

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN CENTRAL FLORIDA



Above left is a view of the downtown area of the City of Lakeland. This lake, with a fountain in the centre, is surrounded by a colonnade and gardens, much as it would have been in Florida's heyday in the 1920s. Various water birds like these two pelicans can often be seen feeding there. Above right is Bok Tower, the focal point of several acres of beautiful gardens which were donated to the people of Florida by Edward Bok, a Dutch immigrant in the early 1900s, who made his fortune when he left his homeland and came to America. Both locations have been favoured by tourists for a century as places to visit, much as Disney World is today, but it is often more interesting to leave the beaten track frequented by tourists and find some of the interesting places the tourists do not visit. Below are a couple of these different places.

Traditionally, one of Florida's main industries has been the production of citrus fruit used for juice. In recent years, orange groves are less common, but off the beaten track it is easy to see large trailers like these at right, loaded to the limit with tons of oranges or grapefruit, making their way to the fruit processing plants.

On the next page is another staple industry of Central Florida - the mining of phosphates for fertiliser. Huge excavators, or "walking draglines", so called because they move on large feet instead of wheels or caterpillar tracks, have been mining phosphate for fertilisers. Similar to those used in Fort McMurray, these machines dig the mineral with scoops big enough to hold a couple of large cars, or several tons of material at one time.





A “Walking Dragline” at work. The power unit is the height of a two-storey house, the jib is about 50 feet high, and the scoop could easily hold a couple of cars.



Another intriguing sight is these Ospreys which like to build their untidy nests on top of power poles or other dizzying locations. They can often be seen returning to their offspring with fish or other food items. As a protected species they may not be moved from their chosen nest site, and often the power company will accommodate them with platforms above the power lines to prevent detritus from falling from the nest and perhaps causing a short circuit.



Other birds are the Turkey Buzzards which are eaters of carrion and can often be seen in great numbers frequenting waste dumps. They are not beautiful birds like the Pelicans or the Ospreys, but they are magnificent flyers and are able to soar many hundreds of feet above the ground, never moving their wings as they circle in the rising air currents in search of food on the ground far below: it is difficult to think that they are not at least in part enjoying the pleasure of flight. They also perform a valuable service by cleaning up roadkill, often waiting until the last moment before they get out of the way of an approaching vehicle on the highway. They live in large colonies often beside waterways and they roost in the trees at night. These two pictures above were taken at a location which the local anglers have named “Buzzard Beach”.

RIGHT View of a typical undeveloped lake off the beaten track in Central Florida. Named *Walk-in-the-Water Lake*, it is an area known to the locals who go there for boating and fishing. Like most of Florida’s lakes which result from sinkholes in the soft limestone bedrock, it is roughly circular in shape. It is about two miles across, surrounded by grassy shallows, and is probably teeming with alligators as well as numerous small fish.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2013 APRIL 2013

- 7th Sun *Easter 2 - 11:00am, Morning Prayer*
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Prayer & Praise
- 14th Sun *Easter 3 - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer*
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Morning Prayer
- 21st Sun *Easter 4 - 11:00am, Blessing of the Fleet (Little Port)*
St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
- 28th Sun *Easter 5 - 7:00pm, Holy Communion & Baptism*
St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion

2013 MAY 2013

- 12th Sun Mothers' Day
- 20th Mon Victoria Day

2013 JUNE 2013

- 16th Sun Fathers' Day
- 20th Thur **Summer begins**

2013 ADVANCE DATES 2013

- July 1st Mon **CANADA DAY**
- Sept 2nd Mon **LABOUR DAY**
- Sept 22nd Sun **Fall begins**
- Oct 14th Mon **THANKSGIVING DAY (Canada)**
- Oct 31st Thur *Flassew'en*
- Nov 11th Mon **REMEMBRANCE DAY**
- Nov 28th Thur **THANKSGIVING DAY (USA)**

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. Larger than 3 column inches may be refused. All copy must be submitted **at least three days** before the first Friday of the month of publication.

Eddie Joyce, MHA
 Bay of Islands District

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Rev Nelson and Vida are on vacation for two weeks at this time. We wish them an enjoyable, safe, and restful trip.

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of local businesses and organisations. No charge.

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 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 681-2906; 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, House of Assembly. See panel on page 2. 634-7883
- **Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Avenue, 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**
 789-3940

SOME THOUGHTS ON MARINE ATLANTIC

HAVING JUST RETURNED to Newfoundland aboard the vessel MV *Highlanders* I am moved to make a few comments about our famous "lifeline to the Mainland". But first, I must say that the all members of the staff at both terminals North Sydney and Port aux Basques were, without exception, friendly, helpful, and polite.

What concerns me most is the cost. A one-way trip for two adults and a car, plus a two-berth cabin (you can no longer sleep on a bunk berth, or on the floor, as we used to in years gone by) with tax came to a total of \$316. The cabins are comfortable, clean and well appointed, as they should be, and all have a full bathroom and TV.

We had booked for a night crossing. In earlier years you could expect to be able to buy a good meal on board in late evening, but not any more. At 10:30pm we went for food and found only a snack bar offering soup, hot dogs, or pizza. We chose soup. The price was \$4.99 for a small bowl and four crackers each—not by any standards a banquet! For the two of us, with nothing else, not even coffee or tea, the cost, after tax, was \$11.48. With the cost of today's ferry passage, you might think they could at least provide reasonably priced food.

Recommendation: Take your own snacks on board.

Editorial : POPE FRANCIS the FIRST

A NEW POPE HAS BEEN CHOSEN, replacing Benedict XVI who went voluntarily into retirement at the end of February. The new Pope, 76-year-old Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, was, until his election, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and is the first from the Americas to hold the office of Pope which for over a thousand years has been held by Europeans, mostly Italians; he is also the first member of the Jesuit religious order to become Pope. So Pope Francis, as he will now be known, is being hailed by many Catholics as a major agent for change in the Church hierarchy, despite his religiously conservative past.

However Pope Francis does not ascend to his new office without a good measure of controversy. One of the major obstacles he is going to have to face is the fact that he has been accused of failing to take a firm stand for human rights when the military dictatorship seized power in Argentina some forty years ago. This has been strenuously denied by his supporters, but nonetheless it could cause a credibility problem for him if he does not support human rights causes with the determination the sceptics demand during his papacy. His reputation as a conservative in the Catholic hierarchy may also reduce his credibility among those who would like to see the Catholic Church being more receptive to doctrinal changes on questions such as expanded roles, even ordination, of women; or the celibacy rule for priests that was introduced many centuries ago; or the attitude towards social issues such as homosexuality or contraception. These are potentially divisive issues within the RC hierarchy, and they are growing more significant for many of the faithful as time passes. Perhaps the new Pope's choice of *Francis* as his papal name may be symbolic of his determination to work on these and other important issues. But only time will tell.

Many of us who have been disappointed at the intransigence of the RC Church when it came to co-operating with other churches on some of the numerous issues of concern have been hoping that this new Pope will be more open to discussion. For Anglicans, with a new Primate recently taking office as Archbishop of Canterbury, England, the titular head of world Anglicanism, this new Pope Francis may be seen as a breath of fresh air. Some of his actions during his public appearances—his desire to greet people in a friendly and “unpapal” manner, and his contact with young offenders during his Maundy Thursday foot-washing, for example—these and other acts like them suggest the possibility of a healthy break with the old formal traditions we are accustomed to with popes in the past. These actions have caused consternation among some of his more conservative colleagues, but have given hope among the more progressive that perhaps the RC Church may be entering a new era. The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby (enthroned on 2013 March 12), is himself a significant departure from the traditional archbishop, with the potential to change things for the better in the Anglican Church. He has said that Pope Francis's election is “of great significance to Christians everywhere”. Perhaps with two church leaders charged with international responsibilities for their respective institutions, there is a chance of some long-awaited improvements in ecumenical relations.

A OLD ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN I knew years back in England never allowed his sermons to exceed ten minutes. One day someone asked him why his sermons always fitted into that tight time slot. His answer was, “Many years ago I learned, *if you haven't struck oil in ten minutes, stop boring!*”

Obituary

ANTHONY IGNATIUS COMPAGNON 1924 Sep 14 - 2013 Mar 20

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of Anthony Ignatius Compagnon announced his passing on Wednesday, March 20th, 2013, at Western Memorial Regional Hospital in his 88th year. Left to mourn are: his wife Mercedes (née Duffy) at Mountain View House, Meadows; children: Frank (Bridgette), Corner Brook, Cecil (Adrianna), Smithville, ON, Sharon, Benoit's Cove, Debbie (Abe), Benoit's Cove, Darren (Mary), Benoit's Cove and Audrey (Brian) Cambridge, ON; grandchildren: Connie, Natasha, Sheldon, Maurice, Tanya, Kathlynn, Chad, Dwayne, Leah, Josh, Devin and Megan; great grandchildren: Nikita, Zachary, Kennedy, Katherine and Arielle; sisters: Eileen, Romona and Muriel. Predeceased by his son Leslie; parents: William and Nora Compagnon (nee Hall); brothers: Ted, Loyola, Cecil and Leslie; sisters: Christina, Dorothy, Martina and Annie. There was no Funeral Mass or visitation as per Anthony's request. Donations could be made to the charity of one's choice. The family guest book could be signed or a memorial donation made through our website www.fillatre.ca.



A NEW POPE IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA ???

ON EASTER SUNDAY we attended morning service with our son Bill and his family at their United Church in Fall River, NS. At the end of the service when we were shaking hands with the minister, a small boy of about seven years approached the minister who was still wearing his robes. The boy asked in a clear voice: “Are you the new Pope?” For a moment the minister, a good preacher with a great sense of humour, was nonplussed. But then he burst out laughing and could not reply. A nearby member of the congregation heard the boy's question and responded quickly with, “No, he's not the new Pope, but maybe he'll be the next one!”

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - LEADERSHIP

AFTER THE FEDERAL ELECTION of May 2011, the defeat of the Liberals as the Official Opposition and the sudden elevation of the NDP to that status, led many to conclude that the Federal Liberals had become history. Since then, we have had chance to reflect, and many have now decided that the LPC has something to offer.

A new leader will be elected by “grassroots Liberals”, about 127,000, and not just those active in local districts. This vote, online or by telephone, take place from April 7 to 14. Candidates running for the leadership are: **David Bertschi, Martin Cauchon, Deborah Coyne, Martha Hall Findlay, Karen McCrimmon, Joyce Murray, & Justin Trudeau**. Voters, preregistered, will rank candidates in order of preference, allowing a fairer outcome for all. Results will be announced after close of voting on April 14.

Obituary

ETHEL TAMER WISEMAN
1921 Feb 16 - 2013 Mar 10

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Ethel Wiseman announced her passing on Sunday, March 10, 2013 at Western Memorial Regional Hospital at the age of 92 years. Left to mourn with fond and loving memories are her two daughters: Janice (Richard Tysoe), England and Debra Park, Corner Brook; grandchildren: Lucas (Michelle) Colangelo, Matthew Willis, Stephen Park, Brittany Park; great grandchildren: Nathan and Rachel Colangelo, and Brayden Park; brothers: Ludwick Reid (Ethel) and Osbourne Reid (Bessie); sisters: Diana Lane (Dolph), Joyce Leamon (Ray) and Shirley Simmons; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Hedley Wiseman on December 30th, 2011; also brothers: Christopher and Eli Reid and sister, Melanie. Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 4 St Marks Avenue, Corner Brook, on Thursday March 14 from 2-4 and 7-9:00pm. The funeral service took place from Fillatre's Funeral Home Chapel, St Marks Avenue, on Friday, March 15 at 11:00am, with interment to follow at St James Anglican Cemetery, Lark Harbour. As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the VON or the St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour. The family guest book could be signed or a memorial donation made through our website www.fillatre.ca.

IN SCHOOL BOARDS, BIGGER MAY NOT BE BETTER

Education Minister Clyde Jackman has announced that a new school board to cover all English language schools on the Island will be in effect for September 2013. Little has been said about the benefits that Government expects from this change, but many people are very sceptical about it.

In keeping with past changes of this nature, most opinion seems to be that "bigger will not be better". Generally, when control is removed to larger centres, as has been done recently in so many government operations, there may be greater efficiencies, but these are almost always purely financial, and the practical side of the operations suffers.

Successful operation of schools depends on the students, parents, the teaching staff in a school, and the administration at the school level enjoying close and understanding relationships with those at the district and provincial level. Consequently, the larger the school administrative district and the more schools there are, the greater chance exists that there will be breakdowns in communication between the separate parts of the system: more delays, knowledge gaps, etc.

Obituary

WILLIAM HERMAN WHITE
1935 Apr 15 - 2013 Mar 16

WITH GREAT SADNESS the family of the late William Herman White announced his passing at the Palliative Care Unit of the Western Memorial Regional Hospital on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the age of 77 years. He leaves to mourn with fond and loving memories his wife Elizabeth of 55 years, children: Danny (Debbie Carley) White, Vicky (Bruce) Brake, Debbie (Glenn) Stanford, Kathy Mitchell, Kerry (Penny) White, Shirley (Jamie) Park; grandchildren Tara & Danielle White, Bruce Junior & Brandon Brake, Jessica & Melissa Stanford, Sean Mitchell, Jordan, Ryan & Cameron Park; great grandchildren Daniel Dart, Bella & Maci Brake and Aiden Brake; sister Mary Mosher (Wilfred), brother Walter White; along with special friends Bert & Gladys Dalley. He was predeceased by parents Joseph & Gertrude White, brother Austin White, sisters Jean Mooney & Sylvia McPhail, and grandson Stephen Brake along with a number of relatives and friends. Visitation took place at Country Haven Funeral Home, 167 Country Road on Sunday March 17, 2013 from 7-9pm and on Monday, March 18, 2013 from the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm. The Funeral Service took place at the Country Haven Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 2pm with Reverend Baxter Park officiating. Interment followed at Mount Patricia Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations could be made to the Western Memorial Regional Hospital Dialysis Unit or the Kidney Foundation. The family guest book could be signed or memorial donations made by visiting our website at www.country-haven.ca. The family wishes to express a special Thank-you to the Doctors, Nurses, & Health Care Professionals at Western Memorial Regional Hospital.

(In School Boards, Bigger may not be Better - Continued from left)
At least when you are conveniently close to the centre of administration, you can have quick communication, easy exchange of important information, and prompt response. Then there are the difficulties that result from the unfamiliarity the individual at the District Office may have of a small school in a remote location.

On the issue of size, perhaps the optimum would be something between the old Bay of Islands-St George's Integrated Board, and the Western School District. After all, it helps to know the community where the school is situated. So let's hope the small schools like ours in Lark Harbour don't get lost under the mountains of paperwork that now control cumbersome government systems here as everywhere.

Editorial : GUNS IN THE USA

In the light of last year's horrific deaths by shooting of 20 young children and 6 adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, USA, it begins to look as if there may be some changes, however small, occurring in the American attitude towards guns. Contrary to last year's irresponsible destruction of the Long Gun Registry by the Harper Government in Canada, there have been suggestions of establishing a GUN REGISTRY in the USA. If it were to occur, from a Canadian standpoint, it would be an interesting and perplexing example of how Canada often seems to be moving in the opposite direction from that of our southern neighbour, and even other countries. However any far-reaching changes in the USA are unlikely, even with President Obama's support, given the wealthy and powerful lobby of the *National Rifle Association* [NRA]. This group seems to have almost unassailable influence which is surprising, given the lobbying efforts of ex-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords who, in 2011 was a victim of a shooting near Tucson, Arizona, her home town. Reported to be an assassination attempt on her, she was at a supermarket to meet publicly with constituents when she was almost killed by a gunshot wound to the head. Six other people were killed, including a federal judge, and thirteen more were injured in that shooting.

Since the Newtown event, the American news media have presented some of the comments made by spokespersons for the NRA: comments like "*Guns don't kill people - people kill people*"; or the suggestion that an armed guard be stationed at every school entrance, or even that a firearm be kept in each principal's office for use when needed. If such proposals were made in any other democratic country, or in any context other than the tragic occurrence in Newtown, surely it would be treated as a joke! One wonders if those who propose such an idea really believe that the solution to this kind of violence is more guns, when statistics show :-

- that there are presently some 300 million firearms in the USA, enough for one for each American citizen, but they are in the possession of about one third of the population;
- that of those who die aged under 50, including those who are killed in road accidents, more than half are murdered;
- that the USA is twelfth on the list of industrialised countries with regard to effectiveness of firearm regulations.

Meanwhile the "Right To Carry" law (known as "RTC") in the USA recognises every person's right to self defence by carrying firearms almost anywhere they choose. According to the NRA, *Since 1991, when violent crime peaked in the US :*

1. 24 states adopted "shall issue" laws, replacing laws that prohibited carrying or that issued carry permits on a very restrictive basis;
2. many other federal, state and local gun control laws have been eliminated or made less restrictive; and
3. the number of privately-owned guns has risen by about 100 million.

Currently there is much debate in the USA about whether it is necessary for ordinary citizens to own and carry assault rifles or weapons equipped with magazines capable of firing multiple rounds of ammunition in just a few seconds. In most countries, these would generally be considered as weapons permissible only to the military, and only then in clearly defined combat regions such as parts of the Middle East where civil government is seriously threatened. But since President Obama raised the issue of tightening controls on such

weapons, many more have been purchased.

Years ago in my pedal bicycling days I became friendly in Florida with a man who ran a bike repair shop. One day we were discussing the hazards of pedal biking in Florida when I mentioned that I had recently been chased by two very large dogs that got loose from a nearby fenced yard. I narrowly escaped by pumping the pedals as hard as I could. My friend suggested I might do what he did. "What is that?" I asked. "Well," he replied, "I never go on my bike without a pistol, which I carry in a special holster under the bike seat."

On another occasion I was chatting with a man in a state campground in Pennsylvania. He was "camping" in a motor home the size of a large bus equipped with more stuff than most of us have in our houses. During our conversation he remarked that if anyone came to the door of his motor home after dark, he would meet them with the gun that he always carried! Imagine that in our Blow-me-down Provincial Park in Lark Harbour! But in most of the USA that is an accepted right.

This jealously-guarded right of Americans to carry guns was adopted in 1791 as part of a Bill of Rights when the USA felt a need to defend itself against British attack after the 1776 Declaration of Independence. The Second Amendment of the USA Constitution states:- "*A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.*" This may have been understandable in the lawless 1800s, as anyone would know who has watched tv "westerns" like *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke* or *Wagon Train* of years ago. Life in the Old West was pretty dangerous, with law enforcement often remote or non-existent.

But surely a modern nation like the USA with such huge resources and which makes proud claims to be *the world's most powerful nation and its natural leader*, should be able to provide adequate police protection for those of its citizens who cannot or do not wish to take a gun with them every time they leave their homes.

Of course, Americans have a perfect right to make whatever laws they see fit for their own country. However we Canadians have a powerful interest in American rules and how they are enforced, since large numbers of guns are imported illegally into Canada every year, and many become threats to safety in our cities here at home.

With so high a tally of gun murders in the USA, the American argument that firearms are for the public's protection seems incongruous. Are high-powered assault weapons in the hands of civilians essential to the survival of a democracy?

If America wishes to maintain credibility as world leader her citizens must look beyond their own borders and understand how they are perceived by others, especially their close neighbours. They must also become aware that their world image is sadly diminished by the unfettered possession of lethal weapons by so many civilians.

Do we Canadians, with a population one tenth the size of the USA, feel at ease living so close to this violent, gun-happy culture? Unfortunately there is little we can do beyond hoping that some day soon Americans will see the light, while in the meantime we must spend millions to protect ourselves. Sadly, too, our own federal government under Stephen Harper has followed the American path by abolishing the National Gun Registry to "save" a few scant millions, while thinking to increase security by spending many more billions on new "state-of-the-art" prisons, instead of tackling violence at its source.

SLH

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** not having been published during the months of 2012 December and 2013 January and February, abridged versions of the Reports of Lark Harbour Council meetings are presented here on the following pages.

**LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT OF 2012 DECEMBER 17 MEETING**

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

- Meeting commenced at 7:00pm with an update on the Recreation Committee given by Clerk Joanna. The annual Christmas parade was held on Saturday December 8th. It was a huge success. It was discussed that there will be a meeting held in January to discuss the possibility of having a Winter Carnival.
- Minutes of 2012 November 20 Meeting approved.
- Water/Sewer Update –Anderson Engineering indicated that they were hoping to go to tender by the upcoming weekend. Motion made for John and Joanna to attend the bank on Wednesday December 19, 2012 to sign off on the loan.
- Breakwater/Bottle Cove Road Update – Still waiting on the breakdown of the invoice for work completed on Bottle Cove Road to send to the Gas Tax Secretariat. Clerk to follow-up.
- Brief discussion on the progress of the DEEP grant. 5 workers remain. Initially it was hoped to replace/repair 100 feet of the retaining wall, to date 144 feet has been completed. Awaiting approval of further funding, once this has been approved, there will be a need of more workers.
- Regionalisation – There will be a meeting with the Special Needs Committee in the new year.
- Basic Emergency Management and Municipal Assessment Agency. Agreed that to discuss at the next joint meeting regarding possible purchase of supplies for the Emergency Operations Centre.
- Budget now complete and ready to be submitted.
- City of Corner Brook Waste Disposal – Brief discussion on the increase of cost of tipping fees in the New Year. All agreed that recycling, composting, and the possibility of a split truck would be discussed at the next joint meeting.
- Approved a quarry pit for SF Enterprises Ltd.
- Financial Report – Approved. No accounts payable at this time.
- Building Permits – Approve all applications.
- Minor Project Capital Grants Program – Council has received a grant in the amount of \$2000.00. All agreed that these funds would be used to offset the cost of having the surveillance system installed, and the possible purchase of basketball nets and other playground equipment. Clerk directed to follow-up as to when to apply for additional funding.
- Sound system – All agreed to keep the sound system we have - no need to upgrade at this time.
- Re/max – Clerk directed to follow up with municipal affairs regarding the possibility of having a trailer located on a parcel of land while the house is being constructed.
- Collections update – Review of outstanding accounts. All agreed to continue with collections procedure in the New Year. This

would include expropriation of one property.

- Municipal Assessment Agency Appeal – Review of one appeal.
- Donations – Motion was made to give donations to the following:
Kids Eat Smart Program – \$25.00
School Trip to Europe - \$150.00
- Rental of wax machine – \$25.00
- Western Sea Ventures – Discussion on parcel of land currently owned by Barry Group. Agreed more information is required.
- MNL Membership Fees – Motion to pay MNL and PMA fees.
- Waste Management – Review of newsletter.
- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 9:00pm.

**LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT OF MEETING OF 2013 JANUARY 7**

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

This special meeting commenced at 7:00 pm

- Water/Sewer Update – Amendment to resolution to draw down on bank loan of \$27,463.83 from Bank of Montreal repayable by Town of Lark Harbour for period of 60 months at a five-year fixed rate of 4.31%. The balance of \$113,904.17 to be drawn down on within next 12 months at an undetermined fixed rate.
- \$50,000.00 of Gas Tax Funds will be used to pay the remainder of the \$77,463.83 invoice for the 10% holdback.
- Resolution made to approve Anderson Engineering Consultants Limited to proceed with application for Phase II Water and Sewer development funding in the amount of \$1,618,244.75 with Provincial (BCF-CC) 90% for a total of \$1,456,420.28 and Municipal Source 10% for a total of \$161,824.48. Scope of work for this project includes the water system chlorination building, 950 metres of 250mm diameter water transmission line, 1240 metres of 200mm water line, 520 metres of 150mm diameter water line and 62 house services from the intersection of Little Port Road and Route 450 heading south. The water system will include 1650 metres of 200mm diameter sewer line, 11 manholes, 2 communal septic tanks and two sanitary sewer outfalls.
- Agreed to disregard the revised CIP application for the repair of Bottle Cove Road. All Gas Tax funds will be used towards the water/sewer project.
- Budget – revised 2013 Budget approved as presented.
- DEEP Grant - \$10,000.00 has been verbally confirmed. Brief discussion on what to do with these funds. Clerks directed to find out more information on what exactly these funds can be used for.
- Letter sent to a realtor regarding his request for a client to park a 20ft travel trailer at a location on Littleport Road while a permanent residence is under construction. This letter will give permission for the client to proceed, while stipulations are in place.
- Agreed for both clerks to attend the Western Regional Meeting to be held in Deer Lake February 1-3, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Council Reports continued on next page

LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL REPORT OF MEETING OF 2013 JANUARY 15

PRESENT: Mayor John Parsons; Deputy Mayor Jamie Park;
Councillors: Pauline Sheppard, Llewellyn Childs, Stanley Childs;
Clerk: Peggy Sheppard (Recording Minutes)
Guest: one Resident

Meeting commenced at 7:00pm.

- Minutes of meetings of 2012 December 17 and 2013 January 7 approved as circulated.
- A Resident voiced concerns over the issue of Poll Tax. She cannot understand why she has to pay poll tax, when the owner of the property that she is renting from is already paying property tax to cover the expenses of garbage collection, snow clearing and street lighting. She asked the question “Why should taxes be paid twice on one property?” Council promised to review the Municipalities Act to verify that they are not infringing it by imposing this Poll Tax. The Resident will be informed of Council’s information/decision via a formal letter.
- Water/Sewer Update – Tender set to close on 2013 February 4; work anticipated to begin in spring.
- Breakwater Update – Lengthy discussion on the additional \$10,000.00 that was approved for the continuation of the DEEP. All decided that the amount would be used for repairs on the Town Hall and possibly the restoration of St James Church once the mould/mildew situation is under control.
- Budget – Official letter received from the Department of Municipal Affairs stating acceptance of the 2013 Budget.
- Surface Rutting of Route 450 near Cook’s Brook Bridge – review of letter received from MHA Eddie Joyce.
- Expropriation Issue - The family of the owner of a vacant property will be allowed 30 days to decide what they wish to do, before any further action is taken by Council. Family will be informed of the deteriorated condition of the property which poses a safety hazard, and its removal should be considered.
- Debit Machine – due to cost, there is no need at this time.
- Approved Financial Report and accounts payable of \$382.58.
- One Crown Grant Application reviewed.
- Approved purchase of Sage Simply Accounting update at cost of approximately \$600.00.
- P.A. – Annual convention and Trade Show – Mayor to review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL REPORT OF MEETING OF 2013 FEBRUARY 19

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

Meeting commenced at 7:07pm.

- Minutes of meeting of 2013 January 15 adopted as circulated.
- Water/Sewer Update – The tender for Phase 1B (water dam etc) has been awarded to Mike Kelly and Sons Ltd for the amount of \$589,035.10. Anticipated start date will be in early spring.

- DEEP Update – Council is pleased to announce that repairs at the Town Hall are proceeding well. Any surplus funds would be used to buy more stock for repairs to the retaining wall at the end of Main Street (Down Below).
- Regionalisation – Council viewed the draft Terms of Reference for the feasibility study and agreed for clerks from both Lark Harbour and York Harbour to compile information needed for the Terms of Reference. A meeting will then be scheduled with Municipal Affairs for review of the Terms of Reference.
- More information required before decision re attendance of both clerks at the Annual Convention & Trade Show in St John’s.
- Western Sea Ventures Update – Agreed to have further discussion on the land at the next monthly Council meeting.
- Approved financial report, accounts payable of \$146.80, and write-offs of \$530.00.
- Agreed to renew Short Term Investment of \$24,087.69 at BMD.
- Disclosure Statements completed by all Council members and filed.
- Agreed to purchase five fire extinguishers from Simplex Grenfell to be installed at the Town Hall for the price of \$340.98.
- Council viewed renewal application for Day Use Park. Deputy Mayor is to sign and return it.
- Agreed for both Clerks to receive training for website updates.
- Clerk directed to contact Computer Repair Company to have computer upgraded as soon as possible.
- Fracking Moratorium Petition/Update – Shoal Point Energy to be contacted to see if they could make a presentation to residents/council about the fracking issue.
- Council viewed a dog complaint from a resident.
- Clerk directed to contact MMSB regarding Solid Waste Management Innovation Fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING or “FRACKING” *PROCEED WITH CAUTION IF AT ALL*

Last year our region was presented with proposals being approved by government to allow companies to introduce the process known as “fracking” in our offshore areas, specifically around Little Port. The process, invented by Canadians, involves drilling deep wells from which horizontal bores would then be drilled to enable large quantities of water and unspecified chemicals to be forced into deep layers of shale causing *fractures* in those rocks to allow natural gas and oil to be recovered. In a public meeting we were given some information, but we really know very little about how this process could hurt our local environment.

Many places around the world have already been affected by this process, with underground water being polluted beyond the point where the water is unfit for normal uses.

Until we have more information on the possible negative results of these operations, we must be cautious about giving our own approval. For sure, jobs and new industry may bring benefits, but until we are better informed we should not agree to these proposals because once the damage is done, it appears to be practically impossible to be remedied. Therefore until we know more about its effects we must ***PROCEED WITH CAUTION IF AT ALL.***