

REES' Pieces

Bright Future Ahead

Recently when I started to think about the theme of this month's column, in some ways, I felt like a frog on a lily pad. There were so many options I could not decide which one would be the best landing.

I could focus on: ongoing activities and apparent disrespect for USA residents; how the populist movement is changing UK politics; what might be the underlying themes of the Federal Election; the forest sector once outcome of Northern Pulp situations are finalized; why Colchester's council voted not to meet with Bible Hill's Commissioners, or official opening of Fundy Discovery Site Phase 1.

All potential subjects except Fundy Discovery Site would have negative overtones and I don't like being negative.

Instead, I decided on several positive subjects very important to Cumberland and Colchester: Approval of the Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark application; impact on the economy when broadband initiatives are announced; Debert Airport becoming a regional hub and mobilizing communities for self-betterment.

Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark. This combined initiative involving both Cumberland and Colchester Counties is the one project capable of putting northern Nova Scotia on the world stage. Colchester and Cumberland areas will become an iconic provincial destinations passing Peggy's Cove and Cape Breton. Once UNESCO designation is approved, serious planning will be required. Municipal governments combined with community group aspirations; businesses need for growth and citizen's desires to welcome thousands of people from around the world will need to work together to develop a master plan.

Millions of people want to experience the marvels of the Bay of Fundy. Some geoparks have attendance of 3-4-million people per year. In the early years, if we can attract 50,000 per year (1%) we will be on the road to iconic success. Yes, it will take a lot of work, utmost co-operation and mega-millions of investment, but we can grow like no other area in Canada.

Expanded Broadband and Cell Service: Cumberland and Colchester came together like never before to choose an ISP provider following a Response for Proposals (RFP) selecting who they wanted. An application was submitted by June 30th. Everyone is waiting for Develop Nova Scotia to announce its approval. Should the joint-municipal proposal be approved, it will be the first Federal Constituency to implement fibre-optic speed equal to or better than urban areas.

When approval is received rural areas of Cumberland and Colchester will be far ahead of other rural areas, and can set their sights on becoming as competitive as Halifax Regional Municipality. Rural Canada is projected to see a population increase of 7% in the next decade. This could result in Cumberland-Colchester leading all rural Canada area.

Debert Airport: It is welcome news professionals from Halifax International Airport (HIA) are offering to help Colchester plan a larger role for the Debert Airport. HIA's growth as a global centre will result in some business currently located there will be squeezed out and HIA executives want to find a home for them. Debert is seen as an ideal location for a variety of reasons: less occurrence of fog; centrally located to serve NB, PEI, and Cape Breton and an hour from Halifax.

With these natural assets, the future looks good for Debert. Council, staff and business interests must be ready for the long haul and ensure the proper planning and investments are times to when maximum results can be attained.

The future of Debert Airport has been on Colchester's list for over three years, but to develop successfully, as a regional transportation hub, timing has to be right. The movement started to gain traction when Michelin purchased land resulting in the closure of Coldbrook airport. Debert wasn't ready so the flying club relocated to CFB Greenwood.

With Debert on the radar screen it became a topic of conversation. If proper planning and patient investments can be made, Debert Airport will become an important spoke in regional airport infrastructure. It's up to Colchester councillors recognize the need to think outside the box with completion in the next decade.

Have I made my point? Colchester and Cumberland have a great future. We need to ensure the proper implementation plans are in place.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Closure of Northern Pulp a disaster

If Northern Pulp is forced to close on January 31, 2020 it will be a disaster for the entire province. Approximately 1,250 jobs in Colchester could be lost, and according to sawmill operators, all of them across the province, would close immediately thereafter.

It is a well known fact municipalities along the Northumberland Strait from eastern New Brunswick, including Shediac, and others; from PEI including Summerside and Charlottetown, and smaller areas, plus from Nova Scotia from the New Brunswick border down to and including the Pictou area are pumping toxic and, in some cases raw sewage, into the waters between PEI and Nova Scotia. (Municipal sewage has been flowing into the Strait far longer than Boat Harbour has been treated as a cesspool).

Since the question of an Environmental Review for Northern Pulp has been referred to the Federal

Government would it not be in order to wait until the Environmental Review is completed.

COULD THIS BE A PRUDENT SUGGESTION?

Ask federal, provincial and municipal politicians and Premier McNeil to withhold a final decision until the review is completed.

If the Review approves the Northern Pulp plan let them construct the required facility; operate within environmental legislation.

Boat Harbour still needs to be cleaned up, but the province's forestry industry and the long term economy of this great province should not be endangered.

Residents who agree with this logical approach need to become as vocal as Pictou County Opponents. Let your voices be heard and contact politicians at Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels.

Start writing and emailing today.

Maurice Rees
Maitland, Hants County.

Small Business Award Nominations Deadline Sept 30

Rural Nova Scotia business owner, Andrew Button founder of Mashup Lab, together with NSCC and the Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, held an event in Truro at Novel-Tea on August 27. Local entrepreneurs and community members gathered to celebrate the launch of the latest batch of new businesses in Mainland Nova Scotia. Attendees heard pitches from new entrepreneurs who have successfully completed the first phase of the Mashup Lab Dream Business program and are ready to launch their business idea.

As part of the Rural Innovation District initiative, Mashup Lab - a Bridgewater-based organization that supports rural entrepreneurs - teamed up with NSCC in 2018 to bring the Dream Business Program throughout rural communities in Nova Scotia. Mashup Lab Dream Business Program works with people from rural communities across Mainland Nova Scotia and takes them through a 6-month boot camp and mentorship program helping them develop their idea into a viable business.

"It helped me foster and find my passion and what really drives me" saying Dream Business graduate Brennan Googoo from Millbrook, NS.

Mashup Lab's Dream Business Program is scheduled to run 5 additional times over the remainder of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 is free to participants from mainland Nova Scotia and Cape Breton communities. That means as many as 50 new businesses could be started throughout rural Nova Scotia.

The next Dream Business Program kicked off for mainland Nova Scotia on September 10th and Cape Breton on Sept 12th and is still accepting applications now for both programs - www.mashuplab.ca/dreambusiness

To date, there have been 11 Cohorts and over 110+ graduates of the Mashup Lab Dream Business Program across Nova Scotia. "There are so many great ideas coming out of rural communities like Truro, Tatamagouche and New Glasgow, just to name a few, and the Dream Business Program helps people bring those ideas to life!"

Celebrating New Rural Nova Scotia Businesses

Only five days left to nominate a business for the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce small business awards, which will be presented at an award luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019 beginning at noon.

Businesses employing less than 100 people can be nominated for the following awards:

New Small Business of the Year, sponsored by Community Credit Union. *Criteria:* The New Small Business of the Year award recognizes a Truro or Colchester County business person whose dream of opening their own business has earned them the title of "Start-Up Entrepreneur" over the past year. Their business must have shown innovation and they must be offering a product or service that's unique to Truro and Colchester County.

Small Business Achievement, sponsored by PWC. *Criteria:* The Small Business Achievement Award recognizes a local entrepreneur who has been in business more than 10 years and demonstrates new product or service achievements, business growth and a commitment to their community.

Export Achievement, sponsored by Nova Scotia Business Inc. *Criteria:* The Exporter of the Year award will recognize a Truro or Colchester County business that has demonstrated excellence in exporting outside of Nova Scotia, has achieved noticeable growth as a result of entering the global marketplace, and has made a significant contribution to the growth to the local economy.

Small Business Innovation, sponsored by RBC. *Criteria:* The Small Business Innovation Award will recognize a Truro or Colchester County entrepreneur who has been in business for more than five years, who is continually modifying to demonstrate innovative leadership through the use of technology, development of new or value-added products and services and improved productivity. Those nominated for this innovation award portray community spirit and generosity towards clients past, present and future by consistently supporting community causes and grow employment in the local area.

Excellence in Community Development award sponsored by the Town of Truro. *Criteria:* The Excel-

lence in Community Development award will recognize a business or social enterprise that has made significant and notable contributions to their community (cultural, social, environmental and/or economic) and that serves as a catalyst for positive action, exhibiting the highest standards of leadership.

Agriculture/ Agri Small Business Award, sponsored by MNP LLP. *Criteria:* Recognizes an individual, group or organization or business where the principles of running a successful agricultural or related operation are applied and result in a thriving and environmentally friendly endeavour. The enterprise must derive more than 50 per cent of its annual revenue from agricultural related activities.

Small Business Growth Award, sponsored by BDC. Recognizes a business that has been in operation for more than two years demonstrating growth in a measurable way such as expansion, increased customers, new employees, new products.

Along with these awards, the Chamber will also present its third annual Start-Up Legacy Award Investing in Entrepreneurs provided in partnership with sev-

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

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:
Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:
Bass River Consolidated;
Great Village Elementary; Debert Elementary; Chiganois Elementary; Central Colchester Junior High School; Parrsboro Elementary and Parrsboro Regional High School.

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eral of its members. The award is valued at more than \$5,000 including a combination of cash, expertise in key business development areas and products and services.

"This award is an example of how chamber of commerce members are investing in the local economy by supporting a start-up with mentorship and advice as well as seed funding to take their venture to another level," said Chamber President Ron Smith.

Nomination forms are available from the chamber office at 605 Prince St. (Marigold Cultural Centre), Truro; online at www.truro-colchesterchamber.com and the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

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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