

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

ISSUE 68 : 2012-11-02

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2012 November 02 Friday

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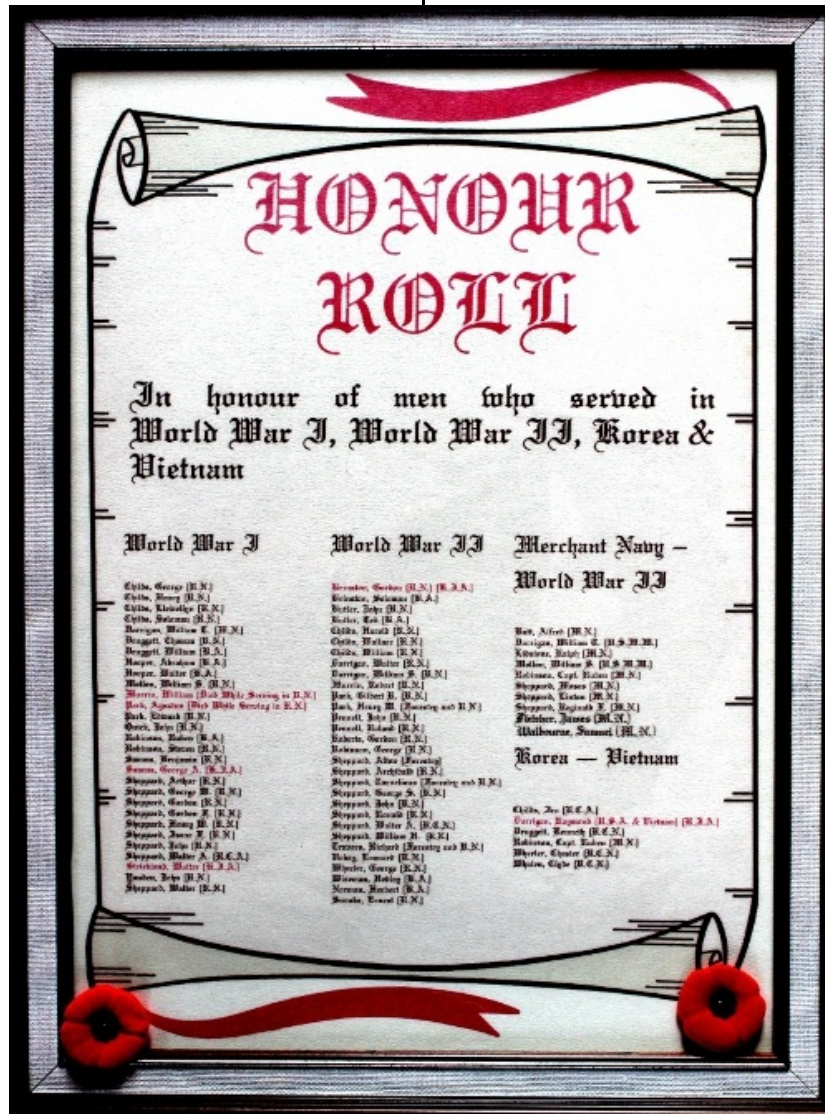
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NOVEMBER - MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

IN MANY WAYS November is the month when we remember our past. Perhaps we emphasise it less in our western culture, although many do still take time out, as we certainly should, to remember those who served and even gave their lives in two World Wars, in Korea, Vietnam, and Peacekeeping duties and other conflicts down to the present day, including the recent involvement of Canadian Forces in Afghanistan, where dozens of Canadian died and many others were injured.

Sometimes it seems that as a nation we do not think enough about how much we owe to those who died or were injured in military action recently in the Middle East. But we need to recall that Canada's action there was primarily to protect *us* from the terrorism which came uncomfortably close when the World Trade Centre in New York was destroyed by hijacked passenger aircraft.

For those of us who lived in Europe through some of the years of World War Two and the period that followed, it was a moving and memorable experience to see how ordinary people observed the *eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month*. In England at that time, the work day came to a standstill as bus and truck drivers stopped their vehicles and stepped out of their cabs, no matter where they were, so that they could stand and observe in reverence the two minutes of silence. Men removed their hats and



caps out of respect, and the streets became still and silent for the two minutes as virtually everyone observed the remembrance and thought of those who had fought in that war and did not return to their homes and families. I recall vividly my childhood impressions of those sincere acts of remembrance.

Perhaps today we take such self-sacrifice for granted. But we ought to remember that the millions of men and women who died, and the other millions who were maimed, did so in an effort to preserve what they valued about their homeland, even though so many did not live to enjoy it—the freedom for which they laid down their lives.

Although World War Two did not come so close in Canada as it did in Europe, many died or were seriously wounded around our shores: many such as the passengers and crew on the SS *Caribou*, torpedoed en route between Port aux Basques and North Sydney; and thousands of volunteers who served in the defence of their native land.

It should not be too much to ask of us, at 11:00am on Sunday the eleventh of November, to pause a moment or two to express our gratitude towards those who lost life or limb in that final sacrifice to preserve our freedom.

See page 4 for names of local Veterans

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Items in Italics relate to St James or St Ambrose Churches.
HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer*

2012 NOVEMBER 2012

- 4th SUN Back to Standard Time
*Pentecost 27 - 11:00am, Holy Communion
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer*
- 11th SUN REMEMBRANCE DAY
*Pentecost 28 - 10:45am, Memorial Service
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Holy Communion*
- 18th SUN Pentecost 29 - 7:00pm, Holy Communion & Baptism
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion
- 25th SUN Reign of Christ - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion & Baptism

2012 DECEMBER 2012

- 2nd SUN Advent 1 - 11:00am, Holy Communion
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
- 9th SUN Advent 2 - 11:00am, Holy Communion
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Memorial Tree Service
- 13th Thur 6:30pm - Lighting of the Christmas Tree
- 16th SUN Advent 3 - 7:00pm, Sunday School Pageant
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion
- 21st Fri First Day of Winter
- 23rd SUN Advent 3 - 7:00pm, Memorial Tree Service
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion
- 24th Mon Christmas Eve - 4:00pm, HC, Christmas Eve Service
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
- 25th Tues **Christmas Day**
- 30th SUN Christmas 1 - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer & Carol Sing
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Morning Prayer & Carol Sing

2013 ADVANCE DATES 2013

1st Jan Tues New Year's Day

The BLOW•ME•DOWNER is posted on the Internet at the Website www.blowmedowner.webs.com before or on the first Friday of the 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

All issues of The BLOW•ME•DOWNER back to 2007, are now available for viewing or download at our Website:-

www.blowmedowner.webs.com

Since 2012 October, the format has been changed, from legal (8.5x14 inches) to letter size (8.5x11 inches) which should be more convenient for most readers. A PDF reader such as Foxit or Adobe, available free on the Internet, must be installed on your machine to access them.

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



MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR

Rev Nelson Chatman

ANGLICAN PARISH OF THE BAY OF ISLANDS



MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH US. We are glad to be here and really feel that God was calling us to this part of His vineyard. God has certainly blessed you with this beautiful scenic area. Vida and I have enjoyed the board-walk and the mountain trails. It is just breath taking. We appreciate the lovely Rectory and thank everyone involved for preparing it for our arrival and all the assistance we have been given since.

We are adjusting to our new surroundings and anxious to get out and meet all of you eventually. The process is taking longer than I anticipated. Vida has been very busy with the unpacking. I have had the opportunity to meet some of you in your homes. No doubt this is a busy Parish and I am thankful for the help of the laity, especially those who have been assisting me in getting acquainted with how things work here.

Just to give you a brief history: My wife Vida and I have been married for 41 years. Vida grew up in Leading Tickles, Notre Dame Bay, NL. My home town is Canning's Cove, Bonavista Bay, NL. We have two sons, Sherman and Nelson Jr. They are both married. Sherman's wife is Mandy, and they live in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Nelson's wife is Lisa, and they live in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL. We are blessed with 5 grandchildren: Tenisha, Nicholas, and Nathan, Ft McMurray; Alexander and Thomas, Grand Falls-Windsor.

Thank you for the warm welcome. We have enjoyed it here so far, praying we will work together in building up God's Kingdom.

God Bless!!!

Rev Nelson & Vida Chatman

Apology to our new Rector, Rev Nelson Chatman

Apologies are offered to Rev Nelson and Mrs Chatman for the mis-spelling of their name in the last BLOW•ME•DOWNER. We discovered that our Rector's family name is **Chatman**, with "t" in place of "p" which we had earlier believed to be correct. We regret any inconvenience or misunderstanding this may have caused.

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

Obituary
PEARL SHEPPARD
 1923 December 19 - 2012 October 05

PASSED AWAY FRIDAY 2012 OCTOBER 5TH at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital, PEARL SHEPPARD at the age of 88 years.



Left to mourn with fond and loving memories are her husband Allan Sheppard; children: Walter & Bertha Childs, Gerald & Myra Childs, Effie and Daniel Sheppard, Helen & Ross Joyce, Martha & Lorne Joyce, Christina & Gordon Hartwig, Roland & Lana Childs; step children: Tony & Selina Sheppard, Peggy & Gary, Denise, Colin; grandchildren: Alfred, Holly, Gloria, Fabian, Daniel, Edward, Elizabeth, Alice, Gerard, Vanessa, Connie, Kitchener, Penney, Shannon, Susan, Victoria, Steven; step grandchildren: Leann, Ryan, Samantha & Michael; 23 great grandchildren; sister Charlotte Sheppard; sisters-in-law Mary, Melissa, Maisie and Lois Kendell, Marie Higgins (Chesley); brother-in-law Archibald Sheppard (Bertha); special niece and nephew Roland Kendell and Effie White; special friends Calvin Hann, Don & Juanita Mullins, as well as a large number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. Predeceased by her loving first husband Richard Childs, parents Charles & Deborah Kendell, siblings Mary, Olive, Melina, George, Susan, James, Amelia, Henry, Wilson, Arch and special friend Sylvia Hann.

The funeral service was held Tuesday October 9th at 4:00pm from St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, Rev Nelson Chatman officiating, followed by the interment at the church cemetery. Friends visited St James Church on Sunday and Monday from 2-4 & 7-9pm. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or memorial donations made to St James Anglican Church. Funeral arrangements by Fillatre Funeral Homes, Corner Brook.

THE LOWER CHURCHILL PROJECT

FOR A GOOD GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT as presented by the Dunderdale Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, see http://www.gov.nl.ca/lowerchurchillproject/backgrounder_3.htm. This is a concise document describing what has been done so far and what is planned for the future. The website is dated 2010, so there may have been some revisions, but no major changes.

Essentially the Project would supply adequate electrical power for the current and future needs of the Province, including industrial developments around the Province, with surplus energy for export, and the closing of the old Holyrood Generating Station which uses highly-polluting imported oil, thus removing the Province's dependence on oil imports. A transmission link with the present Churchill Falls Hydro Station, other submarine links across the Belle Isle Straits to the Island and from the Island to Nova Scotia would be built, enabling power to be transmitted through that province and New Brunswick, finally delivering power to the New England states of the USA. This would make Newfoundland no longer dependent on the Quebec route.

No one claims that the Project will not be costly but the result will be an independence this Province has never enjoyed. Also, with the

Continued in next column

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of businesses and organisations which have supported the BLOW•ME•DOWNER, or have requested announcements to advise the public of their services. Email or telephone for info. No charge.

Also published on our Website: www.blowmedowner.webs.com

Email: blowmedowner@gmail.com or Phone 681-2256

● ● *Please support local enterprises* ● ●

Listed alphabetically :-

- **Byrne's Store, Main Street** **York Harbour**
groceries, hardware, gas & diesel, souvenirs 681-2040
- **Captain Cook B&B & Cottages** **York Harbour**
Email: info@captaincookbb.ca 1-877-681-2906
- **Curling ONE Stop Service Station** **Corner Brook**
automotive repairs, servicing, fuel 785-2619
- **Drop In Lounge, 23 Main Street** **Lark Harbour**
entertainment, food, licenced 681-2103
- **Eddie Joyce, MHA, Bay of Islands** **Corner Brook**
Member of NL House of Assembly. See panel below. 634-7883
- **Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Ave** **Corner Brook**
memorial furnishings 634-1529
- **Quik Lube Plus, 65 Humber Road** **Corner Brook**
automotive repairs, servicing 639-5823
- **Sheppard's Clover Farm Store** **Lark Harbour**
groceries, hardware, gas, Sears agency, marine 681-2160
- **Vater Family Daycare** **Frenchman's Cove**
opening shortly See page 5 announcement 789-3940

Continued from bottom of previous column

bulk of the cost in the construction, power costs would no longer be at the mercy of world oil markets but would be attractive to new industries. Of course there are always questions about any project such as this but, considering the success of Hydro-Quebec in marketing our electrical power at huge profits to itself since the 1960s, the viability of the Plan seems to be assured. Other Canadian provinces and American states who do not have enough energy resources are likely to be faced with exorbitant future rate increases, but Newfoundland & Labrador would be blessed with *clean, non-nuclear, non-polluting power* for decades to come.

Provided that reasonable long-term financing can be secured, this Province's risk should be minimal. As oil prices continue to increase in the long term with countries like China and India constantly demanding more of the non-renewable commodity, N&L's future should be competitive for many years with those places that do not have renewable energy sources like the Lower Churchill. Ontario, with limited hydro facilities within its borders, will face major increases in coming years unless government subsidies are continued, and no government can afford the kind of subsidies which would be necessary. With careful and prudent planning, our Province should remain ahead even as our supplies of fossil fuels become depleted.

WAR SERVICE HONOUR ROLL IN ST JAMES CHURCH

WORLD WAR ONE

Childs, George	RN
Childs, Henry	RN
Childs, Llewellyn	RN
Childs, Solomon	RN
Darrigan, William T	MN
Druggett, Thomas	RN
Druggett, William	BA
Hooper, Abraham	BA
Murrin, William	Killed in Action, RN
Park, Augustus	Killed in Action, RN
Park, Edward	Killed in Action, RN
Quick, John	RN
Robinson, Ruben	RN
Robinson, Steven	RN
Samms, Benjamin	RN
Samms, George A	Killed in Action
Sheppard, Arthur	RN
Sheppard, George	RN
Sheppard, Gordon	RN
Sheppard, Henry W	RN
Sheppard, Isaac F	RN
Sheppard, John	RN
Sheppard, Walter A	RCA
Strickland, Walter	Killed in Action
Youden, John	RN
Sheppard, Walter	RN

WORLD WAR TWO

Brinston, Gordon,	Killed in Action, RN
Brinston, Soloman	BA
Butler, John	RN
Butler, Ted	BA
Childs, Harold	RN
Childs, Wallace	RN
Childs, William	RN
Darrigan, Walter	RN
Darrigan, William S	RN
Park, Gilbert R	RN
Park, Henry W	FS, RN
Park, John	RN
Park, Roland	RN
Roberts, Gordon	RN
Robinson, George	RN
Sheppard, Alton	FS
Sheppard, Archibald	RN
Sheppard, Cornelious	FS, RN
Sheppard, George S	RN
Sheppard, John	RN
Sheppard, Ronald	RN
Sheppard, Walter A	RCN
Sheppard, William H	RN
Travers, Richard	FS, RN
Vokey, Leonard	RN
Wheeler, George	RN
Wiseman, Hedley	BA
Norman, Herbert	BA
Snooks, Ernest	RN

MERCHANT NAVY, WW2

Batt, Alfred	MN
Darrigan, William T	USMM
Fletcher, James	MN
Lidstone, Ralph	MN
Mollon, William S	USMM
Robinson, Capt. Ruben	MN
Sheppard, Moses	MN
Sheppard, Linton	MN
Sheppard, Reginald F	MN
Walbourne, Samuel	MN

KOREA & VIETNAM

Childs, Ira	RCA
Darrigan, Raymond	US Army
Druggett, Kenneth	RCN
Robinson, Capt. Ruben	MN
Wheeler, Chester	RCN
Whalen, Clyde	RCN

ABBREVIATIONS

BA	British Army
FS	Forestry Service (British)
MN	Merchant Navy (British)
RCA	Royal Canadian Army
RCN	Royal Canadian Navy
RN	Royal Navy
USArmy	United States Army
USMM	US Merchant Marine

THE 1962 CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

The month of October 2012 marked fifty years since the *Cuban Missile Crisis*. At that time the world came closer to total destruction than ever before or since. In spring 1962 the Soviet Union placed dozens of missiles armed with nuclear warheads on the Island of Cuba at the request of Fidel Castro, Cuba's leader. Prior to this, Castro had led a coup which replaced the existing government of Cuba with a new, totally anti-American one. Because Cuba is only 145km from Florida, the American government of President John F Kennedy was extremely concerned about a possible attack.

Kennedy ordered a blockade of Cuba by American warships, but when more Russian freighters appeared, a dangerously sensitive international situation developed with the potential for nuclear war, and possibly the destruction of the entire world. The movie *Thirteen Days* chronicles those frightening events.

The film was made in 2000 starring Bruce Greenwood as President Kennedy, Stephanie Romanov as his wife Jackie, Stephen Culp as his brother Bobby, and Kevin Costner as a senior member of his staff. Running for about 2 hours and 20 minutes, the film presents, without the usual irrelevant Hollywood glitter, an accurate and realistic portrayal of the problems and emotional pressure that Kennedy and his staff had to resolve. It is a gripping account of this most dangerous period in history and is well worth taking the time to watch. Click this URL :-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=tho5ZYLiuc&feature>

MERGER : LARK HARBOUR & YORK HARBOUR

A week or so back we all received a notice that our two towns were considering a merger or amalgamation. A few years ago the issue was raised but soon dropped, and it is good to know that it is being re-examined, especially with the continued population decline.

It is not a topic to be considered lightly, as it is likely to require a few changes affecting things in both towns, and a little give-and-take from both. But if done correctly it will bring about improvements and savings for all residents. There is already much co-operation on matters such as snow clearing, garbage collection, Fire Service, OBIEC, church, and school, and a merger would give us a louder voice in matters dealing with the provincial government. Considering that in the Census of 2011 we had a total population of only 857 persons (LH 510, YH 347) and a median age very close to 50 years, combining our numbers makes strong sense.

The Feasibility Study, required in any consideration of a merger, is an important step in framing the process by giving everyone the chance to express freely their ideas and fears without pressure. Then, if everyone participates, whatever the final decision—to merge or to stay separate—it should be in the best long-term interests of both towns.

The *Municipalities Act 1999*, Part 1, Towns, sets out the conditions relating to an Amalgamation. It is available on line at: <http://canlii.ca/t/8b19> Go to this link and scroll down to PART 1 TOWNS and then to Feasibility Report, section 9, where it deals with the public hearing.

Special Announcement**NEW DAYCARE SERVICE OPENING***Vater Family Daycare opening in Frenchman's Cove***Licensed and government subsidy accepted***Hours of operations Mon - Fri, 7:30am - 5:00pm***For more information contact :-****Cathy Vater at 789-3940****Report of Council Meeting of 2012 October 16****PRESENT:***Deputy Mayor* Jamie Park;*Councillors* Pauline Sheppard, Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs;*Clerks* Joanna Pottle (Recording Minutes), Peggy Sheppard**ABSENT:** Mayor John Parsons*Guests Present:* York Harbour Deputy Mayor Florence Lombard
Councillors Charlie Kendall, Julie Cook

- Meeting commenced at 7:00pm with a discussion with the York Harbour Town Council about the Firettes. There had been some delay over delivery of the required books, receipts, deposit books, etc, to the Auditors' Office.
- Council felt that there should also be a Firette of the Year as well as a Junior and Senior Firefighter of the year.
- An update was given on the Recreation Committee by Clerk Joanna. Permission given to the Committee to use the Community Hall at no cost. Also approved spending money up to \$500.00. Anything above \$500.00 must be approved by both councils.
- Approved minutes of meeting of 2012 September 18.
- Water/Sewer Update - Engineer confirmed that all information needed by Crown Lands has been sent. He estimated time of approximately two weeks before we can go to tender.
- No word received on the application to replace the retaining wall near the end of Main Street. Council is hoping to have an update within the next week or two.
- Motion made to pay contractor for work completed on Bottle Cove Road for the amount of \$7,458.00. Council will look into using Gas Tax Funds to cover costs associated with this work.
- Council adopted the Rules of Procedure that have been generated.
- Regionalisation- Resolved to have a feasibility study completed and for a letter to be sent out to residents to inform them of the possibility of merging with the Town of York Harbour.
- Surveillance System - Council will send another letter to the Director of the Western School District to advise him of the recent activities that have taken place in the playground and school area.
- Increase in Assessments - Deferred to budget preparation meeting.

- Financial Report approved with accounts payable of \$2,543.63.
- Write-Offs - Approved amount of \$9.79.
- Building Permits - All approved.
- Crown Land Application - Draft Grant documents viewed and signed. Both drafts will be sent back to Crown Land.
- Budget Preparation - Deferred until budget preparation meeting.
- Fire Department/Firettes - See above notes from meeting with York Harbour Town Council.
- Western Sea Ventures - Update to be given at Council's next meeting re: Barry Group's plans for land they currently own.
- Western Regional Waste Management - Discussion as to whom Council feel should sit on the Great Humber Joint Council to act on behalf of the North/South Shore Bay of Islands. Councillor from York Harbour will pass along our vote when at the meeting.
- Letter to be sent to resident regarding a roaming dog.
- Council agreed to contact the Publisher of the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** to see if he would be okay with the Council Office printing copies of the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** for the public at a small cost.
- Snow clearing should now be a one year contract.
- Another letter will be sent to a resident regarding a building to be torn down or stabilized.
- Council reviewed a letter of thanks to the City of Corner Brook for donating culverts for Bottle Cove Road.
- MNL Fees will increase from \$452.00 to \$469.00 in year 2013.
- Letter re: Amendment to the Municipalities Act was deferred until budget preparation meeting.
- Council agreed that Clerks Joanna and Peggy attend meeting on October 25, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.**Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed,
and in such desperate enterprises?****If a man does not keep pace with his companions,
perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.****Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862**



LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



The rotating collection is scheduled to change on Tuesday 6 November. Hopefully by then we will all have read any books of interest in the present collection, and will be all set to check out the new one. Only the first book listed below is from this collection, and it is also the only Large Print book. The other books listed are new books added to our library's permanent collection. Books not reviewed here will be dealt with next month; with luck my eyes will be up to more reading by then after my cataract surgery.

Let's hope there are lots of interesting new books to spend time with on some of those cold winter days.

- | | | |
|--|----|------------------------|
| 1. <i>Blood Money</i> | LP | Chris Collett |
| 2. <i>Bones are Forever</i> | | Kathy Reichs |
| 3. <i>The Beautiful Mystery</i> | | Louise Penny |
| 4. <i>The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection</i> | | Alexander McCall Smith |
| 5. <i>Why Men Lie</i> | | Lindon McIntyre |
| 6. <i>The King of Torts</i> | | John Grisham |

1. *Blood Money* is a British police procedural starting with the kidnapping of a baby from a day care centre—apparently with no obvious reason. It is the kind of case police officers hate to have to deal with as they involve a lot of emotion, especially if the child turns up dead. In addition, Detective Inspector Tom Mariner is just about to start a much-needed week's holiday, which his wife has particularly been counting on. In the event, she has to go ahead on her own while he deals with distracted parents and unhelpful workers from the day care centre. It is a great relief to all when Baby Jessica turns up unexpectedly in puzzling circumstances. By then, however, the police have discovered a number of strange connections to the case. In the end it becomes an entirely different kind of case which Mariner and his team must work their way through. Good reading.

2. *Bones are Forever* is one of Ms Reichs' mysteries set in Canada. Surprisingly, not in Montreal where Temperance Brennan usually works. The story begins with the finding of four dead newborn babies whose presumed mother has disappeared. Tempe and detective Andrew Ryan pursue her, first to Edmonton and then to Yellowknife. Ms Reichs had obviously visited the area and found it interesting, because there is quite a bit of description of the lifestyle and the landscape. Particularly we learn about the gold and diamond mining taking place there, and one of the exciting final scenes is actually set in the Giant Mine. Pretty interesting, and hard to put down.

3. *The Beautiful Mystery* will not be to the taste of every mystery lover. There is a murder, but the victim is a monk living in a monastery located in the wilderness of northern Quebec province, whose main reason for existence appears to be performing plainsong chants. The monks are all selected for their beautiful voices, and the chants are almost a religion for them. It may be a little too much musical info for some of us; but Chief Inspector Gamache is knowledgeable, and is fascinated by the personalities of these monks who have cut themselves off so thoroughly from the world. He must learn a lot about the chants to begin to understand the motive for a murder in such a setting. The action is somewhat complicated by the

other two detectives, who have their own agendas. The reading is reasonably interesting, and the resolution a surprise.

4. *The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection* is by the author of the books set in Edinburgh in which Isabel tries to live her life philosophically; we have a number of those books in the permanent collection. This book is about an African detective agency run by African women.

5. *Why Men Lie* is by the author of *The Bishop's Man*, which was about some of the priests on Cape Breton Island and some of the bad things that happened there. This new book at least begins by dealing with why men lie to women; perhaps the scope will broaden when we get back to it.

6. *The King of Torts* is one of Mr Grisham's legal mysteries. It features a young lawyer who has been given a case involving a random street killing. The young man involved does not have much of a defence, and no money to offer any hope of a good fee for the lawyer. Apparently, as you might expect with Mr Grisham, when he looks into the facts of the case, things get much more interesting. Complicated, but interesting, and you really want to keep reading.



FOOD BANK NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



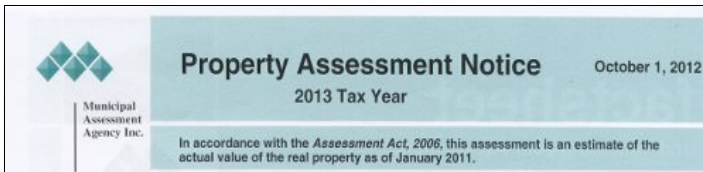
LOTS TO GIVE THANKS FOR!

Seemingly we all make an effort for Thanksgiving, even if we tend to forget about the Food Bank during the beautiful summer weather.

- ★ *The Sunday School did their usual splendid job: lots of baskets FULL of all sorts of goodies.*
- ★ *The congregation also came up with two milk crates and a couple of shopping bags full.*
- ★ *The school was the most amazing: FIVE heavy boxes of food. I was proud to deliver that lot, though it was a bit of a strain.*

I am beginning to think it might be time for me to pass the job on to someone else. It is not a difficult job to collect the donations each Sunday, and take them in to the outlet when going to Corner Brook. There are two outlets, one in the Salvation Army building on Herald Avenue; and the other behind the Catholic church in Curling. I prefer the one in Curling, as parking is simpler, and the coordinator, Joy Conners, has an office there. With either outlet you need to know when they are open, most often in the morning. There is usually someone to help carry stuff in at either outlet. A few times a year there will be a meeting of the directors. Nothing heavy; and I have to say I have not been to one for some time, as they are at night and I don't drive at night any more. The job is not a big thing as regards effort involved; but can be a REALLY BIG THING for some of our neighbours who find the Food Bank a great blessing. Please consider if this might be something you could do.

Thank you to those who generously remember our Food Bank. All over Canada food banks are doing more business, and are very grateful for those who will share their good fortune with those who are not so lucky.



EVERY PROPERTY OWNER in Lark Harbour and York Harbour should already have received in the mail a letter with a heading like the one above. At the same time, too, many will have received a bit of a shock, especially when we figure out what it may mean.

Every three years the Municipal Assessment Agency for the Province assesses the value of your home. This figure is based on the estimated market value of your property on a certain date: in this case January 2011. Your property is compared with others in the area to arrive at a final value. The amount of tax you will be required to pay is calculated from this figure, using the *mil rate* fixed by the Town Council for the year in question, which in this case will be for next year, 2013. The *mil rate* is quite a small figure, charged per *thousand dollars of assessed value* in the letter you just received. The Council will be sending out a tax bill in the next few months, once the *mil rate* for 2013 has been decided in the budget estimates for that year.

Many properties in Newfoundland have been assessed considerably higher than they were last time. For example, my own home was assessed at \$80,000 previously, but the new assessment is \$125,000. (I should be able to sell it for that price, but I doubt it.) In 2012 at the five mil rate I paid \$5 x 80, or \$400. If the same mil rate prevails for 2013, I will have to pay \$5 x 125, or \$625. This is an increase of \$225, slightly more than half as much again.

If Council wishes to maintain our taxes at a similar cash level to last year, this could be done by reducing the mil rate. Based on my new assessed value of \$125,000, a mil rate of 3.2 per thousand would result in a tax of \$400. (3.2×125). If all assessments increased in the same proportion as mine, the Town would then receive roughly the same revenue as last year.

The whole matter of property tax raises a number of questions about its fairness and efficiency as a form of taxation. More and more towns in the Province are becoming dissatisfied with it and are looking at more efficient alternative methods of taxing residents for town services.

Some negative factors in property tax are:

- The need for regular assessment requires the services of expensive professional assessors at least every few years. (Lark Harbour pays about \$11,000 yearly to the Municipal Assessment Agency.)
- Other administrative costs such as court fees and summonses for collection of delinquent taxes can be quite high.
- It can result in inequality between towns because of a number of variables such as size and economic, geographic, commercial, industrial and other factors.
- An appeals process is needed, although not often used.
- Property tax discourages owners from spending money on their property because they know it will result in higher tax.

A considerable number of towns have opted to use other systems of raising revenue, but property tax as we know it is still the dominant form of municipal taxation in Newfoundland, despite increasing criticism from many quarters. One alternative the Province might consider is a system based on that used currently to collect Income Tax. It could “piggy-back” on the Federal Income Tax system as our

provincial Income Tax does. This would reduce administrative costs and save considerable sums of money for towns which have to expend funds to take delinquent taxpayers to court as well as to pay the Assessment costs referred to earlier. If a system based on this suggestion were adopted the money would be collected by Canada Revenue Agency, then passed to the Province for distribution in a way similar to that in which they now distribute the Municipalities Operating Grant (the MOG) and other funds.

A MEAN-SPIRITED, UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

CANADIANS HAVE HAD TO EXIST for too long under a mean-spirited and thoughtless Federal government. Under the new Employment Insurance regulations introduced recently by Federal Human Resources Minister Diane Finley, no one on EI will be able to draw more than 55% of the income s/he was earning, with a maximum for anyone of \$485 dollars weekly. In a year this would amount to \$25,220 dollars, which is not much, given the present buying power of our dollar. But most EI recipients will receive much less, and at the same time benefits for many will begin later or end earlier. When you figure in the cost of renting even a small home—maybe \$500 a month or even more in some parts of Canada—there’s precious little left to pay for heating and light, and to buy food, clothing, etc, for even a small family.

It may be true that some recipients of EI are lazy and do not want to work. So are some of our MPs, bankers, teachers, doctors, lawyers, construction workers, mechanics. In any group there are lazy people, but that is no reason for treating everyone as if they are lazy. Most people on EI would prefer a decent steady job.

I have been lucky. I have never been unemployed and had to live on EI, and frankly I don’t see how anybody with a family could manage it for long. But many *have to live on much less*. I doubt if Minister Finley (responsible for EI) could live on it. MPs with salaries of around \$80,000 per year, plus expense accounts, and Ministers of the Crown collecting even more, can have no concept at all of how a person must live on EI or welfare. And for single parents, it is virtually impossible, which is why 13% of Canadian children—one out of eight—are living under the poverty line.

In this country, one of the world’s wealthiest, to expect people with no other means to live on what EI pays them—and remember, that is a *maximum*, and many receive less—is nothing short of shameful. It’s no surprise that food banks all across the country are working to capacity and helping 31% more people now than last year. Meanwhile, the gap between rich and poor Canadians is increasing as the wealthiest 1% of our population enjoy tax benefits, that many on high incomes say they really do not need.

It used to be said that “Tory times are hard times”. For many people it seems that they still are, and maybe the hardest times ever. President Obama remarked recently that unemployment and poverty in the US also are the worst since the 1930s. We know it is similar in Canada. We cannot attribute all the blame to the Harper Tory government, though some of it we certainly can, particularly for their refusal to take action to alleviate hardship until they have been shamed into it.

How much longer can we allow our great nation to continue under this heartless Federal government that refuses to listen to anyone else and bases its policies on ideological dogma that panders to the rich and powerful rather than to the practical needs of ordinary people?

BUS TOURS & OTHER VISITORS IN 2012



Passengers from the season's last cruise ship *Emerald Princess* arriving at St James Church Hall from their tour bus. BMD picture

DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 2012 fifteen cruise ships visited Corner Brook, and from them 2,284 visitors made the trip down the South Shore and were able to enjoy our scenery and hospitality. Their bus trip is a hurried experience, no more than four hours before they have to be back in Corner Brook and, as many of them remark, it's disappointing that they are unable to stay here long enough to explore some of our fine trails. But even the short time they are here elicits many very appreciative comments from them about both the scenery and the excellent quality of the refreshments provided by Helen Park and the ladies of the ACW. Many have also admired and purchased items from the selection of hand-made crafts, jams, pictures and souvenirs offered for sale.



Cruise ship visitors selecting souvenirs of their visit to Lark Harbour. BMD picture

At least one other bus tour comes to Lark Harbour most years and spends a longer time here: a group of about 35 organised by Bev Hanna-Jones of Belleville, Ontario. These people fly to Deer Lake from Ontario and travel around the Island by coach for about ten days. They have time to explore BlowMeDown Provincial Park and the Bottle Cove trails, and even to take in a special concert by the *Sharecroppers*, as well as a potluck lunch catered by the ACW. This is a fantastic experience for them, so good that some of them take the same coach trip again.

Some of the cruise ship visitors have expressed interest in returning for a longer stay, and of course many others arrive in their own vehicles and stay in Blow-Me-Down Park, or the Captain Cook B&B, and a few have camped in 'unofficial' locations such as the



People like to have a cup of tea or coffee, and a sandwich or a cookie, no matter where they are. These visitors from the *Emerald Princess* certainly enjoyed the refreshments offered by the Lark Harbour ACW ladies. BMD picture

Bottle Cove Parking Area. With few exceptions, they are truly impressed with our scenery and the friendliness of people they meet.

But there is one problem many have remarked on: if they arrive outside the June to October season they are often disappointed to find that there is no restaurant open. In summer there is *Captain Cook's Galley* on Littleport Road and *Marlaine's Tide Watcher Café* on Main Street, both in Lark Harbour, but after they finish for the season there's nothing closer than Benoit's Cove except perhaps the *Candlelite Bay Inn* at Blow-Me-Down if it is open. Mary-Lou and Allan at the *Captain Cook B&B* will accept out-of-season visitors and as well as breakfast will provide an evening meal on request for staying guests, but obviously cannot offer restaurant service for casual visitors.

Day visitors who spend a few hours on the hiking trails are really out of luck if they expect to find somewhere to get a sit-down dinner in the off-season. If the tourism industry is to flourish for more than three summer months, more services are essential. Even soup and sandwich and a place to eat them would help. Certainly some kind of restaurant is a priority for visitors to our towns outside the peak summer period, and if they are looking for a restaurant or even a take-out in either Lark Harbour or York Harbour but cannot find one, many may never come back again.

Over the past several years many residents have become involved in planning, developing, and improving trails for quad and snowmobile users, and for hikers and strollers who enjoy simply walking. These trails are being widely used by local people but they have also begun to attract ever increasing numbers of nonlocals who will spend more time in our communities if they can find the services they want. It is true that Gros Morne National Park is a huge attraction, but significant numbers of people prefer to spend time in areas that are less organised and offer greater freedom than a national park. We have a great advantage there, since our locality offers much that is very similar to Gros Morne Park, and certainly not inferior. The Blow-Me-Down Trail is as challenging for hikers as is the trail to the summit of Gros Morne Mountain; so is the South Head Trail. Both offer scenic views and photographic opportunities comparable to those in the National Park. The main difference is that Gros Morne is bigger than our area, and has had much more money poured into it for a longer time than has our area.

It is up to us who live here to take our region further, if that is what we want. And it seems that it is.