

REES' Pieces

It's Embarrassing

When I was a youngster, Canadians and those who came here to visit wanted to see RCMP officers dressed in their red serge. Back in the 50's and 60's the image of an RCMP officer mounted on a sleek looking horse was an icon.

That was Canada. That is what visitors wanted; having their picture taken with an RCMP officer to many was a highlight of their visit to Canada. We felt proud that visitors held them in such high regard.

Oh my, how things have changed.

I'm not sure when it all started, perhaps in the "hippie" days of the 70's. In that era, teachers still had a leather strap in their desk drawer and knew how to use it. Now we'd get thrown in jail for spanking our own "little monster", who really needed some correction, and I don't mean "time out".

Things have gradually gotten worse, but within the past five years the rate of decline has been racing at break-neck speed. Often many of us complain the judicial system is too soft on criminals. More often than not, many people say law enforcement personnel are too highly paid for what we get in return. But it's hard to complain about what they do or don't do, because more often than not, they feel betrayed by the ease at which criminals either get off with a light sentence, or are set free.

RCMP and city police officials were always rated as being in good physical shape and could win any scrap which came their way. But not so in recent times, they seem to be hiding behind the infamous "Tazer". Watching events evolve in British Columbia makes one wonder if the four constables are telling their own version of the truth, or if they are relating versions which might appear to be protecting a system, which is rotten to the core.

Without a doubt, the honour of being an RCMP constable is not what it once was. I've talked to a few of them, and they are down right embarrassed and would get out if they could find a profession which was somewhat equal in pay. Today's public perception is taking its toll on municipal forces as well.

I don't know about you, but the number of clerical errors, which have resulted in nearly a dozen criminals being set free is not the image which Nova Scotia should be creating. It didn't make me feel proud, when the two most recent incidents were included in the national newscast on both CTV and CBC.

Then to have another newscast indicating the problem will be corrected by taping telephone calls, having a supervisor check all documents and adding another "tick-off" box to the already lengthy docket.

How stupid and bureaucratic can we be? Wouldn't it be much simpler to implement a policy, that if a prisoner is transported to court he or she is to be brought back to the institution in which they have been confined? If they are to be released, let it happen there and they can take their meager belongings with them.

We treat our confined inmates well. They are not tortured. They are well fed, warmer than if they were living on their own, get good medical treatment, perhaps better than those of us who are paying the taxes to house them and to have them supervised with qualified people.

Enough is enough.

It's time government officials elected or the public service became accountable doing things to protect us who are on the outside; do things in a way which are economical and make us proud of our judicial system.

Catch and Release is fine for the Department of Fisheries, not for criminals, who should be paying their debt to society by having their activities confined and away from us the law abiding public.

Operating a finely tuned, professional judicial system is what, we the public demand and deserve. We expect a government which has a true Minister of Justice. We don't need a Minister of Catch and Release, in charge of a system, so attractive that Conrad Black is trying to get transferred here.

Stop embarrassing us.

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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April 5, 2009

Mr. Editor:

After reading a letter which was printed in the April 2009 edition of The Shoreline Journal in which a neighbor of mine wrote of his frustration at FBC's showing of the movie titled "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," it became evident to me that there may be many misconceptions about the movie and it's subject matter that can only be corrected by actually watching it. However, since many of your readers may not have had opportunity to view it, please allow me to clarify a few things.

My neighbor is right about one thing: the producers of the movie do have an agenda. Of course they have an agenda! It is inconceivable that anyone would set out to accomplish anything without an agenda - even in writing a letter to the Editor of a highly regarded publication one evidently has an agenda. The agenda of the movie is clearly stated: to uncover and understand the reason why Intelligent Design (ID) is not widely accepted in the academic community as a viable explanation to the problem of the existence of life on the planet, especially in the face of the evidence that points to its credibility. Such evidence is adequately presented in the movie which I will leave to speak for itself.

Of course, it should be noted that the theory of Intelligent Design is not disproved by the fact that some of its proponents are "creationists" any more than the theory

of evolution is disproved by the fact that some of its adherents are murderers. One does not automatically preclude the other. Neither is what some would call a poorly designed universe evidence of a universe without design. Furthermore, the irreducibly complex nature of a simple system such as a mousetrap does not mean that its parts cannot function separately or as parts of other systems. It simply means that if just one of the parts of the system were missing, the remaining parts cannot come together to function as a mousetrap. Objections such as these tend to operate as a "smoke-screen;" skirting the truth and diverting attention away from the real issue.

Darwin himself said that "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." (Origin of Species, 6th edition (1988), New York: University Press, New York, p.154) In his book, "Darwin's Black Box," biologist Dr. Michael J. Behe correctly states that "for the Darwinian theory of evolution to be true, it has to account for the molecular structure of life." (Free Press, (2006) New York; p.25.) His meaning is that if any attempt is to be made to account for these "numerous, successive, slight modifications," it must be shown at the chemical level - the most basic level. Dr. Behe further states "There has been virtually no

attempt to account for the origin of specific, complex biomolecular systems, much less any progress." (ibid. p.x) Vision is just one of several examples of such complex biomolecular systems which Dr. Behe describes in detail. All of the chemical components which are necessary for us to be able to see are known and clearly diagrammed as shown in his book, yet no one has been able to document the inherently necessary "numerous, successive, slight modifications" to this chemical cascade to show how we have become able to see. Given the complexity of the system, the modifications

must be very numerous indeed! The question of how well adapted our sight may or may not be is irrelevant (smoke-screen). The truth is that vision is an irreducibly complex system which has, so far, eluded a Darwinian explanation. Will evolutionists ever be able to present such an explanation? Dr. Behe doesn't think so.

According to Darwin's own criterion, his theory has "absolutely [broken] down." Yet in spite of this, evolution continues to be the theory of choice in our education system to account for the origin of life. This fact begs the question: given the choice between Intelligent Design and evolution, which is the one more "akin to intellectual abuse?"

Regards, Jerry Weatherby, Londonderry

To the Editor:

With reference to Troy Spencer's letter printed in your April edition, where he takes issue with our recent showing of the movie 'Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed', I am not convinced that a great deal of Troy's letter warrants a response, but his words do serve to illustrate well the central premise of the movie, and that is the tendency within so much of contemporary academia to label anyone who disagrees with the status quo as 'stupid' and dismiss them as 'poor scientists'.

To that point I would only want to say that in order to take such a position one has to dismiss Francis Bacon, Michael Faraday, Ambrose Fleming, Joseph Henry, William Herschel, Johann Kepler, Robert Boyle, Joseph Lister, Gregor Mendel, Samuel

Morse, Isaac Newton, Blaise Pascal, William Thompson, Louis Pasteur, James Maxwell, and Albert Einstein, to name a few, because they were all theists. In fact, Francis Bacon is credited with developing the 'scientific method' which Troy claims one has to abandon in order to be one! Likewise, there are a growing number of very esteemed and well credentialed scientists in our day that are now questioning Darwinian evolution, because of the lack of real scientific evidence in support of it, and because of the mounting evidence for design. Simply to call such men stupid is hardly a legitimate argument.

As for the design in nature, no disrespect intended but, we'll allow that to speak for itself.

Respectfully,
Steve Adams

Londonderry Community Council News

By Sally Richard

The spring winds are still quite chilly. There is lots of snow and ice on the mountain so that keeps the air cool.

At the time of writing Sutherland's Lake and Folly Lake are ice covered. It is now time to rake and clean up after the ploughing of snow which seems to put gravel everywhere. In only a month's time the steady hum of lawnmowers will announce the beginning of yet another chore - mowing grass. But it will be nice to trade in the shovel for a mower.

On March 28, the Council catered a banquet for the Great Village and District Fire Brigade. There was 84 in attendance. On that same day the new Londonderry Fire hall was officially opened. On April 25 a breakfast brunch was held at the Center followed by a roast port supper

on April 26. That completes our fundraisers until October.

During our last Council meeting we welcomed two guests from the Great Village Community Association. Terry Francis and Heather MacKay. Both Terry and Heather addressed our meeting and expressed their interest in how we operate within our community as compared to their operation. Our function is clearly to provide an operational facility for our community whereas the Great Village Community Association provides programs within their village. It was agreed that we should create a joint calendar to promote each others upcoming events for area awareness.

Our Council members expressed their desire to provide programs for our community but there is little interest within the community to do so. Some examples are poor

attendance at the children's Christmas sleigh ride, no Easter party/egg hunt because of lack of volunteers and loss of interest for a skating rink. Unfortunately this is a problem experienced in most rural communities. Volunteers make the wheel turn.

The Council would like to express their sympathy to Bertha and Ivan (Pete) Johnson on the passing of their daughter Christine of Calgary, Alberta on April 20. Christine had been ill for quite some time. Also to Darrell Rushton and family of New Glasgow on the passing of Darrell's wife, Frances. Darrell played a big role on our school reunion committee in 2003. Frances joined him at the reunion and enjoyed meeting Darrell's school friends.

Maureen Eagles was a patient in the Truro hospital

for a week or so recently. She is now at home recovering from pneumonia. Glenn and Dennise Miller vacationed in Florida for two weeks. Maxine Richard visited her two sons and families in Ottawa. She was there for granddaughter Hana-Mae's 3rd birthday. Birthday greetings to some of our residents who enjoyed a special day in April - Alma Vaughan, Rose Gamble, Mona Scott and Marjorie Hayward of Belmont.

Remember to pray for all our military serving in dangerous places in the world.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Sunday evening of the month at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Amanda Langille, Londonderry Station joined the Council last meeting. We certainly need more members. Card parties are held on Monday evenings at 7 pm. Donuts, cheese, tea and coffee is served. Contact Fred Gamble for hall rental inquiries.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1300) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

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