



# The Shoreline Journal

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## The Jennings: "Enough is Enough!"

By Linda Harrington

When Nancy and Larry Jennings bought a piece of land on the Little Dyke Road back in 1989, there were farm fields and woodlands as far as the eye could see. Nancy's father had owned a farm house in the area since 1970 and she had always loved the peacefulness and tranquility of country living.

Nancy says they hoped to start their own legacy with a country home to leave their children or grandchildren, so they started construction of their "forever" home in 1990. Little did they know those farm fields would eventually become gravel pits and tranquility would become just a memory.

The farmlands next to the

Jennings property were transferred from AA Putnam & Sons, a well-known farming family, to MSD Enterprises (one of the brothers of the family farm operation) in the early 1990's. Gravel excavation later began in the field about a quarter mile down the road from the Jennings boundary line. "It was a family owned business, with

one dump truck and we knew the family so we weren't bothered by things in the beginning," says Nancy. "The excavators eventually chewed their way close to our boundary line. Since we enjoyed good rapport with our neighbours, we still didn't want to make waves, even though there were inconveniences."

Nancy and Larry Jennings said they put up with the day to day operations of a gravel pit in their back yard by telling themselves the gravel would surely run out soon. They hoped the pit would be cleaned up and life would return to being at least quiet, if not as scenic as when they bought their land.

Things continued to go from bad to worse. Pit one was just the beginning and the small family run business was eventually bought out by Irving owned OSCO. Pit 2 and Pit 3 were added in 2007. "Since the mid-1990's we have watched the land around us being devoured more and more, by bigger and bigger machinery," says Nancy. "The few locally owned dump truck operators who used to travel the road have now been replaced by a steady,

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## FRONT PAGE BRIEFS September 2017

**STRESS RELIEF:** I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later: I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. I have ID that gets me into bars; The women I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant,... And I don't have acne. Life is great.

**A Peace Ceremony** is planned for September 21st at the Veterans Memorial Park, Bass River starting at 11:00 am. WCCS will be participating in "Peace is a Dream Unfolding". The students will be puppeteers for the giant Peace Doves (from the Jane Goodall Peace Initiative) which will, at the end of the ceremony move out into the world to spread peace. Organizers hope people of various cultures and faiths will attend the ceremony in a call for peace.

**Colchester North MLA** and Finance and Treasury Board Minister Karen Casey will deliver the 2017-2018 provincial budget on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

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Nancy & Larry Jennings put the finishing touches on their more personalized version of a sign asking to "STOP the Irving OSCO gravel pit, save our Wetlands, save Little Dyke Lake" that has been posted in several places around the community. They feel "Enough is Enough!" (Harrington Photo)

## By-election to be held October 21

By Maurice Rees

The resignation of Councillor Doug MacInnes from District 9, which was formalized at a special meeting of council on August 2nd has necessitated a by-election to be held to represent a councillor for the area. Council committee is recommending to council at its August 31st meeting, the election be held Saturday, October 21, 2017.

The Municipal Elections Act (MEA) requires an election be held on a Saturday within 11 weeks from a council position becoming vacant. The maximum time would have been October 28th.

A recommendation brought forward by staff to council committee included the CAO be authorized to hire Lorraine Dawson as the Returning Officer. Estimated costs of the by-election, including those related to labour, space rental, advertising and signage, and other consumables is in the range of \$13,000 - \$20,000. An acclamation

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## Council Decides Against Repaving Agreement

By Maurice Rees

Colchester council at its meeting on August 31st is expected to wash its hands of involvement in or responsibility for the condition of provincially owned streets in sub-divisions. Council committee at its August 17 meeting decided to recommend to council the municipality not proceed with a new three year agreement with NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

CAO's office received a copy of the province's proposed new Three-Year Cost Share Agreement for Subdivision Streets. Council has entered into similar agreements in the past, with the last agreement covering fiscal years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. The proposed new agreement covers fiscal years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The agreement applies to subdivision streets which are provincially owned and were created prior to 1995. It proposes 50% cost sharing for the

paving, re-paving or double chip sealing of any provincially owned subdivision streets in the County of Colchester. Historically, provincial subdivision streets in Colchester County which were paved under this agreement have been funded 50% by the province and 50% by the fronting properties, based on a successful petition process.

The proposed new agreement covers not only paving of gravel roads, but also paving and double chip sealing of previously paved roads. The three year cost sharing agreement for fiscals 2015/16 to 2017/18 also covered paving, repaving and double chip sealing, however the agreement for fiscals 2002/13 to 2014/15 did not include repaving or double chip sealing.

The province has requested a response to the proposed new cost sharing agreement by September 15, 2017. The previous agreement has been a contentious issue with council, with

many councillors feeling the municipality should not be responsible for 50% of the cost of provincially owned streets in sub-divisions.

With a poor record of successful completion of the petition process, which created hostilities towards staff at the public meetings when explaining the proposed projects and the cost implications to taxpayers for the 50% share, council committee decided on motions by Councillors Cooper and Gibbs it was approved not to renew a three year agreement with the province.

With Council declining to enter into a new agreement, Colchester would not be eligible for cost shared paving of provincially owned subdivision streets for three years. Around the table during discussion on the matter, it was suggested in future a subdivision developer would be responsible for street construction, paving plus laying the water and sewer lines.



Millbrook First Nations will host their 19th annual Pow Wow on September 1, 2, and 3. The schedule begins with evening entertainment starting at 6:00pm Friday. Shown above is Millbrook Pow Wow dancer Delta Augustine. More information enclosed on page 10 and 11. (Photo submitted)

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