

Law Amendments Committee
November 16, 2012
Andrew Goreham
Clark's Harbour
Shelburne County

Dear Law Amendments Committee,

First off let me introduce myself, my name is Andrew Goreham and I live in Clark's Harbour, Cape Sable Island.

I have been working for municipal government for 13 years. I have been Building Official, Fire Inspector, and Development Officer for the Municipality of Barrington for 8 years, Municipality of Argyle for approx. 2.5, and the Municipality of Shelburne 2.5. Over this time I have worked with the residents in all areas of these municipal units and I can tell you that the change recommended to split Shelburne County is not the correct recommendation. The areas of Shelburne and Barrington have the same contractors working in both areas whereas the area around Argyle has its own that does not move to Barrington and the Barrington contractors do not work in Argyle. The styles of work are different, the work ethics are different and the way of thinking is different. During my time in Argyle I would rarely see a resident from the Barrington area but in Shelburne I see someone in the office at least weekly. In the 2.5 years I have been in Shelburne I have only dealt with someone from the Queens area 3-4 times and have only seen a contractor from there maybe twice. I enjoyed working in Argyle very much and would no doubt still be there if the Municipality of Shelburne were not in need of a qualified building official. During my time there I had a great working relationship with the residents, staff, business owners, and contractors but was still considered an outsider. I had one person call the office and asked to speak with the Cape Island building inspector.

There are many cottages/ camps in the Shelburne area owned by residents of Barrington and surrounding areas and I have only seen 1 or 2 in the cottage country in Argyle. The people in Argyle focus their attention on festivals and events and are involved much more in their communities and you rarely see anyone from the Barrington areas there nor do you see people from Argyle attending the events in Barrington. The local exhibitions in Barrington and Shelburne are attended by the residents of all of Shelburne County and not Argyle.

Most of the adults that attended Vocational school/Community College over the years from the Barrington area attended Shelburne, now with certain classes only being held in one school this is changing a bit. There are more businesses in Shelburne being owned or run by people from Barrington than there is in Argyle.

I have been involved in hockey and baseball over the years for kids and adults and have seen more interaction between residents of Shelburne County than that of Argyle and Barrington residents. 17 years ago when the Barrington Arena was opened a men's hockey team from the Pubnico Area joined the league but several years later they moved back to Yarmouth Arena as they felt they didn't fit in in Barrington. I do the schedule up for the mens league hockey and the teams have been from Lockeport to Woods Harbour, no teams from Argyle. They go to Yarmouth no Barrington. This is the first year there is not a team from Shelburne but they still play every week in Shelburne as they still consider it one of their arenas. The kids from Shelburne County hockey are on teams together as part of Shelburne Co. Minor Hockey. The parents sit together in the stands, travel together to tournaments. The High School team from Argyle has their home games in Yarmouth, not Barrington. Barrington High School has held the Tim Horton's Cup every year and has held their games in Barrington and in Shelburne. In Minor Baseball the teams come from throughout Shelburne Co. from Lockeport to Woods Harbour. Various attempts over the years to have games scheduled between Barrington area teams and Argyle teams have been unsuccessful for the most part. I feel by separating the riding of Shelburne County this will only drive more kids away from minor sports. The local municipalities are not going to use any provincial funds for fields and events that are going to benefit kids in another provincial riding.

I also feel that once the Electoral Boundaries Committee were advised to go back and redo their recommendation they chose to get back at the NDP government and remove the only MLA in SW Nova Scotia that held two cabinet posts thus "getting back" at the NDP government. I feel the three options the government has is to either leave the Electoral Boundaries as they were or split the riding of Yarmouth as they had initially planned. Since the communities are all members of the same Industrial Commissions and are involved in various projects together this may be the best option. The final option I can see working is to combine the ridings of Argyle and Clare thus maintaining their heritage and ensuring they have a voice.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my voice.

Respectively submitted,

Andrew B. Goreham