

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meat Cove expresses its gratitude

The Editor

On the night of Saturday, August 21st and the morning of August 22, 2010, Meat Cove received a devastating rainstorm that totally wiped out the infrastructure in our community with damage to roads, bridges, boardwalk, beach, and a number of homes, businesses, the community centre and restaurant.

We as a community did not realize the total destruction until the early morning hours of the 22nd. When local residents could move safely throughout the community assessing the damage we realized that we were cut off from the outside world. The only link we had was telephone.

We, the community of Meat Cove would like to indicate our gratitude to everyone who helped out with the many tasks that were done over the next number of days helping our community cope with the devastation we received:

- the Department of Transportation worked around the clock so we would have access to the outside;
- the EMO met the never-ending requests that were made of them;
- EHS/Paramedics were a terrific team made available to the community;
- the Red Cross offered immeasurable help at many levels;
- boat owners gave us a link to the outside with many trips to and from Meat Cove ferrying people and supplies;
- the Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire

Department was constantly available and onsite at the fire hall to house the evacuees and provide for them in many ways;

- Premier Dexter and his government made all the resources needed available to the community;
- Deputy Premier Frank Corbett travelled out to Meat Cove by boat on the second day of the disaster to speak with the community and the many stranded tourists;
- our MLA, Allan MacMaster and MP, Mark Eyking both travelled to Meat Cove and made their time and resources available to the community;
- likewise too, the aid and support of the Municipalities of Victoria and Inverness Counties and;
- all the help we received from everywhere, not the least of which came from the adjacent communities near and around Meat Cove.

We are particularly proud and thankful to the youth of Meat Cove for being so resourceful and patient at the time of the disaster. They are our future and it was good to see them not complain, but to offer their participation and help in whatever tasks asked of them, some of which were not pleasant. They worked very hard and showed their pride in their community. From what we experienced, we have no doubt that Meat Cove will be moving forward into the future and be in excellent hands. Thank you kids!

Derrick MacLellan, Coordinator,
Meat Cove Development & C@P

Canadian Army Newsreels now on DVD

The Editor

This year marked the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

As a member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program and its Operation Legacy, I would like to highlight this anniversary by making the public aware of The Canadian Army Newsreels being released on DVD by The War Amps.

In cooperation with Library and Archives Canada, The War Amps is making the complete set of The Canadian Army Newsreels available to the public for the first time, as part of its Military Heritage Series.

Featuring more than 20 hours of footage, this six-DVD set contains 106 newsreels filmed and produced by the Canadian Army Film Unit. Army cameramen documented the Canadian troops in training and on the front lines. They scooped the

world on major events; including the invasion of Sicily and D-Day.

Members of Operation Legacy are donating The Canadian Army Newsreels to their local libraries to help spread the message of remembrance to their communities across Canada.

A vignette about the Canadian Army Film Unit, and samples of the newsreels, can be viewed on The War Amps YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/warampsofcanada or at waramps.ca.

The newsreels and all documentaries in The War Amps Canadian Military Heritage Series are available at a cost-recovery price by calling 1 800 250-3030 or visiting waramps.ca.

Matthew Handrahan,
Charlottetown, PEI,
Operation Legacy Member

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.

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Impacts of biomass project

The Editor

On October 14th, the NS Utility and Review Board granted conditional approval to New Page Port Hawkesbury and Nova Scotia Power Inc. to construct and operate a 60 MW biomass fired thermal generation facility at an estimated capital cost of \$208 million.

Should this project proceed, it will have significant impacts to the County of Victoria [and six other eastern counties] that will extend well beyond the expected 40 year term of the project.

Fifty percent of the land area of Victoria County is Provincial Crown Land under the management of the NS Department of Natural Resources. To meet the resource requirements of the proposed facility, NPPH's annual timber harvest will be increased to 1.3 million metric tonnes per year, or approximately to the historic levels of the 1980's and early 1990's. What happens within the Crown

Lease, therefore, will have social, economic and environmental effects outside of the lease area, including those to: private forests; tourism; agriculture; watersheds; employment opportunities; migration of our youthful population; limitations on municipal taxation; species of wildlife that will prosper, and those that will decline.

Whatever views one has regarding this project, whether they be positive or negative, it is important that the implications are understood and to become engaged in the debate.

Change is inevitable. Understanding change is essential.

I would encourage the Municipal Council to give due consideration to this project, and to involve our youth in the discussions, for they will be the ones most affected by our decisions.

Bruce Aikman
Middle River

Chuck Thompson's "Along the Trail"

"Time flies"



I measure my life in garbage days and pill cases. A week has passed when it feels like a day. Every Friday the hard-working garbage (am I supposed to say refuse?) men arrive and empty out the box at the end of our driveway. I swear they were here just the day before, but it's been a week! Same thing with the pill case. It always seems time to fill it at the weekly juncture. I could have sworn it was only the day before when I filled it but no, a week has indeed passed.

My mother-in-law used to tell me "No matter how long you live, the first twenty years are the longest half of your life." Now as the years fly by like the readout on the garage pumps, I know what she means. Time flies and you are well advised to maximize its use.

It is, and has been, my opinion that the last two weeks of October are the most dramatic of the whole year. As someone who loves to roam the swollen rivers of Cape Breton, I see the change first hand. Thanksgiving will find me on the various streams in golf shirt and light waders. Fly dope is never far away, sunscreen still in the vest pocket, idiot hats with earflaps still on the head. By seasons end, I am decked out in down vests, neoprene waders, lined ball cap, and fishing flies big enough to take a tuna. Spits of snow may be in the air and rain falls with unceasing regularity. It is weather for fanatics and northern ducks.

This year was pretty typical with one exception. The leaves decided to skip Celtic Colors. My cabin filled with late season anglers and everyone mentioned the lack of colour around the river. Everyone knew why. It was too hot, too cool, too dry, too something this summer. They were all wrong. As the autumn season deepened suddenly the colours appeared. The deep reds, yellows, and oranges did their annual show much later than usual. If the leaves are delayed a week to ten days is this sign of "global warming?"

Nature makes a dramatic turn during this time and so does the infrastructure of Victoria County. Take a trip around the Trail after the 20th or so and you will find slim pickings. Most restaurants have closed or are in the final days of the tourist season. Autumn in Baddeck ends with a bang. No sooner is the last Celtic Colours fiddle packed away for another year, and the rosin stored, then all the major restaurants and lodging shut down. You can almost see everyone shaking out the duvet for another long winter. I must admit I understand the need for such activity all summer and fall but if I am brutally honest I have to say I do not miss the last tail light crossing the Causeway.

There is a quiet, melancholy, feeling in the air as the remnant population settles in for the short days and the long winter ahead. Wood smoke again rises from chimneys; wood piles are stacked and tidied up. Leaves blow across the lawns and the tools from the summer: lawn mowers, hoes, rakes, shovels are stored for another year. Soon, very soon the shovels will be plastic and blunt ended.

Enjoy November; it has its own beauty. Shades of grey, a beautiful quiet everywhere. The land falls quiet and demands your respect. The trees stand naked and you can peak in the wood and there are no secrets. The northern woods are slowing down, and the creatures that remain will share the hardships with you. Like us they are in for the long haul. Their colours are muted but they are the most beautiful because they stay as we do. We are kindred spirits in the harsh, largely vacant land.

**Had a call re: my column on "meat darts". The lovely lady had an excellent point that I never said what "meat darts" were. Excellent point, bad writing. "Meat darts" are a take off on "steak darts" so popular in industrial CB. It simple means meat, such as a ham or chicken or whatever is given as a prize to the winning team, individual etc. I hope no one had a vision of half naked seniors running around with blow guns and firing poisoned darts at each other. Thanks M for the heads up.

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