

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2012 October 05 Friday

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ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY



EDDIE JOYCE, MHA, PRESENTS A CERTIFICATE TO LORNA AND HOWARD, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR BEING THE FIRST COUPLE TO BE MARRIED AT ST JAMES

ON 2012 SEPTEMBER 23, SUNDAY, St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, celebrated two important occasions: the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the church, and also the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Howard and Lorna Sheppard who were married on the same day as the church was consecrated.

Lay Minister George Sheppard and others had tried very diligently to find an ordained minister to conduct the 7pm service. When no one could be available, instead of just giving up, George obtained authorisation from the Diocese and with assistance from other Lay Ministers Lorraine Humber and Ruth Travers, organised a fine service. A lunch was also organised for later, and both service and lunch were well attended.

Part of the occasion was the cutting of a special cake by Howard and Lorna Sheppard, and the presentation by MHA Eddie Joyce of a commemorative certificate (top right). George Sheppard read a homily as part of the service (top right) and Nina Druggett entertained for several minutes at the lunch with her memories of some of the occurrences around that day fifty years ago (lower right).



LAY MINISTER GEORGE SHEPPARD DELIVERS THE SERMON



NINA DRUGGETT TELLS SOME STORIES SHE RECALLS FROM 1962

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW RECTOR

We take this early opportunity to welcome Rev Nelson Chapman and Mrs Vida Chapman who have now arrived in their new home in our community.

We wish them every happiness and success in their new Ministry in the Bay of Islands Anglican Parish.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Items in Italics relate to activities at St James Church.

HE = Holy Eucharist; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer

2012	OCTOBER	2012
3 rd	Wed	Cruise Ships <i>Emerald Princess & Oceania Regatta</i>
4 th	Thur	Cruise Ship <i>Brilliance of the Sea</i>
7 th	Sunday	<i>St James - 11:00am Morning Service</i> **
		Cruise Ship <i>Norwegian Gem</i> NOTE
8 th	Mon	<i>Thanksgiving Day in Canada</i> Changes
10 th	Wed	Cruise Ship <i>Oceania Regatta</i> made to
14 th	Sunday	<i>St James - 11:00am Morning Service</i> ** the
		Cruise Ship <i>Brilliance of the Sea</i> Cruise Ship
15 th	Mon	Cruise Ship <i>Norwegian Dawn</i> schedule
17 th	Wed	Cruise Ship <i>Norwegian Gem</i> for this
21 st	Sunday	<i>St James - 7:00pm Evening Service</i> ** month.
27 th	Wed	UNITED NATIONS DAY
		Cruise Ship <i>Oceania Regatta</i>
28 th	Sunday	<i>St James - 7:00pm Evening Service</i> **
31 st	Wed	HALLOWEEN

**** Please Note : some of the above Church Services ****
**** may be Holy Communion, and other changes ****
**** may be introduced during the month. ****

2012	NOVEMBER	2012
4 th	Sunday	Back to Standard Time
11 th	Sunday	REMEMBRANCE DAY
18 th	Sunday	
25 th	Sunday	

2012	DECEMBER	2012
21 st	Fri	First Day of Winter
25 th	Tues	Christmas Day

2013	ADVANCE DATES	2013
1 st Jan	Tues	New Year's Day

For all or part of the past seven years since 2005 the following businesses and organisations were reliable Sponsors of *The Blow-Me-Downer*. That era of our existence is now over, but we offer them our sincere thanks for making the publication possible during that time.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Byrne's Store, Main St | York Harbour |
| Curling ONE Stop Service Station | Corner Brook |
| Drop In Lounge, 23 Main Street | Lark Harbour |
| Eddie Joyce, MHA, Bay of Islands | Corner Brook |
| Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Ave | Corner Brook |
| Quik Lube Plus, 65 Humber Road | Corner Brook |
| Sheppard's Clover Farm Store, Rte 450 | Lark Harbour |
| Sheppard's General Store, Rte 450 | York Harbour |

We also thank the Anglican Parish of Bay of Islands for making their photocopying facilities available over the last seven years.

The **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** is available on the Internet at the Website www.blowmedowner.webs.com where it is posted free

before or on the first Friday of each month.

Submit copy to blowmedowner@gmail.com

Small social & personal announcements are free.

For best inclusion, all copy must be submitted as early as possible and not later than 3 days before the first Friday of the month of publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Readers are reminded that, due to our no longer having access to copying facilities, this and future issues of The BLOW•ME•DOWNER are available only on electronic media, and therefore are not being distributed by Canada Post. This means that many of our local readers may no longer have access to The BLOW•ME•DOWNER.

In order to make the publication available locally to as many people as possible, we ask those who have computers and printing facilities, to print a copy or two for friends or relatives who do not have computers of their own.

Each issue as it is prepared, along with several years of back issues, will also be available at any time on the Website:

www.blowmedowner.webs.com

We continue to investigate alternative possibilities for local distribution of printed copies, but so far there have been no useful results. Commercial photocopying is far too costly, and offering paid subscriptions is not practical. So please do whatever you can to make the BMD available to as many people as possible.

You will also note that there has been a slight change of format, from legal (8.5x14 inches) to letter size (8.5x11 inches) pages. Since most people would not have legal size paper available, and some printers may not accommodate it, this change will simplify printing on your home machine if you so wish. The PDF format used on the Webpage should be easily printable if you have downloaded a PDF reader on your machine. We are doing our best to avoid this by trying to accommodate each individual item on a single page, but this may not always be possible. SLH

The announcement below is presented as a courtesy to Bay of Islands residents.

Eddie Joyce, MHA

Bay of Islands District

If you require assistance, please contact my office at:

Fortis Tower, 5th Floor, Suite 501

4 Herald Avenue, P.O.Box 2006,

Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6J8

Ph: 634-7883

Fax: 634-7885

Email: ejoyce@gov.nl.ca

A GIANT PUMPKIN grown in LARK HARBOUR



ARCHIE AND BERTHA DISPLAY THEIR GIANT PUMPKIN

FOR MANY YEARS Archie Sheppard of Lark Harbour has been a keen gardener. Over the years he has grown large quantities of fruit and vegetables of many kinds. Pumpkins have been among those fruit most years, and in the past there have been some pretty big ones. Archie recounts one of his finest that weighed in at 87 pounds.

But this year, perhaps due to the warmest summer on record, making for a fantastic growing season, Archie's garden has produced his biggest pumpkin ever. This champion has not yet been weighed, but, comparing it with the 87 pounder of earlier times, Archie estimates that it must weigh well over 100, perhaps as much as 120 pounds. And it isn't alone : in his garden he has two or three more approaching that size, but with the growing season now finished, the one shown above will not now be challenged.

When asked what is the secret of his success with the pumpkins, in his modest way Archie answers, "I just feed 'em good, and they do the rest." That sounds just too easy, and I suspect Archie's fingers are much greener than he will admit, because his whole garden is full of

many different items—raspberries, apples, cucumbers, and potatoes, to name just a few—and the entire property has the look of being nurtured by an expert who knows well what each plant needs.

Archie seems to have no particular plans for this giant, but if Cinderella's fairy godmother is looking for a pumpkin to magic into a carriage this year, then this one should be big enough. But it will surely need an enormous crowd of mice to pull it!



ARCHIE AND BERTHA SURVEY THEIR PUMPKIN PATCH.
THE GIANT PUMPKIN IS AT THE LEFT OF THE PICTURE.

Does anyone know if this is the biggest pumpkin ever to have been grown in Lark Harbour? If you know of other large pumpkins grown here, or elsewhere in Newfoundland, please let us know. In the meantime, congratulations to Archie on his success this year.



FOOD BANK NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



Thanksgiving Food Drive

PLEASE REMEMBER the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. As usual, donations may be left in the church on Sunday, or sent to the school. Or, if neither of those possibilities works for you, telephone me at 681-2256. We would like to make this a good collection; we know there are people living in our communities—perhaps with children— whose financial resources are not enough to buy the food they need. Sometimes the problem might be illness or injury; or a bit of bad luck which they may get past with a little help from their friends. Whatever it may be, we always know it could be us in the situation. Most of us have been luckier, and should be willing to share our good luck.

Please give what you can. Remember, Jesus told us that whatever we do for the poor, the hungry and the homeless, we are doing it for Jesus himself. We can also say it is "what Jesus would do."

Let's do our best, and perhaps make up a bit for pretty much forgetting about the Food Bank all summer while we enjoyed the lovely weather God gave us this year. Hopefully we may still get more nice weather to enjoy AND remember our Christian responsibilities.

Thank you.

Obituary

SYLVIA JOAN HANN

1944 January 30 – 2012 August 26

It was with great sadness that the family of the late Sylvia Joan Hann, née Dennis, announced her passing on Sunday, August 26, 2012 at her residence in John's Beach at the age of 68 years. She left to mourn with fond and loving memories her husband of 44 years, Calvin Hann; sister Rose Attwood, Corner Brook; brother James (Elizabeth) Dennis, Cold Lake, Alberta; nieces and nephews: Penny (Kerry) White, Paula Attwood, Brian (Margie) Attwood, Jackie Dennis and Christopher (Rachelle) Dennis; great niece and nephew: Madison Dennis and Derek Attwood; brothers and sisters-in-law: Grant (Elizabeth) Hann, William Hann, Emma Welshman, Ula (Dave) Walsh, Martha (Sterling) Payne, Anita Hann and Leo Quilty; special relatives and friends: Evelyn Dennis, Mt Moriah; Gloria, Frank and Ian Murley; Leslie, Mary and Colton Gallant, Allan and Pearl Sheppard, Shirley Porter, Carl and Sue Alyward; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents Augustus and Hilda Dennis, brothers Gerald and David Dennis, brother-in-law Derek Attwood. Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 218 Curling Street, on Monday 7-9pm and Tuesday 2-4 & 7-9pm. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, August 29 at 2:00pm from St Ambrose Anglican Church, John's Beach, with Rev Roberta Woodman officiating. Interment followed at the church cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations could be made to St Ambrose Anglican Church Memorial Fund. The family guest book could be signed or a memorial donation made through our website www.fillatre.ca.

Obituary

ROSS M COMPANION

1952 - 2012

With great sadness the family of the late Ross M Companion announced his passing at Western Memorial Regional Hospital, Corner Brook, on Friday, August 31, 2012 at the age of 60 years. He left to mourn with many precious memories his wife Dorothy; son Jeff; daughter Lynn Marie (Monty) Way; precious granddaughters: Jessica Companion, Jasmine Way, Jade Way; brother Rene (Barbara); sisters: Sandra (Merlin) Clancy, Gloria Companion (Todd Sherran); special friend Joseph; brother-in-law James Hickey; sisters-in-law: Mary (Robert)



McCarthy, Gertrude McCarthy, Monica (John) Lauretig, Vera Hickey as well as nieces, nephews other family and friends. He was pre-deceased by his parents Harold and Nina Companion. Visitation took place on Sunday from 2-4 & 7-9pm at Fillatre's Funeral Home, Curling, from where the funeral service took place on Monday, September 3, 2012 at 2:00pm with Rev Canon Roberta Woodman officiating, inurnment to take place at a later date. To honour Ross's wishes cremation has taken place at Humber Valley Crematorium. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to St Ambrose Anglican Church Memorial Fund.

Obituary

ANN MARY STRICKLAND

1952 - 2012

The family of the late Annie Strickland announced with great sadness her passing on Sunday, September 2nd, 2012, in the Palliative Care Unit of Western Memorial Hospital at the age of 60 years. She left to mourn with fond and loving memories her husband: Alfred George; children: Lisa, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Alfred John; grandchildren:



Candice, Courtney, Roger, Rylan, Brandon, Anthony, Cameron, Austin, Joshua and Julia; great grandchild: Caden Hackett; mother: Mrs Angela Hefferon; brothers and sisters: Angela Pennell, Theresa Cottreau, Jerry, Johnny, Patrick and Miles Hefferon, Agnes, Joan and Cecelia Hefferon; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her father, Miles Hefferon. Visitation took place from Fillatre's Funeral Home, 218 Curling Street on Tuesday, 7-9pm and Wednesday from 2-4 and 7-9pm. The funeral service was held on Thursday, September 6th at 2:00pm from St Ambrose Anglican Church, John's Beach, with interment to follow at the church cemetery, with Rev Canon Roberta Woodman officiating. As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the charity of one's choice. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made through our website www.fillatre.ca.

THE CRACKED POT - A Chinese Fable

AN ELDERLY CHINESE WOMAN had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water, but at the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled. "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take all people for what they are and look for the good in them.

Anonymous

Obituary

PRISCILLA JANE SHEPPARD

1924 August 29 - 2012 September 30

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Priscilla Jane Sheppard announce her passing at the Palliative Care Unit in the Western Memorial Regional Hospital on Sunday September 30, 2012, at the age of 88 years.

She leaves to mourn with fond and loving memories her children Mary Youden, Virginia (Ralph) Lethbridge, Roxanne (Oliver) Youden, Beaton (Karen) Sheppard, Merele (Marilyn) Sheppard, Alicia (Bill) Sloan, Brian (Kim) Sheppard, Llewelyn (Marasha) Sheppard, 19 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren, also a large circle of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her husband Cyril (1991), parents Stephen & May Robinson, two sons Edward & Scott, sister Emma, brothers George, William, and Llewellyn. Visitation will take place at St. James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour on Tuesday October 2, 2012, from 7-9pm, and on Wednesday October 3, 2012 from 2-4 & 7-9pm. and on Thursday October 4, 2012 from 10am to noon. Funeral service will take place from the St. James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, on Thursday October 4, 2012 at 2 P.M. with Rev Nelson Chapman officiating. Interment to follow at the church cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy flowers are graciously accepted or donations may be made to the St James Anglican Church Fund. The family guest book may be signed or memorial donations may be made by visiting our website at www.country-haven.ca.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped them during this difficult time of their lives. Also thanks to her niece Judy and her daughter Jeanette.



*Card of Thanks
from the Family of the Late
Terrance George Roberts*

WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE TERRANCE ROBERTS, would like to extend a big thank-you to Dr P Morris and Staff, to Dr Fudge, the 4th floor & ICU Nursing Staff, Corner Brook; to Dr Hickey & Team, and to the 4th floor & ICU Nursing Staff at the Health Science Centre, St John's, for your continued care of Terrance during his time of illness. Also to Fillatre's Funeral Home for your professionalism; to Rev Malcolm Palmer for conducting the Funeral Service; to George Sheppard for being there to assist us whenever possible; to the church readers; to Sharon Parsons, organist; to Lisa and Sherry for singing and to Kenny for accompaniment; and to the Pall Bearers for your last gift to Terrance in bringing him to his final resting place.

A special thank-you to everyone who brought food, sent cards and messages from family away, and to the many family and friends who came to our home and to the church. Your support was greatly appreciated and you will never be forgotten.

A big thank-you to the ACW for the refreshments served after the service.

To our "Guardian Angels" in St John's for opening your homes and lives to us and for making us feel so welcome, and also to our family

who visited you and whom you welcomed with open arms. How will we ever repay you?

To Ivy & Morris Kendell and Joan & Clarence Childs for being with us during Terrance's last days and hours. I don't know how I would have got through the time in St John's without your support. We will be forever grateful.

While it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please be assured that we appreciate everything that was done for us during this difficult time. We will be forever grateful for the many acts of kindness that were shown to us, and may God bless each and every one of you.

*From wife, Gertrude, daughter Tiffany (Kenny) Brake,
son Terrance and grandson Brady.*

Obituary

HAROLD "ROSS" SHEPPARD

1927 April 13 - 2012 September 27

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Harold "Ross" Sheppard announce his passing on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook at the age of 85 years. He leaves to mourn with fond and loving memories his children: Maureen (Isaac) Hutchings and Kathy Sheppard (Byron House); grandchildren: Colin (Jodie) Hutchings, Kirk Hutchings, Angela Brake and



Holly Brake; great-grandchildren: Elliot and Wesley Hutchings; brothers: Ronald Sheppard, James (Joan) Sheppard and Isaac Jr (Doris) Sheppard; special niece Joanne Sigouin; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Sheppard, grandson Darryl Hutchings, parents Isaac and Phoebe Sheppard, sisters Georgina, Olive and Susie, brothers Cyril and Clayton. Friends may visit St. James Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Friday 7-9 pm and Saturday 2-4 & 7-9 pm from where the funeral service was held on Sunday, September 30 at 2:00 pm with Rev Isaac Hutchings officiating. Interment to follow at the Anglican Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers graciously accepted or donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Fillatre's Funeral Home. The family guest book may be signed or a memorial donation may be made through our website www.fillatre.ca.

We also offer our condolences to the family and friends of the late Larry Park of Halifax area, but have as yet seen no obituary.



TOWN OF LARK HARBOUR

Report of Meeting of 2012 September 18, 4:00pm

PRESENT: Mayor: John Parsons; Deputy Mayor: Jamie Park
Councillors: Pauline Sheppard, Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs
Clerks: Joanna Pottle, Peggy Sheppard (Recording Minutes)

- **Minutes** of 2012 August 27 approved.
- **Bottle Cove Road:** Culvert and stone have been donated and are being used for repairs, which should soon be completed.
- **Breakwater Repairs:** Grant Application submitted for repairs to the breakwater along the lower part of Main Road.
- **Regionalisation:** Meeting scheduled with Robyn Burse and Arthur Skinner of Municipal Affairs for Tuesday 2012 Oct 02.
- **Surveillance System:** Letter sent to Western School District, to be followed up by 2012 October 05 if no reply by then.
- **Financial Report:** Approved with accounts payable of \$743.98.
- **Overdue Collections:** Council will apply proper legal procedures for outstanding taxes for 2012 and prior tax years.
- **Building Permits:** All approved as presented.
- **Commissioner of Oaths:** Since Council may not charge when issuing the Commissioner of Oaths stamp, but donations may be accepted, if a VON nurse is appointed, donations would be collected and forwarded to the Clinic.
- **Snow Clearing:** Tender issued. Contract to extend through April.
- **Signing Authority:** Clerk Peggy to have signing authority.
- **Telephone:** To reduce costs, Council Office telephone service will change to a Business Bundle.
- **Blow-Me-Downer:** Additional information required.
- **Update on Water/Sewer Project** by Anderson Engineering:
 - Contractor is responsible for supplying a lock for the gate.
 - Town needs Right of Way to the road with full access and ownership. Public works would authorise it, and Crown Lands would approve. AE awaiting feedback from Public Works and Crown Lands, will update Council on completion. No need for road ownership transfer now, but process should be started.
 - Dam will be 1 metre higher than originally planned.
 - Anticipating mid-October tendering of Phase 1B; Municipal Affairs has final decision. Contractor will decide whether to start work this fall or wait until spring. Phase 1B should take about 6-8 weeks to complete.
- **Complaints/Concerns/Discussion Items**
 - Joint Fire Dept meeting scheduled: Tuesday, Oct 9th, 7:00pm.
 - Clerk to follow-up with York Harbour re vehicle wreck on Route 450 east of town.
 - Dept of Transportation letter re guardrail tabled for New Year.
 - Clerk to contact Dept of Transportation re placing 30km/hr signs in school zone; also re the sign on O'Connell Drive.
 - Agent White petition and *Protecting the Water and Public Health of our Rural Communities* petition placed in lobby for public viewing and signing.

Meeting closed at 6:00pm.

WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY

RECENTLY I HEARD AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION on CBC Radio. The topic was raised by a book *What Money Can't Buy: the Moral Limits of Markets*, written by Michael J Sandel and published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Mr Sandel is the Anne T and Robert M Bass Professor of Government at Harvard University, USA.

In his book Professor Sandel poses the question, "Is there something wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? If so, how can we prevent market values from reaching into spheres of life where they don't belong?" He follows his question with the argument that we have drifted from *having* a market economy to *being* a market society. In other words, we have become dominated by a system where a price is placed not only on consumer goods and services (a concept that generally makes a certain amount of sense) but we have allowed everything else to be bought and sold in a similar way. This, suggests the Professor, can bring with it a number of problems.

In support of his thesis, he gives a few illustrations which help to explain his idea that there are many things we should expect to do or be done without payment being involved :

- Should we pay children to read books or to get good grades?
- Should we allow corporations to pay for the right to pollute the atmosphere?
- Is it ethical to offer money to tempt poor people to risk life or health by testing new drugs or by offering their organs for sale?
- Should we hire mercenaries to fight our wars for us?
- Should admission to universities be sold to the highest bidder?
- Should citizenship be sold to immigrants willing to pay?

On the issue of paying children to read good books or to get good grades, Professor Sandel suggests that such payment could eventually result in children refusing to do anything unless they get paid for it. Is that how we want our children to grow up?

Allowing corporations to pay for the right to pollute, he says, is likely to legalise whatever levels of pollution they find convenient. Looking at some of the pollution we now live with, what kind of a world would we soon have?

What horrors could result from paying people to test new drugs or to offer their organs for sale? There's enough violence around without adding the fear of stepping out of your home after dark in case someone is lying in wait to kidnap you and collect whatever the market will offer.

Most people believe that money is an essential means of legitimate exchange, but do we really want every aspect of our lives to be governed by it? What about all the good people who willingly volunteer their time and effort to help others? The volunteers in our hospitals, schools, and social organisations that provide assistance to the needy, sick, and aged in our communities? Or the kindly neighbour who looks after your kids while you make a quick trip to the store, or who clears your driveway in winter when you've suffered a setback and can't do it for yourself?

There are myriads of ways in which we help each other, and don't expect to get paid for it. What would life be like if everything had to be paid for with cold hard cash? That's not the kind of world I want to live in. Do you? I believe Professor Sandel has posed a question that we all need to think about.

What's YOUR opinion?

GLOBAL WARMING : FACT OR FICTION?

FOR YEARS NOW some people have been denying the reality of global warming, and ignoring it, while others have accepted it as something in need of fixing. Meanwhile the fact remains that *something* certainly is causing serious changes in climate everywhere in the world, including here at home.

On Monday & Tuesday 2012 September 10th & 11th the Island of Newfoundland experienced the visit of tropical storm Leslie. Tropical storms are rotating weather systems or *cyclones* that develop from tropical depressions in warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean. They can in turn develop into hurricanes, which is defined as having sustained winds often far in excess of 74 miles per hour or about 118 kilometres per hour. They can also produce heavy rain which, accompanied by winds of hundreds of kilometres per hour, can cause immense damage in coastal areas. But over the land or when they reach colder waters, they gradually weaken. By the time Hurricane Leslie reached Newfoundland it was downgraded back to a tropical storm, but was still packing winds gusting well over 100kph with very heavy rain in some areas.

Along with Earle and Igor in 2010, Leslie is the third such storm to visit our shores in two years. Each one has brought with it destruction of property and some personal injury or even loss of life.

Stormy weather is not unusual for Newfoundland, and from time immemorial, hurricanes and tropical storms have invaded these shores, but usually they have lost much of their strength before they make landfall here, and are often called "post-tropical" storms. But to be hit by three major tropical storms in two years is rather more intense than the historical pattern. And the Atlantic hurricane season has a couple more months yet to run.

It is changes such as this which have led many eminent scientists to postulate global warming. Even so, many people still argue that nothing unusual is happening, nothing to cause alarm. Yet, coupled with other facts like the melting of ice caps in both polar regions, the opening of sea routes through the Northwest Passage (the route attempted unsuccessfully by Franklin in 1845), the melting of permafrost reported by Inuit in Northern Canada, increased droughts in Western Canada and other places, and even changes in wildlife migration patterns and plant distribution, it becomes increasingly difficult to argue that the world is not getting warmer.

Most Canadians now seem to accept the idea that climate warming is actually happening, although recent polls show that almost half of us still believe that it is due to natural causes, not to the increase of carbon dioxide (a "greenhouse gas") in the atmosphere caused mainly by our excessive use of fossil fuels. Their response is that we can do nothing about it, and therefore we can ignore it.

A final thought: *Can we risk ignoring what may be happening because some people deny it?* It may lead to more and greater natural disasters, disease, famine, warfare, who knows? Many of us alive today will not be around to deal with these possible future effects of global warming. *But our children and our grandchildren will.*

The articles on this page both highlight our civic responsibilities. Pollution at home, and much of the trouble in the Middle East are the results of actions in the past by western nations, including Canada. To protect the future interest of our children we must be thoughtfully involved in solutions wherever reasonably possible.

RESULTS OF 'THE ARAB SPRING'

During the last couple of years there have been great social changes in a number of countries, especially the Middle East. Known as 'the Arab Spring', it all began in Tunisia, a relatively small country in North Africa, when a 26-year old street vendor named Mohamed Bouazizi (pronounced *BOO-AH-ZI-ZI*) lost his means of livelihood when his wares were confiscated by the authorities. It was not the first time and, frustrated with his inability to gain satisfaction, on 2010 December 17 Mr Bouazizi doused himself with gasoline and set fire to it. The people of Tunisia were so angered when they heard about the events that riots began a few days later and eventually the government of Tunisia was overthrown. Mohamed Bouazizi died of his burns on 2011 January 04.

The events in Tunisia were heard around the world, and it was not long before similar populist movements began in other countries. Egypt was among the first, and by the end of January thousands had taken to the streets and were protesting against Hosni Mubarak's dictatorship. Eventually Mubarak was driven from office, but not before large numbers of Egyptians were killed by the military.

Libya soon followed, with an effort to topple Muammar Gaddafi's régime. As in Egypt, lives were lost when Gaddafi's forces used all their military power to destroy the rebels, but by 2011 October Gaddafi had been removed and the rebellion was completed.

More civil unrest followed in many countries, some resulting in the people's desired changes, others notably unsuccessful to date, as in Syria, where thousands have been slaughtered by government forces in support of the dictatorial President Bashar al-Assad. Meanwhile the rebellion, now virtually a civil war, continues with horrendous bloodshed on both sides, and torture not just of adults, but even of infants who are made to witness the torture and deaths of their parents before being subjected to the same treatment themselves.

It is difficult to assess the effectiveness of these rebel movements, especially when they conflict in so many instances with our humanitarian values. But we must keep in mind that in most of these countries medical and educational facilities are only for the rich, and democracy does not exist for the majority. Often governments operate exclusively in the interest of a small minority of wealthy people, while millions survive hand-to-mouth, with no land and the equivalent of no more to live on than a few cents a day. The poor are desperate and really have nothing to lose, for either themselves or their children. Social unrest then frequently turns to violence and is immediately squashed by the government.

So what can we do? Individually, unless we can uproot ourselves and go to work in these countries, like Albert Schweitzer, Mother Teresa, and many others have done in the past, we can do little. But as a nation which boasts Christian and humanitarian values, we can urge our governments to use more of our taxes to provide help for the needy. Personally we can also support NGOs like *Oxfam*, the *Primate's World Relief & Development Fund*, and *Doctors Without Borders*, which not only provide immediate assistance, but also sustainable aid through education in medicine and agriculture.

Of course, we must also bear in mind that there are Canadians suffering in conditions of poverty, especially in some native reserves and our inner cities. We cannot ignore their needs without appearing very hypocritical to others looking at Canada, so we must urge our governments to follow up on those responsibilities. So far they are not doing so. In the end it is up to us to make the world a better place for everyone.



LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



The present rotating collection will be with us until the end of October, with a fair selection of mysteries, many in Large Print. It seems the LP factor becomes more attractive as we grow older and our eyes start to give us trouble. The books sometimes seem very thick, but the reading does go more quickly.

Aside from printed books, the Public Library system now has a fair number of e-books. If you have an e-reader, it can be very convenient to download a book and just have it with you while you sit in bus stations or waiting rooms. Apparently the most popular e-reader, the Kindle, will not work with the Public Library's system; the Kobol model is the preferred one. Check with Lesley to find out how to access the system - from your home computer, if you wish.

From the rotating collection:

1. <i>Unnatural Selection</i>	LP	Aaron Elkins
2. <i>Murder and Salutations</i>	LP	Elizabeth Bright
3. <i>Exit Music</i>	LP	Ian Rankin
4. <i>The Private Patient</i>	LP	PD James
5. <i>Burn Out</i>	LP	Marcia Muller
6. <i>Old Bones Buried Under</i>	LP	June Drummond
7. <i>Murder in Paradise</i>	LP	Alanna Knight
8. <i>Pirate Latitudes</i>	LP	Michael Crichton
9. <i>Blood Dreams</i>	LP	Kay Hooper

1. *Unnatural Selection* is a good forensic mystery. Mr Elkins' character Gideon Oliver is known as the "Skeleton Detective". Even on holiday, when a few bones are discovered buried on a beach Gideon is able to describe the owner of the bones and help the police figure out what happened to him. Interesting and easy reading in spite of all those big names of bones.

2. *Murder and Salutations* is a domestic mystery. The detective is a housewife-type who makes greeting cards and owns a shop to sell them, and the story is set in a small town where everybody knows everybody. Everyone knows and dislikes the first victim. The detective work does involve some personalities, but eventually the plot does become clear in an exciting finish. Easy and entertaining reading, and the reader does get some tips on making greeting cards.

3. *Exit Music* is a British police procedural featuring Detective Inspector John Rebus. After many years as a policeman, Rebus is about to retire from the force in Edinburgh, Scotland. Continuing his past history as someone who usually uses his own judgment no matter how it affects other members of the team, Rebus deals with increasing complications in the investigation of two murders as his final effort. In addition to the complications arising from the case, he must also deal with negative reactions from other policemen. As usual, the end is a surprise and the book is a good read.

4. *The Private Patient* is another British police procedural mystery, but longer and more detailed than most. The reader meets all the characters before the police enter to investigate a murder, and we also learn more of what happens to them after the murder is resolved and the police are gone. The story is set in an old manor house and the characters are mostly from the upper social classes in Britain, which makes for an interesting background. The actual murders are resolved by the end, again a surprise. Fairly easy reading, but lots of it.

5. *Burn Out* is a mystery, but takes place on a ranch and there is a horse. Sharon McCone is a private detective who owns a ranch. She can also fly planes, which is useful in the present case, as she is jumping about all over California and Nevada looking for witnesses who can help her with the background of those involved in a couple of rather nasty murders. Easy reading and hard to put down.

6. *Old Bones Buried Under* involves John Thorneycroft, who describes himself as a "forensic psychiatrist", which seems to mean that he can guess a good bit about the personality of a criminal by studying how he committed his crime. In this case he is called in by a friend in one of the local English police forces to try to find out why a skull has been found in a local land fill. The story moves on into anthropology and a search for the fossil remains of one of man's important ancestors, which takes John to Africa. Pretty interesting and again easy reading.

7. *Murder in Paradise* is a historical fiction mystery, set in the year 1860. The detective, Jeremy Faro, is sent from Edinburgh, Scotland, down into England by train to capture and bring back an important criminal being held in a village jail. Trains are a fairly recent innovation in British transportation, and Faro enjoys the train ride even though he considers the trip a waste of time as he is confident that the criminal in question will have escaped by the time he arrives. This turns out to be the case, but Faro strikes lucky in being invited to stay in a big house amongst a crowd of rich artistic types. The story tells of many complications, mostly people who are not what they seem, including a suspected murderess living unsuspected among the crowd. Faro is first nearly killed by the 'flu and then almost killed by the clever villain before most of the problems get sorted out. A different kind of mystery, interesting and easy reading.

8. *Pirate Latitudes* is an exciting adventure story about British privateers in the Caribbean back in 1665. According to the British, privateers are not the same as pirates because they only prey on the British nation's enemies—the Spanish. If a British privateer captures a Spanish treasure ship, perhaps laden with gold and jewels from the New World, everyone from the king on down gets a share. This story is about a Captain Hunter, who hears of a very rich Spanish ship in a harbour protected by a supposedly unbeatable fortification. He works out a plan that he thinks will succeed, and recruits a number of men—and one girl—with unusual attributes that will fit with his plan. Many difficulties and dangers to overcome, including a Spanish warship that won't give up, and a hurricane. And at home in Port Royal, Jamaica, some very unhelpful political problems are developing, which further complicates the whole plan. A good read.

9. *Blood Dreams* is not a very pleasant book to read. It tells of the hunt for a serial killer, with some unsettling descriptions of his methods. The team looking for him is unusual: some type of psychic ability is required to have a place on the team. The reader is primarily concerned with a group known as "Haven" (not to be confused with the TV series of the same name). This is a civilian group with connections to the FBI. We primarily follow a pair of identical twins, one of whom dreams of bad things before they happen; the other is a sort of interpreter of her sister's nightmares. They have been invited to join the Haven group by Noah Bishop, head of the FBI's Special Crimes Unit. This is a division of the FBI, but somewhat unpopular with the conventional administration, as it includes people with psychic abilities. This group has been pursuing the killer without much success in Boston; but now he has shifted to Atlanta, where the Haven group is active. Exciting reading.