

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ferry delays show ineptness

I cannot explain the level of disappointment I have in our government representatives for the lack of service we are receiving as to our ferry service.

We have been without the Peninsula Princess for three additional months in addition to the normal four months. The Westfield crossing has been down to one boat for several weeks. I have been told the people in charge knew something was wrong, so the boat was taken off its run early.

However, the tender was not called until December. The work did not begin until March. This work should have begun in January. If it had, we would have service now. I would suggest that the boat yard that has taken so long never be granted any other work from New Brunswick. Also I suggest that those looking after calling for the tender be fired.

To give just two examples of the hardship this is causing, the difference for a trip to the Saint John Regional Hospital from my address is approximately 35 extra kilometres. The difference for a round trip to Saint John centre is 62 kilometres. This is for everyone living close to the Peninsula Princess.

People talk about wasting energy; well, we are burning a lot more gas for the past three months and there is still no boat. The ineptness of those supposedly looking after this situation, and those performing the work, is unfathomable.

Cannot wait for the next elections when I can vote for someone else. MLAs and MPs be warned.

Robert Curran
Summerville

Tax deal shows need to share the burden

In the *Telegraph-Journal*, Greater Saint John section of June 25, urging Common Council to realize the fact Saint John is home to the only operating LNG plant in Canada, MP Rodney Weston weighed in on the Canaport LNG and City of Saint John tax deal review by city council.

In the article, Mr. Weston encourages "this council to take the time and make sure they consider all the information" – cautioning local council members not to lose sight of the big picture and bragging rights in places like Ottawa and across Canada.

OK, then let me share some relevant economic public fiscal policy to consider. Is Mr. Weston aware the Canaport-LNG industrial project (with its 25-year civic property tax break) is paying only 1/10th of what a project of a \$750 million magnitude should be hauling in for civic fiscal coffers? The LNG plant tax break granted by local

and provincial officials in 2005 was something that goes against all prevailing local taxation and FIA (Fiscal Impact Analysis) wisdom with COCS (Cost of Community Services Studies, an approach developed by the American Farmland Trust – for evaluating cost and benefits for ROI for agricultural land converted for industrial land use assessments).

Perhaps Rodney Weston's tunnel vision of towing Stephen Harper's single-minded energy action plan line has blinded our local MP from the public policy data/studies, wisdom and logic of wiser economic calculations – developed in more robust economic climates and academic public policy circles in the U.S.

Perhaps local councillors should have the courage to "step outside the box" and explore what other responsible public policy innovators have the courage to demand of business tax obligations.

Responsible municipal fiscal management demands balancing the City of Saint John's (and New Brunswick's) fiscal burdens with business paying its fair share. And that also requires placing the Sisyphusian boulder onto business shoulders – and not just citizen taxpayers' backs.

Brian McLaughlin
Saint John

Criminal Code changes are meticulous

Occasionally, memories fade into the vacuum of time where Canadians fail to recall specific events that have evaporated and disappeared.

The toxic recollection of one such incident has erupted yet again, and those keen enough to remember, are abruptly cognizant of this evil, reprehensible incident.

Paul Bernardo, the infamous "cold-blooded killer", who snuffed out the lives of teenagers Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French, emerges in the media. Worse, he has applied for day parole three years early. Supplementary sadistic indictments included Mr. Bernardo's confession to raping 14 other women with superimposing sexual transgressions linked to Mahaffy and French.

Perpetrating these heinous crimes, Mr. Bernardo was sentenced and lawfully categorized – "dangerous offender status", which designates he can be imprisoned ad infinitum.

Years ago, the Liberals promised to replace the death penalty with life in prison. No one convicted of murder in the first degree under the Dangerous Offenders Act, should ever be eligible to apply for parole. The question that Mr. Bernardo can even apply for parole is uncanny, but Canadian law declares Mr. Bernardo is eligible to apply for parole. The law doesn't mandate he must obtain parole.

Recent policies on ending and

lengthening parole eligibility are some of the finest amendments to the Criminal Code in decades. Changes plug loopholes the Liberals created. Taking into account the modifications to Bill C-51, the scope and logic is meticulous, and is now Canadian law.

The modifications are not paradigm shifting but Canadians can rest assured due diligence is all-inclusive.

Ronald J. Yaschuk
Quispamsis

Common ancestry is important to N.B.

I have been following the controversy surrounding two education systems in New Brunswick. I think it boils down to ignorance of our history and heritage.

My last name – Boyne – can be traced back to northern France, the same as many linked to the Pictish clan. There are relatively few descendants of the English in New Brunswick, more Irish and Scottish who derive from the Normans who were driven from France.

Now it seems we are slipping back and a thousand years of history means nothing. Is it just ignorance by our politicians?

I am of Scottish ancestry and proud of it. My father spoke Gaelic as did my grandparents, who hailed from Cape Breton. They hated England and its kings so they backed the French armies, which contained some soldiers with the last name of Boyne – no doubt my distant relatives.

We need more leaders who are aware of our common ancestry in positions of power.

Arthur George Boyne
Fredericton

Songbirds have been silenced

Where have all the songbirds gone? I used to awaken to the almost deafening sound of the birds greeting the new day. Now, all I seem to hear is the caw of a few crows. Do we have to thank the numerous pesticides that are in use, some of which include avicide?

If so, it is sad to think that our use of these chemicals may be causing the silence of the birds.

Sheila Darkin
Rothessay

Tories benefit from coverage

I hope the Tories appreciate the way the *Telegraph-Journal* has become their loyal propaganda vehicle.

Does this mean we can designate our subscription fees as political donations on our income tax?

Midge Thompson
Musquash

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