

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Census form return "must" be mandatory

The Editor

Today's (August 11, 2010) news contained an item that the Harper government "has blinked" over the issue of the census form.

I agree that the threat of jail for not completing the census form is a bit heavy handed. But there must be a way to have Canadians comply with the need to return their census form.

As we have heard, the data gathered is very important for the planning needs for all levels of government. Also, future gen-

erations doing research, will find this information invaluable. I, myself, have looked at the census of 1871 and 1881 to find information about my ancestors.

Today, if you don't pay a speeding fine it can be deducted from your GST rebate or your income tax refund. I suggest that if you don't return your census form (long and/or short) you face a fine of \$500.00. If you don't pay, I'm sure the government can find a way to recover it.

Fraser Patterson
Ross Ferry

Ingonish needs big time private sector investors

The Editor

This jewel on Cape Breton's world famous Cabot Trail has attracted millions of tourists. But this formerly quintessential magnet for all tourism in the Atlantic region has become a drive-through zone for it is mostly owned and being mismanaged by the federal and provincial governments.

The yoke of its politicized jobs has been in place so long that the community lacks private sector vitality and has depended on Employment Insurance stamps for many years.

Too many generations of private sector entrepreneurs and investors have been undermined by permanent government subsidies that may or may not be available "next year." The

world-class Keltic Lodge and Canada's No. 1 golf course (54th in the world) are both owned by government and being maintained at virtual subsistence levels.

Canada needs Ingonish to be an attractive, well-managed private sector tourist area. It is the major draw taking visitors past hundreds of other tourist sites and operations in four Atlantic provinces.

It's way past the time for successful private sector operators with deep pockets to own outright the resources of Keltic Lodge, the Cape Breton Highlands golf course and the ski hill because Ingonish on the Cabot Trail is a national year-round treasure.

Jim Peers,
Sydney

Rebuilding & clearing making trail safer

The Editor

The road construction along the St. Anns area of the famous Cabot Trail is long overdue.

The first five kilometres, beginning at Exit 11, is well done. Trees were cleared so the sun could finally shine on the pavement and help melt the snow.

The work also cleared the view for drivers to deal with the potential hazard of deer and moose coming out on the road.

For tourists especially, who are not used to the turns, the clearing of the trees has made driving much safer.

For those of us who use the road year-round, the new pavement will be easier on our vehicles and hopefully they will last a bit longer and we won't have

so many repair bills. The new pavement is much easier to plow snow off in the winter.

The government has been lobbied long and hard to have the Cabot Trail reconstructed. My one wish was for bicycle lanes. Almost every day the bicycle is becoming more and more popular as a way to travel the trail.

The Cabot Trail is the drawing card for visitors coming to Cape Breton. We do need a full-time crew trimming and cutting trees, especially along our waters.

I do hope the reconstruction work continues until the trail is completed.

Pamela Morrison,
North River Bridge

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Victoria Standard welcomes letters of interest to our readers. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the staff of The Victoria Standard. All letters must bear the signature of the writer and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. Addresses and phone numbers will not be printed. The use of any letters submitted is at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, for clarity, or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.
Mail to P.O. Box 629, Baddeck, Nova Scotia B0E 1B0

In praise of Baddeck and its people

The Editor

Following is a letter received by the Village of Baddeck and directed to wharf personnel and the community.

Dear Brian, Jenny and the community of Baddeck:

Firstly, I would like to extend from the crew and owner of the Motor Yacht "Cariad", a big thank you for your hospitality during our recent stay in Baddeck.

I had heard from other Captains that the people of Cape Breton were very generous and hospitable and I was lucky enough to experience this

first hand during our time in Baddeck. From fly-fishing to restaurants, from the local yacht club to Coxweld, from the Public Wharf to the golf course, thank you very much.

I will be sure to spread the word throughout the Super Yacht Industry about Baddeck and the people that live here, so Brian and Jenny, be prepared for an influx of large motor yachts.

We wish you well for the summer and look forward to returning again some time soon.

Sincerely, Brendan Dean, Captain
Cariad, Georgetown, Cayman Islands

Not much change in 100 years in some areas

The Editor

The year was 1910 – (100 years ago).

The average wage was 22 cents an hour. Only 8% of homes had a telephone. More than 95% of people were born at home. Only 14% of homes had a bath tub. 90% of all doctors had no college education. The average life expectancy was 47 years. The average worker made between 200 and 400 dollars a year. One out of five adults couldn't read or write. Everyone wanted a 1910 Ford. The maximum speed

limit in most cities was 10 M.P.H. Car fuel was sold only in drugs stores. ... and there was a loud outcry by a minority that getting rid of the horse transportation was the worst environmental disaster the world had ever seen!

Everything has changed in 100 years, except the environmentalists. They still travel the world at our expense (taxes) to tell us that we are bad!!

What a bunch of horse crapping!
Don Warkentin
Mission, BC V2V 0B5

Chuck Thompson's "Along the Trail" "Dumps-R-Us"



A few weeks ago I called a few male friends from my distant past and suggested we get together somewhere and reminisce about old times.

The reasoning was that there are two things you can never get back: #1, time and #2, your overdraft to \$0.00 So we chose a spot roughly half way and agreed to meet for an overnighter. I was the first to arrive and the kind gentleman informed me they had numerous cabins but only one they rented out on a daily basis. My antennae went up immediately. You know you are not a high priority when you get the only cabin rented on a daily basis. I asked for directions and the man told me right next to the laundry overlooking the water. The laundry was indeed next to if not in our cabin. The verandah was covered with aging "hips." It looked like a meeting of the "Woodstock Alumni."

Anyway they were of no concern to me so I checked into the "daily" cabin. It indeed looked over the water much the same way Ingonish overlooks Newfoundland. If you had a really expensive pair of "Bausch and Lomb" you might catch a glimpse of water. The beach was totally obscured and for all intents and purposes, non-existent.

There were two couches in the place and one should have been burnt a day or so after the Armistice was signed in 1918. Dirty would not adequately describe it. Add a small tiller and you would have a garden. At this point the other two travelers arrived and I could see both sets of eyes staring at the only bedroom. I had had the

good graces not to claim it for myself. The hosts had also provided a pull out sofa and a mouse trap cot. Needless to say who got the short straw and the mouse trap cot.

That however was hours away and we proceeded to pour some libation and tell stories and eventually cook supper. I had taken a dip in the warm waters of the Northumberland Strait, so I reasoned I would jump in the shower and get the salt off. When I turned on the nozzle I discovered they had installed some kind of governor and you could not get any hot water. At one point there was one faint pulse of tepid water but otherwise it was as nature provides from fifty feet down. When I reached for the soap there was none. Another first. After all these years of travelling I had found a commercial accommodation that did not provide the very basic item of soap. When I described to my better half what we had encountered, she asked wisely, "Why didn't you leave?" The answer of course is because we are men and are not programmed in that manner. Never occurred to us would have been the correct response.

If you pressed your eyeballs to the screen, the TV had two channels, two when the snow screens would allow some type of reduced vision.

The final indignation came when it was time to hit the bunk. The cots and beds were so musty I felt I was working in Boris Karloff's lab. I have reduced smell but these beds would knock your socks off. There is mildew and then there is mildew.

Despite all this the reunion was a success. We have vowed if we live another year to do it all over again. I never checked to see if the other guys booked us in again next summer.

chuckthompson47@hotmail.com



The Victoria Standard

The Victoria Standard is published fortnightly by Bras d'Or Graphic Marketing Services.

Editor and General Manager: James Morrow
Copy/Design/Subscriptions: John Johnson
Advertising/Sales: Jim Ryan

PO Box 629, Baddeck, Cape Breton
Canada • Nova Scotia • B0E 1B0
902-295-1144 • Fax 902-295-1143
E-Mail: victoriastandard@ns.sympatico.ca

Copyright and/or property rights apply to all advertisements appearing in The Victoria Standard. Reproduction of advertisements, in whole or part, is not permitted. Copyright and/or property rights are available for purchase.

Mailed under Canadian Publications Sales Agreement #221740