

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW•ME•DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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Blow•Me•Downer Picture

FOR SIXTY YEARS A FAMILIAR LANDMARK

IN 1974, when I first came to live in Lark Harbour, this rock painting was already an established landmark, easily visible to anyone who went up to the Beacon. Now, with the ravages of time, it's difficult to know which animal it represents—some say it's a horse, some say a moose, and others say it's a donkey. Horse or moose, either is familiar in these parts, although neither is indigenous to Newfoundland, but how familiar is the sight of a donkey here? Maybe there are plenty in St John's—I haven't been there for about fifteen years, and I don't recall seeing any donkeys then. But whatever it is, it's a striking sight, even though, as my picture shows, it has suffered quite a bit on that very exposed cliff face, open as it is to the westerly gales coming in from the Gulf. It is quite visible from the sea and must be a pleasing sight for fishermen as they check their lobster traps along the shore.

The original painting was done by the late Mr Joe Park of Lark

Harbour. According to his son Lawrence, Joe painted it around 1953 when he was working at the Beacon, so it has withstood the ravages of the elements for about sixty years. At some point, about thirty years ago, Lawrence's boys decided to refurbish their grandfather's work, ensuring its existence for another quarter century, and now they plan to repaint it once more for yet another lease of life.

When he painted this animal on the rock, Joe Park probably never thought about it still being there sixty years later. But it is. And for those who take the trouble to climb the hill to the Beacon, it is part of the history of this community and people. Sadly, we have lost Eddie Sheppard's murals. Let's preserve this piece of Joe Park's work.

To see an illustrated account of some of Eddie's murals, visit <http://blowmedowner.webs.com/someinterestinghistory.htm>

Obituary

MARY FRANCIS KENDELL

1926 Oct 26 - 2013 June 14

It was with great sadness that the family of the late Mary Francis Kendell announced her passing at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital Palliative Care Unit on Friday June 14, 2013 at the age of 86 years. She left to mourn with fond and loving memories her special friend Sid Murrin; seven daughters: Madonna (Roy) Sheppard, Bernice (Bill) Park, Cora (Larry) House, Wanda (Fred) Layden, Joy (Leonard) Atfield, Debbie (Brent) Sweet, Sherry (Randy) Crocker; three sons: Clarence (Wendy) Kendell, Wade (Kit) Kendell, Shawn Kendell,



twenty-four grandchildren, forty-four great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren; two sisters: Alma Park (Rod), Alice (Ward) Skinner; sisters-in-law: June Wheeler, Charlotte Sheppard, Melissa Kendell, Lois Kendell, Maisie Kendell; brother-in-law Alan Sheppard; also a large circle of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband George Ruben Kendell, parents William and Amelia Wheeler, brothers Clayton Wheeler, Fiander Wheeler, Fredrick Wheeler, Harry Wheeler, sisters Bertha Penney, Annie Rosellen Wheeler, mother and father-in-law Charles and Deborah Kendell, brothers-in-law Bernard Penney, Howard Park, Wilson Kendell, Henry Kendell, James Kendell, Archibald Kendell, sisters-in-law Mary Joyce, Olive Sheppard, Pearl Sheppard, Amelia Childs, Melina Childs, and Susan Snooks.

Friends visited St Paul's Anglican Church, Summerside, on Saturday and Sunday June 15 and 16, 2013, from the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm. The Funeral Service will take place at St Paul's Anglican Church, Summerside, on Monday June 17, 2013, at 11am, with Rev Malcolm Palmer officiating. Interment followed at the church cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society or a charity of one's choice. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made by visiting the website at www.country-haven.ca.

PETITION TO

STOP FRACKING**ON NEWFOUNDLAND'S WEST COAST**

If you have not already signed the **Petition to Stop Fracking off the Newfoundland Coast**, please visit the URL below and read the information there. If you wish, you may then sign the Petition.

Copy and paste this URL:

www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop_Fracking_off_Newfoundland_Coast/?trcWkeb

More about fracking on pages 5 and 6.

**HIGH SCHOOL REUNION
GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 1986**

MR WALLACE CHILDS, 1986 GRADUATE of St James School, is planning to organise a 30-year Reunion for members of his Class of 1986.

Wally is presently living in Stephenville, and wishes to gauge the interest in such a Reunion.

If you are a member of the Class of 1986 and are interested, please contact Wally at: leaffan22@icloud.com.

Talking Point: What do you think about . . .**AMALGAMATION
OF LARK HARBOUR and YORK HARBOUR**

THE TWO TOWN COUNCILS of Lark Harbour and York Harbour are again looking seriously at the possibility of amalgamating the two towns, a move which has been suggested at least twice in the past, but has been allowed to expire each time. But with two communities so close, and who are already sharing services including school, church, Fire Department, some recreational activities, and garbage collection, to share even more makes a lot of sense.

There are, of course, pros and cons on each side of the debate, but in the light of today's rising costs and the prevailing economic forecasts of greater increases caused by inflation, further collaboration is likely to become more attractive in the future if services are to be maintained.

Both Councils have advised the Department of Municipal Affairs that they wish to conduct a feasibility study, as required by the Department. This study helps to decide whether amalgamation is reasonable, and it allows residents and others involved in both communities to raise their concerns. Meetings will be arranged to present information to residents and to facilitate discussion of the entire issue.

Because new municipal council elections are due in September of this year, Lark Harbour and York Harbour will use a provision in the Municipalities Act which permits up to a year's postponement of the elections until a decision is made to amalgamate or not. It should also be clearly understood that either town is free to withdraw from the amalgamation process at any time before its completion.

Be sure to follow the developments around this issue as they are made public. Amalgamation, if it occurs, will have far-reaching effects on both Lark Harbour and York Harbour, although as time passes the benefits will far outweigh any drawbacks. A few problems should be expected, however minor. All residents should make sure that their voices are heard by their respective Councils as they weigh the issue and arrive at their own decisions. Please attend the public meetings as they are announced, and let your Council representatives know your opinion.

Talking Point: What do you think about . . .

PRIVACY ON THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK IN RECENT WEEKS about *privacy* issues for users of the electronic media. We are told that most countries, including Canada and the USA, whose electronic services are very closely integrated with ours, make extensive use of surveillance of the Internet, telephone services, and perhaps even regular mail, as security measures to protect us against the dangers of terrorism.

Experts in electronic surveillance have informed us that *every piece of email and every telephone call* is monitored, but they also say that the content of these communications is not examined. Can we believe this, or is it one more example of the secretive diabolical machinations of our so-called “security” services?

Given that the last decade has clearly demonstrated that terrorist attacks are real and deadly, is it justifiable for governments to snoop into the private communications of ordinary folk? It is clear that our governments and their agencies are doing things about which we know nothing. For such reasons a few questions must be asked on our behalf by our politicians and, hopefully, some answers received over the next few weeks:

1. Have these precautions really saved any lives?
2. Given the cost (in money and manpower) is this the best way to spend our limited resources?
3. Is there adequate protection of the information that is collected?
4. Will the information be saved for a limited time only, and then guaranteed to be destroyed?
5. Are there adequate and clear restrictions controlling access to this information, and the uses to which it may be put?
6. Are there adequate penalties in place to deal with those found to have abused the information to which they have access?
7. If it is possible for pretty well every country to collect this information both inside and outside its own borders, then how easy is it for terrorists and criminals to do the same?
8. Considering the number of security breaches by hackers of the databases of banks and government department, are such breaches not likely also of these security databases?
9. Does reasonable personal privacy still exist, or is the day approaching when almost all our personal data will be public?

On the other side of the coin we have people like Julian Assange, the founder of *Wikileaks*, an organisation which published sensitive government information in the belief that people are entitled to know, and Edward Snowden, who leaked information from the American *National Security Agency*, for similar reasons. Both men are being actively sought for arrest by several governments, especially the USA. Julian Assange has now been hiding for a year or so in the London Embassy of the Ecuadorian government, a place where international agreements prevent British authorities from arresting him. Edward Snowden is believed to be in the departure area of Moscow International Airport where, although it is on Russian soil, the Russian authorities claim that under international law they cannot arrest him for extradition despite American arguments to the contrary. If they leave their hiding places, both men risk being arrested, prosecuted, and perhaps subjected to life imprisonment or a death sentence under charges of revealing sensitive state information.

The whole issue, in its simplest terms, is a question of which are most important: the rights of the individual to know, as Assange and Snowden would presumably claim, or the need and right of governments to keep certain information secret. In Canada we have

the *Access to Information Act (1983)* which gives us the right to obtain some government information, and the parallel *Privacy Act (1983)* which protects our privacy with respect to personal information held by government institutions.

There is a “grey area” where these two acts coincide. Some people argue that citizens have a right to any government information; at the same time governments have a tendency to withhold what they term “sensitive” information. But sometimes the public and their government disagree on what may be defined as “sensitive”. We have seen examples of this even in our own Province where information relating to the Muskrat Falls Project was withheld for some time on the grounds that such publication could damage sensitive negotiations.

With so much information being stored today—whether it is your tax records, your personal banking and credit records, your health records in your doctor’s or the hospital’s files, which most of us would prefer to remain private and confidential—the risk of such information getting into the wrong hands is a matter for concern. You may even want your phone number or your email address to remain private because you don’t want to receive those annoying supper-time messages offering you bargain cruises or special insurance deals or personal loans at what seem like rock-bottom rates. But with personal media like Facebook, Twitter, and the myriad others out there now, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain privacy. And, with so much of the personal data about Canadians now being housed in the USA in “cloud” storage systems, we have to ask, *What chance is there that we will soon have no privacy left at all?* There is a constant trade-off between security and privacy, and we may have no choice but to accept Big Brother’s interference.

Perhaps the only sure way to protect your privacy is to get your wages in cash, cancel all credit cards and bank accounts, run no bills anywhere, keep your savings under your mattress and stay home all the time. I know of a lady who never owed a penny in her life, always paying her bills as they were due. Then one day she was asked to sign as guarantor on a loan for one of her grandchildren. The loan was refused. The reason? The guarantor had no credit rating! She never used credit, so she had never built up a credit rating, and the credit bureau did not even know she existed!

Unfortunately, such a life is not workable in this day and age.

Editor’s suggestion:

If you have never read George Orwell’s famous novel Nineteen Eighty-Four, now may be the time to do so. First published in 1949, it is an excellent read and is the origin of many of the expressions and concepts familiar to us

today: Big Brother, double-think, the Thought Police. The novel gives us a gripping but disturbing look at a future where citizens are fed propaganda and their activities, even their thoughts, are observed by the government. It’s a frightening scenario.

The book should be easily available at Public Libraries and good bookshops. It has even been made into a movie called 1984 starring John Hurt and Richard Burton.



STOP FRACKING

OFF NEWFOUNDLAND COAST

Written by Helen Darrigan

Recently, I was invited to join a Facebook group page called “No Fracking in Lark Harbour” ...
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/466323153436359/>

Joe Park of Mount Moriah (formerly of Lark Harbour) is bringing public awareness to proposed fracking in Western Newfoundland through this Facebook group. There are many credible links and articles posted there about fracking.

Seeing the name of my hometown in print caught my attention right away. Who would have thought that fracking would be proposed for my hometown? Not me. This was way too close to home ... in fact it is home.

“Fracking”, as it is known in the oil and gas industry, is the process of drilling into and shattering underground rock, using millions of litres of water, sand and volatile chemicals (many of them known carcinogens) at extremely high pressures, to retrieve oil and natural gas. I was already aware that the practice of hydraulic fracturing is highly controversial. I was not quite prepared for what I discovered. In fact I was shocked to learn about the potential risk to human health and the environment at a time when climate change is front and centre.

Many provinces in Canada, states in the U.S., and countries around the world have either placed a moratorium on, or outright banned, fracking, pending further study and evaluation. This was accomplished largely through the efforts of people speaking out publicly and/or marching en masse in order to garner attention.

On June 13th, the CBC featured a documentary on “*The Nature of Things*” with David Suzuki, entitled “*Shattered Ground*”, Season 2012-2013, Episode 9. The link to that 45 minute documentary is ...
<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Shows/Shows/The+Nature+of+Things/ID/2332883489/>.

Some of the causes for concern highlighted in this documentary are: removal of trillions of litres of clean water from the water supply needed for far more critical uses, water and air pollution from toxic waste water and gas flaring posing serious health risks, earthquakes in regions where wastewater is disposed of deep underground, destruction of eons of natural scenic beauty, not to mention the impact on quality of life and quiet enjoyment in communities as a result of initial and ongoing fracking operations.

My generation and my parents’ generation have largely held the view that if something is proposed by industry and companies that have accountability to their shareholders, and has the blessing of government, then it must be a good thing. We and the younger generation are waking up to the fact that this is not necessarily true. We are entering a new age of accountability where people are realizing that they need to voice their concerns rather than give their power away and live with the consequences later.

The delicate balance between jobs on the one hand, and health and the environment on the other, is an ongoing debate everywhere and there are no easy or clear answers regardless of which side of the fence you stand. It is no surprise to anyone that Newfoundland could benefit from development and jobs creation. Not residing in the province, although a landowner, I for one would not want to stand in the way of opportunity. However, I would ask, at what cost are communities

willing to risk their future, that of their children and all future generations?

Gros Morne National Park, located on the West Coast of Newfoundland, was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1987, both for its geological history and its exceptional scenery. I took a trip there last summer and was awestruck at its majesty and beauty. UNESCO has stated publicly that fracking is the kind of activity that could jeopardize the park’s status. For the interest of readers who may not be aware, Gros Morne is the eroded remnants of a mountain range formed 1.2 billion years ago. The park provides a rare example of the process of continental drift, where deep ocean crust and the rocks of the earth’s mantle lie exposed.

Are we prepared to risk everything without getting all the facts, and then carefully weighing the pros and cons? Why not put the brakes on to allow for more dialogue and research to be done? After all, the oil isn’t going anywhere.

There is a petition called “*Stop Fracking off Newfoundland Coast*” on Joe’s Facebook page or you can access it at...
http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop_Fracking_off_Newfoundland_Coast/?pv=3

I urge people to take the time to listen to *The Nature of Things: Shattered Ground*. Time is of the essence, before the operators of these leases gain approval through CNLOPB (Canada - Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board), which I understand could be as early as this Fall. Once fracking starts we will largely have missed our opportunity to be heard. Attend meetings, ask practical questions, become fully informed of the risks and benefits of this happening in your community and your province, and speak up.

Respectfully submitted,
 Helen Darrigan
 Oakville, Ontario, Canada
 Formerly of Lark Harbour, Newfoundland

If you have not yet read the letter expressing an opinion that would welcome fracking in our town, please go to the next page where one local resident states his support in eloquent terms.

EDITOR’S NOTE

*The above article is an expression of the Author’s personal opinions, for which the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** accepts no responsibility.*

Statements by readers on this or other topics of interest will be considered for publication if submitted in writing (on paper or by email) with the Author’s full name, postal address and telephone number clearly included. The Author’s identification may be withheld from publication on request.

At the Editor’s discretion, submissions may be subject to editing for space considerations or other reasons. The Editor’s decision is final.

FRACKING: “I’ll vote for reasonable, controlled development,” says Lark Harbour man

THANK YOU for the opportunity to express an opinion against fracking; however, I cannot in all conscience do so.

Although my research on the subject has unearthed some very worrying articles, in my view, they do not relate to the reality here in Newfoundland. I believe it is misleading to compare fracking and stimulation of shallow gas reservoirs with similar processes used in deep oil reservoirs.

I have also found a lot of credible information that points to the process as being very safe and effective if done properly in oil reservoirs, and I believe that is the case that exists here in NL.

Any argument that there ‘may be significant damage to our environment’ could be more accurately used to suggest that we should not start our cars to drive into Corner Brook or that we should not burn wood or oil or use electricity to heat our homes, or even that we should not allow tanker trucks on our roads to deliver gasoline or fuel oil.

Most of us complain about the ever increasing cost of gas, oil and electricity. Can we not see that impeding the safe development of oil reserves only exacerbates that problem? We all complain about the poor state of our provincial infrastructure but where do we think the money will come from to improve infrastructure if not from allowing, indeed encouraging, development? What will happen when, (note I did not say ‘if’), the primary economic engine for our area, the mill in Corner Brook closes? Our community is slowly dying as residents either die off or move away. I am sure the rabbits and moose will enjoy the solitude after we’re all gone and the tour buses stop coming because the roads are so deplorable.

I suppose that we could go back to the way of the forefathers of many of our residents and live off the land or the sea, give up our dependence on oil electricity and gas and all the modern conveniences they allow, and lead a simpler life. How many of us would really wish that lifestyle for ourselves or for our children?

The real hazards of development will be growth and learning to live with it. Traffic will increase and the commute to Corner Brook will stretch from the 45 minutes it presently takes. Home prices will increase and taxes will rise proportionately. Getting a space in the Provincial Park will become difficult and an advance reservation may be required. Local coffee shops and restaurants will have to lengthen their season or competition will come in and take over. We won’t be able to take the dog for a hike without running into at least one other hiker ruining the solitude.

As awful as this sounds, I’ll vote for reasonable, controlled development. Development seems much more appealing to me over the long slow death our community is currently experiencing. Thank you.

Paul Keetch
Box 153, Lark Harbour
NL, A0L 1H0

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Talking Point: What do you think about . . .

HOW “MATH” IS TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS

IF YOU’RE MORE THAN ABOUT FIFTY YEARS OLD, the Mathematics you learned in school was almost certainly *Arithmetic*, which concentrated on the four basic rules: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. I recall in my British educational experience, our first class after the daily assembly would usually be Arithmetic—most of us had never heard of “Math” back then—and the first activity would be recitation, often choral, of the “times tables”, from two up to twelve. We then move on to a few minutes of “mental arithmetic”, in which the teacher would fire a series of quick questions, and we volunteered answers. Only after these start-up exercises did we move on to the harder stuff for our age and grade level.

This was *elementary* school, where the basic *elements* of the Three R’s were taught. We learned nothing about Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, the more esoteric branches of Mathematics which many of us would encounter later in high school or university. But by then most of us had acquired a solid grounding in the basic computational skills that would stand us in good stead for whatever career might follow: shopkeeper, gas station attendant, bank teller, housewife, or if we entered advanced education to become a teacher, professional engineer, doctor, accountant or scientist.

But some of our students who have passed through the elementary school system since about 1970 have not received that basic grounding. Instead, they have calculators which they use for many of the computations for which we used our brains. In recent years I have been appalled to see young people pull out a calculator to multiply 25 by 10! And those young persons are totally lost in confusion when their calculators fail. Certainly, today’s young people need to know how to use a calculator or a computer, but not at the expense of missing out on the good old times tables. Indeed, in those early years of “The New Math”, teachers of what we might term “the Old School” were sometimes actually forbidden to make learning the tables a part of their teaching. Fortunately, some of those older teachers continued the “times tables” drill, despite instructions to the contrary. As a principal in those days, whose job included supervision and evaluation of classroom teaching, if I knew that a teacher was taking a few minutes daily to drill the students, I turned a blind eye or even tacitly encouraged the practice, so long as the rest of the Math curriculum was being taught.

Fortunately, fashions in education are part of a revolving cycle in which principles and techniques abandoned in the past often return, sometimes to our embarrassment. This seems to be starting to happen in some areas of Mathematics teaching as educators become more aware that certain basic skills of numeracy are essential, and it may be a little risky to depend so heavily on relatively sophisticated technology like computers and calculators. And isn’t it shameful in a country where basic education is available as a right to every child, that our educational system produces individuals who have to use a calculator to multiply 25 by 10, or to figure out that if you are buying something for \$7.55 you should expect \$2.45 in change?

With a little bit of luck we may be able to hit a balance where we keep the best of the old and blend it with the best of the new. Human memories, though, are short, and we often forget history. This can then cause us to repeat again, to our detriment, the mistakes of the past, and out goes the baby with the bathwater.



LIBRARY NOTES
by
Susan Harvey



Some pretty good reading in the last rotating (now non-rotating) collection and among the re-assigned books. And the Newfoundland Collection books continue to appear. Remember that the library is now operating on summer hours—just as many hours, but arranged differently. Still lots of time to look for some good summer reading.

Summer hours:	Monday & Thursday	11am - 4 pm
	Tuesday	1 - 4 & 7 - 9 pm
	Wednesday	1 - 4 pm

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>The Thief Taker</i> | Janet Gleeson |
| 2. <i>Flesh and Bone</i> | Jefferson Bass |
| 3. <i>Cold Service</i> | Robert B Parker |
| 4. <i>Collected Short Stories of Louis L'Amour</i>
<i>Volume six, The Crime Stories</i> | Louis L'Amour |
| 5. <i>Death comes for the Fat Man</i> | Reginald Hill |
| 6. <i>Break No Bones</i> | Kathy Reichs |
| | Newfoundland Collection |
| 7. <i>Mattie Mitchell: A Biography</i> | Gary Collins |
| 8. <i>You Could Believe in Nothing</i> | Jamie Fitzpatrick |

1. *The Thief Taker* is very readable. Set in the London of 1750, most of the action takes place in an “Upstairs, Downstairs” or “Downton Abbey” type household where the upstairs family’s wealth comes from a silversmithing business. The story involves theft of a large silver item, murder, and very complicated relationships among the downstairs group. Surprisingly, the person who acts as a detective and solves all the mysteries is the cook, Agnes Meadows. Agnes has the initiative and the courage to pursue various questions, while still preparing complicated meals for the household. She can boil a calf’s head or skin an eel and produce high class meals with many courses; apparently the author did a lot of historical research to get the details right. A good read.

2. *Flesh and Bone* is a really good read featuring forensic analysis in a murder mystery. A big part of the setting is the famous “body farm” where many corpses are placed in carefully controlled conditions to determine scientifically how a human body responds. This is of great help to the police in determining how a given body may have achieved the state in which it was found. The real body farm was founded by Dr Bill Bass, who wrote the book with Jon Jefferson. The main character is Dr Bill Brockton, presented as the founder of the body farm. As you might guess, the character comes over as very real, and there are many places where the descriptions of police procedures are very authoritative. The plot involves Dr Brockton himself being suspected of the gruesome murder of a colleague, and it is so convincing you could almost believe the same thing had happened to the author. It is almost a relief when the real killer is discovered, and Dr Brockton is safe. The reader gets really involved in the story and will not want to put it down.

3. *Cold Service* could not be more different from the previous book. Mr Parker’s characters, Spenser and Hawk, are definitely not realistic; two tough types prepared to do pretty much anything. Spenser is actually a private detective, and Hawk is his friend; they support each

other in any case. The story contains a lot of dialog between them and others, and it is pretty entertaining. One of my favourite characters is Spenser’s dog Pearl, who reminds me so much of my dog Rosie. The action involves two outlaw gangs and lots of guns. Not a moral tale, but fun and easy reading.

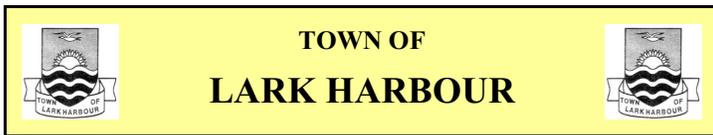
4. *Collected Short Stories of Louis L'Amour: Volume Six, the Crime Stories* is easy and entertaining reading. The writer is known primarily for the mainly western novels he has produced, but none of these are westerns: no horses. You could not really call them mysteries, either, as there is almost no mystery in them. Most of the later stories feature big tough men who beat each other up. Many of the characters are boxers, but right at the end there are a few stories featuring football players—also large and violent types. I would say that readers who enjoy westerns would like the stories; the characters are mostly easily identified as good or bad, and the reader can readily identify with them. A LOT of reading, but easy and fun.

5. *Death Comes for the Fat Man* is a new one from Mr Hill. His Superintendent Andy Dalziel (the “fat man”) was featured in many mystery novels set in northern England. Extremely opinionated, and quick to express his opinions in very definite terms, his demands made life difficult for his subordinates, especially Inspector Peter Pascoe. The two have been featured in a TV series, though not recently. This book looks like the end of Fat Andy, who is badly injured in an explosion. Pascoe is also injured, but not as badly. He survives to watch the superintendent’s life draining away, totally unable to make contact with his comatose boss. He is surprised at how painful the experience is and how unbearable the thought of Dalziel’s death is to him. He can only wait and see what happens as he becomes obsessed with finding out who was responsible. The search is difficult and confusing and necessitates working with security personnel who do not really appreciate his efforts. A good read if you are a fan of Mr Hill, or even if you aren’t already.

6. *Break No Bones* is typical Kathy Reichs; once you start reading, it’s hard to stop. In this story set in the Carolinas, Dr Temperance Brennan becomes accidentally involved in a series of disappearances of street people, some of whom reappear dead in strange circumstances. Although her life is complicated by the presence of her current boyfriend and her ex-husband, she manages to assemble clues from her forensic examinations and her detective work with the missing street people and the church-sponsored clinic where they receive some health care. A truly evil business then emerges and, after making an almost successful effort to discourage Brennan permanently from her detective work, the guilty ones are obvious.

7. *Mattie Mitchell* is a biography of the famed Micmac guide, who died almost 100 years ago and has recently been the subject of a local play. The book features a number of stories which illustrate Mattie’s astonishing knowledge of the geography of Newfoundland. As an Indian, he apparently did not get much respect from the white population; but the hunters and prospectors he guided were very impressed by his ability to navigate in the wilderness and to find the game or minerals which they were seeking. He made some very good friends among the ones who spent a lot of time with him. I was particularly interested to find he had been involved with the reindeer imported to the province by Dr Grenfell. The brainworm problem which ultimately damned the experiment was not mentioned; but we did hear about the A.N.D. Company’s involvement in the effort. Apparently they had the idea of using the reindeer as beasts of burden, to haul supplies on sleds like dogs or horses, as was done in

Continued on next page 8, column 2



REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 2013 JUNE 26

Present:

Mayor John Parsons; Deputy Mayor Jamie Park;
Councillors Pauline Sheppard, Llewellyn Childs, Stanley Childs;
Clerks Joanna Pottle (recording minutes) and Peggy Sheppard.

Meeting commenced at 7:00pm

- Minutes of meeting of 2013 May 21 adopted as read.
- Water/Sewer Update – Mayor John informed Council of meeting with Municipal Affairs on 2013 June 05. Since Harbour View Road and Birchy Hill Road are not on the Limits of Servicing, the Town will be responsible for putting water/sewer on these two roads. This will not be covered under the 90/10 rule and the Town will be responsible for the entire cost. Council is now working with Anderson Engineering to have this included with Phase 2. Motion passed to proceed with water/sewer project and have Harbour View Road and Birchy Hill Road serviced with Town covering cost.
- Student Summer Grants – Students include Courtney Pennell and Ryan Park (Student Employment Program), Zachary Sheppard (Qalipu), and Emma Pottle (SWASP). Brief discussion on duties for students, including cleaning ditches, beaches, mowing grass, playground repairs, painting, etc.
- Fracking – At a meeting held by the Great Humber Joint Council on 2013 June 22, it was discussed that this group will be sending a letter to the Dept of Environment, Offshore Petroleum Board, etc, requesting additional information regarding the rules and regulations on fracking. All agreed to wait for feedback and follow-up at the next Council meeting.
- Regionalization – Resolution to accept Wheys Consulting as recommended by the Special Needs Committee to carry out the feasibility study.
- Surveillance system – 5 cameras will be installed in the Town Hall/playground area.
- Playground upgrades – Council currently has \$2000 and is anticipating another \$2000 to spend on playground equipment/upgrades. Clerks directed to obtain quotes for equipment: basketball net, teeter totter, and/or rocking rider. Brief discussion on the possibility of moving the chain link fence from the far end of the playground to the area bordering the houses.
- Repairs to Town Hall – Shingle tenders were opened and discussed. Motion to award shingle contract to Premier Siding and Windows for the amount of \$8,226.40, HST included.
- Financial Report – Approved accounts payable of \$9,876.71.
- Collections update – Clerk directed to follow-up with property owner who has significant tax arrears.
- Write-offs – Approved write-offs totalling \$653.00.
- Building Permits – All approved.
- Canada Day Celebrations – Festivities to take place at 11am at Blow Me Down Park, starting with a bike rodeo, followed by hot

dogs and cake sponsored by Colemans. If the weather is not suitable, this will be held at Lark Harbour Town Hall. Fireworks at York Harbour beach at 10:30pm.

- CEEP Grant – Application due end of July. Agreed to apply for funding to complete further breakwater repairs.
- Repairs to storage building – Clerk directed to follow-up with insurance company.
- Clerk directed to write letter to local company re: dust pollution.
- Clerk directed to write letter to property owner re: vehicle wreck removal.
- Clerk directed to write letter to property owner re: bog hole.
- Clerk directed to write letter to resident re: playground fencing.
- All agreed to plant flowers/shrubs in honour of war memorial donation.
- Fire Dept quarterly meeting to be held Tuesday July 2, 2013.
- Agreed that the Family Outreach Resource Center continue to use the Town Hall for their weekly playgroups.
- Clerk directed to contact Nfld. Power re: poles to be put on Harbour View Road.
- Clerk directed to follow up with Crown Lands re: standard size for a right of way for a driveway.
- All agreed that Caregivers Inc. need to have more publicity within the community.
- All correspondence reviewed with no follow-up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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Lapland, where the reindeer came from. They had Dr Grenfell order fifty extra animals for them, and hired Mattie to bring them from St Anthony to Grand Falls. Being the dead of winter, it was quite a job. To me, it was surprising that it was easier to take them across the Northern Peninsula from Sop's Arm to Parson's Pond than to head straight south and then to Deer Lake; but I did find the east-west references confusing. It was an easy and interesting read anyway.

8. *You Could Believe in Nothing* is the "Newfoundland novel" that I did not get through last month. Having finally managed to finish it, I have to hope it is not going to be typical of the output of our local writers. It seems the title says it all: Believe in nothing and GET nothing. None of the characters has a stable home life, and they are all totally hung up on hockey. I like to think most of us are realistic, but still have meaningful lives NOT filled with despair. Is it different on the east coast?

We shall be taking our usual Summer Break in August, so the next BMD will be on or shortly before September 6. However if significant news breaks, a special edition may be published in August. In that case, the usual email notices will be distributed.

**ENJOY A PLEASANT AND
RELAXING SUMMER, EVERYONE.**