

REES' Pieces

Economic Borders appear at the capital's boundaries

A real true workable plan to regenerate growth in rural Nova Scotia will not happen during this election campaign. Sure we'll hear a bit of lip service, but nothing of significance which will produce the results all of us in rural Nova Scotia need or expect.

The gradual division of Nova Scotia into two separate economies – HRM and the rest of Nova Scotia over the past 30 years, has only been garnering attention in the media. Sure there has been lip service to the plight of rural Nova Scotia really hasn't got much traction in the current election campaign and probably won't.

For years Halifax has been referred to as the "capital" of Atlantic Canada, for a variety of reasons, size being one and the other it had most of the regional offices, particularly in the financial sector.

What most people don't realize is sure Halifax has an economy performing much better than the rest of the province, but it's not the real true economic engine. Its economic success is the result of governments spending taxpayer's money... universities, lots of federal government office, oodles of provincial departments, agencies and thousands of staff, and the military. Add that Canadian Coastguard, BIO, and medical treatment and research.

Most all I've mentioned is government money. Taxpayer money. In fact taxpayers from every nook and cranny across this "could be" great province are paying to have Halifax prosper. Government expenditures are not "economic engines". Traditionally, throughout all of Canada, and even so in Nova Scotia, the economy has been driven by mining, agriculture, forestry, fishing, tourism and their related support networks. It's those five key components by our forefathers, which made Nova Scotia prosper. Lunenburg and Yarmouth prospered because of fishing. Liverpool was made possible by the Bowater mill; Springhill gained its prominence because of mining, but started to collapse 50 years ago following the big bump. Sydney had the steel plant. I could go on with a long list of how our natural resources fuelled the economic engine.

Recently the inputs from rural areas have diminished: the forestry sector has taken much more than it contributed... Bowater and the mill in Port Hawkesbury gobbles mega-millions; Yarmouth is a long way down, since the ferry was cancelled. That decision had provincial implications, because tourists failed to drive around in such great numbers. I could go on and on illustrating where rural areas in decay and could probably go back to pin point a reason why the decay started.

If the shipbuilding contract is going to be so beneficial to the provincial economy, a way must be found to provide the same level of support for rural Nova Scotia, if Nova Scotia is going to have a strong economy from Yarmouth to Sydney.

Unfortunately, rural Nova Scotia is suffering even during this election campaign. As we have been for the past 30+ years, we in rural Nova Scotia are getting shafted. It was our areas who built this province, but alas we are among the forgotten.

We are suffering because HRM or Metro, as we often call it, is the deciding point on who forms the next government. During the past 20 years, from a much smaller base, it has become the strength of the NDP and was responsible for their gigantic win in 2009.

The government has certainly lived up to taking care of its own, buy pumping mega-millions into the area which has over 45% of the provinces population and a rather robust economy. Not so in the remainder of "New Scotland". As Halifax has grown, the rest of the province has been receding.

From a political standpoint, neither the Liberals nor Progressive Conservatives are able to put the planks in the platform to rebuild Nova Scotia, because if they did, they'd lose all hope of gaining seats in Metro. The current NDP government, if it survives the electorate, will not be able to rebuild rural areas with investments of the magnitude it has provided metro, because it would be in danger of losing its city base.

When all of rural Nova Scotia is history, will Halifax be able to cause the provincial economy to boom? Never.

We in rural areas will get our turn and save the province, but it's difficult to say if it will happen over the next four years. Please vote on October 8th. You do have a say.

Maurice

Tidal Power Resource Much Larger Than Anticipated

Continued from page 1
energy industry, both locally and internationally, there is a need to update the 2008

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Bay of Fundy. The SEA is a consultative process aimed at

exploring the social, economic, and environmental features and effects associated with marine renewable energy, which can include tidal, wave, and offshore wind energy projects.

Community meetings are being organized to help inform residents, environmentalists, business owners, academics, and other Nova Scotians on the SEA and provide information about the current state of marine renewable energy in the province. The meetings too are to encourage residents to share their knowledge and concerns about renewable energy development in the Bay of Fundy region.



Pictured at the Tidal Power Meeting are (L-R): John Colton, Graham Daborn (Acadia University), Jennifer Daborn (OERA) and Russell Dmytriv (AECOM). (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

Candidates Complete Shoreline Journal's Questionnaire

By Maurice Rees

Throughout this issue you will find responses from the Liberal, Progressive Conservative and New Democratic Party candidates in Colchester North and Cumberland South. As the publisher and editor, I tried to focus on matters relevant to our coverage area. As a rural area, which has been facing out-migration, school closures, poor cell phone reception, slow internet speeds and a host of other issues, I tried to make the questions as difficult as possible, yet easy to understand.

A total of 13 questions were sent to all candidates, with the following introductory preamble:

Rural areas face many disadvantages which include: lack of govern-

ment services; internet service which operates at slower speeds than in densely populated areas; spotty and often non-existent cell phone reception; closing of local schools; very few local employment opportunities; businesses facing difficulty in securing adequate financing, and a trend to consolidate services in larger centres causing local residents anguish by having to travel to Amherst. Business owners claim they can not be as competitive as necessary because of the lack of cell phone service, and internet speeds which are much slower than in

Amherst. They further claim the lack of these services, combined with the distance elementary students are bused to larger schools makes it difficult to attract highly qualified professional employees.

I hope our efforts have been helpful to you in doing your own comparison of the candidates in your area. However, I do have one request: Please vote on October 8th.

Notice to Readers

To ensure our loyal subscribers and readers we always treat all candidates equally, we feel important to advise you of the following. We have tried several times to obtain the completed questionnaire from Kenny John Jackson, Liberal Candidate for Cumberland South, but to no avail.

See page 7, 16, 17, 18, & 19.

Investors Benefit When Guidance Includes Professional Stewardship

By Kim Inglis

Some investors rely on financial advisors only for investment advice. Although choosing the right investments is a key component of financial health, there is a larger picture to consider. The likelihood of emotional and financial well-being increases if investments, advanced wealth management, and financial planning strategies are integrated. The likelihood decreases when the focus is just on "beating the market".

Even institutional money managers don't beat the market consistently. A report by S&P Indices Versus Active (SPIVA) found that in the past five years, only 9.8% of actively managed funds in the Canadian Equity Funds category outperformed the S&P/TSX Composite. In the U.S. Equity Funds category, just 4.55% of funds outperformed the S&P 500 (in Canadian dollar terms) during the same period. And, in the Global Equity Fund category, merely 1.69% of funds beat the benchmark over the five-year timeframe.

Instead of focusing only on



outperforming the broad markets, investors should have the various components of their financial picture connected in a holistic approach to wealth management. Research from The Vanguard Group determined that investors benefit when guidance includes professional stewardship, proper portfolio construction, and tax-efficiency.

Vanguard looked to the experience of advisors who would place greater emphasis on factors that don't rely on market outperformance; factors such as asset allocation, rebalancing, tax-efficient investment strategies, and cash flow management. Skilled advisors provide addi-

tional value by being the objective anchor that has the discipline to execute planned strategies and keep the client from investing in 'flavors of the month' or heading for the hills when things get rocky.

The value of comprehensive planning was corroborated by the results of a study commissioned by the Financial Planning Standards Council (FPSC). It looked at three groups: those who had received comprehensive, integrated planning; those with limited planning; and those with none.

The FPSC study found that investors with comprehensive planning generally felt better than the "no planning" group with 62% more in emotional well-being, 85% more in financial well-being and 45% more in overall contentment. The results have been consistent in each of the three years this study has been conducted.

In comparing the two groups who did plan (comprehensive and limited), the FPSC study reported that comprehensive planning led in financial well-being with an

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

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

NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery

ONSLow:
Onslow Market

PARRSBORO:
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)
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