

acterized the difference as “dishonest graft” and “honest graft”. The former refers to criminal acts used by a government official to gain personal benefit. Plunkitt’s view was that it would be foolish to engage in “dishonest graft” when there is

power of personal benefit, achieving results that work against the public interest; and it’s all legal.”

Paul Daigle
Moncton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Awareness of history is essential

I agree with Norbert Cunningham’s commentary criticizing history teaching in our schools (“New Brunswickers must learn – and relearn – our history,” July 31). Although one might reasonably expect just the opposite, my children were taught almost nothing about either the geography or history of New Brunswick. Indeed, they were given only glimpses of Canadian history.

The emphasis was on world history. Those behind curriculum design evidently fail to appreciate how such ignorance can hold back New Brunswick. Even at the University of New Brunswick, I was astonished to find that outside of the history department, students were taught little if any history.

Take forestry as an example. How can foresters be expected to manage a forest intelligently when they are ignorant of the original forest?

Awareness of past mistakes and innovative progress, as opposed to going in circles, are major benefits provided by history instruction. It’s time for change.

Rodney Savidge
Fredericton

Wear a mask, for everyone’s sake

I can’t understand the New Brunswick government’s stand on face masks. Is it a decision based on the desire for popularity? Because I cannot see any other reason.

The science speaks for itself. Let’s listen to the facts: The virus is spread by droplets coming from people’s mouths.

What other facts do we need to make them mandatory for all inside spaces? We do not have to wait for the second wave. Let’s be proactive instead of reactive.

I am a senior with a weakened immune system.

It is very stressful to go shopping when you have people not wearing face masks and not social distancing, as is often the case.

They either do not care for their fellow human beings, or they think this is all exaggerated. In either case, we are left to handle it.

It should not be up to each individual to fight these battles, these encounters are not pleasant.

Thanks for caring, to all of you that are wearing masks.

Jeanne LeBlanc Mullin
Shediac

A single airport would better serve our province

Has the pandemic not made it quite clear that New Brunswick’s population cannot sustain three main airports? With one main provincial airport, maybe today I would still be able to fly to Halifax without having to go via Montreal or Toronto.

Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John are competing for airlines, routes, passengers, and funding. Together, the three airports handled roughly 1.4 million passengers in 2019, about the same number as St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador. Saint John handled 280,000 customers. Those numbers argue for one main airport for New Brunswick. Passenger numbers of 1.4 million attract more airline attention than 280,000.

One central airport has greater chances of future viability. Increased service, with more flights and improved times and connections, would mean more satisfied customers and lead to more people choosing to fly. Competing with Fredericton and Moncton means we all end up with something less than what would otherwise be possible. It is time to work together for the greater good of the province.

Michael Wallace
Saint John

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no personal attacks. We will consider opinion articles on any subject. All submissions must be original, should not have been previously published other than in a Brunswick News publication and should be between 850 and 1,000 words in length.

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Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, waiting to get in, are proof enough that New Brunswick is no longer just a drive-through province.

We know that more difficulties lie ahead. While COVID-19 has been halted, it remains an ever-present threat, and the economic challenges wrought by the shutdown are going to require a gargantuan recovery effort.

Yet the last few months have shown that New Brunswickers are up to the challenge. Through the weeks ahead, the people of this province will face the economic and health recovery with the same sense of community and hard work that got us through the first wave.

So this New Brunswick Day weekend, we hope that all New Brunswickers will take the time to relax, recuperate and appreciate our special province.

Business support is an encouraging sign

Few industries have been as hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic as bars and restaurants. When the lockdowns began, it was this sector that was forced to adapt most significantly in the interests of public health, offering takeout or other creative options to help stay afloat.

Even as bars and restaurants have been allowed to slowly reopen in recent months, these businesses still face the challenge of a reduced customer base due to the need for social distancing.

That’s why we were so encouraged to see Saint John realtors Bob McVicar and Christine Gilliland stepping up to show their support for the local restaurant industry, offering to pay the patio fees for the Cask & Kettle Irish Gastropub on Prince William Street.

Their show of support was in appreciation for the hard work restaurants put in throughout the early months of the shutdown. It’s also to help continue the excellent progress that has been made in the last few years transforming Saint John’s Uptown.

It’s an encouraging recognition that we are all in this together. We urge Saint Johners to follow the lead of McVicar and Gilliland by supporting local businesses so that, when we emerge from the COVID pandemic, our economy is able to bounce back, too.