

Good Evening Members of The Law Amendments Committee & thank you for coming to "Our County"

My name is Sherri Harris I am a 49 year old mother of two, born and raised in Lockeport. My husband and I operate a trucking business in Shelburne...and we reside in Jordan falls. I soon will reach a five year milestone of being cancer free...how ironic that this milestone will be shadowed by perhaps another loss....the surgical division of my County...my identity and that of others.....

Shaun Hatfield in his presentation compared our County and various communities as a marriage...a union of people who are resisting this suggestion of division/divorce and recommendation of an arrangement of a new marriage with another county which would leave our County divided. A barbaric suggestion and an insult to the Shelburne County men & women who fought and continue to represent our County/Country in the Military....

Unlike others our County defines coming together and that hometown Atlantic Canada experience renowned around the world from kitchen parties to coming together during a disaster....we define unity...at a meeting at BMHS I was awe struck as I noticed my local childhood hero's photo proudly displayed in the foyer. Marjorie Turner Bailey, Lockeport Olympian....we know no boundary as represented by this exhibit of County pride....so I have asked myself why after reading transcripts were there so many presentations recommending dividing Shelburne County? The presentations were given by many with various political attachments and one individual, Sheldon Brannen who makes no secret his political aspirations...using his 18 years of living in the County as an "inside and knowledgeable opportunity to put forth a division suggestion". The only true and valid presentation came from MLA Vicki Conrad she recommended not dividing Shelburne Countyinteresting to say the least. (I have attached a copy of Mr. Brannen's presentation taken from the transcript of the "Provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission, meeting held Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at the Best Western Plus Bridgewater Hotel, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.) I as well as many other residents of Shelburne County did not realize that we should have contracted a bus or car pooled to every meeting the Commission would be holding to plead our case of staying as one!! Our "no show" at this meeting was not that we did not care... we did not assume that it would be a meeting where other political representatives would sacrifice another neighboring County to maintain their unity. This is uncalled for an unacceptable behavior, and speaks volumes of those individuals lack of integrity.

After reading the interim report there had been mention of having Argyle combined with Shelburne County....I would not be against this recommendation as it would leave Shelburne County intact....but having said that is this something that Argyle would want or would they prefer to be lumped with a severed County.

Members of Law and Amendments I ask you to ponder this..... Even if my county had been granted the opportunity to submit presentations to the Boundary

Commission "not one of my fellow county members would have suggested a division of another County". As stated previously we are true Atlantic Canadians, we come together when required, welcome others and treat others as we like to be treated.....ultimately we would never jeopardize our own unity for another fellow Nova Scotians demise....thank you for granting me the opportunity to make a presentation...I trust that as you hear and read the presentations submitted, see the signs, the stickers and enjoy the cookies that you will come to the same conclusion that I have "Shelburne County is United" & should remain as ONE!

**Sincerely,
Sherri Harris**

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I thank you for allowing me to come up here. I thought I was not going to speak, but I really believe that, based on everything that was said here tonight and what was said at that initial meeting, you need to go back to the drawing board and you really do need to revisit what you've done in the constituency of Lunenburg West. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Are there any questions?

I just wanted to say a couple of things. We have looked, as a commission, at voter turnout. We have that data and we looked quite closely at it. We also did discuss the Maitland Bridge issue back and forth and decided to leave it where it was, but again, we can come back to that. It was an issue that we heard in April and I know we did discuss it, but we can go back to that one.

Someone else put their hand up. Could you come forward, please, sir?

MR. SHELDON BRANNEN: I'm Sheldon Brannen. I'm councillor for the region of Queens Municipality. I wasn't planning to speak tonight either, but I felt I could perhaps provide a perspective that we haven't heard quite yet tonight. So while I agree with the majority, the consensus we've heard tonight, my perspective from Queens County - having been born and raised in the western end of Shelburne County, I guess maybe I'm more familiar with Shelburne County than some of the people in the room.

Whenever you have these meetings, it seems that the people who are most affected are the ones who show up, so while this is a regional meeting, we don't see many in the room from Shelburne and we don't see many from what is now Lunenburg, because they weren't negatively affected. They were left alone.

In that perspective right now, being a resident, being a councillor in Queens County, being from Shelburne County, I see the flow of traffic. The communities of interest have to be considered, and I think overall it is a tough job. We often see shoppers from the Lockeport and Sable River area and even from Shelburne visiting Queens County. We have people in that area who have their family doctor in Queens County; we have people who travel to Queens County for work; we have people who go to the grocery stores, people who do banking in Queens County and Liverpool and that area.

I think if you look at the travel patterns from that area - I'm not making recommendations as to which way this should go; you've heard some very good suggestions tonight - you'll find those travel patterns, those communities of interest, would be more common with the eastern side of Shelburne County than what we're seeing and the concerns we're hearing from those people from the southwest corner of Lunenburg who are being moved.

I guess you're going to get some resistance with every change. Any time you move a border there is a community of interest that will feel like they've been negatively impacted, but I think the impact from that perspective will be less negative than what

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we've seen - certainly what we heard about in Yarmouth last night, when that riding was split in two. I think there is more of a natural separation within Shelburne County.

We often hear about the eastern side and the western side of that county as it is, so I think if you do go back and look at those boundaries, you look at that Clyde River, you look at the population, but also if there's the opportunity to talk to some people in those communities about those travel patterns - everything else that we've heard tonight holds true as well, but those travel patterns are very much of interest. That's one of the biggest objections we are hearing from those people who feel they are in a no man's land or that they have to travel in the opposite direction to get to their MLA.

Many of those people in that end of the riding already travel this way. As a kid, I grew up in the western side of Shelburne. That would be the part that would end up joining Argyle. If we had to go school shopping, as everyone is doing right now, we went to Yarmouth. I didn't go to Shelburne. I went to Yarmouth for that. That end of the riding associated more often with Yarmouth than we did Shelburne. We might have all been in Shelburne County, but it was just as quick to get to Yarmouth, and at the time, it seemed like they had more.

The travel patterns alone are the reason why I thought I could provide a perspective here that we haven't yet heard, but a lot of the stuff you've heard would be very valuable information for reconsideration. Also, on Page 14 of the report that we have here tonight, there are five items listed as to how we could deal with Argyle and Clare. It was interesting that No. 1 and No. 2 from this committee is precisely that: putting Argyle with Shelburne, putting Clare with Digby-Annapolis.

I think that based on everything you have heard across the province - Yarmouth last night, Clare here tonight - I hope you'll look at southwestern Nova Scotia, try to find a solution that is democratic, that has the least negative impact to everyone, and hopefully one that we can find will best serve all the people in all areas of southwest Nova Scotia. It's not about one riding. It's about all of our ridings and all of our neighbour ridings. So thanks for the opportunity to speak.

MR. RUSTUM SOUTHWELL: That list wasn't to prioritize . . .

MR. SHELDON BRANNEN: I'll accept that answer.

MR. RUSTUM SOUTHWELL: I just wanted to ask a question. You said on the west side of Shelburne.

MR. SHELDON BRANNEN: I was born there, yes. I spent the first 18 years of my life there.

MR. RUSTUM SOUTHWELL: So the portion closest to Queens is fine. What is your feeling on the Acadian community working with the other side of Shelburne?



MR. SHELDON BRANNEN: I guess the challenge is the minority interest. I know their first preference would be to be left alone. Whatever you're going to do to meet the terms of reference, you're going to have some upset people there. Your hands are tied on that. I don't know that you're going to find the solution, cutting Yarmouth in half, to be more palatable or less palatable. That's the decision for you to make, but right now the communities of interest, the industries in those areas, the fishing communities of the western end of Shelburne would be very similar to those of Argyle, the Pubnicos, those of Yarmouth, even. That side of the coast is very fishery driven.

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When you get into the Town of Shelburne and coming toward Queens, there's certainly fishing still - prevalent in all of our South Shore - but it does turn more into forestry and other similar industries. I think there's a lot of validity in looking at that equation from the Clyde River border. We heard about the municipal boundaries being split there. There are some other concerns, as we heard referenced - the health board, the RDA, the school boards. Again, Maitland Bridge is part of our school board, but they're in Digby-Annapolis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak and be on the public record?

MR. BILL COX: I'm Bill Cox from Liverpool. I guess I'm one of the few non-politicians.

I have a couple of remarks that I would like to make, and if I may, I'll start with the Maitland Bridge issue. Where we will be having a provincial election within the next 12 months or so, I think it's very confusing for the people who live in that area. We have municipal and school board elections coming up and those people will vote with the Queens area as far as school board representation is concerned, and they will be voting for a councillor within Annapolis County, so that means a switchover of ballots et cetera. They are used to travelling to the Queens area for all of their necessities of life, shall we say, and therefore I think it is not an inconvenience for them to be placed in the Queens constituency.

In fact, many of the people there have expressed an interest that why don't we at least be in one area or the other? We sort of feel we're in no man's land. We go to Annapolis for this but we have to go to Queens for that. To further complicate it, the school board office is in Bridgewater, which is in a third county. It's quite difficult. I would ask you to please consider that.

I just have a couple of other remarks that I'd like to make. Most of the territory has been covered. First of all, I would like to congratulate the members of the commission on having listened to some of the remarks that were made at the Spring meetings and including that in your interim report. Also, I am disappointed at the position taken by our Minister of Justice, which made your terms of reference 2(d) more important than 2(c). I believe you will recall that at the Spring meetings the greater emphasis from the group that

“Save Nova Scotia’s Electoral Boundaries”

Presentation to Law Amendments Committee, Nov. 15, 2012

By: Helen Goreham, Resident of Woods Harbor, Shelburne County, NS

As a teacher of **40** years in the province of Nova Scotia, and as an **avid historian**, I feel it incumbent that I share my concerns on **behalf of the present and future students of Shelburne County**. Many of these students are nearing **voting age** and I feel it also behooves me to speak to and for them, regarding the **“historical” boundary changes** which are about to take place.

For eight years, students of Barrington Municipal High School have been attending the **International Gulf of Maine Institute Conferences** in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. They have learned to share environmental concerns such as invasive plants, tidal surges and oil-spill disasters. We have also shared our **common heritage** and are proud of how culturally connected we are.

The **Town of Shelburne** was of course founded by the **Loyalists** who travelled up from the Thirteen Colonies in **1783**. These “New England Loyalists” naturally spread throughout Shelburne County. There was also a large **“Black Loyalist”** contingency who called Shelburne and Birchtown home. The **Township of Barrington**, founded in **1759**, was settled by New England Planters, who followed after the Expulsion of the Acadians in 1755. Cape Sable Island and other Shelburne