

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remember fire safety during the holiday season and throughout the year

The Editor

With the temperature dropping and holiday decorations going up, Nova Scotians are urged to take care and keep safety front and centre.

"Electrical and fire safety can sometimes be forgotten in the excitement of installing Christmas lights and

finding that perfect tree for the house," said Marilyn More, Minister of Labour and Workforce Development. "Following a few tips from the fire marshal can help make sure you and your family have a safe and joyous holiday season."

"Unfortunately, this time of year

we can see an increase in certain types of fires," said Harold Pothier, acting Fire Marshal. "However, there are a few simple steps you can take to prevent potential fire hazards when the weather gets colder and many of us are decorating with lights, trees and candles."

Over the holidays and winter months, always remember to:

- take care when cooking or smoking
- never discard fireplace or wood stove ashes in your green bin. Instead, place them outdoors in a metal container and away from your house. Let the ashes sit for at least 72 hours before disposing of them
- never leave candles unattended. Keep out of the reach of children and pets,

and place in a sturdy holder. Battery-operated candles and lights are safe and convenient alternatives

- water your natural tree, turn out the lights when not in use, and keep it away from heaters or any flammable objects.

In addition, Nova Scotians should take care when installing their Christmas lights. Lights should be checked over carefully for wear, installed following the manufacturers instructions and should not be installed with staples.

For more information on fire safety, contact the Office of the Fire Marshal at 1-800-559-3473.

Office of Nova Scotia Labour/Workforce Development

### The 4-H Travelling Toilet

The Editor

Thanks to *The Victoria Standard* for the "blurp" on our interesting fund raising project. The project has come to a sad end, as our fancy toilet has been destroyed.

So, a heartfelt thank you to those who did have fun with our fund raiser, in just under one month, our toilet raised \$245.00. Thank you again. Will we do it again? I don't know. I won't paint another one. It was just too disheartening to see all my hours of work go down the drain, so to speak. But, if members are interested in painting one in the New Year, who knows, it could happen.

We had so many, many laughs, that in itself made it worth doing. My family laughed as much at me, painting the foolish thing, as they did laughing at people's reactions when they'd call us. Some recipients even calling laughing, that they loved it and would

move it themselves to the next location, not to worry it was in good hands. To those people I say thank you over and over. That is what was meant to happen, and my heart swelled with joy, when it did.

There are so many more negative things I'd like to say, but it isn't the season or the reason. Instead, thank you once again, and should a colourfully painted toilet be left on your lawn in the future, please take a moment to see who its from, have a great chuckle, and enjoy the art work. Laughter is God's cheap medicine, that's been proven! Don't be offended, NO ONE is going to paint a toilet to leave it as garbage. Trust me, it takes far more than 10 minutes to paint a toilet, and if you did you wouldn't want to see it needlessly destroyed.

Jane Nicholson, Big Baddeck Painter of the 4-H Travelling Toilet - that is no more!

### Keep Harper's hands off the CBC!

The Editor

I recently signed an online petition to express my outrage at the Harper government's apparent plan to begin dismantling the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

I have often said that Canada became a nation because Sir John A. MacDonald had the foresight to build the railway from east to west in the 19th century. I believe that Canada remained a nation through the 20th century largely because of the presence of CBC Radio and later CBC Television. The Corporation let us hear about other Canadians from ocean to ocean to ocean, to take pride in who we are as a people. I believe that without the CBC we would have been culturally overwhelmed by the media content crossing

the border from the south and edging us ever more closely to identifying ourselves in the American way.

I am not anti-American. They are a fine people, but we are different from them in many critical ways and I believe that it is important for us to remain so by preserving the customs and culture that make us so. I am afraid that Mister Harper's not-so-secret agenda is to trade in a single maple leaf for a handful of stars and stripes, and I find that frightening.

If the CBC is important to you, take a moment to sign the petition online at <http://www.friends.ca/ILoveCBC/>

Bill Conall  
Tarbot

#### 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

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

## "2011...what might it bring?"



Stand by, buddy, the good times are a 'coming. They have gone underground digging in Donkin and now they will be digging in Syd-

ney Harbour.

Prime Minister Harper kicked off Cecil Clarke's 19 million dollar election campaign with the word that the long anticipated dredging of Sydney harbor would go ahead with lots of our tax 'dollars.

But...

The PM assures us that this is good news because now the huge container ships that never showed any interest in coming here before will almost assuredly ground themselves ashore in the frenzy to get merchandise to the many DOLLAR STORES spread across North America.

But...

His words were music to industrial cape Breton and he made it clear that this was the birth or rebirth of the good times not known since the early 60's when the mines were working at full tilt, the steel plant was spreading it's orange fog over the city and the other towns were alive with fishing and moving cargo and people hither and yon. It's almost to good to be true.

But...

This dredging issue got it's life in the spring of 2010 and took off like a runaway locomotive. Speaking of locomotives all this new cargo will apparently be moved over the rickety lines of The Nova Scotia Rail Company.

But...

Someone once told me everything before But is B.it. I hope this is not the case this time.

BUT 1: When this idea was floated a year or so ago, all the money was to be private dollars, not a cent of yours and my tax dollars would be used. Now we have only government money and no private investors signed on the bottom line. A touch worrisome.

BUT 2. The PM kept referencing

that Cape Breton will again realize it's potential. Now I know that Mulgrave is technically in Nova Scotia but you could skip a stone from Point Tupper and hit Mulgrave in three skips. Mulgrave has the deepest ice free port in North America. No dredging, no need for ice breakers, sounds like a natural, does it not? Well so far, the freight is not exactly backed up at the Causeway trying to get to the rest of the waiting world, again over the same rusty rails. Not only that but one of the largest container firms in the world has announced they are putting their money where their mouth is and bellying up to the bar with cash for construction. They must be howling now that they are in competition with the federal government.

BUT 3. If any new investors are found, who is going to fix up the one track railroad out of Cape Breton? Us? I feel a pain in my wallet already.

BUT 4. I know that we are in global warming but it was not that long ago when newspapers were filled with pictures of the Newfoundland ferries stuck in the pack ice for days and when freed being diverted to Mulgrave to escape the ice. Is there no danger of ice returning or will we just grow old waiting for the inevitable spread of Palm trees? I'm not so sure.

I hope it is all true and not too good to be true. Victoria County will enjoy spin-off effects that will add to our meager tax base. I see the bright lights of sub-divisions on the Garry and Meadows Road as new people discover the joys of rural living.

If not let's hope the fishery continues to be the backbone of rural Victoria County, there are a few trees left for the birds after the Bio mass needs are met, and the tourists continue to come here like the spring smelt heading upriver.

Me? I just hope for good health, good friends, and a few warm breezes in the summer to keep the flies away.

If any of the above comes true, I may head into Home Hardware to get a new "shovel ready" tool for the coming good times.

BUT...

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