

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

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MEET THE POLAR VORTEX



Plate 1. Typical summer (top) and winter (bottom) paths of the Jet Stream over North America



Plate 2. The weekend of 2013 January 4-5, showing the deep southward dip reached by the Jet Stream to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico; also the extent of the cold weather completely surrounding Newfoundland, the St Lawrence Valley and the Great Lakes.

UNTIL THIS YEAR most of us had never heard of the *Polar Vortex*, but for the last few weeks we have grown to know it well. Starting in early December, we began to notice its effect on us when we were hit by some heavy snowfalls and cold weather. Now here we are a month later and it is still causing discomfort, distress, injury, and in some instances even death to people all over North America.

The *Polar Vortex* is not a new phenomenon, and professional meteorologists have known about it for a long time. It has always been there, a very cold air mass rotating around the North Pole. It usually stays where it belongs, but this year it has strayed further south and its frigid air has resulted in extreme cold temperatures across much of the continent as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

Normally the *Polar Vortex* is kept in place by the *Jet Stream*, a high altitude current of air that crosses the continent from west to east. On weather maps the *Jet Stream* can be seen as a gigantic U-shape looping from Canada's northwest, then dipping southwards almost to the Gulf of Mexico, then turning north again to leave the continent somewhere near Newfoundland (See Plate 1 and [Ref 1](#)). Its air currents travel at varying speeds around 100 to 200kph and are useful

for jet aircraft which on longer flights normally fly at around 9,000m (30,000ft) roughly the elevation of Mount Everest. Helped along by the *Jet Stream* jetliners can reduce flying time by a half hour or more between Canada and Europe, a significant cost saving.

This winter, for some reason, the *Jet Stream* shifted further south ([Ref 2](#) & [Ref 3](#)), allowing the *Polar Vortex* to extend further south than usual, causing our frigid weather. Usually the cold air will leak southwards slowly, causing only brief cold snaps that are soon lost in the general warmth of southern latitudes, but this year a much larger mass of cold air has moved further south with the *Jet Stream*. But so far scientists have no explanation of exactly why the *Jet Stream* is weaker, although it has been suggested that areas of Arctic ice and snow cover reduced by global warming may be involved.

Meanwhile, we suffer through these Arctic blasts which in some parts of North America have produced temperatures rivalling those of Antarctica. Meteorologists say that these conditions should not last too long, but for those are down, whose power lines are down, and whose roads are skating rinks periodically blocked with

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mountains of snow, not to mention the cost of heating and dealing with all this, it has already been too long.

In his *Ode to the West Wind*, the English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (1824–1897) asked, “*If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?*” Right now, the answer looks like, “*Yes, it surely can!*”

You may like to view further information on the Polar Vortex:

Ref 1 - Video explaining how the Jet Stream affects our weather

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/climate-weather/blogs/video-simply-explains-the-polar-vortex-jet-stream-and-climate>

Ref 2 - A sloppy jet stream (by Joseph G Cote, *Nashua Telegraph*)

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/1025591-469/a-sloppy-jet-stream-has-let-the.html>

Ref 3 - Cold Weather and a curvy Jet Stream (by Daniel Bezte, Manitoba Co-operator)

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/2013/12/18/cold-weather-and-a-curved-jet-stream/>

Editorial

SOME THOUGHTS ON CURRENT CANADIAN POLITICS

ANYONE WHO READS MY EDITORIALS in this publication should have no uncertainty about my feelings regarding Stephen Harper and his government. I can honestly state that I have never felt so negative towards any government, either here in Canada or even in England where I grew up and first became interested in politics. I would unequivocally say that the PM and his ‘government’—I find it hard to use that word for the current federal Conservatives whom I prefer to call a ‘*mis*government’—are unquestionably the most narrow-minded, mean-spirited and misdirected group of individuals ever to hold national power in Canada.

The Harperites have [cut funding for social programs](#) like Health, UI and other important services like the Canada Census, the Canada Food Inspection Agency, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Marine Search & Rescue, Veterans’ support, etc. They have also cut funding for dozens of research programs, forcing the highly qualified researchers themselves to leave the country to seek employment in the USA, Britain, and other countries where the governments encourage and value such work. (See page 4 and [The Silence of the Labs.](#)) At the same time they have given gigantic tax cuts to large corporations, and allowed the [sale of valuable Canadian resources and assets to foreign competitors](#). They have also spent some hundred million dollars on partisan advertising of their [Economic Action Plan](#) (you can see these ads on television) to make us think they are being generous when in fact they are simply using our dollars we paid out earlier in federal taxes. And to cap it all, the [Canadian jobless rate rose from 6.9% to 7.2% in December](#), with more than 45,000 jobs lost.

But perhaps the worst actions of the Harperites are evidenced in their undemocratic refusal to allow sufficient time for meaningful discussion in the House of Commons of their monstrous budget “[omnibus bills](#)” which include everything except the kitchen sink!

While I believe the government of Kathy Dunderdale has some flawed policies, this may apply to any government. But they do not exhibit such intensely ideological tunnel vision as the Harperites. True, they have combined, perhaps ill-advisedly in the opinion of

many, all the English school boards into one [Mega School Board](#) for the entire province; their [Access to Information Bill 29](#) was rammed through with minimal debate and much criticism, a tactic perhaps learned from Harper; and there has been neglect and poor decisions affecting the fishery. Like Harper, Ms Dunderdale has sometimes avoided public comment until compelled, as we saw in [her silence during the first days of the recent electricity blackouts](#). And her government has shown weakness in standing up to their federal counterparts tempting one to believe they were afraid to offend the PM by Harping On about things they think he might not like!

But there’s a couple of things the Dunderdale crowd have done, that I can applaud. One is [the recent moratorium on fracking](#) to remain in effect until more information is available. My concern there however is the possibility that they may finally give in to the pressures of big oil, or be over-ridden by the oil-obsessed Harperites.

Credit for the second thing should probably go in part at least to Danny Williams: that is [Muskrat Falls](#). If there is any doubt about the need for this project, the recent electrical power problems should have dispelled it. We need the electricity the project will generate, and sharing the cost and surplus power with Nova Scotia is the way to go, since the Holyrood plant must be terminated and its years of pollution must be cleaned up. The planned pooling of effort with Nova Scotia will give Newfoundland efficiencies of scale, boosting our province’s independence. It can create potential also to make us leaders in production of cheaper, *cleaner* energy enabling Atlantic Canada to develop new industry and to sell for decades into the future when offshore oil has become a distant memory. In addition, the strengthening of the four Atlantic Provinces will become increasingly important if, as is likely, the balance of power persists in its westward shift, especially if Québec continues to push for sovereignty which could result in the physical division of Canada.

A word to those who raise alarmist issues about the escalating future cost of [Muskrat Falls](#) hydro power: *Do those who voice such concerns really believe that hydroelectrical energy will be more costly than oil in the future?* Oil, including fracked oil, will face its own escalating costs, will become a greater environmental burden as time passes, and will eventually be exhausted anyway; but the Muskrat Falls project, though expensive to build, will have relatively stable operating costs after completion, with benefits as lasting for Newfoundland as Churchill Falls has been for Québec—otherwise [why would Hydro-Québec have so assiduously opposed the Muskrat Falls project?](#)

If, as may happen, Canada finds herself saddled with more oil-obsessed leaders like Harper, this Province’s hydroelectric power may soon provide enough economic clout for Newfoundlanders & Labradorians to be heeded on the federal scene to finally allow us a real say in how this country of Canada is to be run.

In their efforts relating to Muskrat Falls, I believe that we should support our present Provincial Government as well as whatever government we may choose to continue the work after the next provincial election. We will then be able to echo the words of past NL Premier Brian Tobin and say with confidence, “*have-not will be no more*”.

NOTE: The hyperlinks on this page and others provide further information on the topics. The links are selected from various Canadian and other online resources, including Wikipedia where articles can be more readable but may lack documentation.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2014 FEBRUARY 2014

2 nd	<i>Sun</i>	Epiphany 4 -	LH - 11:00am, Morning Prayer JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
9 th	<i>Sun</i>	Epiphany 5 -	LH - 11:00am, Holy Communion JB - 7:00pm, Memorial Hymn Sing
14 th	Fri	St Valentine's Day	
16 th	<i>Sun</i>	Epiphany 6 -	LH - 7:00pm, Prayer & Praise JB - 10:30am, Holy Communion & Bapt
23 rd	<i>Sun</i>	Epiphany 7 -	LH - 7:00pm, Holy Communion JB - 10:30am, Morning Prayer

2014 MARCH 2014

2 nd	<i>Sun</i>	Epiphany 8 -	LH - 11:00am, Holy Communion JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
5 th	Wed	Ash Wed -	LH - 7:00pm, Holy Communion JB - 10:30am, Holy Communion
8 th	Sat	Daylight Saving Time begins. Advance clocks 1 hour.	
9 th	<i>Sun</i>	Lent 1 -	LH - 11:00am, Morning Prayer JB - 7:00pm, Prayer & Praise
12 th	Wed	Lent Midwk	LH 7:00pm, Compline
16 th	<i>Sun</i>	Lent 2 -	LH - 7:00pm, Holy Communion JB - 10:30am, Holy Communion
19 th	Wed	Lent Midwk	LH - 7:00pm, Service of Light JB - 7:00pm, BCP
23 rd	<i>Sun</i>	Lent 3 -	LH - 7:00pm, Prayer & Praise JB - 10:30am, Holy Communion
26 th	Wed	Lent Midwk	LH - 7:00pm, Compline
30 th	<i>Sun</i>	Lent 4 -	LH - 7:00pm, Holy Communion JB - 10:30am, Morning Prayer

2014 APRIL 2014

2 nd	Wed	Lent Midwk -	LH - 7:00pm, Service of Light JB - 7:00pm, Service of Light
6 th	<i>Sun</i>	Lent 5 -	LH - 11:00am, Baptism & HC JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
9 th	Wed	Lent Midwk -	LH - 7:00pm, Compline
13 th	<i>Halm Sunday</i>	-	LH - 11:00am, Holy Communion JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
14 th	<i>Holy Week</i>	Mon -	JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
15 th	<i>Holy Week</i>	Tues -	LH - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
16 th	<i>Holy Week</i>	Wed -	JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
17 th	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	-	LH - 7:00pm
18 th	<i>Good Friday</i>	-	LH - 2:00pm; JB - 10:30am
20 th	<i>Sun</i>	EASTER SUNDAY	LH - 7:00am, Easter Vigil; 7:00pm, HC JB - 10:30am, HC
22 nd	Tues	EARTH DAY	
27 th	<i>Sun</i>	Easter 2 -	LH - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer JB - 10:30am, Morning Prayer

2014 ADVANCE DATES 2014

The next B•M•D will be the April issue, published on or before Friday 2014 April 04.

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of local businesses and organisations. No charge.

Published also on our Website: www.blowmedowner.webs.com

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

● ● ● 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 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. Corner Brook Office 634-7883
- **Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Avenue, Corner Brook**
memorial furnishings 634-1529
- **Gerry Byrne, MP, Humber-St Barbe-Bay Verte**
Member of Parliament. Corner Brook Office 637-4570
- **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 before or on the first Friday of the month.

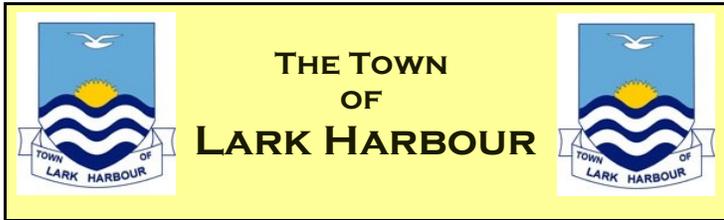
Submit copy to blowmedowner@gmail.com.

Small social & personal announcements welcomed.

All copy should be submitted at least three days before publication for best inclusion.

A NOTE ON [HYPERLINKS](#)

Some articles in the **BLOW•ME•DOWNER** contain [hyperlinks](#) to Internet items relating to the content of the article and are provided for the convenience of readers who might like to explore the topics further. They are by no means the only references, but they can be a starting point for additional research. I hope you find them useful.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2013 DECEMBER 16

Originally scheduled for 2013 Dec 11, but postponed until Dec 16.

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

ABSENT: Councillor Pauline Sheppard

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

- Minutes of meeting of 2013 Nov 19 adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update – Approved Anderson Engineering Consultants Limited to proceed with application for Phase II Water and Sewer development funding of \$1,618,244.75 with Provincial (BCF-CC) 90% for a total of \$1,456,420.28 and Municipal Source 10% for a total of \$161,824.48.
- Phase II includes the water system chlorination building, 950 meters of 250mm diameter water transmission line, 1240 meters of 200 mm water line, 520 meters of 150mm diameter water line and 62 house services from the intersection of Little Port Road and Route 450 heading south. The water system will include 1,650 meters of 200mm diameter sewer line, 11 manholes, 2 communal septic tanks and 2 sanitary sewer outfalls.
- Motion was made to pay Status Report #5 in the amount of \$23,694.06 by using the \$5,501.73 remaining in the Gas Tax account and drawing down on the remaining \$18,192.33 from the already approved loan with BMO.
- Fracking – Review of letters received from MHA Mr Eddie Joyce, and MHA Mr Derrick Dalley. No follow up necessary.
- Amalgamation – Clerk informed Council of the impending invoice that the Town of York Harbour will be receiving from Wheys Consulting for the feasibility study. Once the invoice has been paid, the Department of Municipal Affairs then issues a payment back to the Town of York Harbour to reimburse for this invoice. Due to it being the end of the year, and financial constraints, the Town of York Harbour has requested the Town of Lark Harbour to pay the invoice and once the funds are received from the Dept. of Municipal Affairs, they will be returned to the Town of Lark Harbour's account. Motion to pay final invoice from Whey's Consulting in the amount of approximately \$12,000.00 once received from the Town of York Harbour, and then be reimbursed once the funds are received from the government.
- Review of potential new town names as received from students at St James All Grade. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Strategic Steering Committee. Clerk directed to send letter thanking students for their input.
- All agreed to slight changes to the list of items for negotiation.
- Clerk directed to contact Wheys Consulting regarding the final report and when we can expect to receive it.
- Motion made to extend tenure of the present Council until March 31st, 2014. [Note: this extension is in accordance with the NL

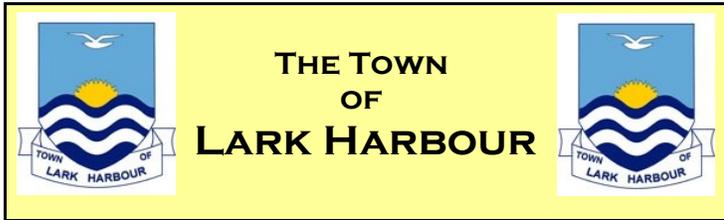
Municipalities Act when special circumstances exist.]

- Route 450 – It was noted that repairs have been made in the area of Copper Mine Brook. Review of letter received from Mr. Nick McGrath, Minister of Transportation and Works.
- Harbour View Road – Review of letter sent to Bell Aliant from Council opposing the high cost of having telephone and internet service installed on this road. No response to date. Clerk to follow up in the New Year.
- Budget 2014 – Clerk to make adjustments to Budget. Council will hold a short meeting Thursday afternoon to approve the 2014 Budget.
- CEEP Grant – Brief discussion on work completed to date. Clerk informed of stock to be returned to Stan Dawe.
- Infilling Limits – Request for extension sent. Clerk directed to follow up with Municipal Affairs in the New Year.
- Property at the end of Little Port Road – Information has been sent to the assessment division to be included in the roll book. Clerk directed to follow up in the New Year.
- Financial Report – Review of financial report and motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$471.69.
- Collections update – Currently 37 delinquent taxpayers. Outstanding taxes are \$10,699.58, this does not include Social Services recipients. Discussion on 2 severely dilapidated properties. Clerk to follow up.
- Write offs – No write offs at this time.
- Building Permits – All approved as presented.
- Referral Letters – Motion to approve referral letters for Perry Sheppard and ZR Enterprises Ltd.
- Christmas Newsletter – Review of annual newsletter. Clerk to send out at the end of the week.
- Municipal Fire Department Assessment Report – Review of the report with no follow up necessary.
- Motion to proceed with light pole as suggested by Newfoundland Power for the skate park.
- Clerk directed to contact the school regarding outdoor lighting in the area of the skate park.
- **Future of Canada Post**
Review of letter received from Mr. Denis Lemelin, Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Resolutions requesting the Minister Responsible for Canada Post:
 - (A) To use the [upcoming review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter](#) to focus on revenue-generating services, not cuts, including financial services such as bill payments, insurance and banking.
 - (B) To improve the [Canadian Postal Service Charter](#) and make the upcoming review of the Charter open to public input.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

*Thanks to our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors
for the time and effort they have devoted during
the past year towards the operation of our town.*

*Thanks also to the Town Office Staff
for their cheerful and friendly service throughout the year.*



MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2014 JANUARY 21

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

ABSENT: Councillor Pauline Sheppard

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

- Minutes of 2013 Dec 16, Special Meeting of 203 Dec 19 and 2014 Jan 19 adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update - Council discussed an issue brought to our attention recently regarding children skating on the water at the dam. Signs will be erected in the area warning people to stay out of the area.
- Phase II Application for the Project has been resubmitted.
- Fracking - Reviewed letter regarding fracking presentation at the Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook on January 30, 2014 at 7:00pm.
- Amalgamation - Council will meet with Municipal Affairs on 2014 Feb 04 to discuss the process. Also viewed items for negotiation.
- Route 450 - Town Clerk has been corresponding with Department of Transportation and Works regarding Route 450 washouts. Dept is presently assessing damages throughout the region.
- Harbour View Road - Clerk to contact Bell Aliant again about having telephone and internet service installed on this road. A copy of this letter will be sent to MHA, Mr Eddie Joyce.
- Viewed letter from Municipal Affairs re 2014 Budget Approval.
- CEEP Grant - Brief discussion on work being completed. There are currently two workers painting the upper level of the Town Hall.
- Infilling Limits - Council viewed list of recommendations from the Land Management Division.
- Property at end of Little Port Road - Will follow up with Municipal Assessment Agency regarding this property.
- Financial Report - Approved with accounts payable of \$11.71
- Collections Update - Council to send all tax payers accounts that are in arrears to the Collections Agency. All those in arrears for 2013 and prior will be charged interest beginning a the end of January 2014.
- Discussion on 2 severely dilapidated properties. Clerk to follow up.
- Two Write Offs deferred until more information is collected. One other approved in the amount of \$1.49.
- No building permits to approve at this time.
- Global GeoPark for Western Newfoundland - Council will meet with Paul Wylezol on 2014 February 06 to discuss getting the Bay of Islands designated as a Geo Park.
- Bell Aliant - Extended Service Charge - Council reviewed letter sent to Bell Aliant in 2011 November. Another letter to be sent to Bell Aliant regarding extended service charge.

- Physical Activity Equipment Grant Program - Letter received advising that grant of \$3,000.00 applied for in 2013 will be received.
- PMA Convention - Clerk to look further into the location.
- Council viewed letter from Mr Eddie Joyce Re: complaint from local resident. Agreed to write a reply to resident and Mr Joyce.
- Dog complaint - Clerk to send a letter to the owner.
- Council viewed Thank You letter from the Volley Ball Team at St. James School.
- Agreed to follow up with letter sent to school regarding streetlight outage.
- Agreed to look further into rental amount for Western Health Clinic.
- Agreed to send letter to Western Health Re: New Hospital.
- Agreed to send application to Western Regional Wellness Coalition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Obituary

GEORGE H MAXWELL

1931 June 09 - 2014 January 20

PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY on Monday, January 20, 2014 at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital, George H Maxwell at the age of 82 years. He is lovingly remembered by his children: Barry (Alison), Ontario, Steven, Lark Harbour and Bobbie (Kim), Ontario; daughters: Judy and Karla (Bill) both of Ontario; grandchildren: Erin, Avery and Lucas; sister Berdy Faye, Ontario; sisters-in-law: Louise Childs, Louise Sheppard, Emma (Stan), all of Lark Harbour; and Hazel, Ontario; brother-in-law Myles (Ruth), Lark Harbour; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his wife Marion, parents William and Ruby Maxwell, parents-in-law Harold and Mary Sheppard, brothers Aubrey and Garnet, sister Grace, brothers-in-law Lawrence, Ralph, Warren and Harold, sister-in-law Doris. Friends visited St James' Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Thursday 2-4 & 7-9pm, from where the funeral service was held on Friday, January 24 at 2:00pm, with Rev Nelson Chatman officiating. Interment followed at the Anglican Cemetery.



As expressions of sympathy flowers graciously accepted or donations may be made to St James Anglican Church Memorial Fund. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Fillatre's Funeral Home. The family guest book may be signed or a memorial donation may be made through the website www.fillatre.ca.



LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



Still finding some thing to read at the library. A couple of new acquisitions, one or two from the Newfoundland Collection, and have a look at the shelves of books which have been there all the time! I found several more by John Grisham, and also a Martha Grimes I had missed out on. Hopefully there will be enough treasure there to keep us going, until maybe the rotating collections come back?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <i>King and Maxwell</i> | David Baldacci |
| 2. <i>Pure Joy</i> | Danielle Steel |
| 3. <i>The Christmas Train</i> | David Baldacci |
| 4. <i>The Summons</i> | John Grisham |
| 5. <i>The Innocent Man</i> | John Grisham |
| 6. <i>Foul Matter</i> | Martha Grimes |
| Newfoundland Collection | |
| 7. <i>Empty Nets</i> | Gus Etchegary |

1. *King and Maxwell* is an exciting story featuring two private detectives called - surprise! - Sean King and Michelle Maxwell. This is a further adventure of the two, and apparently they have also been featured in a TV series. They are an unusual pair in that the woman, Michelle, is not only a full partner in deciding strategy, but she is also the strong and tough member of the pair. The plot of the book is somewhat political (American political - they meet the president) and international (starts out in Afghanistan) and fairly complicated. K and M get involved with a teenage boy whose father has been declared killed in action, but seems to have been in contact with his son after his official death. There is a great deal of secrecy to be dealt with; but they manage, with the help of friends and some pretty slick work with the internet, to discover what the big secret was and who wanted so desperately to keep the secret. A number of people are killed quite cold-bloodedly, and K and M are at risk several times. A good read.

2. *Pure Joy* was a bit of a surprise. Ms Steel is known for her many romantic novels, but this book is about the many dogs she has owned. She really loves her dogs, especially the most recent, a teacup Chihuahua named Minnie Mouse. The book contains some good advice about owning dogs, and also her other passion, children. It is hard to imagine how Ms Steel managed to write the many books she is credited with, at least 90, in a household containing nine children, eleven dogs, and a pig. There were also at least two husbands over the years. She made trips to Paris on a regular basis, taking Minnie with her. She very much enjoyed all the dogs she tells of, and seems to have been pretty sensible throughout. An easy and enjoyable read.

3. *The Christmas Train* is totally different from the other book by Mr. Baldacci. The main character, Tom Langdon, is a newspaper reporter who has written stories from all over the world, including many areas of violence. He has been used to flying everywhere, and for various reasons he decides to travel across the US by train over the season leading up to Christmas. He is surprised to find himself in a group who often travel by train, and who all seem to know each other. A bigger surprise is to discover that the woman he had loved and lost years before is also on the train, and also crossing the country. The meeting does not go well from the start; but there is quite a bit of activity among the other passengers, and he becomes involved.

4. *The Summons* is a mystery set in the Deep South (Mississippi mostly). The main character, Ray Atlee, is a law professor at a

university in Virginia. He has escaped from the small town in Mississippi where his father, the judge, has been the law for all of Ray's life. Judge Atlee has very much controlled the community for most of forty years, and is now old and sick and has retired to his ancestral mansion. Both of his sons have left the town and settled elsewhere. The second son, Forrest, has not established himself anywhere respectable, and has been in trouble most of his life. The story begins with Ray receiving a letter which says that his father is on the verge of death and would like both of his sons to come home and find out about his will. Ray reluctantly goes and finds the judge already lying dead, with his will all written out, leaving all of his property to be divided between his two sons. There is not much property in fact; the house is the main asset. To his surprise, however, Ray finds a cupboard full of boxes hundred dollar bills, some three million dollars. No identification, no explanation. Most of the story tells how Ray tries to protect the money and to find out where it came from. During these efforts, he realises that someone else knows about the money and is after it. He does finally figure out where it came from, and who are the men trying to get it from him. He survives their efforts, and finds out all the truth about the money in a surprise ending. An exciting read.

5. *The Innocent Man* is a bit of a surprise. It tells the true story of a man found guilty of an unpleasant rape and murder which he did not commit. There is a great deal of detail of his lawyers' efforts to save him, and also of the efforts of the local police to convict him; they made up their minds that he was the one and never looked at anyone else. How they mishandled the evidence, and changed the witness statements, is all described. It is hard to credit that the police would act as described, but apparently it is all true. The action takes place in a small town in the state of Oklahoma in the US. Perhaps things like this do happen more often than we ever hear about, but we have to hope not. Thanks to Mr Grisham for telling us about this instance; happily, he was also able to tell us how the man's innocence was finally established. A long read, but satisfying in the end.

6. *Foul Matter* is a strange sort of mystery: no detectives. The characters are all involved in the publishing industry, which apparently is more cut-throat than most of us would have expected. No actual dead bodies, but we do meet three assassins, a publisher who hires them to kill off one of his authors, and an author whose complex manoeuvres to entertain himself almost have had bad consequences. The assassins are, in fact, very entertaining as well as surprisingly ethical; they make the book worth reading.

7. *Empty Nets* is the story of Mr Etchegary's more than 60 years' involvement with the fishing industry of Newfoundland and Labrador at all levels. Anyone who reads it will be convinced that he knows what he is talking about; and, if the federal politicians in particular had listened to his suggestions over the years, the provincial fishing industry would be in a much better position. At 23 he began working with Fishery Products Limited as an electrician, and he stayed with that company through many changes. He progressed through different management levels, and became very familiar with different aspects such as harvesting, processing, and sales. He seems to have related well to others in the different disciplines, and to have learned a lot in each one. He also had the opportunity to travel to many other countries, and to learn how they did things, and to make many useful contacts. As a representative to ICNAF and NAFO and many other bodies speaking for the fishermen, his big concern was the health of the fish stocks. Politicians, however, could not see any problems, and they encouraged ever more activity that used up the stocks.

Continued on Page 8, at bottom of Column One

Obituary

JAMES IVAN SHEPPARD

1931 February 08 – 2014 January 03

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Jim Sheppard announced his passing on Friday, January 03, 2014 at Western Memorial Regional Hospital at the age of 82 years.



Left to mourn with fond and loving memories are: his wife Joan of 60 years; children: Helen deRuyter (Frank), Paulette Darcy, Anita Barnes (Howard), Jerry (Rose), James Jr. (Maryette), Maria Grant (James), Carolyn Sheppard, Connie Sheppard (Ken Book) and Roger Sheppard (Joanne); grandchildren: Natasha, Nikki (Jon), Robert, Samantha (Cory), Ryan, Jason (Charmaine), Heidi, Vicki (James), Sarah, Marcus, Cheryl, Douglas, Jillian, Nadia (Mark), Jonathon, Zachary and Randy; great grandchildren: Jessie, Sophia, Simon, Madison and Colby; special niece Joanne Sigouin, brother Isaac Sheppard (Doris); sisters-in-law: Myrtle Sheppard and Etta Caulfield (Fred), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his parents Isaac and Phoebe Sheppard, brothers Cyril, Ron, Clayton and Ross; sisters Olive, Jean and Susie.

Friends visited at St James Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Saturday and Sunday from the hours of 2-4 and 7-9pm, and a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Jim's life, followed by Holy Communion, was also held there on Monday, January 06 at 2pm. The Service was well attended by family and friends and was conducted by the Rector, Rev Nelson Chatman, assisted by Lay Ministers George Sheppard and Lorraine Humber. Scriptures were read by Jim's grandchildren Zachary Sheppard, Cheryl Sheppard, Samantha Darcy and Jillian Leonard. Incidental music was provided by Kevin Barnes on the guitar, and hymns were led by the Church Choir with Sharon Parsons at the organ. Pall Bearers were also all Jim's grandsons: Randy Sheppard, Jason Barnes, Jonathan Sheppard, Zachary Sheppard, Ryan Darcy, Robert DeRuyter, Douglas Sheppard and Marcus Sheppard. Interment followed at the church cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the charity of one's choice. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made through the website at www.fillatre.ca.

Continued from Column Two at right

power at the Federal level and therefore never had chance to appoint their own Senators.

Perhaps the most significant effect of Trudeau's action is to wake up the Harper government which has done virtually nothing in their seven plus years of governing to change the Senate's function or to abolish it completely, as they said they would. To this point Harper has said little about it except to make fun of it, as he tries to do with any Opposition move with which he disagrees.

SLH

Obituary

WINNIFRED ELIZA OSBOURNE

1922 May 23 – 2013 December 11

PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY on December 11, 2013 at the Corner Brook Long Term Care Facility, Winnifred Eliza Osbourne of Blaketown, NL, in her 91st year.

Predeceased by her husband Fred and two brothers Raymond and Clifford, Winnifred left to mourn her two daughters: Ethel (Dennis) and Donna; grandchildren: Kim (Doug), Amanda (Andrew), and Fred (Pam); great grandchildren: Hilary (Shane), Robyn (Nolan) and Peyton; sisters-in-law: Grace and Eileen; and special caregiver: Sarah. Also a large circle of other relatives and friends.



Visitation took place at Holloway's Funeral Home, Whitbourne, NL, on Friday, December 13 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and 7:00 - 9:00 pm. The Funeral Service took place at St Barnabas Anglican Church, Blaketown, NL on December 14, 2013 at 2:00pm, officiated by Rev Nancy.

Donations could be made to St Barnabas Church or a charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements were made by *Holloway's Funeral Home, Whitbourne, NL, Canada.*

www.hollowaysfuneralhome.ca/index.php?id=4&obituary_id=206

LIBERAL SENATORS become SENATE LIBERALS

ELECTED NEWLY AS LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA, Justin Trudeau has been in no hurry to make himself noticed on the political scene. But his recent statement about changes to the status of Liberal Senators has drawn attention from political watchers all across the country, many of whom have hailed it as a harbinger of change which may become more significant as time passes.

Effective immediately, as the month of January was drawing to a close, the thirty-two Liberal Senators are no longer members of the National Liberal caucus, meaning that they will no longer have input to legislation the Liberal Opposition in the House of Commons will vote on or initiate. As well as this, Trudeau has withdrawn whip control of their voting in the Senate, thus making them free agents when they cast their votes on legislation presented to the Senate by the House of Commons: they may vote on it in any way they choose. However it is unlikely that they will vote much differently from the way they would have, if Trudeau had not intervened. They will still be able to take part in all other Senate business, including to propose new legislation from the Senate. Such action has not been a large part of the Senate's function in the past, and in the present Senate, with fifty-nine Conservative Senators who are still under Harper's whip, any such Opposition moves would be very unlikely to carry. The NDP of course has no Senators since they have never held governing

Continued in Column One at left

Obituary

ADELINE NELLIE GALLANT

1924-2014

SURROUNDED BY HER LOVING FAMILY Adeline Nellie Gallant passed peacefully away in the Palliative Care Unit at Western Memorial Regional Hospital, on Friday January 10, 2014 in her 89th year. Left to mourn with fond and loving memories are her 14 children: Dan Gallant (Josephine), Matilda Ball, Genevieve Bennett, Rose George (Isaac), Mary Ellen Gilbert (Doug), Pauline Russell (Dave), Howard Gallant, Patrick Gallant (Gloria), Walter Gallant (Nora), Leslie Gallant (Mary), Gordon Gallant (Paula), Charlie Gallant, Magdalen Bennett (Jason), Vince Gallant and a large number of grandchildren and great grandchildren; sisters: Emma Park, Elsie Hynes (Kevin), Alice Park (Llewelyn); brothers: Walter White, Charles White (Judy), William White (Evelyn); as well as numerous nieces, nephews other relatives and many friends. She was predeceased by her husband Patrick Gallant, 1973, grandson Elliott Gallant, parents William and Deborah White, special uncle Jim White, sisters: Genevieve White, Lucy Gallant, Susan Laing, brother George White, daughters-in-law: Maude Gallant and Marion Gallant, sons-in-law: Felix Bennett, Derrick Ball, brother-in-law Roy Park and sister-in-law Sylvia White. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, January 13th at 10:00am from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Benois Cove, Father Maurice O'Quinn officiating, followed by the interment at the church cemetery. Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 218 Curling St, Saturday & Sunday during the hours 2-4 & 7-9pm. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or memorial donations made to Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish. The family guestbook could be signed by visiting the website www.fillatre.ca.



Obituary

BERNARD A CONNOLLY

1945 June 17 - 2014 January 16

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Bernard A Connolly announced his passing on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook at the age of 68 years. He left to mourn with fond and loving memories his wife of 36 years Dianne (Gilbert); children: Tammy (Corey), Alanda (Justin) and Stephen (Tina); grandchildren: Braden, Connor, Bella and Reghan, father Captain Anthony Connolly; sisters: Marie (Neil), Leona, Sandra, Mary (Dave) and Gertie (Paul); brothers: Don and Brian (Leona); brothers and sisters-in-law: Morris (Kathy), Karl (Glenda), Barb (Dennis) and Donna (Martin); his fur babies Bailey and Wiser; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his mother Della, brother John and sister Regina. Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 218 Curling Street, on Saturday from the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm, and at St James Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Sunday 2-4 & 7-9pm, from where the funeral service was held on Monday, January 20 at 2:00pm, with Rev Nelson Chatman officiating. Interment followed at the Anglican Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations could be made to a charity of one's choice. The family guest book could be signed or a memorial donation made through the website www.fillatre.ca.



The Silence of the Labs documentary by CBC's *Fifth Estate*

On Friday evening 2014 January 10, CBC's current affairs program *The Fifth Estate* aired a documentary [The Silence of the Labs](#) (*Laboratories*, not *Lambs*, or the breed of dogs). They are the many Laboratories and research locations in Arctic Canada whose funding has been cut off by the Harper Conservative government because those projects either do not directly support Conservative policy or are deemed to be non-essential in other ways to Canada's needs.

The most affected are studies of the effects of global warming (a fact many Harperites deny) and toxic pollution on the environment and lives of Innu people, but also affected are studies of cultural and historical topics.

The documentary features several people ([Dr Peter Ross](#), [Dr Tom Duck](#), [Dr Pat Sutherland](#)) whose work has been cancelled and lost, perhaps even destroyed. In many cases, too, hundreds of highly skilled researchers have moved to the USA, UK, and elsewhere to find jobs. They are unlikely ever to return to Canada, which is so hostile to any work that does not toe the Tory party line.

If you did not see the original airing of [The Silence of the Labs](#), it is available on line. Food for thought—*How much longer can we tolerate a federal government which disregards scientific facts and instead bases its policies on theories and political ideology?*

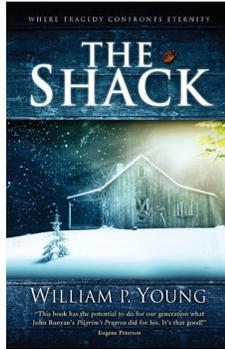
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many fish plants were encouraged; fishing quotas were increased recklessly; foreign overfishing, especially using factory freezer trawlers, was not regulated; even claiming the 200-mile limit still was not enough. Then, when the politicians had pretty much ruined the industry, they still insisted on moving in and trying to 'fix' things; and they would not listen to any advice from anybody who knew about fishing from the inside. It is a sad story, which most of us are somewhat familiar with; but some of us surely missed out on some of the political aspects. It certainly does not seem as if a strong fishing economy in Newfoundland, with accompanying strong employment, figured much in anybody's calculations.

If you have recently read and enjoyed any books and would like to recommend one or two of them to other BMD readers, please send your comments to blowmedowner@gmail.com. Include your name, email address, and the title, author and publisher of the book. We will be happy to publish your comments in a future BMD.

EXTRA BOOK REVIEW

Title: THE SHACK - Where tragedy confronts eternity
Author: YOUNG, William Paul
Publisher: Windblown Media, Newbury Park, CA, USA, 252 pages, with foreword



This book is a novel with a moving narrative about a family man whose youngest daughter is abducted during a moment of crisis during a family summer vacation and is eventually found murdered in a remote shack in the woods. However the plot quickly becomes much more than that. It's tempting to say that it is a theological treatise on the conflict between good and evil, but that would be misleading and likely to put off many potential readers: it never becomes a technical academic presentation of religious theories, nor does it get bogged down in abstruse theology. It can therefore be read purely as a novel by those who are so inclined.

Perhaps the simplest description of the novel is that it gives us an insight into the devastating grief of Mackenzie Allen Phillips, "Mack", when the loss of his daughter dominates his emotional stability and causes him to question the naïve brand of religious "faith" he has embraced during his life to this point. We understand then that Mack is every man (or woman) who has had to face the death of a loved one and begun then to doubt whether the "God" he or she has taken for granted so far is really worth heeding any more. Mack's questions are typical of anyone who has faced such doubts when life's events seem to indicate a world where evil can so easily dominate, leaving no alternative but despair.

But when Mack receives a mysterious letter in the mail, his life begins to change, and events start to move inexorably towards a new and different resolution of the question, "Is there a God who truly cares for humanity?" For many sceptics of the existence of a spiritual world the events Mack experiences may be unconvincing, but as he is slowly led through his own scepticism a new and more acceptable pathway is revealed to him of a loving deity, but certainly not the wishy-washy bleeding heart liberal kind that many would expect.

It is possible that many who have had personal crises of tragedy and faith as Mack did, may find this book to be some help in understanding and perhaps resolving them. It is not however a panacea for religious scepticism, but it may point to a reasonable route for some who are perplexed with the evil in the world and why it can still happen under the control of a benevolent and loving God.

The novel is very readable and most readers will relate easily to Mack in his emotional anguish. It may even inspire some of those with serious faith issues, but of course faith is belief, so there can be no guarantee that everyone's doubts will be resolved. And if you are one of those who does not claim to be a religious believer at all, you may find the book helping you to understand a little better those who do. Give it a try anyway: you may still find yourself, as St Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13, v12, seeing "through a glass, darkly", but perhaps a bit less darkly than before.

SLH

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAVING MONEY ON BACKS OF CANADA'S WAR VETERANS

Canadian Veterans of all military service this country has provided in foreign operations have once more been short-changed by the Government. A total of nine offices that serve the needs of Veterans all across Canada, including Corner Brook, have been closed as of Friday 2014 February 01, a move which has upset many of our men and women who served faithfully overseas in several wars and peace-keeping efforts. And the most pathetic aspect of this move to save money by Conservative Minister of Veterans' Affairs Julian Fantino is that the savings thus achieved are so minimal in comparison with other government expenditures that one must conclude that it was not worth doing.

Many of the Vets are disabled, many are seniors, and many live so far from the offices they must now use that they will be forced to travel long distances at considerable expense. Vets in the Corner Brook area, for example, must now make a trip to St John's, or make a long distance phone call if they need to consult with government officials over problems they may have with their pensions or other services vital to their needs.

The Government claims that services will actually improve; but how often is it true that when changes are made to save money, that improvements actually do happen? At the same time this Federal Government has spent \$100 million on advertising their [Economic Action Plan](#). Wouldn't the \$100 million plus used on this advertising campaign have gone far to support not only the offices being closed at this time, but even to enhance the medical and psychological services that many of our Vets are having difficulty receiving?

When one looks at the something like the EAP advertising, one is forced to question where the values of this Harper government truly lie. Our support should be fully behind those Vets who risked life, limb, and emotional and mental stability in the defence of their country. If you support our military Veterans, let it be known.

View this [video from CTV News](#).

The book reviewed at left is available in our Blowmedown Provincial Library and I understand that a good number of people have already borrowed it, finding it well worth reading and thought-provoking. Many have remarked that they may read it a second time to understand better the ideas it presents. I have had the same reaction to it myself, after thinking at first that "it was not my kind of book". But as I read further I became hooked, and have been thinking a lot about it every day since I finished it.

Winter Morning Scene, January 2014*Glendale United Church, Cape Breton Island, NS**Founded 1929*

This little church is situated close by the TransCanada Highway in Cape Breton Island, not far from Baddeck, the birthplace of Alexander Graham Bell. The building is not especially remarkable, but it always attracts my attention when I drive along that stretch of road and suddenly, there it appears ahead. This time I noticed particularly the magnificent blue sky and the wintry clouds in strong contrast with the dark evergreens around the church, and the deep snow, clean and white, not yet illuminated by the watery but brilliant January sun which would soon rise above the hill to the left. Cape Breton has many of these striking little churches, representing most of the major denominations. The Nova Scotians who built them often selected the most striking and beautiful settings, and even today the churches are usually well cared for, like this one.