

# REES' Pieces

Sometimes I wonder how sincere and dedicated elected representatives and public officials are when they announce various programs. Announcements generate fanfare. I wonder if such actions are reality or window dressing to appease a certain group of people.

Top of mind is the "Buy Local" and "healthy diet and lifestyle" initiatives to improve the economy, reduce healthcare costs and contribute to less pollution and lack of infrastructure and monetary support for community groups.

This summer as I have travelled to and participated in many community events, festivals and exhibitions I have noticed a major void in furthering the causes of each of the initiatives.

In several exhibitions, I have noticed booths occupied by various government departments and organizations closely aligned with or funded by government. The exhibits are nice, but they are entirely opposite to those from the private sector. How beneficial they are to furtherance of the organizations goals or to the general public?

Private sector and fund raising volunteer group exhibits are a beehive of activity. Business is trying to increase sales and community groups are trying to raise money to continue their initiatives. However, it's questionable the value public service entries are, other than providing funding from booth rental to the hosting organization.

Here's my qualms, many are not staffed, and if they are staffed, employees are packing up by 4:00 pm for the end of their work-day.

As we all know, unless it is parade day or 4-H day, the majority of attendance to the numerous exhibitions and festivals is in the evening. That is when staffing should be provided and benefits realized.

A problem exists in that when exhibits are static or have limited staffing, there is a danger the public will view this as another way money is wasted. Nova Scotia's exhibitions are a reflection of rural life, showcasing agriculture keeping the economy moving as it fills the food basket.

To make these exhibits more functional and actually benefit the general public, let's explore a few areas to eliminate any problems.

**Buy Local:** This initiative was announced to cause consumers to think about buying products made locally, with meats and vegetables being at the forefront. **Goal:** Change buying habits and support local producers.

**Healthier Lifestyles:** With obesity becoming a major problem, we are facing a crisis in healthcare delivery; it's cost and the impact obesity will have upon the quality of life. **Goal:** Encourage people to exercise and eat healthier foods.

**Supporting Community Groups:** In all areas, particularly rural Nova Scotia, community groups become important to preserve history, heritage and form a "nerve-center" for rural living. Success is because of the timeless commitment of volunteers. As burdens become heavy, volunteer "burn-out" sets in. Many groups are diminished, or are a shadow of their former self, because government has failed to show appreciation and provide infrastructure to permit them to be more successful.

Hundreds of thousands of people attend exhibitions wanting to be entertained, learn and receive additional value for the monies spent on admission. This year and in many years passed, we have missed an excellent opportunity with a captive audience. (If you don't believe me, just watch the crowds who gather to watch a salesperson show how a certain object chops, slices or, grates a certain vegetable.

As part of a solution, the exhibits mentioned earlier, would be more functional, interesting and educational if government would work with exhibition organizers to make space available (at a cost) for community groups.

Community groups could receive funding to implement programs for local products, and encouragement of a healthier lifestyle. This is harvest season. Community groups could provide exciting interactive presentations showing different foods: how to grow, prepare, cook preserve, or dry for consumption when out of season. Food sampling and classes would be the thrust.

This change in delivery causes everyone to win. Exhibitions retain booth rental income, displays are interactive, interesting and informative. Community groups are happy because they receive much needed funds for service delivery. The public is informed, entertained, participates in food sampling and doesn't see as much waste. Farmers and health officials are closer to achieving their goals. Government wins because they are seen as pro-active, not wasteful and doing something to help everyone across the spectrum.

Maurice

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*

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### Letter to Editor:

Thank you to our hometown, the community of Londonderry. Special thanks to Shawn and Becky, who I am told did the organizing, planning and work to have the ballfield in Londonderry named, "The Fred Gamble Memorial Ballfield". The memorial sign and planter are beautiful, as is the rejuvenated field.

To anyone who so much as removed a stone from the field, to those who toiled, in any way, to create this field of dreams words are difficult to find to express the overwhelming emotions, we as family experienced on Saturday.

There was no one any prouder than dad as he watched the transformation of the field - on any visit home - he would say, "You've got to see the work that's being done on the field", or

"They're really doing a great job". As dad's health got progressively worse, he still found the strength to get in that little gray truck, and park on the roadside by the ballfield and watch the work as it continued..... and I'm sure encourage you with his words.

Thank you. Thank you all for this honour for our Dad and making the 1st Fred gamble Memorial Tournament such an amazing event for our family.

In closing, for us to field on Saturday morning of siblings, sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, etc., and to actually win. Yes, I said win the tournament. Please know that we're getting a lot of help from Dad in that little grey truck parked on the side of the Road. That was still so very visible for us and encouraging us on.

Barbara McNutt

## Out and About with Ken

By Ken Kennedy

By the time you read this we will be on vacation or on the way back. Short vacation this year as we are taking our daughter, Pam, and her baby to Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and meeting Greg and his family there. It will be the first time our entire family will be together in about ten years.

Also by the time some of you read this, school will be back in session, and moms and dads everywhere will be swinging from the chandeliers! Where has the summer gone. Hate to bring this up but do you realize there is

only about 60 days until Halloween. I was just thinking that if all the billions of dollars to be spent on Halloween foolishness were diverted to Somalia and other drought-stricken countries, the world would be in a lot better shape.

Have you met any rude tourists this summer? I have. There was this woman from Niagara Falls who refused to remove her purse from a chair at a local restaurant so Pam had to put her baby on the floor. Fortunately, at the same restaurant we met a couple from Georgia who

was travelling in a 1921 Rolls Royce convertible. They thought the people down this way were friendly and nice but were anxious to get home since they had four flats already! I just hope and pray that when all the tourists get back home they will say they were glad to have met us.

It has not been a good summer, weather-wise, as far as, hot temperatures is concerned at least. That's the way I like it. I see where the temps in the Southern States have been in the 100's all summer. Not for me - I would die, like we almost did last summer's vacation.

Don't know too much about the local social scene these days since we have been staying close to home. With the gasoline prices so high, we have to take a hard look at our finances before we decide to go on any long drives.

We have to take a run

down to Parrsboro when we get back to see our new Community Chaplains Dora Fuller and Catherine Meredith who are waiting for all the paperwork to go through. Heard today there are two other ladies down that way who want to get involved with nursing home ministries as well. All this because of the little ad in the May issue of the Shoreline Journal.

I was speaking with Earl Chisholm today as he was getting ready to mow the Middle Road cemetery. He's been doing that for 37 years, he says, and no one wants to take it over. So if you have some spare time on your hands and you like to ride around on a lawn mower, please give Earl a call.

See you next time. Don't forget it is only about 100 days left before Christmas season!

## Jazz Series To Debut This Fall

A new jazz concert series is starting this fall in Truro, Nova Scotia. Local jazz guitarist Amy Brandon will be performing three duo concerts featuring special guests from Halifax and Ottawa. The series will focus on original compositions and collaborative arrangements.

A ticket for all three concerts is \$45 and can be purchased via phone by calling 902.986.5299. Tickets for individual concerts are \$20 each. The venue is a private home - so space is very limited. Reservations are recommended. All concerts begin at 8pm.

**Saturday, September 24, 2011: Bassist Danny Parker**

A well-known bassist in Halifax, Danny Parker teaches bass in addition to working with numerous local musicians such as Paul Cram, Scott MacMillan, Shan Arsenault and Daniel Matto. He recently performed at the 2011 Halifax Jazz Festival.

**Saturday, October 22, 2011: Guitarist Geordie Haley**

New music guitarist Geordie Haley recently arrived in Halifax from Toronto, where he was co-curator of the Leftover Daylight series and recorded, performed and toured with his Everytime Band, the Sea of Song Trio, the East Delta Trio and the Geordie Haley Trio.

**Sunday, November 27, 2011: Saxophonist Richard Page**

Woodwind musician Richard Page is a performer and educator living in Ottawa, Ontario. His latest chamber jazz project, A Large View from a Small Window, features a sixteen-piece string ensemble. Over the course of his career Richard has performed with artists such as Bob Brookmeyer, Rick Wilkins and Darcy Hepner and has performed internationally at the Montreaux and Vienne Jazz Festivals. Richard will be in Truro as part of a week-long tour of NS, NB and PEI.

**About Amy Brandon:**

Guitarist Amy Brandon has been teaching and performing jazz in Nova Scotia since 2007, after a move from Ottawa, ON. Recent career highlights include touring with Montreal jazz guitarist Mike Rud and receiving a Nova Scotia Culture & Heritage grant to study in New York City with renowned American jazz guitarist and Berklee professor Sheryl Bailey. Amy has performed at many venues including The Ottawa International Jazz Festival.

The  
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