekly less than a year old, provided the type of environment which instantly appealed to me - no frills, happy energetic people who greeted me with open arms. Their enthusiasm as the new gang taking on an established weekly over a century old was infectious.

I decided to move on from the Bugle six months after the founding publisher, Robert J Morrison, the inspiring leader was killed in a tragic car accident following an evening meeting with Harrison and Wallace McCain. On January 1, 1970 I drove from Woodstock to Yarmouth to join Lester Pink's crew at Fundy Printers, also a start up publisher of about five years was not long in the tooth.

The years went on and roles changed, suffered through new owners and had to learn the ways, which deep pocketed and long arms multi-publication publishing chains did not to excel in quality journalism, but solely to increase profit.

In February 2008 the Shoreline Journal was sold to me. Since then, I've chugging along doing the best I can in a rural area, with a coverage area which could be described as a 98 Km ribbon - two gas outlets in the first 25 Km, and no restaurants or grocery stores beyond the first 15 Km. However, our small crew works tirelessly to make each issue better than THE LAST. We don't always succeed, but we enjoy doing it.

I am not trying to paint a "poor me" picture, but with reality face some of the obstacles which the publishing sector has faced in the last decade. First there was the advent of social media. If you wish to imagine the negative impact just look at lack of classified pages in large circulation dailies. The battle with social media as a competitive issue and you adjust the best you can.

However, the two things, which are affecting every sector of our economy and, if the truth was admitted, every bone in everyone's body. The first is social media and texting. Because we were isolated for nearly two years due to CoVid texting grew enormously even the those in their middle years. The scourge on humanity is people do not talk to one another. I've seen two teenagers in the same room, not talking but carrying on a continuous conversation by texting. Texting will not stop until their thumbs wear-out.

The second negative impact on humanity is "no one" is happy following CoVid. For some reason CoVid changed everyone's mind. No one has been able to determine why billions of people became so unhappy and negative at the same time. For instance, where did our work force go? Restaurant owners have had to reduce hours or close because they can't get staff. Retail operations are feeling the same pinch. No one wants to work. WHY?

In those type of businesses, minimum wage was in the \$13.00/ hour range prior to CoVid. Now not more than two years later, young people and older ones as well, are earning \$20/hr, in some instances more than \$22. Yet people still don't want to work.

I may get myself in trouble here, because this matter is difficult to explain. Those of us, who have traces of racism in our blood complain this way: They complain immigrants are taking all "our jobs". To illustrate they mention the higher proportion of immigrants serving them at our favourite drive-thru.

My answer is: "Suck it up and smile, or make your own coffee or burger at home. Either SHUT UP, or stop being so lazy. We don't want to hear your mouth.

Now that an election has been called for late November, I wonder how all this unhappiness will play out? Other political parties have not fared well and there have been several surprises.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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OP-ED

Province Puts Shovels in Ground to Protect Chignecto Isthmus

By Premier Tim Houston

(NOTE: The following is a statement from Premier Tim Houston)

In the coming days, shovels will be in the ground to protect people living in the Amherst area from severe weather events and ensure that an important national trade corridor remains open.

Our government knows how important the Chignecto Isthmus is to Nova Scotians

and Canadians. If it were to fail, it would seriously impact the whole country.

While we wait for the federal government to live up to their responsibilities, we will construct a new 500-metre-long and four-metre-high soil barrier, known as a berm, along the LaPlanche River. The berm will provide backup for an aging and eroding dyke and help protect homes, businesses, the Trans-Canada Highway and rail lines from flooding in the event of a sig-

nificant storm.

This work needs to be done now. We know Nova Scotians are worried, and we are taking action to protect them.

But the work we are doing is only a start. We need more. While we put contingency plans in place like this berm, we need the federal government to acknowledge the national importance of the Chignecto Isthmus and take the climate change threats we face seriously.

I am again calling on Lib-

eral MPs to show leadership on this crucial issue, fully fund the project and do what is right for Nova Scotians.

OP-ED

Statement on Response to Illegal Lobster Fishing

(NOTE: The following is a statement from Kent Smith, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture).

After months of asking for a meeting on the serious issue of illegal lobster fishing, I finally met today, October 3, with Diane Lebouthillier, federal Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, in Ottawa.

We have repeatedly called for the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to address the illegal and off-season lobster harvesting in the Clare region and neighbouring communities in southwest Nova Scotia.

We discussed the need for the federal government to do its job and step up enforcement - they recently announced they are working to detect and deter illegal fishing internationally in the Pacific Ocean. We need them to do the same here at home to put an end to ongoing illegal fishing in Nova Scotia, which is the root cause of serious crimes that are terrorizing parts of our province.

Once again, I asked Minister Lebouthillier to prioritize enforcement of illegal fishing in our province, to ensure her

conservation and protection officers are properly resourced and supported, and that her Department coordinate activities with the other relevant federal agencies to ensure there are no enforcement gaps.

While I was encouraged that the Minister was willing to meet, I remain in disbelief with the lack of meaningful actions brought to the table by the federal government and astounded that DFO continues to point to illegal cash sales as the issue at hand. She stated that this is a priority for her Department, but did not commit to any new resources.

We continue to hear directly from harvesters and harvester organizations that there is not enough enforcement on the water. This responsibility falls squarely on the federal Minister, and her unwillingness to prioritize actions to prevent illegal fishing is unmistakably the source of the problem.

The potential for this issue to escalate is real. Our communities need clear, decisive action, and we need it now. I've heard directly from fishers who have been threatened, had their property damaged,

and who live in constant fear of repercussions for speaking out.

As a Province, we remain focused on our enforcement responsibilities, and will continue to prioritize action. We have increased maximum fines for illegal activities under our Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act. We have proactively corresponded with all licensed seafood buyers and processors and reminded them of our regulations. We continue to work with our Department of Natural Resources and Renewables' conservation officers to increase inspections at local seafood facilities.

The Minister's inaction continues to have real impacts on public safety, people's livelihoods and the sustainability of our most valuable seafood resource. We continue to call for DFO to increase their on-the-water enforcement activities to preserve the sustainability of this resource and halt the illegal harvesting of lobsters.

Nova Scotians need the federal government to step up and to prioritize this issue now.

Kent Smith is Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Province of Nova Scotia

2024 Treaty Day Scholarship and Award Recipients

The contributions of several Mi'kmaw community members were recognized during the 38th annual Treaty Day celebration on October 1, in Halifax. This year, two Elders and two youth were honoured, and three scholarships and two bursaries were presented.

"The individuals recognized today have made a positive difference in their communities," said Brian Wong, Minister of L'nu Affairs. "Treaty Day is a time to reflect and recognize the significant contributions of the Mi'kmaw to Nova Scotia's history and culture. These individuals are continuing that legacy."

The recipients are:

Chief Noel Doucette Memorial Youth Achievement Award: Mia Evelyn Ginnish, Membertou and Cadence Davison, Sipekne'katik

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. Memorial Elder Award: Arlene Stevens, Eskasoni and Patsy Martin, Millbrook

Sister Dorothy Moore Education Scholarship: Bridget Bernard-Worthen, Pictou

Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. Memorial Scholarship: Monica Paul, Membertou and Robert Casey, Eskasoni

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Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
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Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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