

REES' Pieces

New Activities Needed

For many years, I've tried to encourage volunteers in small communities to look beyond expending their efforts simply for maintenance of buildings or other short-term crisis. As I was assisting Dorothy with her t-shirt business, at events in small communities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were required.

The more I travelled, the more I began to realize I have been on the right page for many years. The coastal area encompassed by Advocate Harbour along the shore to Truro has so many undeveloped assets, that it is amazing. It is those assets that cause "tourists" to really enjoy the time spent in the area.

The problem with suggesting to volunteers and community groups is they are already overloaded and with dwindling numbers far too few are doing too much of the work. However if they are going to significantly improve the economy they must find a way to work on events which attract large crowds and can make money, and pay wages.

Two types of community events which seem to be a big hit are motorcycle rallies and music weekends. The more interesting ones I've seen are ones hosted by small rural communities.

Events of these types are important because they bring a lot of people to the area causing economic spin-offs for every type of business to benefit.

Let me give you a few samples.

At the end of June we attended the Shediac Flea Market, previously known as the Moncton Flea Market. Attendance was hampered by heavy rain showers on each of the four days, but the vendors were there, and ready to sell. Even though it rained, there were still about 15,000 people paying to enter the selling grounds. A successful private sector event operated by two married couples.

In mid-July it was a "Newfie" weekend at Stewiacke River Park. There must have been over 500 travel trailers, RV's, and tents. People who have attended regularly indicated only about half of the normal crowd was there. The event is a family owned initiative.

At the end of July, we attended the first annual Cape Breton BikeFest in Sydney, which attracted approximately 3,000 motorcycles. While in Sydney, we learned about a new event "Rage in the Gage" the first annual motorcycle rally in Gagetown New Brunswick.

The following weekend we were off to Gagetown, as vendors for t-shirts the location was the Queens County Exhibition grounds with rough camping provided in an adjoining field. There were upwards of 1,000 motorcycles, lots of music and plenty of activities provided as the result of a volunteer community organization.

The community of Middle Musquodoboit, which has hosted the Halifax County Exhibition for 125 years attracted 7,500 people on Friday night for a truck pull.

This coming weekend, we are off to Digby to attend the 5th Annual Wharf Rat Rally, which in 2008 attracted 15,000 motorcycles. This year they anticipate 25,000 bikes and a total of 100,000 people over a five day period in a town of 2,000.

The outline of the various events we have attended this summer was not to boast about our travels, but to illustrate some of the events held in small communities very similar to the Cobequid Shore.

To grow tourism, improve the economy, and re-vitalize the Cobequid Shore area a series of similar events need to be organized. For instance Debert Industrial Park and adjacent lands would be an ideal location for a major flea market. Sussex, which I had not mentioned, recently attracted 900 vendors and in the vicinity of 60,000 people over three days. The crowds were down due to an Acadian Festival in Caraquet, which attracted 45,000.

Economy with the Recreation Centre would be an ideal location for a music festival weekend. Parrsboro with its municipal infrastructure could easily host a major event, which could draw up to 20,000 - 25,000 people over a three day weekend.

Just think of the economic spin offs if several summer events could be organized along the shore. There's at least 8 possible weekends in July and August.

If Gagetown can do it with rough camping, any community along the shore could easily replicate the efforts. To bring any or all these events to reality, just takes the initiatives of community volunteers.

Will anyone develop a vision to bring some new events to reality for 2010 or 2011?

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
(902) 647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194 Email: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Letter to the Editor

Enclosed is cheque to cover the renewal for Martin Slack's subscription.

He certainly enjoys the paper and reads it cover to cover.

Keep up the good work.
Margaret Barnes, Londonderry

How many angels?

How many angels would fit on the head of a pin was hotly debated in the middle ages in Christian Europe. Well known and respected scientists of the day were involved in the discussion. How many angels you ask? I don't know. In the end, I assume, they agreed it did not matter, as there seem to be no final tally and the discussions faded away.

A hundred years later some suggested the earth might not be flat! Again heated discussions, papal bans were issued, but in the end people did not fall over the edge when trying to sail around the world and the discussions faded away (there still is however a flat earth society).

Next it was rumoured that the earth might not be at the center of the universe. This was sacrilege!! A direct affront to God and his Creation! The Church took serious actions,

excommunicated a well known member (Galileo, I think) from the scientific community, promised eternal damnation of anyone even considering the suggestion that earth might be circling the sun.

Eventually, things got sorted out. It seems we do circle the sun, Galileo got a belated apology from the Pope and not one got damned for eternity (as far as we can tell).

And now we have Darwin. Any body ever heard of him? I think he lived around a hundred years ago. He had some strange ideas, man! He was a bit odd. He noticed how different and yet similar many animal and plant species were! Really, who cares!

Well he did and not only that: he started to wonder if there was a reason, an explanation. And he came up with this idea that somehow they might be related. Then he goes on to suggest that fossils (leftover from life forms from long ago) from different time periods show patterns that somehow seem to tie-in with current life forms.

Anyway he came to the conclusion that in the grand scheme of the Universe all living things on earth might have a common ancestor. (Just think of your cousin

being a cousin to a carrot 1 billion times removed, that would explain a lot about him, would it not?)

We are talking here about Evolution!

Yes Sir, you might you be related to a monkey!

Well as I follow the "discussion" in the Shoreline concerning evolution versus creation I am reminded of the practice called "bull baiting" in the not so noble sport of bullfighting.

It seems Troy is doing the baiting and poor Steve is being sucked into being the bull.

Part of the bull baiting practice is to disorient and exhaust the poor animal before the actual fight! Both seem to be frantically quoting (google?) all kinds of experts and or their opinions about evolution versus creation. My eyes are glazing over, so spare me the intimate details, please!

However, I could not resist to research (google) the "well known" Philip S. Skell, as quoted by Mr. Adams:

It seems he was not a bio-chemist at all but just a chemist who had his heyday 40 years ago. It is like quoting a carpenter as an expert on the living forest!

Anyway, what is the discussion about? What are they talking about. They seem to

me to argue about the How! But when you drag a Creator into the mix, the bigger question should be: Why?

It is about the missing and misunderstood pieces in this (as previously mentioned) overwhelming puzzle of life in which each new discovery or understanding, potentially opens new windows or closes old ones! (I hate to repeat myself)

Just because a piece does not seem to fit today, does not mean it will not fit tomorrow.

Are we going to ignore this intriguing puzzle? (How can we possibly do that?)

So much stuff, so many ideas, so many questions, so few answers.

It is exciting. How could it possibly be a threat to a Creator?

A greater understanding: yes. A greater appreciation: yes!

If there is one, we will find it (or Him or Her)

However, it can be a threat to a rather narrow image of one's creator!

The bottom line is, why would God create this puzzle, if not for us to solve it?

Why so complicated?

By the way: Who or what could have created God? (just wondering)

Willem van den Hoek

Nature Notes

by Fran Spalding • 647-2837



Maurice and I had trouble with our computer communications last month so the July Notes failed to appear. But since July is the month that shows us the most evidence of how busy the nesting season has been I'm putting them in again this month.

Of course the season began in earnest in May and June for many species, and even earlier for a few.

Linda Giddens sent me pictures taken by M Reddin, her new neighbours, of the remarkable cross-country trek of baby loons to the lake at Little Dyke. It begins with a scramble up a steep slope from the marshy pond to the north where they nest, then across a large field that this year was mowed and made things easier, and finally across a paved road and into the pond.

The mother seems remarkably calm in the near pres-

ence of humans (but probably isn't). Linda has recently told me one of the chicks has been lost, perhaps to an osprey (though the latter are fish-eaters, not fish-eater eaters).

As I expected might happen young evening grosbeaks are coming to our feeders from nests that can't have been too far away. It's been a good month for rarities: at the beginning of the month a mockingbird was singing his head off at the end of our

lane, heard and seen by Keith Chisolm and Shannon Breen before it moved on in search of a mate.

Then, toward mid-month a brown thrasher showed up at Allie Corbett's feeder in Five Islands and stayed for several days. Years ago one wintered at the Petersons' feeder in Economy and I once saw one at Thomas's Cove in the spring, also years ago.



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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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