

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for self promotion?

The Editor

Like millions of other readers, I value *The Standard* for its up-to-date coverage of local events. Realizing that many of the articles are the work of The Editor, I think *The Standard* could engage in some self-promotion, with

Further inquiry on John Simon's death requested

The Editor

Following is a copy of a letter sent recently to the Honourable Darryl Dexter concerning a John Simon Public Inquiry. Honourable Dexter:

We again write to you on behalf of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs respecting the call of the Chief and Council of Wagmatcook First Nation for a provincial public inquiry into the shooting death of its member John Simon.

We understand from you and Attorney General Ross Landry, that you decline to mandate a provincial inquiry under the *Public Inquiries Act* because you feel the Chair-initiated Complaint and Public Interest Investigation by the RCMP Public Complaints Commission will be adequate. We are of the opinion that the RCMP Complaints process will NOT provide the necessary closure to the issues surrounding the shooting of John Simon for a least two important reasons:

1. The RCMP Public Complaints Commission will conduct only a private, voluntary investigation. While a Final Report will be made public, the investigation leading to that Report will be conducted through a private, rather than public, investigation, and may even be contracted out to a private investigator, and will rely only on cooperation by the RCMP Officers and those with information to share. The Commission has no power to subpoena and cross-examine witnesses under oath or to require the production of documents. There will be no cross-examination of witnesses and no participation by the family, the Band or their representatives. We have been informed of these process deficiencies by Legal Counsel to the Commission, Lesley A. McCoy. We repeat, all will be done behind closed doors, with no assurance that the tough questions will be asked and answers required or that evidence will receive public scrutiny.
2. The RCMP Public Complaints Commission will restrict its examination to the actions of the RCMP and its members. An essential part of the questions surrounding this tragic situation is the investigation process itself and the role of the Halifax Police Service, including the subsequent disclosure or lack of disclosure of the investigation to Wagmatcook and the family.

A situation akin to the John Simon killing is that of the death of Robert Dziekanski in the Vancouver Airport at the hands of the RCMP. Not only did the incident involve the RCMP, but it occurred at a place under Federal jurisdiction - an international airport. Like here, there was a Chair-initiated RCMP Public Complaint & Investigation process. But significantly, there was also a provincially mandated inquiry which, while looking at the use of "conducted energy weapons", i.e. tasers, was directed "to provide Mr. Dziekanski's family and the public with a complete record of the circumstances of and relating to Mr. Dziekanski's death." [Purpose and Terms

the slogan "Get to Morrow's news today."

If this suggestion is old and tired, tried and rejected, I'm sorry; I've only been in this county a short distance.

Bill Danielson,
Smelt Brook

of Reference, Braidwood Inquiry, s.3(2)(a). Available at http://www.braidwoodinquiry.ca/terms_of_reference.php].

It is that "complete record of the circumstances" surrounding Mr. Simon's shooting and its investigation that will be missing, no matter how well the RCMP Public Complaints Commission does its job. Just as that was vital for Mr. Dziekanski's family and the public, according to the Government of British Columbia, no less is required here - for Mr. Simon's wife Patsy and family, for the Wagmatcook community, and for all the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, as well as the general public of this Province.

We call upon you, and Attorney General Ross Landry, to reconsider this issue, and empower an open, transparent, complete, and public inquiry. This issue requires closure, and your Government has not yet provided that.

If you have any questions surrounding this, please direct them to us through Janice Maloney, Executive Director of our Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office. She may be reached at (902) 843-3880, or janicemaloney@mikmaqrights.com.

Since the Halifax *Chronicle-Herald* in an editorial called for a public inquiry, and we believe has a continuing interest in this matter, we have copied this letter to them.

Yours in recognition of Mi'kmaq Rights and Title,
Chief Terrance J. Paul, Co-Chair,
Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
Chief Gerard Julian, Co-Chair
Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs

RDA's as an option

from page four

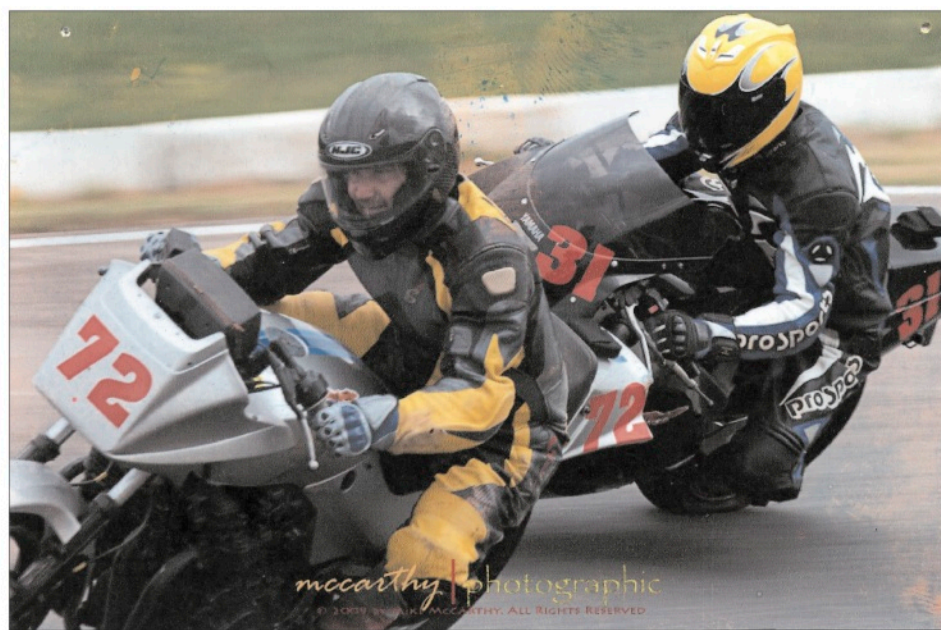
The best way to find out what is going on in other Nova Scotia municipal RDAs is to access the information through the RDA's Association's web site: www.nsarda.ca. With just a click of your mouse a whole new world is out there showing how Nova Scotia's citizenry is benefiting from RDA sponsored programs. When clicking on to the NSAR-DA RDA's web site map, Victoria Coun-

ty shoots a blank!

The Victoria County Council has a huge "catch up deficit" tucked under its current managerial belt with regards to accessing current programs, services and community based information that should be readily available to all county residents. Tuned In!

Henry W. Fuller, Board Member
The Northside Economic Development Assistance Corporation

Local lads shine at Shubenacadie



Ronnie MacLean (number 72) and Paul Whitehead (number 31) are pictured above going into a corner during a race.

by Mona Anderson

Paul Whitehead (Nyanza) and Ronnie MacLean (Baddeck) have just completed Round 2 of the 2010 Atlantic Roadracing League (ARL) series - June 19/20 - at Atlantic Motorsport Park (AMP) in Shubenacadie, both coming home with impressive results.

The ARL runs 5 weekend rounds from May through September featuring 14 different motorcycle classes covering everything from 125cc, to Formula Vintage, to Pro Superbike. On any given weekend there can be upwards of 100 riders competing for honours on the Shubenacadie track. *see MacLean, page seven*

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