

# REES' Pieces

## We've Got Questions for your Candidates

May be your only chance to see what your Candidate stands for. (Pages 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20)

This month most of my time has been spent planning the type of municipal election coverage would be most helpful to our loyal readers. There was not much to be done with candidates until nominations closed September 10<sup>TH</sup>. Of course, our top headline on Page 1 contained a major error. We said nominations closed on September 9<sup>TH</sup>, when in reality it was September 10<sup>TH</sup> (Would have been best to be correct, but if a mistake was going to happen best to list a day earlier) Would have been more embarrassing, if we chose a date after the 10<sup>TH</sup> and some one paid attention to us and missed the actual deadline.

Interest in the election seems higher than 2020. Of course 2020 was during the pandemic, which threw a monkey wrench into every facet of life. In 2020 four of the new councillors were women - Laurie Sandeson (District 2), Lisa Patton (District 8), Marie Benoit (District 9), and Victoria Lomond (District 10), who actually joined via a by-election to replace 12 year council veteran, Tom Taggart, who vacated the position to run and win provincially becoming Colchester North MLA succeeding Karen Casey. Tim Johnson (District 5) was the sole male new councillor in 2020 succeeding Lloyd Gibbs.

In this election 22 people filed nomination papers 13 men and 9 women. Three of the women were acclaimed: Laurie Sandeson (District 2); Lisa Patton (District 8) and Sherry Martell (District 7), who replaced Mike Gregory who did not re-offer.

It was amazing to see five candidates vying for the District 10 council seat. It shows that rural people are starting to pay a greater interest in Municipal politics. The increasing population in rural areas may be playing a part. In years gone by rural areas were suffering, fighting to keep schools open; local stores and gas bars open, but now the population in some rural areas, across the province, including Colchester, has increased so many schools are bursting at the seams. Of course quality of rural life; better cell phone service and expanded internet service is encouraging younger professional families to choose rural lifestyle. Improved cell and internet service also permits more people to work from home, either as an employee or entrepreneurs starting a new business. There is a noticeable number of young professionals giving up urban living as cell an internet services evolve for the better.

Much of the pre-election time was spent composing the two questionnaires for candidates, one for councillor candidates the other for the mayoralty candidates. The challenge was to chose questions about matters of interest the most of the general public.

I am not attempting to boast, but I suspect we will have the most extensive election coverage of any publication not only in Colchester, but of any print media across the province. The 2024 municipal election is probably the most import one for many decades. The reason being many rural areas are showing rapid growth and the pace of growth is going to increase substantially for the next decade. As a result it is very important the electors are engaged in order to be up to speed of the growth and changes coming to the municipality for the next 10-15 year growth cycle. I believe the rural areas of Colchester will show a 30% increase in population within the next decade. The immediate Debert area will almost double within seven years. If Scotia Port becomes reality all bets are off, because the promoters suggest 4,600 jobs within 20 years. If there is progress on improvements and expansion of the Debert Airport, look-out a number of larger international businesses will be knocking on our doors rushing to get established here. That's why we need the best of the lot around the council table.

My hope, we will double the number of votes cast in this election compared to 2020.

**Vote October 19**

**Maurice**

# Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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## OP-ED

### Nova Scotia Not to Blame for U.S. Softwood Lumber Duties

By Premier Tim Houston

This is a difficult time for the Canadian softwood lumber industry. The recent decision by the United States to increase softwood lumber duties to nearly 15 per cent is indeed a blow to Canada, and the implications are severe.

On this point I agree with William Pellerin's opinion piece in the September 3 edition of the Globe and Mail, "Blame Nova Scotia for billions Canada will pay in softwood lumber duties." His conclusion that Nova Scotia is to blame, however, is false and demonstrates a complete misunderstanding of the issue. Unfortunately, he is now repeating these erroneous comments in other media.

Nova Scotia is not responsible for the U.S. increasing Canadian softwood lumber duties.

The duty increases are directly impacted by changes in

## Softwood Lumber - Premier Tim Houston

dumping and subsidy calculations for lumber production in British Columbia. These have nothing to do with Nova Scotia because Nova Scotia prices are not used by the United States as a benchmark for British Columbia lumber producers.

It is inaccurate to suggest that Nova Scotia has been supplying information so the U.S. can determine the level of alleged provincial subsidies in other provinces, leading to high duties on Canadian softwood lumber. Nova Scotia participates in the proceedings only to provide facts when requested and when it is legally required to do so. Withholding information would open Nova Scotia, and the rest of Canada, to potential adverse duty rates for non-compliance.

Nova Scotia and our forestry sector have a right to participate in these proceedings like every other province in the country. Our lumber mills operate in a market dominated by private land stumpage transactions and pay some of the highest stumpage

prices within Canada as a result. Nova Scotia advocated to be exempt from U.S. duties because our stumpage market is based predominantly on harvesting from private land versus Crown land.

Nova Scotia has steadfastly defended our forestry industry's U.S. market access, which dates back to the 1980s. What is at stake in Nova Scotia is a forestry sector that generated \$1.8 billion in economic impact and 6,400 full-time jobs in 2022.

To suggest we have some quid pro quo with the U.S. government or industry is disturbing and wrong. Every province advocated for their interests when the U.S. investigation was originally launched back in 2016. We work closely with Global Affairs Canada on the softwood lumber issue, as it represents Canada's position on behalf of all provinces.

We will continue to defend our industry's interests in accessing the U.S. market. We do not need to have this important issue sidetracked by mis-

information.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca) or 902-424-6600

## Province Modernizes Policing Standards

Nova Scotians will have more effective and accountable policing as the Province modernizes standards and implements an audit system for policing agencies. On September 17, Attorney General and Minister of Justice Barbara Adams issued a new directive to all police agencies to comply with 39 standards to ensure consistent service delivery across the province.

The new standards represent five technical areas of policing that affect public safety, including critical incident response, police investigations, police service including organization and records management, and use of force.

The Public Safety Audit Unit is also being created to measure all police agencies against the standards. The unit will conduct audits, with results sent to the policing agency leader, the respective board of police commissioners or police advisory board, and the Department.

The events of April 18 and 19, 2020 led to recommendations outlined in the final report of the Mass Casualty Commission, which underscored the need for significant reform in the approach to policing in Nova Scotia. By implementing these new stan-

dards, the government is taking decisive action to ensure that law enforcement agencies are equipped to respond effectively to crises, while maintaining the highest level of public trust.

The RCMP in Nova Scotia and all municipal police agencies will be required to comply with all standards. An ongoing comprehensive review of policing may lead to the development of additional standards.

The new policing standards respond to the Mass Casualty Commission's final report recommendations. In particular:

P.62 calls for published policies and standard operating procedures to govern the interaction of police with the public, the manner in which policing services are provided to the public, and public communications;

P.63 recommends that specialized policing services are adequate, effective and efficiently organized to meet the demand throughout Nova Scotia, whether by contract with RCMP or by other means;

P.68 calls for police agencies in Nova Scotia to work with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice to establish shared standards for the collection, retention, and sharing of

information by police agencies;

The newly developed Public Safety Audit Unit will ensure that all Nova Scotia police agencies, RCMP and municipal, are compliant with the standards;

This is the first update to the standards since 2003;

There are currently 11 police agencies in Nova Scotia - 10 municipal police agencies and the RCMP serving as the provincial police agency - with almost 2,000 police officer positions\

Assistant Commissioner Dennis Daley, Commanding Officer, Nova Scotia RCMP said, "The Nova Scotia RCMP welcomes these standards as a step toward a more modern approach to policing and public safety in Nova Scotia. I commend the Department of Justice, and the Public Safety and Security Division more specifically, for their leadership to establish these standards. We, alongside our municipal policing partners and others, provided input and feedback throughout the collaborative development process to help shape the final standards and auditing function. The standards will support our collective work to create stronger, safer communities."

## The Shoreline Journal

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

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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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