

# REES' Pieces

## We can do more!

This month there are several important events, which bear mentioning.

Fire Prevention Week will be celebrated October 8-13. Unfortunately, we really only highlight the dedication and care of community of hundreds of volunteers once a year. If we were doing what we should be doing, from the sidelines, we should be praising the time they invest into our community on a weekly or daily basis.

Fighting fires is not the only responsibility of these precious volunteers. They are first responders. In many cases well over 85% of the time they leave work, or their family it's an accident or medical call. Being the first on the scene they see some of the most tragic sights any human should experience.

It's far different than a nurse or medical doctor in emergency. Even though hard on the mind, these people trained for it and are well paid in their profession.

What is different is the first responders are VOLUNTEERS. It could be the neighbour next door, or family member. We need to sing our praises for them because they rush to help us, whether it's a house fire, accident, or medical emergency.

We might not wish to be climbing ladders, entering burning buildings, or becoming physical by rolling up dirty hoses, when the brigade comes back to the hall from a recent call. There is a lot we can do to show our appreciation, and lighten their workload.

Did you ever think about joining them at the hall to wash and clean the trucks or equipment; show up at the hall with a pot of coffee and sweets. In the spring of the year when fighting grass fires, would you take a tray or box of sandwiches?

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work which is needed to have a smooth running unit. This could include being part of the auxiliary, undertaking many of the fund raising projects needed just to keep members in the proper gear, etc.

Don't just pat them on the back and say "well done". Grab their hand, shake it and seriously ask, "What can I do to help. Find a job for me. My family wants to help".

Immediately following Fire Prevention Week comes October 17<sup>th</sup>.

That's the date Cannabis become legal in Canada. We are the first country to take the big step. The lead-up-to-it has been an agonizing time. Many against, and hordes of people who could hardly wait for the day to arrive.

I'm not going to speak in favour or against. I'm not a user, so it makes no difference to me. However, I will provide some observations and predictions.

The choice of NSLC being the administrator is fine. We needed an organization to run the weed operation. Why create another crown corporation?

I question the advisability of co-locating Cannabis retail location with 11 chosen stores to serve the province. Eleven is not enough locations.

To those who think the "black market" will disappear, or shrink, give your head a shake.

There are probably more growers or dealers in the immediate Truro area than the 11 chosen provincial retail sites.

Sure many of the older closet users will be happy it's not illegal, and they can go on a shopping trip.

I don't know where the information came from but some pundits are predicting, in the beginning, it may take up to 45 minutes to purchase weed legally.

I question if experienced users will be as comfortable in the NSLC store, or will they prefer to go back to their local grower/supplier.

The two entities will rush to maintain market share, and price will be a factor.

Will expectations be met?

Time will tell how successful Canada's will be, as it enters the Cannabis sector. Let's discuss the outcomes in two years.

Have a good month. See you in November.

**Maurice**

# Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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September 8, 2018

Dear Editor:

(After reading an article on doctor recruitment in the Chronicle Herald I sent this as a Letter to Editor, using my home address in Maitland. I wanted to share my thoughts with Shoreline Journal readers)

It appears doctor recruitment initiatives in Nova Scotia are unraveling. Maybe that's a good thing, because previous efforts have not been delivering the required results to the satisfaction of residents, particularly in the rural areas.

With recruitment staff at a minimum, why not clean out the rest of the department leaving only an administrator and an assistant? Remainder of the staffing budget could be made available to community groups.

Colchester's Deputy Mayor Bill Masters initiated some movement on the concept of forming a "Doctor Recruitment Committee" to develop a

plan involving many people, including existing health professionals, to the assets and how communities would welcome medical professionals.

Instead of ramping up staffing levels, McNeil's government should embark on a plan to transfer funding to community groups to lead the charge on "Doctor Recruitment". This will cause communities be engaged and work hard to improve services in local areas. It's difficult to conceive how someone in an office in Halifax can fully understand and sell what a rural area can offer medical professionals.

Grassroots involvement and a "ground up" philosophy has always outperformed other models. Involve those who have a vested interest will deliver results and be less costly.

**Let's start the process now.**  
**Maurice Rees, Editor**

September 8, 2018

Dear Editor:

(After reading an article, about the lack of consideration of a sexual assault victim at the hospital in Truro, on front page of the Chronicle Herald I sent this as a Letter to Editor, using my home address in Maitland. I wanted to share my thoughts with Shoreline Journal readers)

I'm positive if a children entering grade primary noticed flames coming from the house across the street most of them would call 911.

I fail to understand how learned people, who have enough university education to work in an emergency department at a modern Nova Scotia hospital would not have a similar level of common sense.

If the hospital doesn't have trained people to deal with sexual assault victims, why not call the police? They have kits designed for this, or would be

involved in subsequent investigations.

How a victim was treated at the Colchester - East Hants Health Centre is deplorable. Maybe some of those students entering primary should be empowered to instruct hospital staff in a mandatory course, "Doing your job with Common Sense"

**Maurice Rees**  
**Maitland, Hants County.**

## OP-ED

### Supporting Victims of Online Bullying

By Justice Minister Mark Furey

Bullying today goes far beyond the playground, campus, or workplace; it can be online and quickly seen and shared by many, where the victim has no escape.

The rapid growth of smartphones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. These behaviours can result in psychological damage and trauma to the victim and sometimes with tragic consequences.

As both a parent and a concerned citizen I want those who are bullied online, or who are victims of the unwanted sharing of intimate images, to have access to justice and to the supports they need.

The Intimate Images and Cyber-Protection Act was adopted in July, in response to the growth of these issues. It provides victims with support and alternatives to criminal prosecution.

This legislation is about increasing access to justice.

Victims can now access free dispute resolution services, including advice, negotiation and mediation. They can

also seek a protection order through the courts for the alleged offenders to stop the activity, remove online content, prohibit further contact from the alleged offenders and seek compensation for damages.

The province's CyberScan unit will work with victims to help them understand their options and navigate the justice system.

Where possible, CyberScan will seek to resolve the matter informally through voluntary dispute resolution. Experience has shown us that many people want and are able to resolve matters outside of court. Often, the victim simply wants to have the harmful and hurtful content - whether it is a photo or an offensive post removed and removed quickly.

We are confident that many incidents of cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images will continue to be resolved through restorative approaches.

The department has developed tools that are understandable and easy to access, including a step-by-step guide on the legislation, found at <https://novascotia.ca/cyber-scan/>.

We have also partnered with the Legal Information So-

ciety of Nova Scotia to provide victims and others with free legal information and referrals to lawyers.

And we continue to focus on prevention by educating Nova Scotians on the harmful impacts of cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. Since 2013, CyberScan staff have already connected with over 24,000 Nova Scotia young people through public and class presentations. This will continue to be a significant focus of their work.

As the online world continues to evolve, new mediums and social networks will present new challenges and opportunities. It is important that we stay on top of them, and that we ensure this legislation remains responsive, current and effective. Because what is most important is that victims are protected and that they have access to the supports they need.

If you believe you are the victim of cyberbullying or that an intimate image of you was shared without your consent call CyberScan: 902-424-6990 (within HRM) or 855-702-8324 (toll-free)

**Mark Furey is Justice Minister for Province of Nova Scotia**

## 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  
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

### DEBERT:

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  
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

### MILLBROOK:

Super 8 Motel  
Hampton Inn & Suites

### NORTH RIVER:

Grant's Grocery

### PARRSBORO:

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

### TRURO:

Atlantic Superstore  
Best Western Glengarry  
Holiday Inn  
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave (Esplanade)  
Rath Eastlink Comm Centre  
Colchester East Hants Health Centre - Coffee Shop

### NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION:

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Bass River Consolidated;  
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and

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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.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

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HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada. | **Canada**

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