

REES' Pieces

Chignecto Isthmus must be top priority

The last three columns have in a minor way become an on-going serial in that they have focused on catastrophic events around the world. First focus, in July issue, suggested "if it has happened somewhere, it could happen here" Suggesting we should be alert as to what is happening, because thinking, "It won't happen here - WRONG!!!

I started recalling some of the 1950's mining disasters in Springhill. In the same column, I progressed to the current worry should the winds blow just the right way; we are at high tide, and get another Fiona or a stronger Fiona what might happen on the Chignecto Isthmus. All government levels from Victoria to St John's and in between must step up to the plate and now. The \$800-million to \$1-Billion it will cost to rectify over 5 years is small in comparison to the economic disruption of \$1.2-Billion that would occur in just 12 days. Mathematically at \$1-Billion economic damage per day. Three months without an operational Chignecto Isthmus would total \$100-Billion.

We can complain all we want about the 17 cents per litre from the Carbon Tax; about the rising cost of "just" living with escalating cost of food, heat & electricity; mortgages and rents approaching \$2,000 per month, or shortage of suitable housing.

As electors we need to keep the pressure on all politicians and public servants to finalize a redevelopment plan for Chignecto Isthmus and finalize it now. WE need to become as forceful, even to the point of being semi-radical to ensure a solution is put in place within a few months and tenders called to start re-development.

In the August version, I focused on the torrential rains which brought flooding to Windsor area and took out bridges and sections of roads in South Maitland and many areas of the province.

We were not advised, but if we had been watching CNN and other American channels covering similar flooding damage a week or less prior, we might have been better prepared, or at least not so surprised.

In September's version, I expressed my fears of what might be ahead in 2024 and 2025. The massive damage caused this year from wildfires Yarmouth and Tantallon to mention closeness, or BC and NWT. Our traditional thoughts of Yellowknife is cold, severe cold, desolation and mosquitos as big as horseflies when the weather does turn warm.

Imagine the requirement of having to move 20,000 people out of Yellowknife in a few days. What's happening and what can we expect in a year or two. I'll repeat my 2024/2025 fear: If the current climactic situation continues for the next couple of years, Nova Scotia is in big trouble. Wildfires like what happened in Yarmouth County and Tantallon will be small by comparison from all the downed wood and thousands of acres of forest holdings damaged in last fall's Hurricane Fiona. Wonder what discussions are planned or have been held by the Federal, Provincial governments with Municipalities of Colchester, Pictou and Antigonish Counties at the table.

Here is my basic formula for a plan to redevelop the Chignecto Isthmus. Governments must be prepared to spend up to \$800-Million maybe \$1-Billion to rectify the problems. Resolving the impasse could be easy. NB & NS pay 50% (\$200-Million) on the first \$400-million; 20% each on the next \$400-Million. Feds pay 100% of all costs in excess of \$800-Million.

Allocations on \$800-Million: NB: \$180-Million; NS: \$180-Million and Feds: \$440-Million. With Feds paying 100% of all costs over \$800-million. If final tab was \$1-Billion, feds would pay a total of \$840-Million of \$1-Billion.

In previous three months I have focused on how we need to prepare and realize what could happen if storm patterns; volumes of rain in a storm increases, and how a "Storm of Devastation" could affect our economic livelihood should the Chignecto Isthmus be compromised.

However, I did not expect we would have several Nova Scotians in Morocco to celebrate the Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark at an early September conference involving 1,500 delegates from 50 countries have the conference shortened due to a massive 6.9 earthquake. Such is the life of Mayor Christine Blair, Dr John Calder, Caleb Grant and others on the Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark team.

Recounts of the experience by Blair and Calder can be found, with photos on Pages 16 and 17.

Maurice

Mass Casualty Commission Monitoring Committee

Brad Johns, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, and Dominic LeBlanc, federal Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, appointed 16 members to the Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC) on September 1.

Former justice Linda Oland, Founding Chair of the PMC, led the membership proposal process. Since her appointment on May 31, Ms. Oland has spoken to victims' families, communities, municipal governments, policing associations, gender-based violence advocacy and support sectors, Indigenous community organizations, African Canadian community organizations and others mentioned in the Mass Casualty Commission's (MCC) recommendations and findings. In accordance with the MCC's recommendation regarding the diversity of representation, Ms. Oland sought to bring together regional and national perspectives.

Joining the committee are: Dan Jenkins, family member; term: September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024; Crystal Mendiuk, family member; term: September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024; Charlene Bagley, family member; term: Septem-

ber 1, 2024-August 31, 2025; Scott McLeod, family member; term: September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025; Jennifer Zahi Bruland, family member; term: September 1, 2024-August 31, 2025; David Burkholder, family member; term: September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026; Tammy Oliver-McCurdie, family member; term: September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026 and Mayor Christine Blair, Colchester County (municipal representative from the County of Colchester, Cumberland or Hants).

Other representative include: Alison Whelan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Reform, Accountability and Culture, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (senior representative from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); Simon Coakeley, Vice-Chairperson and member of the Management Advisory Board for the RCMP (member of the RCMP Management Advisory Board); Talal Dakalbab, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Crime Prevention Branch, Public Safety Canada (senior representative from Public Safety Canada); Chief Mark Kane, Annapolis Royal Police Service (representative from a local, regional, or national policing association); Jennifer Glennie,

Associate Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia (a senior representative from the Government of Nova Scotia); Kristina Fifield, Provincial Community Co-ordinator & Trauma Therapist, Community Based Sexualized Violence Trauma Therapy Program, Avalon Sexual Assault Centre (a representative from the gender-based violence advocacy and support sectors, preferably from Nova Scotia); Tuma Young, KC (a representative of Indigenous community organizations) and Vanessa Fells (a representative of African Canadian community organizations).

The formation of the PMC responds to the commission's final report, which called on the two governments to establish an independent body to monitor the progress of advancing and responding to the commission's key findings.

The PMC will soon hold its first meeting in Halifax and begin its important work, which includes developing a plan to monitor and report on the initiatives that Canada and Nova Scotia are undertaking in response to the MCC report.

The governments of Canada and Nova Scotia will

continue to advance the recommendations set out in the MCC's final report to ensure a similar tragedy never happens again.

On April 28 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia announced a combined \$18 million over two years to help address the unmet needs for mental health, grief and bereavement supports in the affected communities, as recommended in the commission's final report.

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.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:
Maurice Rees, Publisher,
902-647-2968, or E-MAIL:
maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

2ND Annual Reverse 50/50 Lottery Campaign

Submitted by Jamie Matthews

Thanks to the overwhelming support from the community, the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre is thrilled to announce its 2nd Annual Reverse 50/50 Lottery Draw campaign!

As a local community-based non-profit, receiving no core funding from provincial government, the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre relies on the generosity from those in the community. Along with the funding and grants it receives, it is fundraisers such as this that enables the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre to continue providing its free programs and services to those impacted by sexual violence.

"We would like to extend our thanks to the community and to local business leaders for their generous support of our organization, and the free programs and services we offer to those impacted by sexual violence. In the past year, their generous contribution of this current campaign that is still underway has enabled us to provide 1,195 hours of FREE counselling services, reaching an additional 985 people in the community and youth within in our schools," says Jamie Matthews, Executive Director of the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre.

Tickets for the 2024 draws in the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre's 2nd Annual Reverse 50/50 Lottery Draw campaign are now available until December 27, 2023 with the first of 52 weekly draws taking place on December 28, 2023. This year, the price of the ticket has been reduced to make them more affordable but still with the same 52 chances to win which includes: 39 weekly prizes generously donated by local business and organizations, 12 monthly \$500 cash prizes, and the \$6,500 Grand Prize!

Tickets in the Reverse 50/50 Lottery Draw make a perfect gift idea for the upcoming holiday season, tickets can be easily inserted into greeting cards or as stocking stuffers. The tickets can be purchased by:

Visiting ColchesterSAC.ca/lottery for more information; Asking any of the members of the team and Board of Directors of the organiza-

tion, or through our friends and volunteers in the community; Calling our Community Resource Centre at 902.897.4366 and purchases can be made right over the phone; Visiting our Community Resource Centre at 35 Commercial Street on the 4th floor, Monday-Friday, 9AM-4PM, and

Coming to our community tables in the community at: The Hub Shopping Centre (Truro Mall), 10AM-7PM, November 3rd-4th and December 1st-2nd. Community tables also at the Truro Farmers Market, 8AM-1PM, November 18th and December 16th

For information: Colchester Sexual Assault Centre 35 Commercial Street Suite 403 Truro, NS B2N 3H9 902.897.4366 | info@colchester-sac.ca | ColchesterSAC.ca

ABOUT THE COLCHESTER SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE:

Located in Truro, Nova Scotia, the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre's services are available to anyone in Colchester County, as well as Cumberland and East Hants, and beyond. Since its founding in 1992, and its formal incorporation in 1996, the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre (CSAC) is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening, empowering, and supporting those impacted by sexual violence in a gender-equitable, compassionate environment. The CSAC employs a team of Masters-level Counselling Therapists who provide numerous programs and services, including confidential one-on-one counselling and emotional support to their support network, group counselling, education and prevention presentations, and community-based advocacy and awareness initiatives.

For more information: Jamie Matthews, Executive Director; Deb Pryor, Chair, Board of Directors. Ph: 902.897.4366 (Office), or Cells 902.897.1322, 902.986.4031. Website: www.ColchesterSAC.ca ; Press Release: https://www.colchestersac.ca/news-reports/ Facebook: @ColchesterSAC / Twitter: @CSAC16 / Instagram: @ColchesterSAC

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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PHONE: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Toll Free 1-800-406-1426; Cell: 902-890-9850 • E-MAIL: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

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