

REES' Pieces

Be sure to Vote

Before I start off with my thoughts for a column this month, there is one thing I ask of you. Regardless of what you think or do this month, please find the time to GET OUT AND VOTE. If you are concerned you might not be able to get to the polls on October 19th, surely you can find the time to take a few minutes to vote at the advance polls or any Elections Canada office.

There are four advance voting days: Friday, October 9; Saturday, October 10; Sunday, October 11 and Monday, October 12. Polls are open from noon to 8:00 p.m.

If you find it more convenient, you can vote at any Elections Canada office across Canada. Visit the office before the deadline of Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m. Offices are open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m. Bring your proof of identity and address. In Cumberland-Colchester, Elections Canada offices are located at: Truro Centre Ltd, 128 Esplanade Street, Suite 16, Truro, NS B2N 2K3, Toll Free: 1-866-204-8047, or Centennial Plaza, 4 Robert Angus Drive, Suite 109, Amherst, NS B4H 4R7, Toll Free: 1-866-410-0592.

Of course you can also vote by mail. Call your nearest Elections Canada Office for details.

Originally, I had thought about focusing this column on urging Nova Scotians to step up to the plate and work to get as many refugee families located here as possible. However, having slept on it a couple of nights, I realized, we need to focus on more than just rescuing refugees from the mid-East.

The thoughts, prayers and assistance from Nova Scotians would have more impact for many more who are suffering, if we could return Canada to its role as "a peacekeeper nation", similar to what we were in the 50's, 60's and early 70's. There is no way Canada's 30+-Million residents can expect to be a major superpower in terms of armaments and war power.

We, however, could play a role much more important than participating in bombing missions. If its respect and admiration we desire, we would get an abundance of both if we were Global Peacekeeping leaders. Being Peacekeepers also brings with it liaisons which will improve global trade. We would see a significant growth in exports, as many of our natural resource products from agriculture, forestry and fishing could form part of our program to help countries in need.

The federal election is less than three weeks away. Behind concerns about the economy and healthcare peacekeeping is probably the third most important with the fourth matter being concerns we should be expressing about the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), which if adopted will change our agriculture industry forever, with Americans being given access to approximately 10% of the dairy market. With the economy in a tailspin, I fail to understand how any sane politician would wish to add more competition to a successful sector of our economy.

Now back to focus on West Colchester. One bright spot has been an increase in tourism traffic this summer - more Americans and many more from Ontario. A Canadian dollar hovering in the 75-79 cent range has certainly helped to entice Americans to come see us, and had caused thousands of Canadians to vacation within Canada.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels of a low CDN\$\$\$\$. Tourism will play a large role in economic betterment, but let's not forget our agriculture industry. Dairy is important, but West Colchester has some of the most successful field crop farmers in the province.

If West Colchester wishes to grow its economy, community groups must come together and work to develop a plan of what we want and how we can get there. To be successful, it must be a grassroots movement. A successful outcome will be much easier to achieve, if plans are bottom-up instead of top-down.

The responsibility to ensure this takes place rests on the shoulders of Community group leaders, interested citizens, municipal councillors, provincial and federal politicians and the local media. As publisher of the Shoreline, I'll do my best to orchestrate community leaders and politicians to attend at least a one-day workshop to kick-start the process.

Remember to Vote. If not before October 19th, do it then.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Dear Mr. Rees,

I read your article in the Shoreline Journal about the possible amalgamation of Parrsboro with Cumberland County and would like to clarify that the commercial tax rate in Parrsboro is 3.85 not 1.85, more than double the residential rate for the same level of service. We appreciate if you could provide a clarification of this point in your next issue.

Best regards,
David Beattie, President
Parrsboro & District Board of Trade

Dear Mr. Rees!

I have read your article about the amalgamation of

Parrsboro, and wanted to point to a mistake.

The property tax for commercial is 3.85 % and not 1.85%.

In your article it look like business pay only 6% more than residential where the truth is that we pay 120% more for the same service.

Best regards
The Maple Inn
Johannes

Editors Note: Thank you for your replies. We acknowledge the error and are pleased to set the record straight here.

Your letters and observations are always welcome.

October Busy at "The Hall" in Parrsboro

By Patricia Burke

'The Hall' in Parrsboro is going to be a busy spot during the month of October. The party of the year will be held on Sat. Oct. 3, 2015 when their Annual

Oktoberfest will be held starting at 8 pm. The Elastic Big Band will be keeping the party goers on your feet. There will be sausage and pretzels as well as a well stocked bar. Tickets are only

\$10 per person and can be purchased on line through www.thehall.ca, go to the on-line payments icon, as well as Sweet Brier Boutique, Tee-Shirtery and Signs as well by calling 1-902-701-8951. Get your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Whitney Rose will be returning to the hall on Thurs. Oct. 22, 2015 at 8 pm. This is the third time she has come to the hall. She will be on tour starting at Harbour Station in St. John, NB, then to Moncton, NB, Parrsboro and to finish at The Scotia Bank Centre in Halifax.

There will just be one Open Mic on Fri. Oct. 9 for Oct. 22, 2015 at 8 pm. This is the third time she has come to the hall. She will be on tour starting at Harbour Station in St. John, NB, then to Moncton, NB, Parrsboro and to finish at The Scotia Bank Centre in Halifax.



The Honourable Keith Colwell, Nova Scotia's Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, cuts the ribbon to officially open the 2015 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition. (Harrington Photo)

KEN'S CORNER

By Ken Kennedy

We just arrived back from a nice visit to Saint John, NB to attend a "Family Gathering" sponsored by Community Chaplain Services of Canada. It was a fine day and the road trip was uneventful - except for one major part - accommodations.

In the hustle-bustle of getting ready and all, we neglected to make hotel reservations. On the highway into Saint John we saw a Best Western billboard and dialled the number listed. Velma got talking to a call centre somewhere and the girl first wanted our credit card number (first mistake). She gave us a reservation number and we proceeded to our appointment in downtown Saint John at about 2:00 pm. During a break in the proceedings at around 6:30 pm we proceeded to the hotel to check into our room. We had intended to pay cash in the morning (second mistake). The desk-clerk said she wanted the cash up front along with a refundable \$50.00 damage deposit.

As we turned around to go she said "wait", you still have to pay since it's past 4:00 pm check-in time and we have your credit-card

number on file!" There we were, hijacked. The "senior's" room was nice and we had a good night's rest. The staff were nice and apologetic for hotel policy. The hot breakfast was good, so we headed for home. The morning desk-clerk said if we had contacted them directly we would have had a better deal. So we have decided never to carry cash again, never give out credit-card number, and never contact a hotel call centre - supposing we have to sleep in our car!

In past issues of this newspaper we have discussed the issue of the County's purchase of the Palliser Hotel property as a tourist attraction. Well, I received a pleasant surprise the other day as I was waiting in the back parking lot of Bank of Nova Scotia on Havelock Street in Truro. I looked up and there on the wall of the Ho-Ho restaurant was a beautiful panoramic mural depicting lumber being unloaded at the Boardland Bridge in the 1780 era.

Long time readers should know by now that I am a local history buff and I have been back again and again to view this historic painting and thinking back to the hard work of that era. I only hope that this mural can somehow be included in the tourist development plans of the Municipality of the County of Colchester.

The Shoreline Journal

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If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:
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