

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High fives for Ski Cape Smokey

The Editor

We are all familiar with the 'hockey high-five': upon scoring a tying or go-ahead goal, a player will roll past his/her bench to share the moment by making glove contact in rapid succession with all teammates.

A similar ritual was observed at Ski Cape Smokey on the past two weekends as skiers and snow-boarders circled from the bottom of the hill to the mechanical lift.

Smiles and high-fives were given to thank a dedicated group of community volunteers who re-opened downhill action after four years. The 'Three Stars' of the weekend include: Larry Dauphinee, the chair of the Ski Cape Smokey Society; lift mechanic and

snow-grooming machine operator Tyrone Mickey, whose efforts are no less significant than that of a refrigeration specialist and zamboni driver at any arena; and the team of volunteers who attended the lift operation, provided day passes and equipment rentals or served at the canteen.

Those who enjoyed the best weather for skiing on those clear days and drank in natural beauty from the slopes, hope that this demonstration of interest in the facility will not be overlooked as levels of government cooperate to re-consider the viability and future year-round uses of this unique facility.

John Grant,
Sydney, NS

The Arts to have its own voice in Nova Scotia

The Editor

The Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Partnership Council (NSACPC) is pleased with the February 14th announcement of the results of the arts and culture sector consultation.

These are exciting times for the arts in Nova Scotia and this announcement recognizes the importance of this sector and gives a clear direction for its future growth. This announcement is positive news for the sector and for the province as a whole.

In response to a sector consultation in the fall of 2010, the Province has developed an action plan to address the sector's feedback. The action plan calls for the development and introduction of Status of the Artist legislation; the establishment of "Arts Nova Scotia", an independent body responsible for decisions regarding arts funding; the evolution of the Arts and Culture Partnership Council to the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council; a communications out-

reach plan aimed at both the sector and the public; and an interdepartmental committee to explore program and departmental synergies, opportunities and partnerships that will benefit the arts and culture sector.

As active members of the arts and culture sector in Nova Scotia ourselves, we appreciate and accept the government's response to the sector's feedback and we feel that this is a significant step forward to support and grow the sector. The introduction of Status of the Artist legislation and the creation of the new 'Arts Nova Scotia' body are both especially significant. The arts will have their own voice, and the needs of the artist will be more strongly addressed.

The NSACPC welcomes the changes and looks forward to continuing to advocate for the arts and culture sector in Nova Scotia as the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council.

Joella Foulds, Chair, Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Partnership Council

Wealth sharing - some are recession-proof

The Editor

A recent study from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives shows that Canada's best-paid 100 CEOs breezed through the worst of the recession with earnings 155 times higher than the average Canadian income earner.

Honestly, I am not sure there are words to fully express my disgust!

Some words, though, can clearly explain the reasons behind such discrepancies - words that we would need to name and repeat if we wish to put an end to all of

this. They are: "selfishness, contempt, cynicism, corruption, abuse and patronage". And, if we want to push deeper, they are: "political parties financing, lobbying, propaganda, media concentration, diversion of democracy and nonworking democracy".

An increasing number of Canadians do realize, I am sure, that only a fair sharing of powers - which is what a true democracy is all about - would lead us to a fair wealth sharing.

Bruno Marquis,
Gatineau, Quebec

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



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

Recognizing a bad business case?

The Editor

I'm glad Minister of Transportation Etabrooks recently questioned Ottawa allowing municipalities to access the gas-tax fund to build arenas etc. "As a transportation minister I have certain needs, particularly when it comes to road and bridge improvements, ...".

I therefore assume the Minister has rescinded his request to the federal government that \$47 million of the Build Canada infrastructure fund be used for the P3 convention centre proposed for downtown Halifax instead of roads, bridges, public trans-

portation, water, waste water and sewage treatment projects for all Nova Scotians.

Maybe he's read about the faulty Trade Centre Ltd. internal report and bad business case, maybe he's concerned about the \$373 million dollar loss that the project is going to cost over the next 25 years or maybe he's simply decided to take the little bit of cash available for infrastructure & spend it for the public good, not a private developer's interest.

Peggy Cameron,
Halifax NS

Where does your food come from?

The Editor

As a farmer I am concerned about our collective awareness regarding food, fibre, medicine, etc. Where does it all come from?

What are you eating? May I ask for a moment of your time? Please open your cupboard and your fridge. Look at all of the labels on the food packages. Write down the places where the food is coming from. Now, do a bit of math. Calculate how much is made or produced in Nova Scotia, how much in Canada, and how much from out of country.

Do you believe that the food you purchase at the grocery store will always be there and always be affordable or available? Right now in Nova Scotia all of our good agricultural land is not being used. But it has been used in the past. If we

build houses or roads or commercial buildings, or water treatment plants, or whatever on it, then is isn't available to grow food, fibre, energy, medicine, etc.

If you believe that we will always get food from someplace else, then whether we have enough land or not isn't something that concerns you. If you haven't thought about it, I would encourage you to notice what is happening around the world in our largest agricultural regions. Floods and droughts are what is happening.

So please, do a personal check-in. How much of what you eat is dependent on importing? What would you eat if the importing stopped?

Patricia Bishop,
Taproot Farms,
Port Williams, NS

Chuck Thompson's "Along the Trail"

Many of us are "aging statistics"



It was Disraeli who once said there are three great untruths: there are lies, there are damnable lies, and there are statistics. I would add a fourth, there are

damnable statistics.

Maybe it is because I am a product of the 60s with the emphasis on being an individual, doing your own thing, "march to your own drum" was the popular expression, but to this day I resent being referred to in the plural. I know from an intellectual, rational perspective, that is insane but that is how I feel so I make no apology.

The one statistic that sends me right around the bend is "Canada's rapidly aging population."

Last time I looked a year was still 365 days, my birthday is still once a year, I age one year at a time. There is nothing "rapid" about it. I am not a mayfly, doing it all in one day. A mayfly is born, mates and dies, all on the same day. Obviously, they are not familiar with "storm days."

Every day or so one of the daily newspapers tell us how the "baby boomers", those born from 1947 to 1965 are "straining the health care system." Sorry, I don't mean to be a burden, it has just worked out that way.

Contrast that with the First Nations respect for the elderly. It is real, it is genuine, it is ingrained in the culture. Aging is seen as an accomplishment, the individual is to be reverend and respected. "Elders" are treated with the utmost respect when they become Seniors. In the non-native society we are told we are becoming a

"burden" on the health care system. Again sorry, I will work on getting younger.

Fortunately, there are still facilities within the system that embrace aging and offer proper care and respect for the "rapidly aging." Alderwood is one example of such a place. It is warm, inviting, and the residents are treated with care and compassion. The Cape Breton Post recently carried a story that the "old" Alderwood has been sold and is to be revived as a seniors complex. The "boomers" may be getting old but they are worth their weight in gold. The new rallying cry may be instead of "there's money in gold to there's money in old." Proper thing too. Most of the "boomers" have been working for thirty to forty years and have contributed much to the fabric of our society.

Now merely by their presence they have sprung up new industries all based on the needs of the aging. Where better than Baddeck to provide such facilities? A beautiful setting, basic amenities, a skilled work force.

Someone told me houses in Glace Bay are selling like crazy and it is not because the mines have re-opened. No, the "rapidly aging" are looking for affordable housing with some amenities. The "oil patch" kids are throwing their hard hats in a corner and looking for a place to settle down. Halifax, Wolfville, Bridgewater are popular destinations but you better have a wad of cash to get in.

The future here may be based on the past. The brass ring may be getting a little tarnished but it represents a real chance to build a healthy "green" industry.

Me. I am just going to enjoy my 'rapidly aging' existence.

chuckthompson47@hotmail.com