

# REES' Pieces

## Total destruction ARE WE NEXT?

Three months ago when I started writing about "if we see things happening elsewhere" I didn't anticipate it to be the main theme for at least three issues, maybe more. It was a gem of an idea which quickly gained traction primarily because certain things happened which were almost identical to what was included in the previous article.

July issue revolved around our common thoughts "It won't happen here". Traditionally, even though we are aware of things happening elsewhere, we default to "it won't happen here, we're in Nova Scotia."

It's time we sat up and took notice. Here's an example: When I was in elementary school, as I remember it, one of the panels in a comic strip showed the character watching television on a wrist watch. At the time far fetched and impossible.

40 years later not only were cameras in wrist watches; James Bond had spy cameras embedded in the buttons on his shirt.

If you see things happening elsewhere; brace your feet, and get prepared. Not only might it or something very similar will happen here.

The August version of **Rees' Pieces** continued the basic theme, but changed to "it has happened". Massive flooding from typhoons in Asia, happened in much smaller way with 300 Mil of rain within 12 hours from Peggy's Cove across the province touching westerly part of HRM (Bedford & Lr. Sackville) to St Croix and Windsor.

**Result:** Millions of dollars in damage and a segment of the population not prepared. Will take years to resolve all flooding issues.

Two weeks later four hours of torrential rain caused "minor" flash flooding in Truro, and washing out a portion of Hwy 215 at South Maitland, where 18 hours earlier, repairs were completed reopening Hwy 215 from flooding two weeks prior. The latest washout took four long days to complete.

The extensive heat dome lasting several weeks was not as severe here as many states south of the border. For 15 days straight Phoenix suffered temperatures in excess of 110 degrees. Every day, CNN would report "in excess of 100-million people under heat alerts today".

Next on the list is Wildfires in Canada, USA and around the world. Canada has seen 13-Million hectares ravaged by fire (10 times the average over 10 years). In Yarmouth County and Tantallon hundreds of homes and businesses were lost.

This week wildfires on Hawaii's island of Maru has killed 93 people in the town of Lahaina with at least 1,000 people remain missing. Over 2,200 homes and businesses reduced to ashes with estimates to rebuild estimated at \$5.53-Billion just for the resort city.

**Here's my 2024/2025 fear:** If the current climactic situation continues for the next couple of years, Nova Scotia is in big trouble. Wildfires like what happened in Yarmouth County and Tantallon will be small by comparison from all the downed wood and thousands of acres of forest holdings damaged in last fall's Hurricane Fiona. Wonder what discussions are planned or have been held by the Federal, Provincial governments with Municipalities of Colchester, Pictou and Antigonish Counties at the table.

**Potential total economic collapse:** Two prominent people, acting like toddlers having an ego spat in a sandbox, are putting our livelihoods and future at risk. Justin Trudeau and Tim Houston are the sandbox spatters.

Nova Scotia is being exposed to serious consequences over who will pay for the preventative maintenance on the Chignecto Isthmus. Governments must be prepared to spend up to \$800-Million maybe \$1-Billion to rectify the problems. Economic studies suggest a 12 day interruption would have a total value of \$1.2 billion. The preventative work will take at least 3 years to complete. Resolving the impasse could be easy. NB & NS pay 50% (\$200-Million) on the first \$400-million; 20% each on the next \$400-Million. Feds pay 100% of all costs in excess of \$800-Million.

Allocations on \$800-Million: NB: \$180-Million; NS: \$180-Million and Feds: \$440-Million. With Feds paying 100% of all costs over \$800-million. If final tab was \$1-Billion, feds would pay a total of \$840-Million of \$1-Billion.

Let's put them in the sandbox, sell tickets to watch; knock their heads together. Only rule can't leave until agreement is reached.

**Maurice**

## Registration Open for Nia Summit

Led by a group of African Nova Scotian (ANS)/Black youth, the Nia Summit for ANS/Black high school students takes place September 22 at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook.

With partners the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute and the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, the Nia Summit provides ANS/Black youth the opportunity to take part in an

event created by their peers, one that addresses their unique needs, amplifies their voices and facilitates community-building.

It is named for Nia, the fifth principle of the Nguzo Saba, which means 'purpose.' It refers to the collective purpose of the ANS/Black community to uplift one another, and to build a future that benefits all Black people. The Nguzo Saba was developed to reinforce aspects of African cul-

tures that contribute to building and supporting family, community and heritage.

The event takes place during the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia and signifies a commitment to supporting youth.

As many as 130 students from across the province will attend a full day of workshops, with speakers and a film screening exploring themes of anti-oppression, anti-Black

racism, human dignity, innovation and transformative change. Components of the Nia Summit will be livestreamed to allow students to attend virtually and engage in dialogue with peers on these themes.

**African Nova Scotian/Black youth who will be entering grades 9 through 12 during the 2023-24 school year can register at:**

<https://bccns.com/nia-summit/>

## Five Categories of Accessibility Grants

Businesses can apply for a cost-shared grant to make accessibility-related improvements. Improvements can be for clients and customers, for employees, or both.

Five categories of funding are available:

**Built Environment:** Removing physical barriers for persons to access business services, by installing ramps, accessible washrooms, door openers, and other projects.

**Accessible Communications Services:** Ensuring that all customers, clients, and employees can access information related to a business.

**Assistive Devices:** Ensuring that employees and consumers who are person with disabilities have the devices they need to effectively do

their jobs and access places of business.

**Universal Design Capacity Building:** Training in the field of Universal Design, both for technical services professionals and for persons with disabilities wishing to better understand its value.

**Accessible Transportation:** Providing support for businesses to improve access to transportation services.

The Business ACCESS-Ability program deadline for 2023-2024 fiscal year is September 29, 2023.

**For more information on applying contact the chamber office at: 902-895-6328 or email [oa@tcchamber.ca](mailto:oa@tcchamber.ca)**

## Chamber Issues Call for SBW Awards Nominations

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce has opened a call for nominations for the 2023 Small Business Week Awards. These awards celebrate business success, innovation, and leadership, as well as contributions to create a thriving, growing community.

"Small businesses are at the heart of our community," said Executive Director Sherry Martell. "This is an opportunity for the community to recognize them for their ongoing contributions that bolster our local economy, supply first-rate goods and services, donate endlessly to fundraisers and so much more. From new start-ups to legendary businesses, our awards shine a light on our dedicated, hardworking entrepreneurs."

A new award has been added to the lineup this year, Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion, to celebrate businesses or non-profit organizations operating within the Truro-Colchester area, working to advance a more accessible, equitable, diverse, and inclusive business community.

There will be 14 awards presented by the Chamber at this year's luncheon on Oct. 19 at Legends Gaming Centre in Millbrook First Nation.

Other categories include: New Small Business of the Year, Small Business Achievement, Export Achievement, Small Business Innovation, Excellence in Community Development, Agriculture/Agri Small Business, Small Business Growth, Workplace Excellence, Small Business of the Year, Newcomer Business of the Year, Tourism Business of the Year and Small Business Environmental Stewardship.

The Chamber's Rising Star Award will be presented to a start-up business which includes a \$2,500 prize and mentorship.

Nominations will be accepted by the Chamber until Sept. 15. To submit a nomination, complete the nomination form online at [www.trurocolchesterchamber.com](http://www.trurocolchesterchamber.com).

Finalists will be announced in early October. Tickets cost \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. The last day to register to attend this event is Oct. 10.

**For more information about the Chamber or Small Business Week events, visit [www.trurocolchesterchamber.com](http://www.trurocolchesterchamber.com), email [oa@tcchamber.ca](mailto:oa@tcchamber.ca) or call 902-895-6328**

## Joint Meeting Colchester / Stewiacke

**By Maurice Rees**

A special joint meeting of the Council's from Colchester and Town of Stewiacke was held in Colchester council chambers on Tuesday, August 22. There were two items on the agenda, one was a negotiation matter, which was moved to closed session. Colchester meetings are held in person and on Zoom. This reporter was listening on Zoom, but that evening Zoom was unstable and would disconnect

every three minutes.

The other item was to discuss whether or not to form a joint committee on matters relating to dealing with the RCMP. This topic was made necessary to fulfill one of the many recommendations listed in the final report of the Mass Murder Commission. Previously a joint committee existed but was disbanded because a quorum was not obtainable on several scheduled meetings.

The purpose was this meeting was to explore if a joint committee was desirable and workable to meet the recommendations from the Mass Murder Commission.

The August 22nd meeting also included Greg Brown, Stewiacke's New CAO even though it was his second day on the job. Results of the councils' decision on the matter is not known because this reporter was unable to continue with Zoom.

## Truro Jr. A Bearcat Exhibition Home-Game Schedule

Friday, September 1, 7:00pm vs Valley Wildcats

Friday, September 8, 7:00 pm vs Amherst Ramblers

**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.

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**TRURO:**

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Rath Eastlink Comm Centre

Colchester East Hants Health

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Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:

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Great Village Elementary; Debert

Elementary; Chignois Elementary;

Central Colchester Junior High

School; Parrsboro Elementary and

Parrsboro Regional High School.

We are interested in placing the Shoreline Journal in additional locations. If you have a suggestion, or wish to have the Shoreline available from your store, please contact:

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