

Daily sitting 38

Thursday, March 30, 2017

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Wetmore, Member for Gagetown-Petitcodiac, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 29)

Mr. MacDonald gave Notice of Motion 27 that on Thursday, April 6, 2017, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Jeff Carr:

WHEREAS school bus cameras are widely used throughout Canada, and more particularly, in our neighbouring provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS careless drivers put students' safety at risk by failing to stop for school buses on a daily basis;

WHEREAS video footage would help law enforcement apprehend drivers who do not stop for school buses by recording license plate numbers and providing evidence of the infraction;

WHEREAS the safety of our children, when being transported to and from school by bus drivers, who do tremendous work and provide excellent service, is of utmost importance to all New Brunswick parents;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to put a school bus camera program in place, where cameras are placed on buses for the purposes of capturing license plate images and evidence to report to law enforcement officials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to allow registered owners of vehicles to be charged for failing to stop for a school bus if they are not willing to give law enforcement officials the name of the driver who failed to stop.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House recess until 2.30 p.m.; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

At 11 o'clock a.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, be now read a second time.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Albert, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 33 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 25, Mr. Fairgrieve moved, seconded by Mr. Macdonald:

WHEREAS during the First World War, Vimy Ridge and its surrounding area in northern France was seized and held by the German army in September 1914 providing them with a commanding view of French, British and Canadian forces;

WHEREAS early efforts by the French army to capture this strategic site had been unsuccessful and had resulted in thousands of casualties;

WHEREAS in early 1917 the Canadian corps under the leadership of Lieutenant General Sir Julian Byng was ordered to capture the ridge as part of a major British offensive near Arras;

WHEREAS the Canadian corps, understanding the significant challenges they faced, commenced an extensive tactical study of the position, conducted extensive training, and amassed huge quantities of ammunition and supplies to capture the objective;

WHEREAS the Canadian corps was comprised of men from every area of Canada and various other countries of birth formed the infantry, engineer, and numerous support units making up the four Canadian divisions;

WHEREAS these four divisions of Canadian corps along with the British XVII Corps would launch an attack on Vimy Ridge on 9 April, 1917, at 5:30 a.m.;

WHEREAS by noon on 9 April, 1917, three divisions had reached their objectives and by 12 April, the Canadians had captured Vimy Ridge from the German army;

WHEREAS in spite of the enormous casualties, the battle tactics used by the Canadians and the resulting success exemplified the Canadian corps as masters of offensive warfare and gave Canada new international recognition;

WHEREAS the unity and spirit of the Canadian fighting men continued with numerous other successful battles against the German forces and greatly aided in bringing the conflict to an end in November 1918;

WHEREAS the Battle of Vimy Ridge is an epic part of the Canadian identity and history, and the Vimy memorial an iconic tribute to the sacrifice of Canadians during the Great War;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that April 9, 2017, be proclaimed as Vimy Ridge Day in New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 25 was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 26, Mr. MacDonald moved, seconded by Mr. Fitch:

WHEREAS the Department of Environment and Local Government are advocating the establishment of rural communities throughout New Brunswick, as a means of providing greater opportunities for local input at the local level; and

WHEREAS the local service district of Estey's Bridge is currently in discussions to join the local service district of Saint Mary's, portions of the local service district of Stanley, and the Village of Stanley to form the new rural community of Nashwaak; and

WHEREAS the Nashwaak rural community spent the winter of 2016 undertaking a series of public meetings to determine the interest in joining the populations of Estey's Bridge, Saint Mary's, Stanley (the Village) and portions of Stanley (the parish) together, and collected the necessary amount of signatures required by the province to proceed with the next step in the establishment of a rural community; and

WHEREAS the Nashwaak rural community meets the guidelines as established by the Department of Environment and Local Government, namely the inclusion of a village, a population greater than 4000 and a tax base in excess of \$200M; and

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick, through the Department of Environment and Local Government has already granted approval for the feasibility study to proceed; and

WHEREAS the financing of the feasibility has already been secured; and

WHEREAS the local service district of Estey's Bridge is already dealing with increased truck traffic associated with existing rock quarry activity in the area; and

WHEREAS the Department of Environment and Local Government has failed to provide an acceptable level of environmental oversight, requiring local property owners to act as their own enforcement branch by collecting pictures, documenting and reporting violations; and

WHEREAS the Department of Environment and Local Government does not presently differentiate between gravel pits and rock quarries for the purposes of operating regulations which prevent the adequate addressing of issues identified by the residential land owners adjacent to existing quarry operations; and

WHEREAS a new quarry is being proposed that would double the noise, traffic and blasting along route 620 between the Kingsley Road and Fredericton city limits;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to refrain from approving any gravel pits or rock quarries in the area bordered by the Claudie Road, Route 620, Route 105 and Kingsley Road until the Nashwaak rural community is established and area residents have had an opportunity to voice their concerns to the representatives of their new municipal structure currently known as the Nashwaak rural community.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Report on Performance 2015-2016,  
Auditor General of New Brunswick

March 27, 2017