

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

ISSUE 79 : 2014-04-04

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2014 April 04 Friday

Editor: Stuart L Harvey

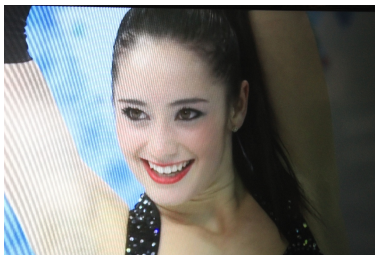
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Congratulations to KAETLYN OSMOND Olympic Figure Skater from Marystown, N&L



As the only Newfoundlander to participate in the Winter Olympic Games held in Sochi, Russia (although she moved to Ontario for more intensive coaching)

Kaetlyn put on a fantastic performance against tremendous competition and came away with a Silver Medal in the long program of the ladies' free skate portion of the team figure skating event.

Congratulations also to Kaetlyn's Team Mates and all the other Athletes who so magnificently represented Canada in various events at the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Come, See and Hear **THE SHARPCROPPERS**

*well-known Music Group
of Western Newfoundland*
as they perform at a Fundraising Concert in
ST JAMES CHURCH, LARK HARBOUR

at
7:00pm on Tuesday 22 April 2014

Admission: Adults \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door
Students \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door
Call Roxanne Sheppard, 681-2045, for tickets

Obituary

MARY ELIZABETH CHILDS 1923 April 25 – 2014 March 03



IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Mary Elizabeth Childs announced her passing at the age of 90 on Monday, March 3rd, 2014 at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital, Corner Brook. She will be remembered with fond and loving memories by her two daughters: Dolores Childs, Marlaine Vatcher; grandchildren: Averell Childs, Brad Childs, Greg Childs, Melina Penney, Sherry Vatcher, Fred Vatcher and families; brother Richard Brinston and numerous nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband Fred, parents Walter & Susannah Brinston; brothers: Ron, Gordon, Freeman, George, Kenneth; sisters: Jeannette, Elsie, Beatrice; sons-in-law: Clyde and Gerald.

The funeral service was held Saturday, March 8th at 2:00pm from St Michael and All Angels Church, Park Drive, with Reverend Canon Roberta Woodman officiating. Interment to be held at a later date. Friends may visit Fillatre's Funeral Home, 218 Curling Street, on Thursday during the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm. As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Canada, www.kidney.ca.

Our condolences to the family of Mary Childs

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2014 APRIL 2014

2 nd	Wed	Lent Midwk -	LH - 7:00pm, Service of Light JB - 7:00pm, Service of Light
6 th	Sun	Lent 5 -	LH - 11:00am, Baptism & HC JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
9 th	Wed	Lent Midwk -	LH - 7:00pm, Compline
13 th	Halm Sunday	-	LH - 11:00am, Holy Communion JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
14 th	Holy Week Mon	-	JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
15 th	Holy Week Tues	-	LH - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
16 th	Holy Week Wed	-	JB - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
17 th	Aaunday Thursday	-	LH - 7:00pm
18 th	Good Friday	-	LH - 2:00pm; JB - 10:30am
20 th	Sun	EASTER SUNDAY	LH - 7:00am, Easter Vigil; 7:00pm, HC JB - 10:30am, HC
22 nd	Tues	EARTH DAY	Sharecroppers Concert in Church Hall, LH - contact Roxanne Sheppard 681-2045 for tickets
27 th	Sun	Easter 2 -	LH - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer JB - 10:30am, Morning Prayer

2014 MAY 2014

11 th	Sun	Mothers' Day
19 th	Mon	Victoria Day

2014 JUNE 2014

15 th	Sun	Fathers' Day
21 st	Sat	Summer begins

2014 ADVANCE DATES 2014

July 1 st	Tues	Canada Day
Sept 1 st	Mon	Labour Day
Sept 22 nd	Mon	Fall begins
Sept 28 th	Sun	Confirmation at St James Church
Oct 13 th	Mon	Thanksgiving Day
Oct 24 th	Fri	United Nations Day
Nov 2 nd	Sun	Back to Standard Time - clocks back 1 hour
Nov 11 th	Tues	Remembrance Day
Dec 21 st	Sun	Winter begins

Christmas and New Year fall on Thursdays this year

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

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of local businesses and organisations. No charge.

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● ● ● *Please support local enterprises* ● ● ●

Several local businesses supported the BLOW•ME•DOWNER in the past when we published a "hard copy" version. Their inclusion here is a recognition of that support. Other local businesses will be included at their request.

Listed alphabetically :-

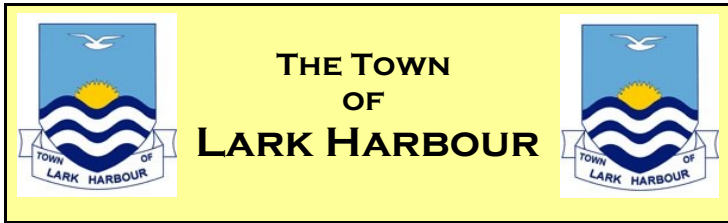
- **Byrne's Store, Main Street, York Harbour**
groceries, hardware, gas & diesel, souvenirs 681-2040
- **Captain Cook B&B & Cottages, York Harbour**
Email: info@captaincookbb.ca 681-2906; 1-877-681-2906
- **Curling ONE Stop Service Station, Corner Brook**
automotive repairs, servicing, fuel 785-2619
- **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
- **Lark Harbour Taxi, Jay Barry, Main St, Lark Harbour**
Lark Harbour - Corner Brook - elsewhere 681-2449
- **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

LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Patrons may have noticed that during the last few weeks Library hours have been different from normal. This was due to cutbacks and regulations affecting the Librarian's vacation schedule and availability of a substitute Librarian. However, as of 2014 April 01 opening hours will be back to the regular schedule, which is:

Mondays	2:00 - 5:00
Tuesdays	2:00 - 4:30 and 6:30 - 9:00
Wednesdays	2:00 - 4:00
Thursdays	2:00 - 4:30 and 6:30 - 9:00
Fridays	2:00 - 5:00

The Board regrets any inconvenience caused to patrons.



THE TOWN OF LARK HARBOUR

REPORT OF MEETING OF 2014 MARCH 18

Present: Mayor John Parsons
Councillors Pauline Sheppard, Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs
Clerks Peggy Sheppard (Recording Minutes), Joanna Pottle

Absent: Deputy Mayor-Jamie Park

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

- Minutes of Meeting of 2014 February 18 and special meeting of 2014 February 26 adopted.
- Water /Sewer Update: Council still waiting on funds for Status Report #5. No decision has been made for Phase 2 finding. Clerk directed to follow up on status of Phase 2 funding.
- Amalgamation - Review of letter from MHA Mr Eddie Joyce regarding incentives that other towns received from amalgamating.
- Harbour View Road - Motion to proceed with installation of telephone and internet services on Harbour View Road.
- Infilling Limits - Review of email from Mr John Howley, Manager of Planning & Allocation with Department of Environment and Conservation. Council is pleased to advise that our infilling limits have been extended to include Harbour View Road and Birchy Hill Road and Crown Lands will now be taking applications.
- Beacon Road - Council will write to Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding having the land signed over to the town.
- Bell Aliant Extended Service Charge - Review of letter from Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). Further update at our next monthly meeting.
- Support for new hospital - Review of letter from MHA Eddie Joyce regarding support of the new hospital.
- Murrins Hill - Clerk directed to contact tax payer regarding erection of sign on Murrins Hill.
- Sub-Dividing Land - Email was sent back to tax payer regarding subdividing land and the regulations to be followed.
- Approved financial report and accounts payable of \$30.98.
- Collections Update - Clerks gave an update on the collections process. Now only 10 delinquent tax payers. The Town is owed a balance of \$5,825.86 for 2013 and prior years.
- Approved write-offs in the amount of \$265.00.
- Approved all submitted building permits.
- Application to be sent for summer student grant program.
- Council reviewed insurance policy renewal and approved payment of regular premium.
- Motion made to pay Tax Review Commissioner.
- Reviewed correspondence on reduction of hours for Canada Post.
- Ice control material to be ordered for year 2014-2015.
- Agreed to defer filling another Acting Town Clerk position.

- Review of letter from HJM Consulting regarding interest in developing a Municipal Plan for the town. Further discussion to be held on this matter at a later date.
- Complaint received from resident regarding snow clearing on Joyce Road. Councillor Llewellyn Childs to follow up and report back to Council.
- Agreed to look into installation of eaves trough on the Town Hall in the spring. To be discussed at the next monthly meeting.
- Brief discussion on issue of lock freezing on outside door upstairs.
- Firettes will run weekly bingos for a 3 months trial period.
- Donation box to be put in place in aid of the Fire Dept. for anyone wanting affidavits signed.
- Mayor Parsons will attend a Community Partner Information Session in Corner Brook on April 02.
- Clerk to follow up with Municipal Affairs regarding curb stops and vacant land.
- All correspondence viewed with no follow up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

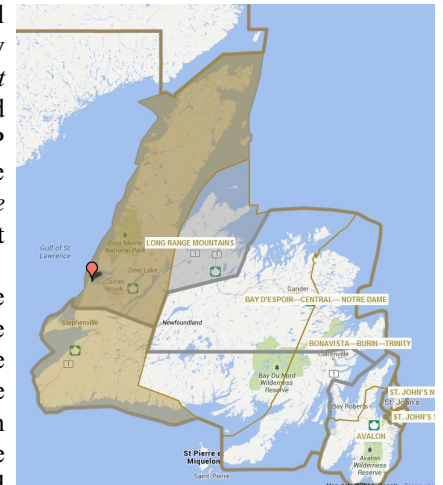
THE NEW FEDERAL ELECTORAL RIDING **LONG RANGE MOUNTAINS**

OUR Federal Electoral Riding, currently known as *Humber-St George's-Baie Verte* and represented by Liberal MP Gerry Byrne, will be renamed *Long Range Mountains* for the next election expected in 2015.

Along with this name change there are also some boundary changes. The new district will comprise about 87,000 population and will cover the entire Northern Peninsula and Hampden in White Bay, the entire West Coast including Port aux Basques, the South Coast eastward to include Francois, and all islands adjacent to those coasts. The Baie Verte region will become part of Bay d'Espoir-Central-Notre Dame riding. Long Range Mountains will be geographically the largest riding on the Island of Newfoundland, covering about a third of it. The Labrador riding is of course much bigger than any on the Island as it includes all of the Labrador Peninsula that is part of this Province.

Here is a complete list of all N&L Federal Ridings as they will be for the 2015 election:

Avalon;
Bay d'Espoir-Central-Notre Dame
Bonavista-Burin-Trinity
Labrador
Long Range Mountains
St John's North
St John's South-Mount Pearl.



Editorial

**EDWARD SNOWDEN
WHISTLEBLOWER EXTRAORDINAIRE**

ONE OF THE GREATEST DANGERS TO FREE SOCIETY today may well be the threat to democratic institutions posed by government espionage and collection of data about private individuals. If you have been following the events since the arrest of Edward Snowden, you will know that this man, who is now in political asylum in Russia, is still wanted by the USA and other governments around the world for his revelations about the espionage conducted by the (American) National Security Agency. The NSA has gathered private information about millions of people, Americans and other nationals, under the pretext of “national security”. We tend to think of it as mostly affecting the USA but most countries, including Canada, have their own agencies which spy on citizens and often share it with their allies.

This surveillance, or “spying”, is done through electronic monitoring of personal items such as bank accounts, credit cards, internet accounts, telephone usage, and other systems we rightly assume to be confidential, restricted against anyone to whom we have not given permission. It is possible these days to trace an individual on a round-the-world trip by monitoring the trail of purchases in a credit card account; similar trails also exist when a cell phone is used. Perhaps it doesn't matter ... but don't we as private citizens have a right to privacy in those transactions? If criminal activity is suspected, then police can file for court orders to obtain information. But as a regular thing, shouldn't most such information remain private?

The surveillance agencies claim that they monitor only the “metadata” associated with the electronic communication. The term *metadata* is not the content of your message: it is the heading information of your message, showing who sent it, to whom, and when. Think of it as the envelope of a snailmail letter which has the receiver's and sender's addresses and the postmark on it, but the letter itself is *inside* the envelope; or the information on your phone bill which shows who you called and when, but not what you talked about. However, what is to stop these spying agencies from gathering more than just metadata, especially when there are few if any regulations governing their actions? It is illegal to interfere with postal mail of another person, and so is phone tapping, but the spy agencies are free of such restrictions.

Add to the above problem the fact that, in Canada's case at least, most of our bank and credit card information is stored on servers in the USA over which Canada has no direct control. What is to prevent the US government from accessing the information in those databases? And then there are the many security breaches reported in recent years. You have to wonder if there is any privacy left anywhere.

Passwords, even complex ones that are changed regularly, do not provide reliable protection of your data. You may decide to use encryption to protect your data, but it has to be pretty powerful encryption to stymie government agencies or large corporations wanting to know your buying habits. Before you remove your credit card from your wallet, it may be scanned by someone standing near you in the checkout line, and you don't even know it until some purchase you never made shows up on your statement. Have you ever wondered why your computer is suddenly deluged with advertisements for vacations or ocean cruises? Perhaps it's because you emailed a friend saying you were considering such a trip, and that email was intercepted and the information provided to a commercial enterprise allowing it to target you. Personally, I would prefer to seek out such advertisements when I want to, rather than have them thrown at me

every time I log on to the Internet. Surely we as private individuals have enough difficulty protecting our privacy from ordinary criminals, without having to concern ourselves that our governments and big business are also getting our data and invading our privacy for their purposes.

It is about these conditions that Edward Snowden became concerned. Recognising the important role the Internet now plays in most lives, he knew that the lack of privacy needs to be addressed. If you are doing nothing illegal, why should you have to be subjected to review of your Internet purchases, your travel arrangements, who you talk to on your telephone, what hotel you stay in, what restaurant you eat at, or where you buy gas for your car? Ask a librarian for the names of those who have read a certain book from the library, and you will be told that such information is confidential. But such confidentiality has not kept pace with modern electronic communication systems. Much of the data we entrust to the electronic media is personal and sensitive, like health information, or our banking info and credit rating, and should not be public.

Edward Snowden has been vilified as public enemy number one by his own country and many others. His current exile from his native land is something over which all nations who claim to be champions of democracy should be concerned. But if he returned to the USA now he would have no more chance of a fair trial than did those charged as communist conspirators during the McCarthy era of the 1950s. **Yet he has probably done more to make the world aware of the dangerous erosion of personal privacy than has any other individual in recent history.**

We are inclined to believe that our privacy is sacrosanct, and there is nothing to worry about. “It can't happen here,” we argue, but such naïveté is no longer justifiable. Consider how in the 1930s democracy in Germany was undermined and perverted, resulting in a decade of dictatorship under Hitler; or in Italy under Mussolini; or in Spain under Franco. Even if a dictatorship is unlikely in Canada, we could be subjected to periods like the fifties McCarthyism era in the USA, or the Apartheid years in South Africa, or prejudice against ethnic, religious, or social minorities here. Treatment of native people and immigrants is not always something to be proud of. There are so many potential dangers facing democracy in this country, including small matters like robocalls or suppression of votes in elections, to the arrests of legitimate protesters at events like G8/G20 meetings, to native people arrested for opposing fracking near their communities, to the tasing incident in Vancouver airport seven years ago which resulted in the death of Robert Dziekanski, a lonely defenceless man from Poland who had come to Canada to visit his mother. Unlikely as it may seem, since these small incidents usually pass without serious damage to individuals or threats to our democracy, very occasionally they balloon into something much larger. For Robert Dziekanski it certainly did.

Never in Canada, you say? But are we so different from other countries? No matter how secure we believe our country to be, we can never afford to relax our vigilance over our important institutions, for it is just those weak moments which are most easily exploited. Hitler did it in the 1930s when he blamed the Jews for unemployment in Germany and achieved the passage of anti-Jewish legislation which eventually culminated in the nefarious Nazi concentration camps.

Never in Canada? ... well, let's defend our rights with vigilance, just to make sure.

Editorial - RUSSIAN ANNEXATION OF THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA OF THE UKRAINE

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED that the Russian army's takeover of the Crimean Peninsula is the most dangerous event so far of the present century. Certainly it is a matter of grave concern, as should be any takeover of the territory of a sovereign nation.

The Crimea does, of course, have a very confused history of ownership. Since ancient times it was claimed successively by the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, and by various tribes from eastern Asia during their westward expansions. More recently, it has been the subject of conflict, specifically in the Crimean War of 1853-56 between Russia and an alliance of several European powers including Britain and France. In World War Two the region was occupied by Nazi Germany. In 1954 it became part of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, under the umbrella of the USSR, and after the collapse of the USSR it became part of the independent Ukraine in an agreement of 1991. With such a long and confused history of claim and occupation, of wars and political takeovers, it is difficult to decide whose claim has the greatest historical precedent, and even further confusion is added by the mix of people of both Russian and Ukrainian language and cultural ties who live there.

A glance at the map shows Crimea to be a peninsula with a very narrow isthmus connecting it to the rest of Ukraine, like the Avalon Peninsula is connected to the rest of the Island of Newfoundland. However, unlike Newfoundland with thousands of miles of open ocean at its SE tip, the Crimean situation is also very close to Russian territory, separated only by the Strait of Kerch, about 4.5km/3mi wide at its narrowest, and never deeper than about 18m/60ft. This is less than half the distance between the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts at Point Amour. So it is hardly surprising that with the milder climate of the Black Sea region making travel easier, there has always been much contact between Crimea and Russia, and many assert that Russia's claim is as strong as Ukraine's despite the 1991 settlement.

It is therefore a very tricky situation to resolve, and the Western nations including USA, Britain, France, and Canada, may be deemed to have little right to interfere. Certainly some Western nations do not have a clean track record when it comes to interference in the internal matters of others, or even in some democratic issues within their own borders, so they must be prudent in their response to avoid charges of hypocrisy. They must also avoid the appearance of 'sabre rattling' which benefits no one, and President Putin does not seem to take it very seriously. He is fully aware that the West is reluctant to become involved in a conflict so far from home, especially after the stressful operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So what should be Canada's approach to the Russian annexation of Crimea? Economic sanctions mean very little, unless we can apply one on an item to have a noticeable effect on Russia. Given the comparative populations of our two countries, chances are that sanctions will hurt us more than them; although to support our allies, we may need to place sanctions on the same items as does the USA. Trying to take the lead, the Harper government seems to feel that berating the Russian action is the way to go, but having lost so much of our international credibility in recent years, that is unlikely to be very effective. Our influence through the United Nations is also minimal, given the Harper government's negative approach and lost influence there. Offering financial support to Ukraine might be considered, but again, with Ukraine's population of over 44 million (compare Canada's roughly 33 million), this might also have limited effect.

It would seem therefore that Canada's best option might be simply to support whatever our allies decide to do. This is unlikely to rock the boat; it may also strengthen the bond with our allies by adding to their effort, and be the best deployment of our severely limited means of intervention.

SL H

Editorial - N&L PC LEADERSHIP RACE ... HARDLY A RACE YET

Candidates in alphabetical order

BILL BARRY WAYNE BENNETT FRANK COLEMAN
All from Western Newfoundland

NOMINATIONS CLOSED on 2014 March 14, Friday, for the job of Leader of the Newfoundland & Labrador Progressive Conservative Party. Only three candidates have declared, and there's not much evidence of enthusiasm among the electorate. Not surprising, since Kathy Dunderdale's resignation from the Premiership and her seat as MHA for Virginia Waters hints that the PCs have reached a low that must be giving Danny Williams nightmares. Meanwhile, Tom Marshall has taken over and is doing a commendable job of picking up the pieces, though it must be disheartening.

Taking over as Leader at this point is also a challenge in the extreme for whoever is chosen as the new leader. He will automatically become Premier and will have to shore up the Party's popularity and create a base for winning the 2015 election, a pretty formidable task for anyone, especially if he does not have a seat in the House of Assembly. At \$350,000 a try, it's quite alarming too, which may partly explain why two candidates are millionaires!

Mr Barry is from Corner Brook and is well-known in the Bay of Islands, across the Province, and beyond. He may be rather unpopular among fishery workers who lost jobs when their local fish plant closed as did ours in Lark Harbour some years back, putting 60 or more men and women out of work they had counted on for years. Mr Barry may know the fishing industry well, a positive attribute, but is he going to change his spots and view it a bit more from the angle of the workers rather than from that of a plant owner? Moreover, he has no political experience, although that may not be a disadvantage if he can build an appeal to voters: not an easy task in his situation.

Mr Bennett is a member of Howley Town Council and is from Western Newfoundland, although like Mr Barry his name is not well-known in political circles. In 2008 he was leader of the Newfoundland and Labrador First Party and ran as their candidate in the Federal election, but finished fourth. He has presumably severed any ties with his old affiliation with the NL First Party, a necessary condition if he is to appear fully credible to lead the PC party.

Mr Coleman, yet another West Coast man, is a prominent businessman with a good reputation through his grocery stores. He probably has the best position of the three candidates, but he has not been a very public figure and has had no political involvement. That said, one hears no negative comments about him either, and his business experience may be viewed as a strong asset in his bid for the Leadership.

In the meantime, we must wait and see how each man performs as the race speeds up, if it ever does, and if the summer doldrums don't catch everyone first. Maybe next month things may look a bit different.

SL H

CANADA POST
FURTHER REDUCTIONS FOR RURAL CANADA
INCLUDING THE BAY OF ISLANDS

LETTER RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) is the bargaining agent that represents over 8000 employees of Canada Post Corporation who work in rural Post Offices.

In January 2014 Canada Post reduced hours of postal service to 26 rural communities by closing on Saturdays and implementing a later opening and earlier closing times Monday through Friday. On February 17, 2014 CPAA was notified of the Corporation's proposal to reduce postal service in an additional 24 rural post offices. That is 50 rural post offices in Newfoundland Labrador affected by Canada Post's plan to reduce postal service in rural communities. This action is also threatening the livelihood of the postmasters in those communities and starting a process to close rural post offices.

**CANADA POST CHARGES ON WITH
 FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN RURAL N&L**

January, 2014, Canada Post reduced the hours of postal service to 26 rural communities serviced by Group Post Offices. They are: Chapel Arm, Coley's Point South, Little Catalina, Baine Harbour, Bellevue, Brownsdale, Bunyan's Cove, Calvert, Charlottetown, Harbour Mille, Rushoon, St. Shotts, Millertown, Benton, Gander Bay South, Indian Bay, Pound Cove, Frenchman's Cove, Bellburns, Birchy Head, Eddie's Cove, Eddie's Cove West, Green Island Cove, River of Ponds, Pilley's Island and Seldom Come By.

On February 17, 2014 CPAA was notified that Canada Post is proposing to reduce ¼ of the hours of postal service in an additional 24 communities. They are: Tors Cove, Lower Island Cove, Long Harbour, Fox Harbour, Fermeuse, Cavendish, Blaketown, Aguathuna, Barchois Brook, Black Tickle, Burns Cove, Greenspond, Grey River, Howley, King's Cove, **Lark Harbour**, Lodge Bay, Melrose, Nippers Harbour, Plate Cove West, Port Hope Simpson, Postville, Red Harbour, and **York Harbour**. *Consultation is set for the end of March. That's 50 rural communities with reduced postal service in Newfoundland Labrador so far in 2014.* We are told that there are more reductions to come; therefore we will most likely see the majority, if not all rural post offices affected in 2014. People of rural Newfoundland Labrador are objecting to those reductions; however The Canada Post Corporation is refusing to listen. Our public postal service is being diminished bit by bit until the federally operated post office disappears from rural Canada.

Back in the 90's Canada Post was very proud of the fact that they could reach every household across Canada. The small Group post office was never a big generator of revenue, as it was never credited with the revenue received from incoming mail. Canada Post made their money on each item long before it reached its destination in that rural post office. The rural post office is part of the large infrastructure that gave Canada Post that competitive advantage over other delivery companies. This infrastructure was what made Canada Post.

LOSS OF MILLIONS???

In a report by the Conference Board of Canada, paid for by Canada Post, it states that Canada Post would lose \$1 Billion in 2020. The Conference Board based the 2020 estimate on the fact that CPC would lose \$250 million in 2012. The fact is Canada Post actually made \$94 million in 2012. The Report neglects to mention that

Canada Post had an increase of over ½ billion parcels in 2013. Is

the Conference Board making predictions to achieve a goal to dismantle our postal service?

It is a misconception that Canada Post is funded by tax payers. **It is quite the opposite.** Canada Post has returned 41 billion to the Federal Government over the last decade in the form of dividends and corporate taxes. This is in spite of the fact that The Canada Post Act only requires financial self-sufficiency, not profitability.

There is a review of Canada Post scheduled for this year, so why would Canada Post pay for the Conference Board of Canada to conduct one? What was the rush? Why would Canada Post pay the Conference Board to conduct a review where only an invited few was able to give input? Our Canadian postal service is a public service; therefore the public should weigh in on the provisions of this service, as they did when the Mandate Review was conducted in 1996

**WHY IS CPC SO SCARED ABOUT
 PUTTING THIS OUT TO CANADIANS?
 WHY NOT ASK ALL CANADIANS WHAT THEY WANT?**

The majority of postmasters in Group post offices, which are the ones servicing most of rural Canada, provide the premises for the post office. With reduced wages as a result of the cuts, most postmasters are in a financial hardship because the cost of providing the premises for the post office does not diminish. The postmaster pays for all cost including light, heat, business insurance, business taxes, snow clearing etc.... Whether the post office is opened 7 hours a day or 5 hours a day, the cost to the postmaster does not change. Postmasters have already told us that they are looking at early retirement and two have given their notice. In the case of postmaster provided premises, Canada Post is getting something for nothing but they are still reducing the service, which tells me that the reduction is not about cost. It is about reducing the service to the points that the public will get fed up with the inconvenient service and the position will be too unattractive for a prospective employee. If there is no postmaster, there is no post office. This is how Canada Post is circumventing the Postal Service Charter and the Moratorium.

In the majority of rural communities there is no high speed internet and no Bank. The people solely depend on the post office and a reduction in postal service will devastate these communities. With no bank, the post office still delivers cheques and residents use the post office to pay bills by money order or money gram.

The residents of each community are objecting to this downgrade of service by signing petitions and sending postcards to their MP, with a request that their voice be heard in the House of Commons. Canada Post is arrogant in their consultations in that it is not so much consultation as a meeting where Canada Post is telling us what they are going to do. They are more concerned with higher profits than they are about providing service. This government may very well fall in the next round of elections, but it may be too late to save our postal service.

For further comments please contact:

Shari Porter, Director, CPAA,

P.O. Box 104, Brigus, NL, A0A 1K0

Phone 528-4795 or email, shariporter@hotmail.com

Editor's Note

Unfortunately this announcement from CUPW, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers was not received by the BMD until after the publication of our extra issue for 2014 February. Even then it may have been too late to affect any changes. However readers may be interested in some of the details behind Canada Post's actions and CUPW's counter arguments.