

# REES' Pieces

## Cooperation should be mandatory

For many years I have voiced my opinion our successes have occurred because of our tenacity, regardless of what others have heaped upon on. Most recently, I've alluded to the first of our downhill run started during Confederation talks back over 150 years ago, when Ontario and Quebec needed us more than we needed them.

From the beginning they set out to rule with an upper hand, perhaps that it was called, Upper Canada. There are more MP's in the Greater Toronto area (GTA) than the 32 in Atlantic Canada. Sure according to population numbers, they should have more representation. However, they don't realize we actually hold the winning hand, if we play it. They don't realize because we have not told or shown them.

If you chat with tourists to visit the Atlantic region and really dig down into what they found amazing it is the sincerity, hospitality and friendliness of Newfoundlanders and Cape Bretoners, not to say anything about the rest of us Maritimers. We are too docile, not aggressive, and accept what other parts of Canada either say or dish out to us.

In the past 150 years Atlantic Canada should be farther up the ladder than we are. We have the ocean routes to the world; the fishery; lumber, and if it wasn't for Atlantic Canadians, particularly New Brunswicker's going to Oshawa in the 60's and 70's the automotive plants would have failed from lack of staffing.

(I am originally from Woodstock, NB and in the 60's and early 70's far too many young guys quit school and moved to Oshawa. About 9 months later they'd return home during summer plant shut-down for three or four weeks with the flashiest and fastest cars around, and a wad of money to choke a horse).

Now 50 years later we lament about people going to Fort McMurray. The reasons and results are the same. Twenty or twenty-five years in the oil field those who managed their money; bought a home when they got there are now able to move back east at age 45-55, with enough money in their pocket to pay cash for their "back home" dream home and enough savings they really don't have to work, unless they work to keep busy, or have a passion to start a business.

The brain drain should not have happened, but you can't blame the ambitious well educated youth wishing to repay education debts and get ahead in life.

However, we can blame those of us who are one or two generations older. Blame must be shared by our forefathers, who didn't dig their heels in demanding equality, or teach us to do it.

If we showed more backbone becoming radical can you imagine the economy of Ontario and Quebec, if we built causeway, or electrical dam across the shipping lanes of the St Lawrence Seaway?

We have the aggregates, other ingredients and knowledge how to do it.

I am not suggesting we become that radical, but we flex our muscles demanding more from politicians. Residents and business leaders must work to develop critical mass applying constant pressure, to ensure Atlantic Canada gets a better deal.

In some ways we are as inept as Donald Trump and his team. Republicans control all three administrative levels: White House, Congress and the Senate. They are failing to put a centralized and focused approach to what needs to be done. It doesn't have to be Donald's way, but it could be the way of the Congress and the Senate for betterment of all Americans.

In one way we are the Donald Trump's of Atlantic Canada. All 32 MP's in the region are on the government side. However, we have failed to improve our economy. Don't blame the MP's, look in the mirror and blame ourselves. We must demand more.

A proper place for unification and development of the pressure points, which could be most effective way for economic improvement, lays at the feet of First Nations communities throughout the region. If Eskasoni, Membertou, Millbrook and Indian Brook joined forces instead of going their solo ways competing with each other those four groups would change Nova Scotia's future.

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 Editor:

Right now, the federal government is reviewing the Navigation Protection Act—that's the law that should give all Canadians the right to paddle up and down this land's waterways. That right is very important to me.

In recent years, 99% of Canada's waterways lost navigation protection under the act. Unless our waterways have full legal protection we'll all lose our right to enjoy and play in streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Even worse, when waterways are blocked by development or land owners, sensitive ecosystems are put at risk. There's currently no law that makes it mandatory to evaluate environmental

impacts on blocking and obstructing waterways, which can seriously harm fish, fish habitat and water.

Long lasting decisions are being made right now about our basic right to explore this country by kayak and canoe. Fellow outdoor enthusiasts, I hope you'll join me in writing or calling your MP to tell them to make sure the Navigation Protection Act protects our environment, heritage and way of life.

Yours truly,  
Debra Banting  
BOM 1N0

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## OP-ED

### Accepting change as means of opportunity, innovation and improvement

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017

The calendar has turned to September, and that means the beginning of a new school year. It is an exciting time that offers opportunities for reconnecting, learning and growth, and for exploring new pathways.

Public education is important to all of us.

Student achievement and school success matter both for the individual and for society. High achieving students, when they become adults in our communities, live longer, are healthier, earn more, and contribute more to the welfare of our communities and our province.

Simply put, they enjoy better lives.

Education is a critical factor impacting economic prosperity, and plays a significant role in the quality of our health. Fortunately for us, we reside in a province where children have access to sound public education.

Our Minister of Education, Zack Churchill, has spoken about an upcoming review of how our education system is administered, with a goal of "making sure we have the best administrative model possible."

Minister Churchill's focus on ensuring effective administrative structures are in place is commendable.

The Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA) is comprised of senior leaders from the province's eight school boards. We are an

inter-disciplinary group that includes school board staff from finance, human resources, operations, and education services, and we are dedicated to the betterment of public education in all of our schools.

Our values align with those of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: innovation, equity, collaboration, responsiveness, and excellence.

As an association, ANSEA members look forward to receiving an invitation to participate in the upcoming school system administration and governance review process. We believe that working together on complex situations leads to more robust results and more effective implementation of any resulting change.

Change can be difficult - it is human nature to resist imposed change, and we all fear change for change's sake. On the other hand, change offers opportunities for innovation and improvement. ANSEA is interested in being involved, and part of the process, in a positive and proactive manner.

Providing services and programming for all students who are the citizens of tomorrow is not taken lightly, nor can it be done in isolation. Working cooperatively and indeed, collaboratively, provides the greatest prospect for progress and success.

Gary Adams  
President

Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA)  
<http://ansea.ednet.ns.ca/>

## Stewardship Association Requests \$10,000

By Maurice Rees

Mattatall Lake Stewardship Association, Rodger Sorsdahl, appeared before Colchester Council during presentation night on September 12 to update council on activities during 2016-2017 in combating Algae problems in the lake. He explained activity surrounding Algae analysis; impact of logging and phosphorous measurements of streams and outlets.

Other activities spearheaded by the association include: Sediment analysis; boating and lake depth measurements; an engineering analysis of water outlets and details of the outflow remediation project.

The outflow remediation project will cost ap-

proximately \$47,000, which comprises an estimated \$4,700 for permits, ground work, surveying, engineered drawings for the bridge and culverts and \$5,000 for equipment and labour. Materials for the bridge is estimated at \$35,000.00.

Fund raising has been ongoing, but in order to try to complete the remediation work this year, the association still needs additional funding. They have requested a \$10,000 grant from the municipality.

Mayor Blair informed Mr. Sorsdahl, the matter would be sent to full council to be dealt with at a subsequent meeting.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) 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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