

EDITORIAL

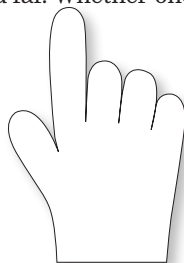
Farewell to a friend

There will be something missing from the *Casket* pages and from many people's hearts starting next week. After more than 20 years the paper will no longer publish the County Chronicle. Columnist Dawn Currie has retired once again.

During the Chronicle's span, Currie has been the literary thread that has tied various communities in the county together and presented their stories to readers near and far. Whether one lives in Tracadie, Pomquet, Heatherston, St. Andrews, North Grant, Arisaig, Maryvale, St. Josephs or elsewhere, the Chronicle was a source for community news that wasn't necessarily shared anywhere else. News of births, anniversaries, deaths and upcoming events were all commonly found in the Chronicle which was a taste of home and source of information, not only for readers but for *Casket* reporters as well. Hardly a newsroom meeting has been held without someone asking "what's going on this weekend." No doubt someone would say, "I checked the Chronicle..." and a basis for the weekend's assignments had been found.

Although Currie has been retired for more than a decade, the connection with her beloved newspaper continued not only as a columnist, but also, at times, as a member of the newsroom providing advice, guidance and an "extra hand" whenever needed. This presence was always appreciated as were her occasional visits to the office. Currie always brightened the room, had something positive to say and our doors will always be open. We wish her the best and hope that she is able to spend time with family, travel more and continue to enjoy life.

While the Chronicle is irreplaceable, we are open to suggestions from our readers on how to continue providing the tidbits of information that it contained. Readers can submit their upcoming events to our community calendar located at www.thecasket.ca. We also encourage people to share their news, announcements and suggestions on our Facebook page, or email them to editor@thecasket.ca. And while it may take a little more effort, we look forward to being present in all parts of the community for many years to come.



COMMENT
ONLINE
www.thecasket.ca

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should be no more than 500 words in length (or at the discretion of the editor). All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number, and be in good taste.

Your words
www.thecasket.ca



WORD OF THE WEEK

valorous\VAL-uh-russ\
adjective

Meaning: 1. possessing or acting with bravery or boldness : courageous. 2. marked by, exhibiting, or carried out with courage or determination: heroic

EXAMPLES: 1. Audie Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 for valorous acts that helped to save his company in the face of a fierce German assault. 2. "So today I am putting in the mail a donation to my local fire company. I hope many others will do the same. Honor the dead by honoring the living who continue the valorous work of first responders. Support them in their work, the work of rushing to the aid of you and me." — From a letter to the editor by Evangeline Jones in the Poughkeepsie Journal (New York), September 11, 2011.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are boldly seeking synonyms for "valorous," consider "courageous," "intrepid," "dauntless," "bold," or just plain "brave" — all of which mean "having" or showing no fear with danger or difficulty. "Brave" is the most straightforward of these, implying lack of fear in alarming or difficult circumstances. "Courageous" carries a sense of stout-hearted circumspection, while "intrepid" suggests downright daring in confronting peril. "Dauntless" suggests determination and resolution despite danger. "Bold" typically indicates a forward or defiant tendency to thrust oneself into dangerous situations. "Valorous," which comes from Middle English "valour," meaning "worth, worthiness, or bravery," suggests illustrious bravery and sometimes has an archaic or romantic ring.

Word of the Week is brought to you by:

THE CASKET

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Readers write

Change exploitation laws

In less than a month we have seen two high profile court cases re: sexual abuse involving children, with Fenwick MacIntosh in Port Hawkesbury and Bishop Raymond Lahey in Antigonish. Both of these men have had no accountabilities or remorse for one of the most hideous crimes to man. Lahey charged with child exploitation from the Internet and possession and importation of child pornography, MacIntosh for the sexual abuse of young boys. Lahey pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography for importation. This man was a "person of trust".

To clarify the testimony from psychiatrist Dr. John Bradford, one can't be possibly sure Lahey isn't a pedophile, but he pointed to his age as a factor in determining if he would commit a hands-on act. Material found on his laptop was of boys as young as eight in sex acts.

Both of these men have walked away from the justice system with little more than a rap on the hands, leaving a message to our society that sexual exploitation of our children is permissible. Many children's voices fell silent as we failed to protect them.

In Oct. 2009 RCMP executed a search warrant seizing computers and electronic equipment from Lahey's residences in Antigonish and Sydney. April 2010, RCMP announce they have determined there will be no criminal charges laid against him in Nova Scotia. May 2010, Lahey pleads guilty to charges of possession of child pornography for importation. For Lahey to submit a DNA sample for the National Sexual Offender Registry determines an offense only after a criminal act to a child is committed.

We as citizens are the ones that decide the laws that govern the justice system. Please contact your councillors, MLAs and premier so the law protects our children, not sexually exploits them. The safety of a child is everyone's responsibility. To report Internet child exploitation go to cybertip.ca

"It takes a village to raise a child."

Denise Williams
Monastery, NS

How can the community continue work together to reduce poverty? Should phase two of the field project include a paved track?

Your words
www.thecasket.ca

It could be worse



While the Antigonish area has had very little snow this season, years past have not been so kind as illustrated by these gentlemen who are digging out part of Main Street. (Antigonish Heritage Museum photo)

Antigonish a great place to live

Most in the Antigonish region realize this is a pretty good place to live. But having lived and worked with several towns, mayors and councils across Canada, I am not sure people realize how lucky we are. I have been here two years, and knowing well the typical small town issues, I can say with certainty that we are one of the best towns in the nation. Access to health care, education and art and culture are three reasons so.

Most small towns have serious issues with health care and it grows as population ages. Most towns either don't have a hospital at all or have a mini "cottage" hospital that only provides certain services. Attracting doctors to these towns has been problematic, with doctors coming and going, leaving people without care in their community.

Antigonish has a significant hospital, with most of the services required, and because of the quality of life in the region we have top physicians who choose to live here. Imagine a town where you have to travel significantly to get health care.

Few towns are lucky to have a superior university that attracts top academics, researchers and students from across the continent and around the world. Increasingly Canadians are discovering the advantage of St. FX. and being in a university town. Many towns could learn much from Canada in many areas, but when it comes to universities, we could learn from the U.S. where it is normal to go to a university town, often with a funny name, like South Bend, Ithaca or New Haven, and end up at a world class university like Notre Dame, Cornell or Yale. It is the education and the experience that helps student growth.

In Antigonish we have a superior model and it helps attract world leaders, like President Clinton, and more. A university means facilities, attractions, top sporting events, lecturers, artistic events and more, and the support from the region has been incredible to help enhance these facilities and attract more students, leaders and families for hockey tournaments or conferences, bringing more to the regions in tourist dollars.

The educational environment has helped make our young people the best

educated in the province with the highest high school enrollment to university and college. The Coady brings in leaders from around the world and it is interesting that people in many developing nations have heard of Antigonish more than Toronto. Coady students are welcomed with such warmth into the community (which is good, as they mostly have never seen snow), that they leave with glowing hearts and minds. We all grow thanks to this international engagement. The "Antigonish Movement" is still well known to historians around the nation and we should be proud of previous generations in Antigonish who embraced this concept of social responsibility. It is another testament to the openness and cultural of the community.

The cultural region is incredible for a town this size and I am still only learning about how much we have. We have top-notch musicians, theater at the Bauer and artists in a variety of areas, while people like Michael Steinitz and others bring in world class performers regularly. We have youth programs and shows that are outstanding, while local talent have become national newsmakers and the arts community is deeper than many small cities.

We have a vibrant business community and we have many strong entrepreneurs, restaurateurs and major employers. The one restaurant from some is that they wish it were a little closer to Halifax. Well I can say with certainty that if we were an hour away, we would not have the great physicians, the strong arts and culture community and more, as you become a commuter town and people simply go to the city for entertainment and services. The distance has made Antigonish self sufficient and has helped developed a vibrant community and identify of its own.

The list of benefits goes on, but we should feel lucky, as most town this size enjoy I for one am happy to be here and experience the warm hearted people and great history of Antigonish County.

Timothy Lang
Vice-President Advancement
St. Francis Xavier University

Penalty shots

Only 'Super' if my team makes it

by Richard MacKenzie
richardmac@thecasket.ca

The NFL is down to their conference championship weekend.

In the National Football Conference (NFC) it's the New York Giants versus the San Francisco 49ers from the California bay city.

For the American Football Conference (AFC) title, it

will be the Baltimore Ravens traveling to Massachusetts to take-on the New England Patriots.

Of course the winners will meet in the Super Bowl a couple of weekends later in Indianapolis. You can get ready for the hype Sunday night.

It goes without saying, for anyone who knows me, that if my Patriots don't get past the Ravens, I wouldn't make an effort to see the big game.

When I've told people about my indifference attitude, once my team is eliminated, I often get the reaction that I'm

a sore loser and not a very good sport.

Now I don't think I'm either of those things but sometimes it's hard to convince people who are, more or less, casual fans. Still I'll make the attempt.

My following of the Patriots outweighs my interest in the NFL and really, since every other team is a rival of the Pats, I'm not interested in seeing them claim a title.

With these three teams in particular, the Giants are number one on my despise meter since they ruined New England's perfect season in 2007. That memory is still, painfully, fresh.

The Ravens knocked the Patriots out of the playoffs in 2009, the same year of the movie *The Blind Side*, about Baltimore's starting offensive guard Michael Oher; was a big hit.

Needless to say, after that loss, I decided that not only did I hate the Ravens, but that I didn't like the movie, director John Lee Hancock and even Sandra Bullock.

The 49ers... well, they won enough back in the Walsh-Montana, Seifert-Young years.

For me it's simple. I do love the game of football and watch a lot of games, CFL, NCAA and CIS included, during the year but once New England is gone from the playoffs, my interest takes a nose dive.

And it was no different back in the 70s,

80s and 90s when the Patriots only made the playoffs every now and again and were never favourites to go to a Super Bowl.

What was interesting back then too is that nobody cared about New England as a team. They had no profile and, for the most part, even those who followed the NFL viewed them as irrelevant.

For an NFL equivalent, think the St. Louis Blues or Buffalo Sabers.

The relevant NFL teams back then were the Dallas Cowboys, Pittsburgh Steelers, Miami Dolphins and 49ers. People either loved or hated them and there was no in-between.

Now the Patriots, because of their success and larger than life figures of quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick are one of the most polarizing teams, if not the most, in not only football but all of sports.

They're up there with the Yankees, Lakers and Maple Leafs of the sports world which is an odd transformation for us long-time fans to see.

Of course, if that's the price of success, I want people to keep hating or liking them and I hope after Feb. 5, the Pats will have given their fans and detractors even more reasons to do so.

And for the record... I don't really hate Sandra Bullock. How can you?

THE CASKET

Liberty - Chosen path of the brave, the true, the just, the noble, the good.

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