

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

# BLOW·ME·DOWNER

*ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND*

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2013 October 04 Friday

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## AUTUMN CRUISE SHIP SEASON IN FULL SWING



THIS WAS THE VIEW FROM THE BEACON on Sunday evening, September 22, as the sun set at about 7:45pm. The ship is the *Norwegian Dawn* which had spent the day in Corner Brook and had just left the Bay of Islands en route to Sydney, NS. The ship has a gross tonnage of 92,250, length of 965 feet, beam of 105 feet, draft of 28 feet, cruise speed of 22.5 knots, accommodation for 2,224 passengers and a crew of 1,073. Available on board are numerous different forms of entertainment including bars, lounges, fitness centre, spa, swimming pools, a casino, theatre, and several excellent dining rooms.

The vessel offers a variety of cruises with different ports of call, but this particular cruise began in Quebec City with its first call at Corner Brook; then on to Sydney and Halifax, NS; Saint John, NB; Bar Harbour, Maine; and ending at Boston, Mass, seven days later. Coach tours to places of interest like Lark Harbour are available at the various ports of call. Prices for this trip begin at almost C\$700 per person, and do not include cost of the onshore port excursions.

The passengers appear to enjoy their cruises, but judging by what we as outside observers can see, the onshore excursions are rather hurried, with only a few minutes at each location. The type of entertainments might not suit all of us, but reports indicate that the food served on the ships is good. However, when they visit our church hall, very few passengers fail to take eager advantage of the ACW Ladies' home-made jams and baked goods!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LH = Lark Harbour YH = York Harbour JB = John's Beach  
 HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer

2013	OCTOBER	2013
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 11am - Pent 20 - Holy Communion 7pm - St Ambrose, JB - Memorial Hymn Sing MV Norwegian Dawn (2244 pass + 1073 crew)	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thur LH Fracking Meeting will be after this date	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 11am - Pent 21 - HC & HARVEST THANKSGIVING 7pm - St Ambrose, JB - HC & HARVEST THANKSGIVING <i>Please bring food items for the FOOD BANK</i>	
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mon <b>THANKSGIVING DAY (Canada)</b>	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tues MV Regatta (684 pass + 400 crew)	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 7pm - Pent 22 - Holy Communion 10:30am - St Ambrose, JB - Holy Communion	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 7pm - Pent 23 - Memorial Hymn Sing 10:30am - St Ambrose, JB - Holy Communion	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Tues MV Emerald Princess (3114 pass + 1200 crew)	
31 <sup>st</sup>	Thur <b>ALL HALLOWS EVE</b>	

2013	NOVEMBER	2013
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 11am	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mon <b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 11am	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 7pm	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 7pm	

2013	DECEMBER	2013
25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed <i>Christmas Day</i>	

## CHURCH HALL REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS

EVERYONE KNOWS that over last winter St James Church was faced with a difficult and messy problem when water leaked into the basement Hall, necessitating stripping of the walls and digging up the floors to put in new drains. The work is now finished and the Hall is returned to normal, but at an uninsured cost of about \$35,000.

For two small communities with a total population of 857 (LH 510 & YH 347) in the 2011 Census, \$35,000 is a lot to raise, averaging about \$40 for each resident man, woman and child. Where do little towns like ours find that extra money? It isn't easy.

Along with the two Town Halls and the School, the Church and its basement Hall are important social centres. They accommodate a number of different groups and activities, and we need them all.

Fortunately the Anglican Church Women's Associations in both towns are very dedicated and active, and we have them to thank for the fact that the \$35,000 is now paid off. There have been generous donations, including two from visitors who gave us \$50 and \$100, and also from many expatriates and through memorial gifts. Much appreciation must finally be accorded to the ACW ladies who devote many hours to earning money by providing refreshments for the cruise ship visitors.

Thanks to all for their untiring efforts on our behalf.

## BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of local businesses and organisations. No charge.

Published also on our Website: [www.blowmedowner.webs.com](http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com)

Email: [blowmedowner@gmail.com](mailto:blowmedowner@gmail.com) or Phone 681-2256

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● ● ● Please support local enterprises ● ● ●

Several local businesses supported the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** in the past. Their inclusion here is a recognition of that support. Other local businesses will be included at their request.

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](mailto: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.* 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

The **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** is posted on the Internet at the  
 Website [www.blowmedowner.webs.com](http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com)

*before or on the first Friday of the month.*

Submit copy to [blowmedowner@gmail.com](mailto:blowmedowner@gmail.com).

Small social & personal announcements welcomed.

*All copy must be submitted at least three days  
 before the first Friday of the month of publication.*

**PLEASE NOTE** that you can be advised regularly by email as each new edition of the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** is posted on the Internet. Just email your request to [blowmedowner@gmail.com](mailto:blowmedowner@gmail.com).

Also watch for announcements on my Facebook page "Stuart Harvey".

## Terra Nova Nostalgia

### “Come home to Newfoundland”

a poem by

**Dr Charlie O’Connell, MD**

formerly of Curling

Once there was a sunset on the **Big Bay**  
Glorious and full of splendour,  
Deep orange red with tinted clouds,  
Sinking sunset beneath a horizon of spruce clad hills.  
Beyond the “Isle of Innismara”  
With crimson reflected waters of the Bay, calm and quiet,  
Promising a beautiful new tomorrow.

Once there was a **River**  
Rushing ebbs and steadies,  
o’er rocky crags of shore,  
Sheltered by verdant slopes of sylvan beauty  
Wildly magnificent, white water challenge for the brave  
adventurer,  
Past haunts of salmon, smugglers’ caves and island of buried  
treasure,  
Gyrating whirlpools beneath the rock of “Pirate’s Eye”.

Once there was a **Lake**,  
Skirted by soft white sands,  
Island studded haven of youth’s exploits,  
Thirst quenching retreat of moose and deer,  
Swimming, and canoeing paradise of campsite beaches.

Once there was a **Mountain**, higher than Everest,  
Snow capped even in summer,  
Sheer rock faced nests of gull and puffin,  
Rising from shoreline to embrace the clouds,  
With summer trails and downhill powder ski runs.

Once there was a **Boy**  
Who lived and laughed and loved the beauty of his playground  
kingdom,  
Alpine mountaineer, explorer of islands, trout fisherman, lake  
swimmer.  
All these he was and more. They were his heritage.  
But then the boy grew up and went away.  
He left the Bay, the River, Lake and Mountain  
To seek new places, new adventures.  
A big world awaited him out there beyond the Sunset on the Bay.

He travelled far and wide  
To teeming cities reaching to the skies,  
Pavement bound mazes of wonder,  
Super ribbon highways, out into the sunset of the West  
With great and limitless horizons.

From place to place he fled  
But never rested,  
For always, in pursuit,  
The “Hound of Heaven” that is home.

*Continued at top of next column*

The years went by  
And still he sought new places and new friends.  
Arctic polar icecaps, Latin lands,  
Oriental rice paddies with sentinel volcanoes belching smoke and  
flames  
To him became familiar.

Friends came and went.  
The rolling stone rolled on.  
He searched for happiness year by lonely year.  
But still the call “**Come Home**”,  
Come back and see once more the Sunset on the Bay,  
Come listen to the Silence of the Mountain.

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### A TRIBUTE TO DR BRIAN J S HARLEY

1924 - 2013

### LATE OF CORNER BROOK

“*The Big Bay*”, Bay of Islands, West Coast of Newfoundland, was originally explored by Captain James Cook in 1767. He was a Yorkshire man, one of the famous explorers, navigators and adventurers of all time. His voyages to Newfoundland are well documented and narrated in: *The Legacy of James Cook: The Story of the Bay of Islands*, by Doctor Brian J S Harley, MD, FRCP, FRCPC, CD, Medical Internal Specialist and Cardiologist, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada.

A fellow Englishman of Captain James Cook, Dr Brian Harley died in St John’s, NL, on August 22, 2013. He will long be remembered with affection as an excellent Medical Doctor, a Cardiologist, the founder of a Clinic and Nuclear Medicine Department in Corner Brook, President of the Newfoundland Medical Association, and a Colonel who commanded the First Company of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, as well as President of the Corner Brook Rotary Club. He was a golfer, a skier and a writer. Above all Brian was a true humanitarian who “went gently into that Goodnight” and whose good works will live on in Newfoundland.

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### EDITOR’S NOTE

*Many of our readers know that Dr Charlie O’Connell, son of the late Dr John I O’Connell who served many years as a medical practitioner in the Bay of Islands, was born and raised in Corner Brook. Charlie is now retired and resides in Kitchener, Ontario, but his heart remains in Newfoundland. He is a regular reader of The Blow•Me•Downer and has written articles for us in the past. His poem Terra Nova Nostalgia and the Tribute to his friend and fellow physician Dr Brian Harley demonstrate his high regard for his childhood home and those who live here. Thank you, Charlie, for sharing your thoughts with us.*

*Dr Charlie’s account of his father’s life was published in Issues 28-31 of The Blow•Me•Downer for 2008 June, July, September & October, under the title A Man to Remember.*

*You may read it on my website at:*

<http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com/documents/A%20Man%20to%20Remember%20-%20Dr%20J%20I%20O%27C%20onnell.pdf>



THE TOWN  
OF  
LARK HARBOUR



Minutes of Meeting of 2013 September 17

Present:

Deputy Mayor Jamie Park

Councillors: Pauline Sheppard, Llewellyn Childs,  
Stanley Childs

Clerks: Peggy Sheppard, Joanna Pottle (recording)

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

- Minutes of meeting of 2013 August 20 adopted as circulated.
- Water/Sewer Update – Funding for Phase 2 has been declined due to limited program budget. A letter has been sent to Mr Kevin O'Brien requesting a review of this decision. Phase 1B estimated completion date is mid-October. Phase 1B status report #4 is now due to be paid. The municipal share for this report is \$25,729.24. Of this amount \$22,769.24 will be returned in the New Year once the HST return is received. At the end of the day, Council is responsible for \$1,138.47. Motion made to pay amount of \$25,729.24 by using the balance of the Gas Tax account of \$15,785.45 and the remaining \$9,943.79 from the general account. Once we receive our HST return the money will be replaced in the general account.
- Fracking – Brief discussion on a meeting that Councillors Stanley and Llewellyn attended at the Humber Valley Resort on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This was the Eighth International Symposium regarding oil and gas resources in Western Newfoundland. Review of an invitation from Simon Jansen to attend a presentation by Jessica Ernst regarding fracking. This is an invitation-only presentation and no one from Council is available to attend this meeting. There is also a public meeting on 2013 Sept 22, 2013 in Stephenville. Review of a letter that MHA Eddie Joyce had sent to Tom Marshall regarding the concerns residents have about fracking and requesting Mr Marshall to meet with the residents of this area.
- Amalgamation – Next round of meetings with Whey's Consulting set for Oct 29.
- Grading of Beacon Road – Agreed to wait until spring.
- Route 450 – Reviewed letter from Mr Cyril McCarthy in response to several letters sent by Council regarding the poor condition of Route 450. Council will start a petition to forward to the Department of Transportation and Works.
- Playground equipment – Review of quote from Kangaroo for purchase of a Teeter Totter, Digger and Basketball Post, Back Board rim and net. Quoted cost including HST and freight is \$5,012.49. Council feels this is quite costly. Deputy Mayor Jamie will check e-bay for cheaper equipment.

**Funding for Phase 2, the next phase of our Water & Sewer System, has been declined by government due to "a limited program budget". L H Council has requested a review of this decision. So don't fill your septic tanks in just yet, folks!**

- Financial Report approved with accounts payable of \$13,633.73.
- Collections Update – 7 Notices of withdrawal have been sent for accounts paid in full for 2010-2012 taxes. 25 new Statements of Claim have been issued to delinquent tax payers for 2013 taxes for a total tax amount of \$7,056.30. Complaints were received regarding the \$50.00 court charge added to the account when a Statement of Claim is issued. This is a court charge payable by Council to the court and therefore it must be collected from the taxpayer.
- Write-offs of \$2.82 approved.
- Building permits – all approved.
- Snow Clearing Contract – Tenders to be called for the 2013-2014 season. This will be a one year tender ending April 30, 2014. Tenders will be due by October 11 and will be decided at the October Council meeting.
- Garbage Removal Contract – Current contract ends this year. Agreed to request tenders for the New Year.
- Workshops/Information Sessions – Motion made for clerks to attend PMA Fall Training Forum to be held in Gander October 10-11<sup>th</sup>, as well as Municipal Budgeting workshop in Deer Lake on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Complaint received regarding dirt bikes on the road. Clerk will contact RCMP, and will also send a notice to the school.
- Complaint received regarding the dilapidated condition of a local property. Clerk directed to contact tax payer to have repairs made.
- Review of e-mail received from CONA students who would like to come to this area to do an environmental project in this area. All decided that a beach sweep would be a good idea. Clerk will contact students and set this up.
- All correspondence reviewed with no further follow-up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

**PUBLIC MEETING to discuss FRACKING**

FOR A WHILE NOW THERE HAVE BEEN PLANS for a meeting in Lark Harbour of local residents to discuss Fracking and our community's best approach to it. No date has yet been fixed, but it will take place as soon as possible after 2013 October 10.

This meeting is intended to enable community residents to express their concerns, whether for or against fracking, and for a variety of different ideas to be aired in discussion. It will **not** be yet another time for presentations by industry persons, as we have been exposed to that several times already. Instead it will provide a forum for open, frank and moderate discussion by residents and will convey our feelings to government as a community consensus. Eddie Joyce, our MHA, will attend, and other local elected officials will be welcome.

As soon as a firm date is established, the Meeting will be announced publicly.

**Watch for announcements on posters, radio and social media.**


**Obituary**  
**DALIAH ANN BATT**  
 1952 - 2013

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Daliah Batt announced her sudden passing on Monday, 2013 September 09 at Western Memorial Regional Hospital at the age of 61 years.




Daliah left to mourn with fond and loving memories her husband, John Batt; children: Mark (Patricia), Deer Lake, Johnny (Melissa), Scarborough, ON and Amanda (Edward), Corner Brook; two step-children: William Batt (Nicole) and Sheri Batt-Howell (Peter); grandchildren: Nicholas Batt, Cody Batt, Kayla Keough, Chelsea Gaudett, Joshua Batt, Kameron Batt, Jorja Batt, Cameron Curlew, Jonathan Hickey and Ryan John; brothers: Alphonsus (Elizabeth) Keough, Peter (Judy) Keough, Michael (Gladys) Keough, Paul (Rose) Keough and Tom Keough; sisters: Theresa (Gerald) Gushue, Marie (Joe) Byrne, Colleen Keough (Bruce), Helen (Ben) Bellows, Madonna (Dave) Peckham, Doreen Wilton (Michael); brothers-in-law: Byron Batt, Sam Batt (Voira), Gordon (Judy) Batt, Frank (Mary) Batt, Terry (Louise) Batt and Jim (Glenys) Batt; sisters-in-law: Joan (Richard) Williams, Ena (Bram) Rowsell, Mary (Derrick) Baldwin and Maureen Keough George; special friends Gavin and Corrina Etheridge and their children Zachary, Logan and Abby; and a very large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Daliah was predeceased by her parents Thomas and Leonie Keough, father and mother-in-law Russell and Marjorie Batt, brothers Shawn and Tony Keough; brother-in-law Bob Wilton and sister-in-law Elizabeth Batt.

Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 4 St Mark's Avenue, Corner Brook, on Wednesday and Thursday from the hours of 2-4 and 7-9pm. The funeral service was held on Friday, September 13 at 10am from Fillatre's Funeral Home Chapel, St Mark's Avenue, with cremation following and Father Maurice O'Quinn officiating. As expressions of sympathy, flowers were accepted or donations made to the charity of one's choice. The family guest book was signed or a memorial donation made through the website [www.fillatre.ca](http://www.fillatre.ca).



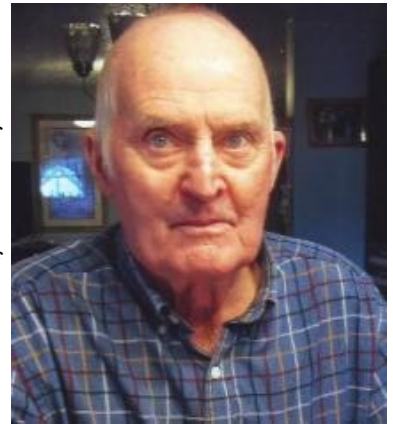
**FOOD BANK NOTES**  
 by  
**Susan Harvey**



A FEW ITEMS OF FOOD have appeared at the Church, and Don Travers has provisionally agreed to be responsible for transporting donated items to one of the outlets in Corner Brook. Rev Nelson Chatman is also prepared to assist with this. As yet no one has volunteered to be the official Food Bank representative. This individual is responsible for reminding the congregation of the need the Food Bank fills, and the importance of Sharing Our Blessings. There are meetings perhaps 3-4 times a year with the representatives from other churches in the Bay of Islands, and this helps us keep track of the situation.

**Obituary**  
**GERALD WILLIAM BYRNE**  
 1933 December 23 - 2013 September 19  
*"With the Lord"*

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Gerald Byrne announced his passing at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital at the age of 79 years.



Gerald left to mourn with fond and loving memories his wife Dorothy (née Sheppard) of 58 years; his five children, Pauline, Faye (Jim) Hyland, Wanda (Robert) Strickland, Helen, Gerald (Lana); seven grandchildren: Kim and Amy Hyland, Craig Russell (Melanie), Jessica Russell (Rob), Christopher Strickland, Abby Byrne (Jordan) and Curtis Byrne; three great grandchildren, Shaina White, Luke Russell and Trent Vincent; brothers and sisters: Thomas (Elva), Maisie Kendall, Leo (Marie), David (Shirley), Hazel (Ron), Annie (Doug) Duffney, Kathleen (Eric) Sheppard, Lynn (Harland) Cross and Ben (Catherine); sister-in-law Doris Byrne; brothers and sisters-in-law: Florence (Garfield) Hickman, Harold (Grace) Sheppard, Eric Sheppard, Catherine (Norman) Bourgeois, Roy (Madonna) Sheppard, George (Hazel) Sheppard, Barbara (Terry) Gilbert, Ivan Sheppard and Marina Sheppard; as well as a very large circle of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Gerald was predeceased by his parents Mark and Margaret Byrne; brothers Ivan and Brian and brother-in-law Gerald Sheppard.

The family offers thanks to the Cancer Centre for their continuous care during the past thirteen years and to the wonderful Nurses and Doctors on the Palliative Care Unit at Western Memorial Regional Hospital, Corner Brook.

Cremation took place at Humber Valley Crematorium. Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 4 St Mark's Avenue, on Saturday from 2:00pm to 3:00pm, from where the funeral service followed at 3:00pm with Shawn Allen officiating. As expressions of sympathy in lieu of flowers donations were made to the Cancer Centre, Western Region, or to the Palliative Care Unit. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made through the website [www.fillatre.ca](http://www.fillatre.ca).

*We offer our sincerest condolences to Daliah Batt's and Gerald Byrne's families in their time of sad loss.*

For a brief general rundown on Fracking by *The Council of Canadians* (it's about fracking for natural gas, but very similar considerations apply as for oil) go to:

[www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/fracking-climate-change.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/fracking-climate-change.pdf)

**See also pages 4 and 8 of this BMD.**



**LIBRARY NOTES**  
by  
**Susan Harvey**



*These days most of the new books we receive are re-assigned from other locations, although there will always be additions to the Newfoundland Collection. Seemingly everything becomes part of the permanent collection.*

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Good as Dead</i>         | Mark Billingham                  |
| 2. <i>The Drop</i>             | Michael Connelly                 |
| 3. <i>The Serpent's Tale</i>   | Adriana Franklin                 |
| 4. <i>Reflex</i>               | Dick Francis                     |
| 5. <i>The Postcard Killers</i> | James Patterson & Liza Marklund  |
| 6. <i>Fear the Worst</i>       | Linwood Barclay                  |
| 7. <i>Don't Blink</i>          | James Patterson & Howard Roughan |
| 8. <i>The Centurion's Wife</i> | Davis Bunn and Janette Oke       |

**Newfoundland Collection**

- |                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 9. <i>The Gale of 1929</i>                    | Gary Collins   |
| 10. <i>Newfoundland Drugstores. A History</i> | John K Crellin |
| 11. <i>Landslide: The Jack Hickey Story</i>   | Bruce Stagg    |

1. *Good as Dead* is a rather long account of a hostage-taking in the UK. It is quite suspenseful; we do assume that things will turn out more or less all right in the end, but plainly there are all kinds of ways things can go wrong. The hostage is a policewoman, taken hostage by a seemingly harmless little shopkeeper whose son has supposedly killed himself. His father is convinced that he has been murdered and will kill the hostage unless DI Tom Thorne will investigate and find the truth for all to see. Thorne must begin a complex investigation and convince Akhtar, the shopkeeper, that he has found the truth and can prove it—all the while knowing that Akhtar is unpredictable and may shoot the policewoman. A lot to be done quickly, and must be done right; which is not something Thorne is known for. Sometimes the rules are too much trouble. The reader will feel with Thorne's situation and will not want to put the book down until the situation is resolved. A good long read.

2. *The Drop* is another story of Harry Bosch, now of an age where he may be forced to retire, though he is hoping that the Delayed Retirement Option Plan (DROP) will allow him to keep on working. He likes his work in the Open-Unsolved Unit (OU) where he and the rest of the department are regularly assigned to work old cases which were never solved, and perhaps may have a connection to some more recent crime. He is given a murder to work, in which a blood stain has been analysed using modern techniques. Unfortunately the blood stain would appear to indicate that a vicious murder was committed by a man who was eight years old at the time: not believable. Harry gets started and is progressing hopefully on the case, when he is given a further assignment in which a man has, in the present day, fallen from a hotel roof and been killed: did he jump or was he pushed? The man was the son of a councilman, so Harry is expected to get right on with it. This complicates his work on the cold case, but they must both be completed. The reader will sympathise, and will be pleased to note how neatly Harry works everything out. Another good read.

*Library Notes continued in column at right*

3. *The Serpent's Tale* is a medieval mystery in which the murder victim is Rosamund the Fair, the mistress of King Henry II. Henry was obviously very taken with her, and has set her up in her own castle, guarded by a complex maze. The suspicion is that her murder has been arranged by Henry's queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Eleanor is already inciting Henry's sons to rebel against him, and there are prospects of war all over England. Henry has asked a woman to try to find out what has happened to Rosamund. He has great faith in the woman, Adelia, who is a medical doctor and very good at understanding people's motivations. She was trained in Italy, and the English are suspicious of her; they are inclined to regard her as a witch—and witches are often burned at the stake. Adelia travels with a big Arab man, both for physical protection and to lull people's suspicions; he is presented as the doctor and she is his assistant. The reader gets a real feel for the times and will also get very involved in the story. A good and different read.

4. *Reflex* is another of Mr Francis's stories about life in the horse racing world, which he knows well because he was a part of it when he was a champion jockey. In this story the jockey, Philip Nore, becomes involved in some of the less attractive, even illegal, aspects of racing. He hears of strange events in the Jockey Club, the group which controls most of racing in the UK; and, at a more personal level, he is asked to lose a race he could have won - under a threat of losing his job if he doesn't co-operate. Like most of the author's characters, he is a good detective; and in this case he is an expert photographer, with access to some puzzling photographs taken by a professional photographer who has died. There is lots of information on general photographic techniques, plus some exotic methods of recovering useful pictures from apparently blank negatives. After a good bit of exciting action, including some attempts to murder various people involved in crime and even Philip himself, he discovers who is behind everything, and manages to stop him. Good easy reading, and even educational regarding photographic techniques.

5. *The Postcard Killers* is the story of an unusual pair of serial killers, who really seem to regard their activities as a game. The reader may be a little shocked by the light manner in which they approach their victims and then cold-bloodedly kill them and arrange the body "artistically". They even send a postcard to someone to announce their crime; plainly they believe they are too smart to be caught. As there is no real motive for the killings, it is difficult to catch them; and the reader will be fascinated by the process which succeeds.

6. *Fear the Worst* is another story in which a child is threatened, and the parent must try to protect her. In this case, the child is a teenager called Sydney, Syd for short. Her father is a used car salesman, and he has no idea where his daughter has disappeared to. More frightening, as he searches for her, he realises that others are also looking for her, and some of them are rather scary. It develops into a kind of race to see who will find Syd first. In the end, with the help of his ex-wife and her husband (also a used car salesman) the father reaches her—at the same time as the other searchers. Some problems sorting everything out, but in the end all is well.

7. *Don't Blink* is yet another action suspense story. The main character is Nick Daniels, a reporter for a national magazine. In trying to write a story about a baseball player, he witnesses a vicious killing. He finds himself involved with Mafia types, who apparently have decided to kill him also. A lot of action, which of course finishes with him sorting everything out in a happy ending.

*Library Notes continued on next page*

*Library Notes continued from previous page*

8. *The Centurion's Wife* is a historical novel of particular interest to the religious. The main part is set in the time between Jesus' crucifixion and his resurrection. We learn about the lives of the main characters: the centurion, Alban; and Leah, a maid servant who is betrothed to Alban without her consent. Leah works in the household of Pontius Pilate, with his wife Procula. Both of them are asked to find out about a new prophet, called Jesus, and the group who follow his teachings. Pilate fears that this group could be a threat to the Roman Empire; and he is worried that he did order the crucifixion, under pressure from the Pharisees. Alban and Leah try to find out what happened to Jesus' body, which is not in his tomb; and they are surprised and impressed by the followers of Jesus whom they meet. Naturally, they have trouble accepting the idea that Jesus came back from the dead, but are not able to prove that he didn't. Already partly convinced, they are present for the events of Pentecost, which finally does convince them. A surprisingly good read.

9. *The Gale of 1929* tells some of the stories from that terrible storm. Not realising that a very violent storm is about to break that night, several sailing ships leave St John's harbour to sail for home further up the coast to the north. We are told of eleven schooners who had finished their business in St John's and were loaded with goods for home. None of the ships made it home on their own, and six of them never did make it. Fortunately in each case, there was a rescue, and almost no lives were lost. The ships who did make it home were towed in by larger vessels. Surprisingly, one ship did actually arrive safe in port on the other side of the ocean, in England. Interesting stories about the individual ships, and also some description of the tsunami and the other events of that historic storm.

10. *Newfoundland Drugstores* is an authoritative history of drugstores in our province. If you ever wondered about old-fashioned remedies and the druggists who supplied them, Dr John K Crellin's book can tell you about them. There are many illustrations mostly taken from newspapers of the time, and it is an excellent reference book. As you might expect, most of the businesses mentioned are in St John's or the immediate area. It is only near the end, after confederation with Canada, that two west coast drugstores are mentioned: an order from Curling Rexall in 1966 and, in the 1980's, George Hutchings and his Corner Brook Drug Mart. Mr Hutchings is commended for being among the first drugstore owners to refuse to sell tobacco products because they are harmful to the health. He also expanded his business to provide a more generalised form of patient care: a person could buy wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, etc; and he also introduced computer records of patient history. A big change from the old pharmacist mixing his compounds in the back room.

11. *Landslide* is certainly the story of a tragic landslide in Harbour Breton; but even more it is the story of Jack Hickey before and during the landslide and particularly the lasting effects on his life afterward. It is well told, with input from Jack himself and from many others who also lived through the terrible events. Only Jack actually lost family members; four of his six children died in the destruction of their house. Again, a book that is easy to read and hard to put down.

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Please email me at [blowmedownergmail.com](mailto:blowmedownergmail.com) with your response to these questions. Thank you. Oh, and please be honest!

**Editorial: MIDDLE-EASTERN STRIFE**

FOR CENTURIES THE MIDDLE EAST has been a region of conflict, and what is happening there now is very little different from what has been happening there pretty much since the dawn of recorded history. Perhaps this history of instability will not be surprising when you look at a map and see that the Middle East is where Africa and Asia are joined by a small piece of land about 160km/100 miles wide, separating the northern tip of the Red Sea from the southeastern Mediterranean Sea. When the Suez Canal was constructed in 1869, that little piece of dry land was cut through, making Africa and Asia in effect two disconnected islands: very big islands, certainly, but islands nonetheless. In the days before air travel, if you wanted to keep your feet dry, the land now cut in half by the Suez Canal was your only route between Asia and Africa. When the Israelites led by Moses crossed the Red Sea from Egypt to the Sinai Peninsula, doubtless they crossed where they did because it was a region of mountains and deserts, further from the population centres of Egypt and therefore less dangerous for them than if they crossed in more hospitable parts to the north. Lucky for them they were led by Moses with his famous walking stick and the support of a God whom they had not yet angered sufficiently to punish them.

Given the restricted nature of this land bridge from one continent to another, it is hardly surprising that it has been the favoured route of migration for many thousands of years. It is likely that early *homo sapiens*, our distant ancestors, came that way as they migrated from the upper Nile valley into Asia, Europe, and eventually North America.

As a result, everyone thinks he has a right to pass or even stay there, and if anyone opposes that thinking, a war ensues. Couple such migrations with the fact that much of the land in the region is mountainous or drought-stricken desert rendering crops unreliable, and any productive land becomes worth fighting for. This has been the story of the Middle East all through history, and it still is.

Little surprise then when it was decided after World War II that the Jews who survived the Nazi death camps deserved to have a homeland of their own, and a piece of land now called the State of Israel was assigned to them by Western nations that did not own it anyway. Understandably, the long-time inhabitants of that land had different ideas. Hence the strife between the Israelis and the Palestinians—shades of Joshua and Jericho all over again.

Add to this mix the presence of oil in parts of the Middle East, with its tantalising promise of riches beyond imagination for people used to an existence eked out of poverty. Add also certain nations intent on providing armaments to regimes only too ready to use them, and sometimes a militant religious power base prepared to exploit radical ideas among youth exposed to media images of Western prosperity, and you have a powder keg ready to explode. That is the Middle East.

Can we fix it? A difficult task, but it must be attempted. However it cannot succeed when governments do not talk to each other, or when they accuse each other of nefarious tactics. Refusing to participate in the United Nations, the only group that has the worldwide potential to bring people together, simply increases alienation. Political leaders both at home and abroad must work to establish a little trust among themselves. If Stephen Harper is not willing or able to do this, then he must stand down and allow someone who can and will try. His confrontational language is merely lowering even further Canada's already reduced international standing at a time when every positive signal is important.

SLH

## Editorial: FRACKING UPDATE

THERE IS LITTLE FRESH NEWS to report at this time on the fracking issue as it applies to our Province, although there is one item that all of us with misgivings about the process need to be aware of:

According to a report of 2013 September 13 (Friday) by Canadian Press and presented by VOCM \*\*, Premier Kathy Dunderdale remarked recently that her government *“has no plans to introduce specific rules to regulate hydraulic fracturing. The province already has a strict environmental assessment process that allows for scientific study and public input.”*

The Premier also added that *“there’s no guarantee that fracking will actually take place in the province.”* That may or may not be correct, and in any case she presently holds the key to that issue. However if *Black Spruce Exploration, Shoal Point Energy* and other companies involved have their say (and be sure they are trying to) then the likelihood of it taking place may be imminent.

I believe it is a cause for concern that our Premier is so ill-informed about fracking as to believe that regulations currently governing conventional oil recovery activities in N&L are sufficient, when many people far better informed than ourselves have told us the process is so different that those regulations are not adequate.

There seems to be a general unwillingness by those who favour allowing companies to use hydraulic fracturing to accept the validity of any of the many reports that have appeared publicly in recent months from those areas of the world, including Canada, where the process is already in use. Numerous reports have recently been published citing pollution of water supplies, air pollution, minor earth tremors, etc, that it seems foolhardy of anyone to agree willingly to the use of the process in their neighbourhood.

It is of course possible that these negative reports are false, or at least mistaken and, as we have been assured both by leaders of the industry and now also apparently by our Premier, that fracking is harmless. But most of us are smart enough to know that if fracking goes ahead here, and negative health or environmental effects appear, then it will be too late to bring in new and more effective regulations: irreparable damage will be done. We also know from experience that, despite its protestations to the contrary, industry is invariably reluctant to accept any meaningful responsibility for the messes it has made.

NL-FAN, ([www.nlfan.ca](http://www.nlfan.ca)) recently established in Western Newfoundland and with a growing membership of organisations and individuals, has stated publicly its request to the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador as follows:

1. *Conduct a scientific and public review of hydraulic fracturing in Newfoundland and Labrador in order to fully assess the potential health, environmental, economic, and social effects on the region as a whole;*
2. *Review the associated regulatory, policy, and legislative issues; and*
3. *Recommend an approach that protects citizens and the environment, and fosters sustainable development.*

The Government of Quebec, whose policies we certainly do not always agree with, is taking steps to institute a moratorium on fracking in parts of that Province. This will allow for closer investigation of their own situation and gathering of information from other administrations, enabling them to review the issue more thoroughly and arrive at appropriate decisions for Quebec.

The Government of Nova Scotia has also announced plans for an independent review to be led by a multi-disciplinary panel of experts.

If this review is good for Nova Scotia, wouldn't a similar one be good for N&L? The findings of both this NS project and the Quebec one, as well as whatever may be available from anywhere else, such as other places in Canada, USA, and Europe, will be useful in helping our Province to make a satisfactory decision on fracking. But we must also have a serious detailed review of the potential impact on our own environment. Many environmental and geological factors are unique to our Province, and therefore we need as much knowledge about them as possible.

As many have said, the oil will not go anywhere if it is left in the ground a few more years, and the companies who are presently so impatient to get started are likely to find, if the result shows that fracking is indeed a safe process as they have consistently assured us, then they will be received much more positively by local residents. It is also likely that oil will become even more valuable as the years pass, and those who still have some in the ground will be able to benefit.

*Is there any good reason why Newfoundland & Labrador should not take similar steps to safeguard our precious environment and health as those proposed by our sister provinces?*

If you are concerned about the issue of hydraulic fracturing and you are not yet a member of NL-FAN, or if you simply wish to have more information, visit the organisation's Home Page at [www.nlfan.ca](http://www.nlfan.ca) and review some of the documentation listed there. Then, if you believe as many of us do, that more time and thought is needed before we allow the use of fracking in or near our communities, add your name to the membership list.

\*\* Copy and paste this URL in your browser to visit the website for the Dunderdale news item:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/09/13/newfoundland-fracking\\_n\\_3919182.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/09/13/newfoundland-fracking_n_3919182.html)

In last month's *BMD* (2013 September issue) I published my letter to NL Environment Minister Tom Marshall and his reply. You can read both on the *BMD Archive Page*. Expressing your own views to the Minister and/or the Premier may also help, whether you are a resident of N&L or not.



Fracking the Bakken Formation in North Dakota