

REES' Pieces

Biomass and Long Gun Registry

Are you satisfied?

If it hasn't been the long gun registry, its been NSP trying to sway public opinion to gain support for the \$208-million biomass electrical generation project for Port Hawkesbury. These are only two of the multitude of reasons why private citizens are disgusted with the way elected officials have let things evolve. There are several other's which will rise to the top before they are taken off the table.

It causes me to wonder what is best and which end is up. What we don't know is who is really behind each of the initiatives.

Look at the long gun registry. It will soon be back on the table again, probably as a major topic during the next federal election. I'm not emotionally involved: don't hunt, don't own a gun; not against hunting; have many friends who are avid hunters. All I ask of them is to respect regulations, observe safety, common sense and show respect for other people's property.

What is disturbing: indications from government "we'll come get you" to elected MLA's who changed their vote. Traces of a bully in the sandbox causing an uproar, when he doesn't get his way.

Public opinion started to change when it was revealed the National Rifle Association (NFA) was involved, behind the scenes. Considering it to be true a large number of people had second thoughts because an American lobby group was trying to direct traffic in Canada.

At the time of the vote, I was in PEI and learned that in last couple of weeks, a survey concluded over 2/3 of women were in favour of retaining the registry. It appears they feel safer as it assists police dealing with family violence issues.

Yes, we're sick and tired of hearing about long gun registry, but rest assured, it will be back on the front burner before long. Yes, the program needs changes. However, if a license is needed to drive a car, or to open a business, it seems reasonable to me guns should be registered, even if just at the time of purchase.

Everyone should formulate their own opinion. Then let your elected representative, whether municipal, provincial or federal, know where you stand on the matter.

Now onto Biomass. Possibly using thousands of tons of biomass to generate electricity is another subject dividing Nova Scotia residents. Those not divided are totally confused.

Here's an observation... on the way back from PEI last week, I followed a tractor trailer which contained logs, much larger than I have seen on hundreds of similar vehicles within Nova Scotia. Who would think of PEI having forests to grow large trees? Mostly we think about Anne of Green Gables, potatoes and marvelous beaches with warm water.

A couple of months ago, personally, I was totally against approval to have \$208-million invested to burn biomass to generate electricity. Mostly because of NSP stating failure to get approval would significantly increase power rates. That's fear mongering. Trying to sway public opinion to make it easier for the URB and politicians to approve the partnership with New Page.

I'm still not in favour of the project, because it appears NSP wants control of the boiler, so it can sell biomass generated electricity to whoever, maybe even stateside, should New Page not survive its debt load.

After talking and listening to a number of forestry experts, I do feel there is room to use biomass for electrical generation. Jim Verboom told me over 50% of Nova Scotia forests rot on the stump. Laurie Ledwidge, Enfield, says clear cuts are essential and in his operation, they plant areas, which do not self-generate, then a decade later they do spacing to let trees grow larger faster.

The problem is we have not "farmed" our forests. Had we started 20+ years ago, we would have private woodlot owners with managed forests. Managed cutting and silviculture practices would create jobs providing the biomass needed, if one listens to Jim Verboom.

If biomass is to generate electricity, maybe Northern Pulp, Bowaters and some of the private sawmills, should be given the opportunity. That way biomass could be sourced locally spreading the benefits and jobs throughout the province.

All I can say is let your elected official know your feelings.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Maurice:

I LOVE YOUR PAPER.

I have just finished reading the letters to the editor in the Sept. issue. I would like to reply to the letter from C. Lawrence, with reference to the 75 km yard sale from Truro, through to Parrsboro, then down the Shore Drive to Port Greville. I believe the date referred to would have been July 10th, as this is the date the Shore Drive Community Development Assoc. hold their Shore Drive Day, with yard sales, bar-b-ques, and supper at the end of the day at the FPW Hall.

I can so very much appreciate the comments of C. Lawrence, as I am sure it was a very frustrating day for this group of people. Our area from Parrsboro to Brookville had a total of 17 yard sales (despite the fact that everyone just about drowned).

Our committee has no way of controlling when folks close their doors, or seek cover from the weather, but I want to assure everyone that this will certainly be addressed in future years. We went ahead with the bar-b-que, but we got absolutely soaked to the skin. Our group stuck with it, until the roof of our "ticket tent" began to leak.

The Strawberry Festival Supper at the Hall was a sell-out. As far as what was beyond Port Greville towards Advocate, I am sorry I have no idea what their plans were. On behalf of all of our committee (Community Activities, Shore Drive Assoc), please accept our sincere apologies for the disappointing day.

Of course, we have no control over the weather, but we are working on that too. (smile). I am going to suggest that the different groups, associations get together and plan for this event in coming years.

We love to have folks come to our area from the "other shore" and we always want them to leave with the feeling, "wow, that was fun, and we will be back again". We always want to attract new visitors and want them to see new and exciting things each time they visit.

Your writer was concerned about a note of "bitterness" in their letter to your paper. NOT AT ALL. This is nicely written letter of disappointment and we need to hear these things in order to make improvements and

adjustments that are necessary in any venture or programme to ensure things are improved, not a failure.

I know our whole committee will fully agree with my opinion on this, and we welcome your comments. We will try to do much better for next year, maybe a rain date, and certainly open hours, i.e. from 9 to 5 and whatever other ideas the committee can improve upon.

Thank you for bringing this very important point to our attention.

Sincerely,
Gayle Shaw
Chairperson, Communities
Activities and Beautification
Committee,
Shore Drive Community
Development Assoc.
Port Greville, N.S.

Dear Maurice:

Enclosed is my cheque to renew my subscription to the Shoreline Journal.

I really look forward to the first week of each month when the Journal arrives in my mailbox.

Thank you for a great newspaper.

Sincerely
Verna M. Kaintz
Coopersburg, PA, USA.

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is cheque for one year renewal subscription. We enjoy reading your paper.

I lived in Lr. Onslow for 27 years, but have been here in Minnedosa, Manitoba for 12 years.

Sincerely,
Eileen Barclay
Minnedosa, MB

Dear Maurice:

I sure enjoy reading article from Lr. Onslow as I am the last descendant from MacElmon's Pond.

I have written the history of the famous place and I often visit. I will always have many fond memories.

Sincerely,
Mrs. L. Grace Archibald
(nee MacElmon) Windsor, NS.

Dear Editor:

Nova Scotia has one of the highest rates of obesity in Canada. With inactivity and unhealthy eating becoming more prevalent, doctors in the province encourage children and youth to lead the way to a healthier society.

Good nutrition is essential for children to develop into

healthy adults. Parents can play an important role in shaping their children's eating habits. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Without breakfast children may be tired, irritable and find it difficult to concentrate in class. Children who eat breakfast tend to feel better and often perform better in school.

Despite best efforts, it can be difficult to monitor what children eat when they're not at home. Packing a 'paper-bag' lunch is one way to provide healthy lunch options for children. For healthy lunches, choose a variety of foods from the four food groups of Canada's Food Guide, make sandwiches with different kinds of grain products and add interesting vegetables and fruits.

Parents should also educate children about the dangers of caffeinated beverages. While many students believe energy drinks will provide them with increased energy and alertness, Health Canada reports that too much caffeine can result in symptoms of electrolyte disturbances, nausea and vomiting, and heart irregularities. A small amount of caffeine could also cause sleeping problems, headaches, irritability and nervousness.

Being healthy also means being physically active every day. Whether your child is a member of the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Running for Fun school-based program, a sport team, participates in family activities or simply walks to school, it's imperative for young Nova Scotians to be physically active in order to sustain good overall health.

Physicians in the province encourage parents, children

and youth to eat breakfast every day, walk as much as possible and make healthy choices when preparing meals.

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

Dear Editor:

On June 26, the federal government announced that Canadians would no longer be required to complete Canada's long-form census.

Doctors Nova Scotia is concerned that the alternative - a voluntary survey - will not be able to provide the necessary credible data to guide health-care policy and program development in our province.

The long-form census provides information related to factors that influence access to care and health outcomes in this country.

The information gathered from the long-form census is critical to the development and delivery of health-care programs and services. With a voluntary survey, we are running the risk of obtaining unusable data due to a larger amount of bias and under-represented population data.

Reliable information is key when meeting the challenges that face our health-care system. Doctors Nova Scotia is concerned with any decision that affects the credibility and reliability of data and hope government will reconsider its decision to eliminate the mandatory completion of the long-form census in Canada.

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

\$200,000 to develop Debert Eco-Industrial Park

The Colchester Regional Development Authority (CoRDA) will develop the Debert Air Industrial Park into the Debert Eco-Industrial Park with a \$200,000 project. ACOA Minister Keith Ashfield announced ACOA's contribution of \$54,400 through the Innovative Communities Fund (ICF). Other funding is being supplied by Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development \$92,000, the

Municipality of Colchester \$20,000 and CoRDA \$36,000.

"The Debert Air Eco-Industrial Park will be an important community asset for Colchester, and we are anxious to ensure that the important archaeological findings in the area are properly preserved and protected, at the same time as we move forward with our development," said Bob Taylor, Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester.

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.

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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 = \$29.90
ALL 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

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