

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Delighted to present church with piano

The Editor

Thank you for the lovely picture of St. Ann's Bay United Church Choir in your last issue. We are very fortunate to have such good-looking people who can also sing and joyfully give their talents and energy in the leadership of music. Thank God for all church choirs!

The piano in the picture was ded-

icated to the glory of God. And it is also in celebration of my playing the organ in that sanctuary for 50 years. It seemed an appropriate gift in thanks for all the blessings that I have received.

I am hoping to continue making music at SABUC for years and years.
*Heather MacInnes,
North Shore*

Disappointment in article on Green Cove

The Editor

I was disappointed to read your recent article about the newly formed Friends of Green Cove organization. There are a number of errors and misleading statements and I would kindly ask that you provide your readers with accurate information.

Your comment that 144,000 Canadian War Dead were "left on foreign soil" is incredibly insulting to Our Fallen and to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that tends to the over 2,500 grave sites and cemeteries around the world where our Canadian War Dead lie buried. One has to only look at the recent ceremonies the CWGC has held over the past few months to see how respectful the men and women that tend to Our Fallen in their countries, have been and continue to be. Also, the number that we state is more than 114,000, wherever they may lie.

In your article, you list a number of the components of the Memorial that are included in the draft environmental DIA and then state that "all of which will offer ongoing marketing opportunities for individuals and corporate partners". This is inaccurate. We have always stated that there will be no names of donors permitted within the Memorial Gateway which includes all of the above noted areas. Donors will be recognized outside of the Memorial Gateway on podium boards, so that visitors will be able to see who has financially supported the construction and maintenance of the

memorial, as is the case with almost all museums, hospitals, galleries, and projects of this size throughout Canada and around the world. We are extremely honoured to have these individuals and organizations financially support this project and will recognize them accordingly. You also mention that the NFNM site will be an advertising venue. This is also false and the Memorial will adhere to all Parks Canada sign regulations that the agency has and enforces in all of their parks.

I understand that people have the freedom to express their opinions, a right preserved to us by our Veterans. Opinions vary on the design of the Memorial, and again, people can express their opinions but I have heard very few criticisms of the sculptures and statues at the Vimy Memorial, completed by Canadian, Walter Allward which Mother Canada has been modeled after, and appears on our Canadian currency. I know the dialogue will continue on the Memorial and any project of such importance should create feelings and emotions in people. All great projects do. We thank those that have passionately supported this project and continue to hope that we will have the chance to Honour Canadian War Dead ... Wherever They May Lie.

*Meg Stokes, Director – Community and Corporate Engagement,
Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation*

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: 902-295-1144

PO Box 629, Baddeck, Cape Breton

Canada • Nova Scotia • B0E 1B0

902-295-1144 • Fax 902-295-1143

victoriastandard@ns.sympatico.ca

www.victoriastandard.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 #40011839

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Green Cove DIA misrepresents what will happen

The Editor

Green Cove in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park is a pristine geological site of pink granite outcrop jutting into the Atlantic Ocean where visitors can experience part of the peaceful scenic beauty for which this National Park is known. Here, they can see some rare plants, look for whales and many different bird species, or watch as lobster and rock crab fishers pull their traps in season. However, if the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial Complex (as it is now being called in the Detailed Impact Analysis) becomes a reality, Green Cove as we know it will be gone forever.

It is important to note that Stantec who produced the DIA is listed on the NFNM webpage as one of the "key contributors, partners and stakeholders who have lent their time and financial support" to making the Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation a reality. Surely this DIA would appear to be an analysis which would lean strongly in favour of the proposed project.

After taking time to review the 102 page DIA, I feel that the picture of the proposed development - Phase 1, Stage 1, and appearing on the Parks Canada web page, is a misrepresentation of what the site will actually look like since it seems to

downplay the impact of what will be done to Green Cove. Because it's a view from above, it is highly unlikely that we will see it that way. At ground level, some of what we will see in Phase 1 is a huge 25 metre concrete statue, accompanying walkway, parking lot, bathrooms, and the ruination of a once special geological site.

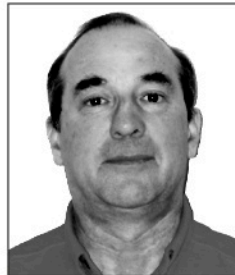
Some of what we possibly will not see is :

a) truth from a federal government agency and the NFNM which previously assured us through meetings and emails that construction would not begin until all funding was in place including funding for future maintenance. Now the DIA states that the project is divided into 5 phases "to allow for construction to progress as funding becomes available"

b) pristine pink granite outcrop because "approximately 25%" of it will be ruined in site preparation for the statue, walkway, etc which is part of Phase 1. It will no longer be pristine following "drilling, potential blasting, bolting, filling, and anchoring into bedrock, which will cause a change in unique geological features affecting this important formation", but still the DIA states it will have a negligible effect on the formation in the region. There will be "removal of unsuitable material" - unsuitable to Mother

see Project, page five

Chuck Thompson's "Along the Trail" "Waders"



It was time. After what seemed like an endless winter, that most sacred of early summer rituals was about to unfold. This year, like all years, I promised to be ready and this year, like all years, I wasn't. It was finally time to get my fishing gear together and head to the fabled Margaree River for slink fishing. Slink fishing, for those who don't know, is catching adult salmon that have spawned the year before and are heading downstream after a winter in the river. It is illegal to slink fish in Nova Scotia but it is a huge tourist industry in New Brunswick bringing in millions of dollars at a time of year (spring) when there is not much else going on in the rural Maritimes. The Margaree Salmon Association, under the guidance of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had been asked to co-ordinate a licensed slink fishery to try and get a better idea what was going on in this famous river which, like most of the Maritimes, has seen a drop in the number of fish entering the river.

So as my friend pulled up in the driveway I headed to the baby barn to gather up the tools of the trade. First and foremost was my favourite fly rod, a 10'6" switch rod that has slowed the aging process in my arthritic shoulder. Then in quick order, reels, a vest, fly boxes, rain jacket, sunglasses, hat, wading shoes and finally waders. Tired of years of slow leaking waders, late last year I invested in new waders, deciding I no longer was going to spend another cold autumn in soggy boots.

As the first spits of snow started to appear late last year I took extra care to ensure everything had been put away with

due diligence. I especially made sure the waders were hung from the rafters in the baby barn straight down so no crease could weaken the waterproofing over the winter. I was feeling pretty good about the whole thing.

The moment that I dropped the waders from their winter hook, leaves began to fall from one leg. By the time every leaf had fallen to the floor it looked like a lecture on the Acadian Forest had just taken place. There were leaves of every hardwood species in Cape Breton, all neatly piled up at my feet.

My friend did a passable effort at ignoring it all but it was not easy given the size of the pile between us.

So, we packed everything, including clinging leaves, in the car and headed to the Margaree. What were a few leaves when the thermometer was creeping up to 20+ and the promise of another summer was all ahead of us?

I wrestled into my gear and waded out at the back of the Garden Pool and began to cast. The shoulder and rod were re-introducing themselves to each other and it was going pretty good. As I worked my way downriver I couldn't help but reflect on how cold the water was against my waders. As one foot began to drag over the rocks I realized the water was not lapping against my waders it was lapping into my waders! It seems that the creator of the nest had decided that a small port hole was just what the doctor ordered. He had completely shredded the material behind the knee.

Now I am a strong believer of "Live and let Live" but I assume I will live in my home with a shed to match and I expect the creatures to live in the woods, not my waders. Being ready may have a whole new meaning next year!

charlesthompson47@hotmail.com