

# REES' Pieces

## We need to promote our area

Sometimes, when you follow the news as much as I do, it's a hard decision on what to focus on in this space. There are so many events I'd like to comment on, but bring myself back to reality and say to myself, "How does that impact West Colchester?"

Yes, many of those events are of concern to us, but in the local picture it won't affect us unless we have similar things going on here.

Take for instance, the riots and one person dead in Charlottesville, Virginia, then how President Trump presented three different reactions in three consecutive major statements... Saturday, Monday and Tuesday when he went off script and spoke directly from the heart.

Regardless of what people say they expect of or from President Trump, the only thing consistent is he will say and do whatever he believes on the day he believes it.

But now let's come back to focus on West Colchester. We have many assets, but we haven't become aggressive in letting others know what we have to offer. Tourists visiting our area recognize the assets, and are eager to come back to enjoy them again. However, we take them for granted, don't feel they are important hence we fail to develop a plan to let others know.

A prime example of not waving the flag locally has just occurred. Councillor Taggart, in his column, writes about how much of an attraction it is to others in other countries and regions. I'm going to talk about "Not Since Moses", attracting hundreds of people from around the world to run through mud on the ocean floor.

It is one of those most unique attractions, which attracts people, but it is not being promoted locally. We often complain the only tourism attractions promoted heavily are Peggy's Cove and the Cabot Trail with an endless number of photos in and on provincial media on a consistent basis. However, Not Since Moses gets barely a mention. I'm trying to be illustrative and constructive here, but for two years in a row I have not seen a press release issued.

It is the type of event which should be publicized locally if for no other reason that to attract spectators to the shore, if not to encourage more Nova Scotians to participate in the run. It's unique, and it's world class. Yet not a word, locally. (We couldn't even get a photo of the 2017 event).

Maybe the organizers are under staffed. Maybe there are so few of them they couldn't handle any more people. If that is the case, they should say so, a year in advance so that others could step forward to help. Maybe they need a long term plan, with input from others, to grow the event with more participants and spectators.

Think of the missed opportunities for struggling local community groups, who could participate with fundraisers and additional activities keeping more spectators busy during the day and causing them to stay in the area longer.

Not since Moses could be much bigger. Let's go back in time. When the W. D. Lawrence was launched on October 27, 1874, historians say approximately 4,000 people lined the shores in Maitland. She was the largest wooden sailing ship of her day, one of the largest wooden ships ever built and the largest sailing ship ever built in Canada.

If crowds that size arrived for an event 143 years ago, how big could the crowd be with today's available modes of transportation, and social media to promote it.

Councillor Taggart is focused on ensuring "the shore" or West Colchester will have a strong presence at the yet to be developed Palliser site "tourism" infrastructure project. He's also a big supporter of promoting to the rest of the world what the Bay of Fundy has to offer.

I'm sure he would like to see more people participating in and a much larger crowd of spectators on the shore during this fantastic event. Is there something you would like to do to help? Is there a way residents of West Colchester could lend a hand, and help grow this unique event into an even more successful world class attraction?

Maurice

## CABOT Makes Presentation To Council

By Maurice Rees

Brookfield based CABOT (Citizens Against Burning of Tires) were the third and final presenting group appearing before Colchester council on August 1st. The group are fighting against LaFarge being given permission to burn used tires at their plant in Brookfield.

The group was originally formed ten years ago, when LaFarge was given permission to burn tires. Their evolving story included benchmarks of decisions from November 2006 through to November 19, 2007, when a report was released by the Used Tire Advisory Committee recommended used tires would not be incinerated in the near future in Nova Scotia.

The advisory committee report was followed up in November 2008, when an Act to Amend Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1994-95, the Environment Act, to Prohibit the Burning of Tires in Nova Scotia with a Private Members Bill Introduced

by MLA Keith Caldwell was passed with third reading on November 21, 2008.

When the matter was before the public ten years ago statements that Tire Incineration is Dangerous because of: Higher Levels of Toxic Air Pollution; Public Health Impacts; Food Chain Bioaccumulation; Agricultural Animal Health Impacts and Ground Water Contamination.

"Lafarge plays hardball with every single cement kiln community and they tend to vigorously deny, deny deny that they are causing any pollution problems for the nearby residents", was a quote attributed to Dr Neil Carman, PhD Chemistry, Dalhousie University.

CABOT also listed the Divert NS - nothing wasted mission statement as part of its presentation to council. The mission statement is: "To work with Nova Scotians to improve our environment, economy, and quality of life by reducing, reusing, recycling, and recovering resources. Councillor Tom

Taggart, who sits on the Divert NS board, excused himself from the presentation and sat in the gallery.

An excerpt from the Divert NS 2016 annual report stated that Nova Scotia recycles 1.1-Million tires each year and "Used tires are converted into Tire Derived Aggregate (TDA), a multi-purpose product that can be used in construction and engineering projects. This product is produced by a local company, which means in addition to helping our environment, we are supporting local business too". 2016 Budget revenues in the annual report were listed as: Tire program \$4,145,889.

A slide included in the presentation referred to a statement published by CBC news which stated, "A spokesperson for the Environment Department said the Environment Act doesn't need to be amended to allow tires to be burned. If Lafarge is granted an industrial approval, which is the last step before the project can begin,

## Special Meeting – 20 Minutes

By Maurice Rees

During the special meeting of council on August 2, Colchester Municipal council spent slightly less than 20 minutes in public session to deal with acceptance of letter of resignation from Doug MacInnes, councillor District 9 and to set the course for how council is going to handle matters following allegations of racism levied against two councillors.

Mayor Blair called the meeting to order, asked for roll call,

then dealt with the first item on the agenda, which was acceptance of the Letter of Resignation submitted by Doug MacInnes, who had represented District 9 since 2012. With just over six minutes in public session, council moved to go into "camera".

With everyone out of the council chamber, councillors, senior staff and county solicitor met in camera for about 90 minutes. When council reconvened in public session it

lasted for least than 10 minutes. Bible Hill councillor, Eric Boutilier moved that council ask staff to research with Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for various versions of a Code of Conduct and to report to council. Motion passed.

The matter of setting a date for the by-election was set aside to the August 17th council committee meeting for finalization.

## FORCE Makes Presentation to Council

By Maurice Rees

Melissa Oldreive, Research and Outreach Manager and Sandra Currie, Outreach and Public Programs Assistant for Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) were first of three presenters for Colchester Municipal Council presentations evening on August 1st. Oldreive described FORCE's role as: Host: onshore and offshore infrastructure, grid connection; Steward: environmental monitoring, research, engagement.

FORCE's offshore assets were listed as: Electrical infrastructure - Subsea power cables; Substation; Transmission line; Holds Crown Land Lease for access to seabed; Environmental Assessment approval for demonstration and Research and subsea instrumentation platforms.

FORCE also operates a Visitor Centre, which attracted 5,600 visitors in 2016 and more than 29,000 since 2011. Prior to opening in 2011, it was estimated probably 300 visitors were expected. Majority of visitors are from NS, but records indicate they have come from all over the world. FORCE focuses on opportunities for school groups and organized tours. The centre is Open 10 - 5 all week during July and August.

There are five leaseholders at the FORCE site which includes: Cape Sharp Tidal, Venture Black Rock Tidal Power, Atlantis Operations Canada, Minas Tidal and DP Marine Energy. FORCE is also responsible for monitoring which includes:

**International Experience** (tethys.pnnl.gov) - **International projects:** no collisions by marine life have been observed around turbines to-

date; Monitoring technologies need improvement - need for innovation and Need to study these findings in each tidal environment.

**Bay of Fundy:** \$15m investment, supporting 93 research studies and underwater sensor program; Monitoring plans and reports (incl. quarterly reports) reviewed by independent monitoring committee and government regulators; Next step is demonstration: FORCE monitors general site effects; berth holders monitor turbine effects; Fish: understanding fish density and distribution to estimate probability of encounter with turbine;

**Marine Mammals:** recording Harbour Porpoise vocalizations to understand deterrence/attraction, beach walks program; Seabirds: visual, shore-based surveys; Acoustic (Marine Noise): drifting hydrophones to measure ambient/turbine soundscapes and Lobster: catchability study

**Fundy Advanced Sensor Technology has Program Objectives:** Advance capabilities of site characterization; Establish environmental monitoring standards and technologies and Develop marine operating methodologies.

**Moving Forward next Steps include:** Deployment of 2 turbines in 2017; Near and mid-field monitoring are key priorities; Planning for additional deployments 2018; Continued EEMP data collection and analysis; Adaptive management; Public reporting and Continued FAST project work, innovations.

that will serve as the permit".

The CABOT presentation also included details about tests done at other LaFarge locations with details of what is emitted into the atmosphere.

The Shoreline Journal

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Dominion Chair Factory Store

### BIBLE HILL:

C.W. Fraser Pharmacy  
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### DEBERT:

Barnhill's Superette  
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Masstown Market Five Islands

### GLENHOLME:

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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.

MAILING ADDRESS: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, Nova Scotia, B0M 1B0.

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EDITOR PUBLISHER: Maurice Rees • ADVERTISING: Maurice Rees • CIRCULATION: Dorothy Rees

Canadian Publications Mail Products Agreement #40048924, ISSN #1209-9198

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HST: #890564404RT001. Printed by Advocate Printing & Publishing Ltd, Pictou, Nova Scotia

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada. | Canada

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