

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

# BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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## REPAIR AND RENEWAL AT LARK HARBOUR



The Kitchen, like the rest of the basement, had to be completely renovated to remove fungal growth in the walls. The original cupboards were replaced with new ones made and installed by Stephen Sheppard. One doorway was also removed, and the island counter was made smaller to facilitate movement in the Kitchen.



This picture shows the Church Hall where the original concrete floor had to be cut to allow access to the drain beneath, which runs diagonally towards the doorway. Here the new pipe is in place, the trench filled in, and the broken cement floor replaced ready for tiling.

THERE HAVE BEEN TWO GOOD, ESSENTIAL PROJECTS undertaken in Lark Harbour in the last few months: (1) the solving of a problem of a leaking basement in St James Church, causing damp and mildew in the Church Hall; and (2) the replacement of a length of old breakwater “down below”.

In the late fall of 2012 moisture was found to be seeping into the Church Hall. This was causing damage and mildew, and necessitated the removal of all the furniture and cupboards from the entire basement. Work then began on digging up the drains which were installed when the floor was originally poured, and a blockage was found—the culprit behind the problem.

This project is not yet completed, and the final cost is not yet available. but it is estimated that it will total around \$35,000. Although insurance is carried on the building, the underwriter has stated that this damage is not covered under the church policy. (Sometimes one has to wonder just what insurance is worth!) Unfortunately this means that the repairs must be paid for by the congregation, and fundraising has already begun.

The other project, now completed, is the replacement of the old breakwater “down below”, at the intersection with Park & Youden Road. This was necessary to protect the shore from erosion by wind and waves which are frequent across the Harbour. A very fine job →



This picture shows the completed breakwater near the junction of Main Street and Park & Youden Road. Solid lumber has been used to build caissons, which were then filled with rock.

→ has been done, in conditions which were often quite difficult due to bad weather. Hopefully, Council will be able to secure additional funds to have more work done further along the shore as needed. With rising sea levels in the future this will become more essential to protect the properties along the beach.





Obituary

**BRUCE KEVIN SHEPPARD**

1940 Oct 03 - 2013 Jan 21

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE BRUCE SHEPPARD announced with great sadness his passing at the Palliative Care Unit of Western Memorial Regional Hospital on Monday January 21, 2013. He left to mourn with fond and loving memories his wife Joy (née Robinson); children: Brenda Hillier (Chris) of Corner Brook, Sandra Sheppard (Jeff Lush) of St Anthony, Byron Sheppard (Wendi) of New Brunswick, Jason Sheppard (Jodi) of York Harbour; grandchildren: Natasha, Lucas, Taylor, Jorja, Kayleigh: siblings, Winnie Smith of Toronto, Glenis Holwell (Owen) of Lewisporte, Melinda Sheppard, Wayne Sheppard (Elaine) of Lark Harbour, Robert Sheppard (Evelyn) of Lark Harbour, Aunt Lillian Jefford of Conception Bay South: also a large circle of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents Baxter & Rita Sheppard, brother Allen Sheppard, and son-in-law Kent Budden. Visitation took place at St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, on Wednesday and Thursday, between the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm, from where the Funeral Service was held on Friday, January 25, 2013 at 11:00am, with Reverend Nelson Chatman officiating. Interment followed at the church cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, donations were made to the St James Anglican Church Memorial Fund, the Kidney Foundation or the Palliative Care Unit of Western Memorial Regional Hospital. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made by visiting our website at [www.country-haven.ca](http://www.country-haven.ca).

The family expressed a sincere thank you to Dr Fudge & Dr Murphy, Nurses & Staff of the Dialysis Unit, also the Palliative Care staff of the Western Memorial Regional Hospital.

*Apologies to the Sheppard family for the omission of this Obituary from last month's issue of the BLOW•ME•DOWNER*

Obituary

**JOHN ROTCHFORD**

1932 - 2013

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late John Rotchford announce his passing at his residence on Saturday April 6th 2013 at the age of 81 years. Leaving to mourn with fond and loving memories is his wife, Annie in Aguathuna, 5 sons: Martin (Lorraine) in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Edward, in the Long Term Care Centre, Stephenville Crossing, John, Robert (Judy), David (Tina) all in Ontario. 5 daughters: Delores (Pat) Brennan in Kippens, Mary (Tim) Connolly, Rose (Tim) Collett, Philomena (Craig) Rose, Valerie (Keith) White all in Ontario, 24 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, sisters Marie Dalton, Madeline Poole, Roseline Guy, Geraldine (Ron) McGrath, brother Doug, all in Conception Harbour and special friend, Calvin Dennis in Nova Scotia, and also a large circle of relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Martin and Rose Rotchford, 2 brothers, Thomas and Nicholas, 1 sister Betty and granddaughter Melissa. →

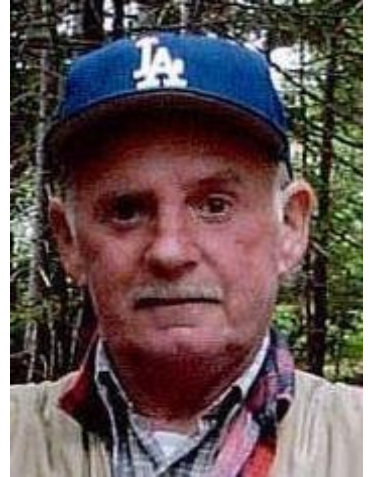


Obituary

**JOSEPH RAPHAEL WISEMAN**

1942 July 01 - 2013 Apr 03

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of Joseph Raphael Wiseman announce his passing at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital on Wednesday April 3, 2013 at the age of 70 years. He leaves to mourn with fond and loving memories: his wife Olga Wiseman (née Wiseman) of 45 years; four sons: Philip (Jackie), Daniel, Kirk (Nicolle), and Glen (Brooke); eleven grandchildren: Nicholas, Danielle, Kyle, Kaitlyn, Keiria, Kayla, Joseph, Georgia, Lindsay, Sophia, and Nathan, his siblings: Frances, Anne, Marie, Carmel, John, Madonna, Mike, Louise, and Gerry; also a large circle of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends from the Corner Brook, Deer Lake and York Harbour areas.



He was predeceased by his parents John and Emma Wiseman, brothers Sam, Gerald, and Gene. Visitation will take place at Country Haven Funeral Home, 167 Country Road, from 2-4 & 7-9pm Friday April 5, 2013. Funeral service will be on Saturday April 6, 2013 at 10.30am at the Most Holy Redeemer Cathedral, Mount Bernard Ave, with Monsignor Edwin Gale officiating. At Joseph's request cremation will take place following the service. Interment to take place at a later date. As expressions of sympathy in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Western Memorial Regional Hospital Fund. The family guest book may be signed or memorial donations made by visiting our website at [www.country-haven.ca](http://www.country-haven.ca).

← Friends may call at Russell's Funeral Home, 57 Prince Rupert Drive, Stephenville from 2-4 and 7-9pm Monday, April 8th, 2013. Funeral service will take place Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 at 1:30pm from Maria Regina Roman Catholic Church, Port au Port East with interment to follow at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Port au Port East. Friends may sign the on-line guestbook by visiting our website [www.russellsfuneralhome.ca](http://www.russellsfuneralhome.ca).



Is Spring really here? This little fellow was photographed in my yard on 2013 April 22, Monday, at 6:30pm.

## LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL

### Report of 2013 March 19 Meeting

**PRESENT :** Mayor John Parsons;

Councillors: Pauline Sheppard, Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs;

Clerks: Joanna Pottle (Recording Minutes), Peggy Sheppard;

**ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Park;

**GUEST:** Mr Jeremiah Barry

*Meeting commenced at 6:45pm.*

- Resident Jeremiah Barry discussed his interest in doing the Garbage Pickup for the town. Council agreed that more information will need to be collected from Mr Barry before a decision is made.
- Adopted the minutes of meeting on February 19, 2013 and a special meeting on March 11, 2013.
- Water/Sewer Update – An application has been sent to Municipal Affairs for additional funding for an unexpected short fall. Anticipated start date is still for the early spring.
- CEEP Update – Council is extremely pleased with the work that has been completed both with the Retaining Wall and the Community Hall. Council will apply for more funding for further work on the retaining wall when the application becomes available.
- Regionalisation – The Terms of Reference have been sent to Robyn Bursey. When the Terms have been approved, an advertisement will be placed in the Western Star for a consultant to complete a feasibility study on behalf of Lark Harbour and York Harbour.
- Western Sea Ventures – Council agreed not to proceed with a survey of the Western Sea Ventures land at this time.
- Fracking – Agreed to contact Dr Ian Simpson (Environmentalist) to advise him that his group is welcome to come and have a public meeting regarding fracking.
- Website Upgrades – All agreed to have our website maintained for another year. View our website at: [www.yorkharbourlarkharbour.com](http://www.yorkharbourlarkharbour.com)
- Financial Report – Motion was made to approve the financial report (copy attached) and to pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$2,392.84
- New Building Permit Application – Council viewed the new regulations and agreed to start using the new application for those who seek approval to build.
- Neighbourhood Watch/Crime Stoppers – Council directed clerks to post the Crime Stoppers phone number on our website.
- Council decided to hold off on a donation to the Recreation Committee at this time.
- Family Outreach Resource Centre – Council agreed to continue holding the play group at the Town Hall until renovations are completed at the Church.
- Exit Road (Down Below) – Council feels that an access road is needed at the end of Main Street, but more information is required before a decision can be made regarding its construction.
- Western Health Room Rental/Caregivers NFLD – Council decided to contact Caregivers NFLD regarding room rental for blood collection, foot care, etc. Signs will be put up to see interest in the community.
- Domain Registry of Canada – Clerks informed Council about the

stop payment on cheque sent to Domain Registry of Canada.

- Playground Grants/Student Grants – Council will be applying for both a Student Employment Program as well as a SWASP Program for the students this summer. A playground application will also be sent with hopes of getting funding to do some work on our playground.
- Soccer Program – Quote needed from Soccer Program Coach before decision is made as to help fix up the York Harbour Field for the Soccer Program.
- Clerk Joanna informed Council about phone call received from RCMP. Council directed clerk to contact RCMP and ask them for more patrols in the area as well as more presentations at the School.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm*

## LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL

### Report of 2013 April 16 Meeting

**PRESENT :** Mayor John Parsons; Deputy Mayor Jamie Park;

Councillors: Pauline Sheppard, Stanley Childs,;

Clerks: Peggy Sheppard (Recording Minutes);

**ABSENT:** Councillor Llewellyn Childs; Clerk Joanna Pottle.

*Meeting commenced at 7:00pm.*

- Minutes of meeting of 2013 March 19 adopted
- Water/Sewer Update – Review of letters received from Anderson Engineering and Mike Kelly & Sons Ltd. indicating that the tender validity period has been extended for an additional thirty one days to Monday May 6, 2013. Also review of letter from Dept. of Municipal Affairs authorizing additional funding for new water system, phase 1, project no. 26661. Resolution by Council to enter into the agreement whereas the Minister and the Council have agreed to enter into a municipal capital works agreement for the financing of supplemental funding for new Water System, Phase 1, Project No. 26661, hereinafter referred to as the "works", and have agreed to cost not in excess of \$128,950 which amounts to \$123,244 after the GST rebate calculation. This amount falls under the 90/10 rule, whereby the municipality is responsible for 10% of this amount.
- CEEP – This project is complete and funding has been exhausted. The total amount of funding approved for this project was \$38,529.00. Of this amount \$28,542.85 was for labour costs and \$9,967.51 was the maximum material cost (this includes administration costs). The total invoice amount was \$15,739.35, therefore Council's portion of materials purchased for this project was \$5,771.84. The final report for this project has been completed and sent for approval. Council will be looking at more infrastructure projects once application intake dates are announced.
- Regionalisation – Terms of Reference submitted by Council are now under review by Dept of Municipal Affairs. Council will be informed when more information is available.
- Hydraulic Fracturing – public meeting to be held at the Lark Harbour Town Hall on Tuesday April 23rd, 2013 at 7:30pm.

*Continued on Next Page*

**Council Report - Continued from Previous Page**

This is an information session being held by Mr. Simon Jansen to discuss risks and benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing in Western NL. Mayor John also gave a brief update on a session that he attended at the Great Humber Board of Trade on the same topic.

- Compost bins – In an effort to reduce costs associated with garbage removal, both the Lark Harbour and York Harbour Town Councils have purchased compost bins. These bins are available to residents to purchase at a cost of \$25.00. They will be arriving sometime in early to mid-May. Residents are encouraged to do their part and help reduce the amount of waste they produce by composting. Brief discussion on recycling.
- Bank Transfers – Agreement has been completed and sent to BMO to set up for on-line banking, thereby allowing tax payers to pay their invoices on-line or through telephone banking. This will be a 6-8 week setup process. Agreed to set-up only with BMO for the present time, since this is the bank that Council uses and there are no associated fees. Other banks have set-up fees.
- Financial Report – Approved financial report accounts payable of \$3,707.46.
- Building Permits – All approved.
- Training – Approved both clerks attending Training for Election Officials in Deer Lake on May 8, 2013.
- SWASP – Council has received an application for the SWASP 2013 Community Service Component student program. Posters have been put up to discover if there are any students interested. Clerk will also notify school to request them to make an announcement to students.
- MNL Membership package – Review of 2013 package and distribution of membership cards.
- Road maintenance – Brief discussion on spring road maintenance. All agreed that 2 gradings of by-roads would be needed, but it would be best to wait until May for this. Review of reply from Dept of Transportation regarding the condition of Route 450. It was noted that this work is scheduled to be completed during the summer maintenance that begins May 1st, 2013.
- Spring Clean-up – Scheduled for Thursday May 2nd, 2013. Agreed to send letters to four taxpayers regarding the poor condition of their properties.
- Council reviewed a complaint about mice from a resident.
- Easter Seals – No donation would be given at this time.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.*

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Pearson; and Conservatives John Diefenbaker and Robert Stanfield. To achieve what I and many other Canadians aspire to will be difficult. But with a leader who brings hope rather than despair, inspiration rather than desperation, trust rather than suspicion, co-operation rather than negativity, honesty rather than deception, and openness rather than backroom plotting, our nation can and will renew itself. This is why I support Justin Trudeau's leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada. This is what I expect of him. SLH

**Editorial : WHY JUSTIN TRUDEAU?**

THE VOTE FOR LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA took place as scheduled, and Justin Trudeau won with a resounding majority. But as he said in his acceptance speech, this is only the beginning: it will be a long uphill slog to the next General Election.

As most readers of this publication must be aware, I make no secret of my support for the Liberal Party, both federally and provincially. I have been a supporter of the moderate political left since my student days, with only two exceptions. In each case the candidates were personal acquaintances I respected and trusted, and I felt that each deserved my support for his fairness, clear thinking, and humanitarian philosophy. But neither was elected.

In recent years, politics, both nationally and provincially, has "gone down the tubes". Today the party leaders are the only ones whose opinions matter. Ministers are chosen from party "yes-men" who parrot what the leader says. If a backbencher *speaks out against a policy* or, heaven forbid, *does not toe the party line*, what usually happens is that he/she is disciplined and becomes a black sheep, and may even be ejected from the party caucus. This muzzles dissenters because the party leaders control most of the debate time in the House. The dissenter becomes effectively a private member, a lone voice in the House, if he/she gets to speak at all. How often do we hear Elizabeth May of the Green Party speaking in the House of Commons? Not often. And why? Because she is the only elected member of the Green Party, just like a private member, with minimal time allotted to speak as only one of 338 MPs.

We need a breath of fresh air through our political chambers. All ideas should be aired in our Parliaments, regardless of who has generated those ideas. But what are we getting? Mostly the stifled, undebated and doctrinaire line of the governing party. And the infamous "omnibus" bills which include the baby with a huge quantity of bath water are bulldozed through the House when votes on separate parts of the bill should be possible. This bludgeoning of our traditions destroys our democracy and needs to change.

Last fall I signed up to vote in the Liberal leadership election and I followed the candidates' debates on the media. After much thought I supported Justin Trudeau. Yes, other candidates were good—Debra Coyne, for example, and Marc Garneau before he withdrew. But . . . **First**, it seemed preferable that the new leader would *already be an experienced MP*. If not, that person would have to go through a by-election, perhaps months later when the PM chooses—not the best introduction to national politics. **Second**, an *energetic but also intelligent person* was needed. **Third**, someone *well-known nationally* already has a good start. **Fourth**, an effective leader must be a *strong communicator, preferably in both English and French* in Canada. **Fifth**, someone who has successfully *negotiated his way through the political minefield of Quebec*, would be a definite asset. Justin Trudeau meets all of these conditions and many more.

I believe it is high time now for Canada to move away from the narrow, secretive, cynical approach of the Harper Conservatives. They have reduced Canada to a mere cipher on the world scene, illustrated among other things by their failure to be elected to the UN Security Council. NDP leader Tom Mulcair once looked as if he might have the stature to remediate this kind of problem but he has not lived up to expectations.

I believe that Justin Trudeau has the potential to bring Canada back to the world leadership role we held during the tenure of great Liberal PMs like Jean Chretien, Pierre Eliot Trudeau, Lester B

← ← ← **Continued at bottom of column at left**



## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING “FRACKING”

ON TUESDAY 2013 APRIL 23 a public meeting was held in Lark Harbour Town Hall. Its purpose was to make available to Outer Bay of Islands residents and other interested people some more information on the process of Hydraulic Fracturing, or “fracking”, as it is known to most of us. The presenter was Simon Jansen, member of a Corner Brook environmental group, who has researched the topic and created a set of slides which stimulated much spirited discussion for a couple of hours. Clearly, there is much we need to learn, both about the process itself and also about the avenues available to us as residents to make our views known effectively to government, and Simon’s presentation gave us much food for thought.

In simple terms the hydraulic fracturing process involves drilling wells to the level of oil or natural gas-bearing shale rocks which in our region lie at a depth of about half a kilometre. Once that depth has been reached, further shafts are drilled horizontally, fanning out to penetrate the shale formations. Then metal linings are installed in the shafts, and the recovery of the oil or gas can begin.

Large quantities of water (*as much as 6 million litres or 1.3 million gallons\**) containing sand and about 0.5% of certain chemicals is forced under high pressure along these shafts, from which it is released into the shale strata, *fracturing* the rocks and freeing the oil or gas to be collected at the surface. Anywhere from 50% to 80% of the water used will be recovered and treated, but 50% (*about 3 million litres or ½ a million gallons\**) to 20% (*about a million litres or ¼ million gallons\**) with the contained chemicals, will NOT be recovered. (*\* quantities are approximate*)

The recovered water will be stored in large open reservoirs at the surface prior to treatment. This gives rise to concerns about climatic conditions which in our area may cause the water to be blown by the wind; and there is always the possibility of leakage.

Some of the chemicals used are carcinogenic and some may cause damage to the liver or other organs. It has been said that the unrecovered water with its chemicals will remain harmlessly deep underground, but in some areas this polluted water has found its way into the ground water, causing it to be polluted to the point where it is unsuitable for further use. In addition, the recovered water has to be disposed of safely. In some areas of Canada where fracking has been done, the water was put into municipal sewage disposal systems, but such systems are not designed for this purpose. (See endnote, p7)

Each well drilled will require a ground level service area large enough to accommodate the numerous trucks and other equipment needed. A considerable volume of noise will be produced on a 24-hour basis at those sites.

As yet Newfoundland has no environmental controls governing the fracturing process. It seems quite likely too that any such controls will be subordinate to the recent loose legislation of the Federal Government which has removed existing protection of many rivers and lakes, allowing them to be used as industrial tailings ponds.

Many statements have been made about the development of an oil industry to bring needed jobs into our region. However the fracking process is complex and its workers require technical knowledge and skills as traditional oil and gas wells do. Few if any local people have those skills, so employees would have to be brought here to provide them. It seems likely that during the construction phase there might be a few jobs such as basic labouring, construction, security, and trucking, and perhaps in the accommodation and catering business. But it is

unlikely that significant jobs would benefit the area permanently.

The developing tourism industry on our West Coast is likely to be affected adversely by the fracking work as the main areas that attract visitors are Little Port and Bottle Cove, the very places where the wells and accompanying facilities would be located. Tourism here depends exclusively on attracting people who wish to enjoy the *natural, unspoiled scenery* and there is a great risk that those areas would be affected, if not actually ruined. The people in the Gros Morne and Port au Port areas where similar projects are threatened are aware of this risk, and they have formed strong organisations to oppose it in their regions. We need to work with them.

Other concerns relate to safety. Aside from the usual hazards associated with oil and gas industries (blowouts, fires, etc) our small communities at the end of the road would be facing other hazards such as increased traffic using highway infrastructure not designed for that level of usage. Many large trucks would regularly be using Route 450, our main highway which passes right through our towns, from Corner Brook to Little Port. Residents must use this road as their only means of getting to the post offices, stores, school, church, etc. Children are used to playing along the road as they have been able to do for decades, and school buses pass along several times a day. It could be only a matter of time before a serious accident would occur. The road itself is incapable of handling the large number of heavy vehicles that would be using it, and strengthening of the road bed and bridges would be needed. However it is unlikely that sufficient improvements would be made in time, if ever.

Another concern relates to the assigning of responsibility for any damage accruing from the fracturing work. This could affect private home insurance, as in some places fracking has caused minor earthquakes or tremors with consequential damage. Also, legal responsibility for cleanup of spills or environmental damage seems usually to end only six years after the process is finished or abandoned. It is common knowledge that cleanup can be very costly, and the companies usually fight vehemently to avoid responsibility for it, as they have done in the Gulf of Mexico disaster.

### *What can we do to defend our communities?*

The greatest obstacle to any kind of defence seems to be the fact that, unlike some of the other provinces, our Province has no legislation in place relating to fracking. Legislation exists relating to conventional offshore oil exploration, but this is not generally applicable to fracking. Therefore new legislation must be introduced by the NL Government, but so far there has been no start on this. For example, there are no rules or even guidelines relating to noise which, we are told, is a major factor around the fracking process.

The NL Department of Environment has no regulations or even guidelines governing the kind of activities involved with fracking. One complication is that there are both *land* and *marine* considerations, which for obvious reasons are quite different; and the ramifications of this relatively new technology are largely unknown, especially as they affect a marine environment.

Current provincial legislation provides no control by the local municipal council in the area of land use and environment. Among other limitations, this means that the Town Council has negligible influence over what may be done with private land even within the municipal boundary, so that if a private land owner chooses to sell to a developer, nothing can be done. (Contrast this with the fact that if you want to put new windows into your house, you must obtain a permit from the Council!)

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These are only some of the many pitfalls ahead of our community in the face of such a development, and there will likely be many others coming to light if or when the work starts here.

Meanwhile, our only courses of action are:

- to learn as much as we can about all aspects of the issue by attending public meetings, following developments in the news;
- to bring our concerns before our government representatives at all levels, and as energetically as possible;
- to apply as much pressure as we can on the NL Government to create strong legislation to control hydraulic fracturing;
- to bring our concerns before the general public of Newfoundland through the media;
- to keep well informed on all aspects of the question;
- to develop strong contacts with the Gros Morne and Port au Port regions who are faced with the same issues as we are.

Above all, we must work together with each other to ensure that, if the project does go ahead, we have a clear idea of what we expect of those in charge. After all, these are OUR communities, not theirs.

**Endnote**

Visit this website for information on what happened in Nova Scotia.  
[www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2012/10/18/ns-windsor-fracking-water-concerns.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2012/10/18/ns-windsor-fracking-water-concerns.html)

**Editorial : TERRORISTS AND BULLIES**

ARRESTS AND CHARGES laid against young Arabic men in connection with the bombing at the Boston Marathon and a planned attack on a Via Rail passenger train in Ontario have dominated the news in recent weeks. There have also been numerous disturbing cases of harm and even death caused by criminal bullying, especially of young women, in schools across the continent.

Are they so different? Terrorists and bullies both have “chips on their shoulders”, and while some resolve it, others allow it to distort their lives, often resulting in the deaths of innocent people.

It is tempting and easy for us of Caucasian (“white”) race to judge those of other racial groups as different from us, especially when they are seen to be responsible for savage attacks in our society. *They are not like us*, people say.

But branding people as different is easily done and easily becomes negative. When that happens it is *xenophobia*, or *fear of differences*, and it arose in a number of countries in the last century. In extreme situations it led to the partitioning of society (*apartheid*, as in South Africa, *the final solution* in Nazi Germany, and *ethnic cleansing* in eastern Europe, Africa and other places. It becomes very destructive.

Many of those responsible for violent crimes have been young Muslims, recent immigrants. This fact has caused murmurings that we should close our borders to more immigrants. But immigrants have been vital in the growth and development of Canada, and they will continue to be. We cannot afford to close our borders just because a few become problems. Almost all Canadians except the First Nations are either immigrants themselves, or descendants of immigrants.

It is true that some immigrants are terrorists, and some are Muslims. Likewise it is true that some students, ordinary young Canadians, are bullies in our schools; some may even become axe murderers. But we do not mistrust all students because they may be bullies, and we must not mistrust all Muslims because they may be terrorists. If we descend to that level then we shall soon find ourselves

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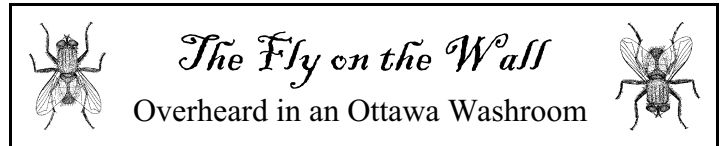
mistrusting everyone.

In years gone by, “poor” students in school were often punished by being labelled dunces and made to stand in the corner. Many became dropouts, and a few became social misfits, perhaps even bullies. Today, students with difficulties are helped, not punished, and many succeed in school. Punishment should be used only when all other efforts have failed.

Instead, we must deal with the troublemakers, while also defending our civil society. In many cases, with the correct approach both terrorists and bullies can be shown the error of their ways, and many will respond by becoming positive members of society. But with harsh treatment, they may become serious problems later.

Sometimes even a country which considers itself Christian is tempted to deal harshly with its criminals, as in the “three strikes and you’re out” philosophy. But we should remember the words of Jesus: *Let him that is without sin cast the first stone.*

How many would that be?



- Steve H:* Well, Jim, how are we going to get out of this one?  
*Jim F:* You mean the three billion we can’t account for?  
*Steve H:* Yep. It’s going to be hard to blame this on anybody else, now that we’ve been running the show for most of seven years. That young Trudeau won’t let it slip by.  
*Jim F:* We’ll just have to be our usual smart selves, but maybe talk a bit faster. Canadians ’ll swallow it. Maybe spend another million or two on attack ads and give them that to talk about. And send a few more to the wrong polling station ... that’ll help.  
*Steve H:* Yeah, I guess you’re right. That’s safer than admitting we actually lost the money. After all, they’ve swallowed every other load of bull we’ve fed ‘em, and this is just more of the same. It’s rattled me a bit though.  
*Jim F:* I just can’t figure out where it’s gone, Steve. I had no idea till that new PBO guy brought it up. Even in my style of book-keeping, it’s a lot o’ money just to disappear. I figure it’s about a hundred bucks for every man, woman and child in this country.  
*Steve H:* Really, Jim? That much?  
*Jim F:* Yep, I figured that out this mornin’.  
*Steve H:* Wow! Too bad we can’t find it and add it to our expense accounts. We’ve only got a couple more years before we have to face an election, an’ if this kind o’ thing keeps happening, it’ll make it a lot harder to get elected in 2015.  
*Jim F:* Yeah, that’ll be a sad day. We’re making a good job o’ selling the country off now, and it would be a pity if we can’t do it a bit longer.  
*Steve H:* Maybe if we can get the Chinese to put in a bid for something *really* big, that’ll get everybody so excited they’ll forget the 3 billion bucks.  
*Jim F:* (*laughing*) Yeah! But what’s big enough for that?  
*Steve H:* (*grinning*) How about the Newfoundland fishery? That should take their minds off what we’re up to!

**O-o-o-ugh! ... Canada**



## LIBRARY NOTES

by  
Susan Harvey



*J It seems the Provincial Library system has been harder hit by the budget cuts than we had realised. We were already concerned that Western Region was losing the office in Corner Brook, along with much of the staff, as well as the Corner Brook City Librarian. We did hear that some libraries were having their hours of opening reduced, but apparently our Blow-Me-Down Library here in Lark Harbour was not affected. Now we have learned that the Rotating Collections will rotate no more; we just keep the one we have now, and no more to come! Most regular users of the Library will appreciate the magnitude of the disaster: maybe no more new books ever! We will have to make do with the existing collection, which we have been reading on for years. Maybe it's a ploy to force us all to buy an e-reader and go for e-books. Perhaps it is the wave of the future, but it would have been nice to have time to adjust. Some of us are very used to real books, and we will miss them.*

*In any case, the current collection does have some promising reading material; also the Newfoundland Collection, which hopefully may still be added to. The following are available, and the ones I have managed to read are worth the trouble.*

From the rotating collection:

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| 1. <i>Silks</i> LP                       | Dick Francis & Felix Francis |
| 2. <i>A Christmas Beginning</i>          | Anne Perry                   |
| 3. <i>The Double Comfort Safari Club</i> | Alexander McCall Smith       |
| 4. <i>Body Work</i>                      | Sara Paretsky                |
| 5. <i>Seas in Crisis</i>                 | Joe Buff                     |

From the Newfoundland Collection:

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| 6. <i>The Newfoundland Dog</i> | Robert C Parsons |
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1. *Silks* is a story of horse racing. Dick Francis was actually a champion jockey in his time, and he has written many exciting books involving horse racing. His son Felix has apparently been helping to work out the plots of the books for some time, but has only had his name on the last two. However, since his father has now died, perhaps he will try to write one on his own. This story is a little different in that the main character is a lawyer, Geoffrey Mason. He does ride in amateur races, and there is some racing action in the story; but the main plot has to do with some illegal actions by those involved. These individuals have hired a thug who enjoys beating up people who are a danger to them - including Geoffrey. Although terrified, he does persist in his investigations and finally wins out. An exciting book, in easy-to-read Large Print.
2. *A Christmas Beginning* is a British detective story which actually takes place at Christmas. The main character is Superintendent Runcorn of the London police. Surprisingly, he was an unsympathetic character in Ms Perry's stories of William Monk; but he does seem to be more likeable in this one. He is on holiday on Anglesey, an island off the northwest coast of Wales, a big change from his usual setting in London. An attractive young girl is murdered, and there seems to be no reason. Runcorn spends a good bit of time talking to the locals, which does not come naturally to him, and in the end he does figure out who had a reason. A good, fairly easy, read.
3. *The Double Comfort Safari Club* is one of Mr McCall Smith's stories of the *Number 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* in Botswana. He is very familiar with life in Botswana, and presents his ladies

affectionately. We are given their thought processes—which most of us recognise as similar to our own—and we get some feel for life in an African village. The ladies' cases are not very big time, but they do manage to get everything worked out. It is the same approach as Mr McCall Smith took in the stories we previously reviewed about Isabel Dalhousie, who lived in Edinburgh, Scotland.

4. *Body Work* is a novel featuring Ms Paretsky's V.I. Warshawski, a tough private detective in Chicago. The story involves some pretty rough types, but V.I. copes as usual. An exciting, quite long, read.

5. *Seas in Crisis* is a rather scary book about the next World War. Germany is the main villain again, and the main weapons are submarines with sophisticated technology, which can fire nuclear bombs. I have not read it yet, but I am hoping it is not too convincing a scenario. In fact, it was published in 2006, so we can already notice that some of the events he has placed in 2010 and 2011 have not really taken place. But who knows what can still happen?

From the Newfoundland Collection:

6. *The Newfoundland Dog* is a collection of short stories featuring, of course, Newfoundland dogs. Anyone fond of dogs will enjoy them. Mr Parsons has produced many collections of stories, mostly sea stories; and, of course, many Newfoundland dogs became mascots on fishing and other boats. Easy and enjoyable reading.

### **A Brief History of our Library from its Beginning until Now**

It is sad that our governments generally seem to apply their cuts and reductions in areas like Public Libraries where service has been minimal for a long time. In the mid 1970s Lark Harbour and York Harbour began efforts to obtain a Public Library. At this time the late Mr Paul Cook was Western Regional Librarian, and he worked hard with the committee we formed to establish a Library Board and start a library here. Knowing that a separate facility would be beyond the resources we could muster, we opted, on Mr Cook's advice, for a "Joint Service" library, located in the school and funded jointly by the School Board and the Library system.

Unfortunately, Joint Service libraries were then frowned on by many professional librarians, but Mr Cook, a man with a mind of his own, joined with us in our effort. Our MHA, Luke Woodrow, was also extremely helpful. Our unofficial committee named itself the *Blow-Me-Down Library Committee* so that both towns would "own" it equally, even though it was located in Lark Harbour. It consisted of several people from each community, and everyone began working hard to make the Library a reality, despite the fact that we had no official status and no funding at that time.

Centred in eastern Newfoundland, the Provincial Libraries Board viewed Joint Service Libraries as unworkable nuisances. They were totally unaware that small communities could not easily finance separate facilities. But we persevered and, with the support of the old Bay of Islands-St George's Integrated School Board and after distributing a booklet called *Half a Loaf is Better than No Bread* to MHAs and anyone we thought might read it, we finally succeeded. In November of 1976 our Blow-Me-Down Joint Services Library was opened in St James School, with Norma Pickett as our first Librarian.

We never expected at that time to be forced to absorb so many cuts over the years, but despite them we have weathered it so far, and will do so for many years to come.

Thanks to all, especially Norma Pickett and now Lesley Sheppard, our past and present Librarians, who have devoted so much time to our Library and kept it going for almost 37 years. SLH