

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

ISSUE 80 : 2014-05-02

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2014 May 02 Friday

Editor: Stuart L Harvey

P.O. Box 17, Lark Harbour, NL, Canada, A0L 1H0

Tel: 709-681-2256

Email: blowmedowner@gmail.com

Web Page: www.blowmedowner.webs.com

SHARECROPPERS SPRING CONCERT AT ST JAMES CHURCH



ON TUESDAY 2014 APRIL 22ND the congregation of St James Church, Lark Harbour, hosted a concert by the West Coast group *The Sharecroppers*, attended on a beautiful spring evening by over a hundred people of all ages. Guy Romaine, Ed Humber, and Ed's son Robert entertained, and this was Robert's first public performance, replacing Mike Madigan who was unable to be present.

The group sang a large number of songs from their extensive repertoire of songs, mostly of their own creation. The music was interspersed with humorous and sometimes moving anecdotes from the group's twenty-six years of working together.

The audience plainly enjoyed the show with frequent applause and laughter, and the performance was judged thoroughly excellent by all who attended.

Proceeds of the concert were shared between *The Sharecroppers* and St James Church, and a 50-50 draw was also held.



L-R in all pictures: Robert Humber, Guy Romaine, Ed Humber.
Please note: The blue cast on the musicians is due to the blue stage lights at each side.

All pictures © 2014 The **BLOW·ME·DOWNER**.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2014	MAY	2014
4 th	<i>Sun</i> Easter 3 - 11:00am - St James, Morning Prayer 7:00pm - St Ambrose, JB, Holy Communion	
11 th	<i>Sun</i> Easter 4 - Mothers' Day - 11:00am, St James, HC - 7:00pm, St Ambrose, HC If your Mother has died, you are invited to bring along a White Rose to be placed on the Bible in her memory. This will be done during services at both churches.	
16 th -19 th	Diocesan Cursillo Weekend at Killdevil Camp Contact George (681-2020) or Rev Nelson (681-2021) for details	
18 th	<i>Sun</i> Easter 5 - 7:00pm - St James, Holy Communion 10:30am - St Ambrose, Holy Communion	
19 th	Mon Victoria Day	
23 rd	Fri Cleanup Day, Lark Harbour 6:30pm - St James School Graduation Church Service	
25 th	<i>Sun</i> Easter 6 - 7:00pm - St James, Memorial Hymn Sing 10:30am - St Ambrose, Holy Communion	
26 th	Mon Cleanup Day, York Harbour	

2014	JUNE	2014
	<i>Schedule of Church Services for June and July not yet available.</i>	
15 th	<i>Sun</i> Fathers' Day	
21 st	Sat Summer begins	

2014	JULY	2014
1 st	Tues Canada Day	
20 th	<i>Sun</i> 2:30pm, Cemetery Memorial Service, John's Beach	
27 th	<i>Sun</i> 2:00pm, Cemetery Memorial Service, Lark Harbour 3:15pm, Cemetery Memorial Service, York Harbour	

2014	ADVANCE DATES	2014
Aug 18 th	Mon Bev Hanna-Jones Bus Tour in Lark Harbour	
Sept 1 st	Mon Labour Day	
Sept 22 nd	Mon Fall begins	
Sept 28 th	<i>Sun</i> Confirmation at St James Church	
Oct 13 th	Mon Thanksgiving Day	
Oct 24 th	Fri United Nations Day	
Nov 2 nd	<i>Sun</i> Back to Standard Time - clocks back 1 hour	
Nov 11 th	Tues Remembrance Day	
Dec 21 st	<i>Sun</i> Winter begins	

**Christmas Day and New Year's Day
both 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 date for best inclusion.*
Late submissions may be included in the next issue.

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 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

PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Opening hours are:

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

A Thought on Cats vs Dogs

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods.
 Cats have never forgotten this."

—Anonymous

Obituary

JUDITH KAREN CHILDS

1955 September 07 - 2014 March 29

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Judith Childs announced her passing at Western Memorial Regional Hospital on Saturday March 29, 2014, at the age of 58 years. She left to mourn with fond and loving memories her husband of 39 years, Howard; daughters: Kimberly (Derm) Gulliver and Kelly (Michael) Childs; son Michael (Cindy); grand-daughter Hannah



Jane; her faithful furry companion Oscar; sister Lorraine Penny; brothers and sisters-in-law: Frank Carberry, Norman (Lottie) Childs, Jean (Lawrence) Sheppard, Alice (Cecil) Sheppard, Thelma (Wilson) Sheppard, Elizabeth (Ralph) Lovell, Elsie (Calvin) Gilbert, Rhodena (Max) Giles, Clarence (Joan) Childs, Thomas (Sharon) Childs, Gertrude Roberts, John (Lisa) Childs, Jane (Calvin) Hamlyn, Max (Marjorie) Childs, Terry (Tracey) Childs, Nelson (Donna) Childs, as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by parents Harold and Netta Snow; in-laws Thomas and Melina Childs; sister Ruby Carberry; brothers Roy Snow and Norman Snow; sister-in-law Charlotte Snow and brother-in-law Terrance Roberts.

Friends visited St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, on Monday March 31, 2014 between the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm, from where the Funeral Service took place on Tuesday April 01 at 2pm with Reverend Nelson Chatman officiating. In keeping with Judith's wishes cremation followed with interment taking place at a later date. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the York Harbour & Lark Harbour Fire Department. The family guest book could be signed or a memorial donation made by visiting www.country-haven.ca.

Obituary

CLYDE WOOLRICH HOUSE

1934 November 04 - 2014 April 12

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of Clyde House announced his sudden passing on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Health Science Centre, St. John's, NL, in his 79th year. Left to mourn were his wife of 57 years Theresa (née: La Croix); son Jeffrey House, St John's; sisters: Margaret Chesnowitz, Florida, Helen Stead, Gander, Olive Osmond (Ralph), Hampton; brothers: Wilfred House, Lionel House, Springdale, Terry House, Jackson's Arm, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. He was predeceased by his parents Clyde & Myra (née: Eisen) House, sister Meta Brown and brother Roger House. Friends visited St James Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Monday from 2-4 & 7-9pm, and Tuesday from 2-4pm. The funeral service followed on Wednesday, April 16 at 2:00pm, with Reverend Nelson Chatman officiating with the interment at the church cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or memorial donations made to St James Anglican Church. The family guest book could be signed by visiting our website www.fillatre.ca.

Obituary

SUSANNA E PENNELL

1924 - 2014

IT WAS WITH SADNESS and fond memories that the family of the late Susanna Pennell informed those who knew her of her passing on the 24th of April, 2014 at the age of 90. She was the last surviving member of the family of Julia Barnes and husband, William Hynes.



Susanna was born on Wood's Island and moved to Lark Harbour during resettlement and lived happily there with her late husband Jim for many years. She was survived by a large number of nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, James Pennell, her brother, William and his wife Dorothy, her sister, Angelina Brown, her husband Herbert, and her brother, John Sam Pennell and his wife Elizabeth. Friends and family may visit Fillatre's Funeral Home, 218 Curling Street, Friday, 2-4 and 7-9pm. and St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour on Saturday from 10am to noon, from where the funeral service took place at 2:00pm, Rev Nelson Chatman officiating, with interment to follow in the Anglican Cemetery, Lark Harbour. Donations were accepted and could be made to St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour in her honour.

The family of the late Susanna Pennell would like to thank the people who helped her during her lifetime. She lived a quiet life in Little Port surrounded by many relatives and friends who knew her as Aunt Susie. The people of Little Port and Lark Harbour surrounded both of them with friendship and the love of a small community and looked after her for many years after her husband passed away.

Thank you to the people of Little Port and Lark Harbour for your every gesture of kindness with a special Thank You to Paul and Jennifer Pennell, Sheila and the late Lloyd Jones, Joe and Margaret Hynes and William and Julia Youden. To the people of the Long Term Care Unit of Western Memorial Hospital, a special Thank You for your wonderful care to make her last years so comfortable. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to www.country-haven.ca.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Judith, Clyde and Susanna in this time of sadness at the loss of their loved ones.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Town Clean-up Days this year are:

Lark Harbour - Friday May 23rd

York Harbour - Monday May 26th

SOME EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Click on [underlined BLUE](#) hyperlinks for more info

NORTHERN SHRIMP QUOTA CUTS

DFO has recently announced [deep and far-reaching cuts in the quotas](#) allowed to inshore shrimp fishers in Eastern Canada. These cuts will severely affect the incomes of several hundred individual shrimp harvesters in Newfoundland & Labrador and there will be serious accompanying effects in the numerous other businesses—not only to the suppliers who service the industry itself, but also to retailers and every other business in the areas where those shrimp fishers live. In fact, the cuts mean a major reduction to every employer in the region. While the shrimp harvesters themselves will be the most affected, everyone will be indirectly affected, and the unavailability of other fish species which could help to alleviate the difficulties of local fish harvesters will further prolong the effects of the reduced quotas.

Is this one more destructive blow to the continued quality of life in outpost Newfoundland and Labrador?

MORE CUTBACKS TO CBC

On 2014 April 10, Thursday, [new cuts of \\$130 million affecting 657 jobs and programming across Canada were announced by the CBC](#), some of which will affect this Province. Recent reductions in government funding announced only months earlier include the closing of the Grand Falls CBC station, now served through Gander. Now some local programs will be produced regionally, from Halifax, and some sports and music programs, will stop. CBC Radio listeners will be aware of more repeats of programs, often with the same items rebroadcast three or four times over a few days.

A few decades ago Corner Brook used to have its own television studio, its own evening news and weather forecasting (remember Prowse Jerrett?) and its own daytime radio programming, all of which are now gone, never to return. Even some kids' shows were produced locally. All that remains in Corner Brook now is the Morning Show and some local reporting, just a shadow of what used to be here.

These new cuts are bound to affect the service on our West Coast, and there may be more in future. There is even talk of privatising the CBC. Such moves have already gone far to destroy CBC's reputation as one of the best news services in the world, and blame for most of this destruction may be laid at the doors of the Harper Federal Government. Meanwhile the CBC continues to be downgraded as it becomes more dependent on advertising and grows more like the American radio and tv networks. Sadly, public broadcasting may soon be almost a thing of the past in Canada, unless on the pattern of the American PBS, which may not work too well due to our relatively small and scattered population.

When it began, the CBC was mandated as one more tool to help bring the people of this huge country together, and for many years it did that with great success. The latest cuts will make this task more difficult, and we may expect to find more and more repeats of old programs; only this week I have heard the same radio program aired three times. Atlantic Canada, and rural areas in general with their constantly declining populations, are likely to be the main victims of this downgrading. Unfortunately, some of our politicians have a determined and obvious lack of concern for national unity. CBC therefore becomes even more important as time passes.

THE FADING OF NEWFOUNDLAND'S NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

After months of hard work by leader Lorraine Michaels to repair the damage done last fall when four of her caucus members publicly and clumsily demanded her resignation as leader during her absence from the Province, one has to admire Ms Michaels' courage. Naturally, when NDP voters saw this discord within the Party, many shifted their allegiance elsewhere, mostly to the Liberals, and as a result the fortunes of the NDP are still in eclipse, facing a painful and slow recovery. Six months later the voters showed their displeasure with both [the damaged NDP](#) and the tired PC government which has barely the energy to stage an event to choose a new leader. The upshot was that in Virginia Waters voters yielded a marginal Liberal victory in a traditionally true blue riding.

A LIBERAL RESURGENCE

In [Québec the Liberal Party recently achieved a comfortable majority over the Parti Québécois](#), heralding renewed Liberal fortunes in that province, followed closely with a [Liberal resurgence here in the byelection in Virginia Waters](#), the riding of former Premier Kathy Dunderdale. This riding was hotly contested by PC candidate Kevin Breen with Danny Williams' support, but was won with a small margin of 40 votes by Liberal Cathy Bennett. Events such as these may well be hints of change in the national political climate, perhaps even the precursors of new, more humane and visionary styles of government in Canada's future.

THE LATE JIM FLAHERTY 1949 - 2014

The passing in Ottawa on 2014 April 10 of recently retired Jim Flaherty at the relatively young age of 64 and after a long reign as Federal Minister of Finance, took everyone by surprise. It was known that Mr Flaherty had endured serious health problems for some time before he resigned from the government, but his sudden death was unexpected.

Mr Flaherty has been widely acclaimed as a decent and outstanding man, a gentleman in the sea of ungentlemanly Ottawa politics, something which might not be said of too many of his Parliamentary colleagues. [However he is unlikely to be remembered as a "great" finance minister](#). Many Canadians were concerned by his reluctance to break his resolve to bring Canada back to a balanced budget after his somewhat profligate depletion of the monetary reserves left by the previous Liberal government and his rather pointless reduction of the GST by 2 percent, as well as his reluctance to apply supportive measures in 2008 when the national economy was seriously at risk. For many Canadians his decisions have labelled him as too conservative in his politics. But even so, we must respect his honesty and determination. Any man's passing diminishes us, no matter for whom the bell tolls, be he prince, pauper, or politician.

In their sudden bereavement we offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the late James Flaherty, MP.

Another Thought on Cats vs Dogs

"You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."
- Jeff Valdez



LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



After a long cold winter, perhaps we will all feel like getting out of our houses and having a look around the community—maybe taking a run to the library. Things have been a little disorganised there, as Lesley was forced to make some unexpected closures; but we are now back on the regular winter hours. No return of the rotating collections, I am afraid, but we do still receive some new books for the local collection; some are mentioned below. The first book is from the Newfoundland Collection, and was written by a man from Corner Brook who was known to some of our own young people who spent some time with the 2nd Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

1. *A Soldier's Tale: A Newfoundland Soldier in Afghanistan* Jamie MacWhirter
2. *Bones of the Lost* Kathy Reichs
Newfoundland Collection
3. *The Gale of 1929; A True Story of Adventure on the High Seas* Gary Collins
4. *The Pipeline and the Paradigm* Samuel Avery
(This book was purchased by librarian Sandy Chilcote; it may be placed in the Corner Brook collection, where it can be accessed.)

1. *A Soldier's Tale* gives us a very informative look into the life led by our Canadian soldiers who served in Afghanistan. Mr MacWhirter was actually living in Edmonton when he signed up for Afghanistan, but his parents still lived in the Corner Brook area, and some of his fondest memories involved time spent at his father's cabin in the woods. His description of his experiences during the six months of his tour of duty is quite detailed, and the reader will have a clear picture of the effects on an innocent young Canadian soldier. Jamie seems to have arrived with a real desire to do his duty in serving his country; and also with a wish to help the Afghan people whom he saw as victims of a cruel government and its agents. He was actually looking forward to his first real military engagement. As time goes on, he finds that activities on the base are very organised, with security an important priority. As a trucker, each day he is assigned to various duties of transporting food and fuel supplies, and sometimes accompanying troops which will be fighting the Taliban. He finds that actual conflict is not as glorious as he had imagined. He starts to have nightmares and not getting enough sleep. Then he finds that he is no longer able to think of the Afghan people as victims, and that he is always expecting that even those which are supposed to be "secure" will suddenly turn out to be carrying a bomb or will otherwise try to hurt him. All of this time he is reluctant to speak to his parents or his girl friend of what is happening to him because he knows they would worry. By the time he finally comes back to Canada, he is very confused and feels so much anger that he is not able to speak civilly to his family and friends. The military is aware of his inability to function and he has regular sessions with psychiatrists for post traumatic stress disorder; but he seems to find the sessions not only don't help, they make matters worse. He has married his girl friend, but his temper is driving her away. We can only hope that his life does get straightened out, and that all the other veterans who suffer from PTSD will find ways to cope.

2. *Bones of the Lost* is another adventure of forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan—but covering rather different ground. This time

we do learn of a couple cases in North Carolina, but the big event takes her to: Afghanistan! A very different experience from that of poor Jamie. It is clearly the same place, but as the big forensic expert from the States she is treated more gently. She must determine whether two Afghan men were shot in the back, or in the front when they rushed the soldier involved, as he claims. Tempe does a professional job, but goes home with strong impressions of the soldiers she has met. As you might guess, some of these impressions prove relevant to her cases at home. It is an exciting read, with an extra educational component helping us to know why our young soldiers might have mental consequences from their tour of Afghanistan.

3. *The Gale of 1929* tells the story of 11 sailing ships which all left St John's harbour on the same day in November 1929, and all encountered the same violent storm afterward. They were all trying to go north to their homes, many carrying supplies for friends and family. Unfortunately, the worst winds of the storm came from the northwest, forcing the schooners in the wrong direction. After several days of this terrible wind, all were in serious trouble. All the captains were very capable, managing to keep their ships afloat, but making no progress homewards. Finally most were rescued by large steel ships, either by being taken on board or towed back to land. At least six of the schooners sank, with great heroism shown by all concerned. Some had women and children aboard, and one of the captains lost his son. He had dreamed of losing a crew member, but he had not seen the face of the drowning man; an unpleasant shock. The ships being towed did not all make it home. One wound up in Tobermory, Scotland, across the Atlantic. And one little ship, the *Jennie Florence*, the luckiest of all, was towed right back to St. John's harbour, only 24 hours after she had left. The story has many exciting moments, but we also get pictures of the women waiting at home, worrying and afraid that their husbands will never come home again. As we know, the sea cannot be trusted, but there is not much choice for those who depend on fish for a living. Mr. Collins plainly knows what he is talking about.

4. *The Pipeline and the Paradigm* is, as you might guess, anti-pipeline. The word *paradigm*, meaning "model" or "pattern" is used by Mr Avery to refer to the way one looks at the world.. He speaks of the *ecologic* paradigm as differentiated from the *economic* paradigm. Most of us fall into one of these classes; and, unfortunately, we are not able to see things as they would be seen by those in the other class. Most of us have grown up in the economic paradigm, and we can't credit the idea that we—humanity—have actually caused a change in the global climate which will mean the end of civilisation if it continues. We talk about "environmental fanatics" with crazy ideas about closing down the tar sands without even considering the financial disaster it would be for Alberta—and Canada. Resources are an asset which will make our country wealthy enough to raise our international profile: a "have" nation. Mr Avery has plainly landed firmly in the ecologic paradigm. His book tells something of his own progression in that direction, but he also recounts the stories of many of the people whom he met at various protests, mostly against the XL pipeline, but also the objections of indigenous people against projects which offend their ideas of the earth as a sacred responsibility. He does actually travel the entire route of the pipeline and talks to people all along the way. We, the readers, do get a perhaps fuller picture of the situation, and we may even feel ourselves starting to see the world from the standpoint of the ecologic paradigm.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP

LAST MONTH IT LOOKED AS IF the Progressive Conservatives of Newfoundland & Labrador would be having a real convention to decide which of the three nominees, Bill Barry, Wayne Bennett, or Frank Coleman, would be their new leader. Since then, Mr Bennett's candidature was deemed unacceptable by the party executive, and on 2014 April 17, Thursday, Mr Barry announced his withdrawal, hinting that it was because of lack of support within the party.

This leaves the party in the somewhat awkward position of having to accept Mr Coleman as leader *by acclamation*, without a vote of confirmation. While Mr Coleman is generally judged to be a man of high competency and integrity who is likely to make an excellent leader, the lack of a publicly visible selection process is unfortunate since he is not well-known around the Province. As well as missing the news coverage and hype that accompanies a leadership convention, Mr Coleman is also missing a valuable opportunity to explain his policies to the Province, and the personal justification of being visibly chosen by vote of a majority of party members and not simply by default. In no way does this reduce his capabilities, but it places added pressure on him as he assumes the demanding role of Premier with minimal experience in politics. As yet he has no seat in the House of Assembly, and he faces a formidable task as he leads his government into the General Election of 2015.

It is true that Mr Coleman has strong support from the PC caucus, but a leader must lead positively, in his own right and not merely by default when he assumes his place before the electorate. Picking up the reins of a party which has suffered so much adverse public criticism in the last year or two will be difficult despite Premier Tom Marshall's sterling leadership since Premier Dunderdale's resignation. He should therefore receive confirmation in a by-election before he assumes the role of Premier

An issue has arisen over Mr Coleman's support of Right-to-Life principles. Questioned about this amid remarks that a Premier should stay away from such issues which are normally considered to be above party politics, Mr Coleman has admitted publicly that although he personally supports Right-to-Life principles, he has no intention of moving to change established provincial legislation in that area. However many still question this.

Another issue arose last weekend over Humber Valley Paving, a company of which Mr Coleman was CEO until, as he states, he divested himself of it. It has been reported that the company owes considerable sums of money to various Labrador companies, but nothing illegal has appeared. However Mr Coleman may find himself being questioned about the matter, and it could easily become a stumbling block as he takes over the Premiership.

The Progressive Conservative party executive reportedly intends to hold an event to confirm Mr Coleman's leadership, thus allowing him to introduce himself to the electorate. For the sake of the Province let us hope the new Premier will succeed, since failure on his part would be detrimental to everyone, no matter which party or political stripe we ourselves favour.

The future of Newfoundland & Labrador with its many demands, including the enormous responsibility of steering the development of the huge Muskrat Falls Project, requires a steady and reliable hand at the helm. We wish Mr Coleman success in his new role. SLH

Editorial

PIPELINE APPLICATION BY KINDER MORGAN TO NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD OF CANADA says

“Marine [oil] spills can have both positive and negative effects”

NEWS BROKE ON WEDNESDAY 2014 April 30 that Kinder Morgan, an oil pipeline company operating in British Columbia, filed in December a [proposal with the National Energy Board of Canada](#) seeking permission to triple the size of its pipeline between Alberta and Burnaby, British Columbia.

The proposal itself is no surprise. What is surprising is this grotesque statement contained in the proposal: *“Marine spills can have both positive and negative effects on local and regional economies, both in the short- and long-term. Spill response and cleanup creates business and employment opportunities for affected communities, regions, and cleanup service providers.”*

Oil companies are known for their brash efforts to secure authorisation for their projects, but this particular one seems to take the prize for its perversion of the facts.

While it is true that oil spills really do create jobs for those employed to clean up oil messes, accidents on the highways create jobs for doctors, nurses, police, and other emergency responders, but is that a way to justify a new highway? During two World Wars men were conscripted to fight, resulting in severe shortage of workers in every area of the economy. As a solution, women were recruited into the work force in unprecedented numbers to keep essential industries operating, and the lives of many were improved by what became a far-reaching social change. In Newfoundland & Labrador, perhaps the most prosperous period of the country's history occurred because of WW2. It worked in the 1930s for Hitler. So should we now promote wars to solve unemployment?

If this is the kind of attitude that prevails in the oil industry, surely we do not want them here in our Province. The statement by Kinder Morgan demonstrates a lack of awareness of the risks and dangers of oil spills. A company using such arguments does not deserve serious consideration from anyone, least of all from a government agency entrusted with supervision of a major industry. SLH

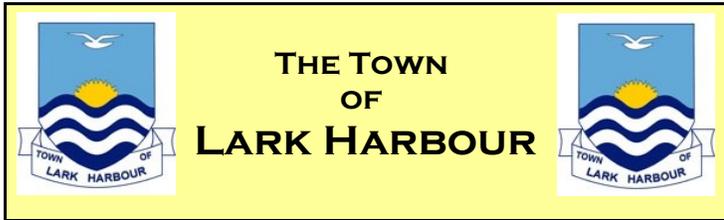
References:

1. [Report by Press Progress on Kinder Morgan's application](#) quotes an entire paragraph from the company's application.

2. [Sierra Club's response to Kinder Morgan's application](#) in the journal *24hoursVancouver*.

3. [Article in the Vancouver Sun](#)

[Press Progress](#), a weekly emailed newsletter, is a project of the Broadbent Institute. Its stated aim is *“Advancing progressive solutions for Canada with hard-hitting news and analysis.”* More information and free sign-up for the newsletter may be found at: <http://www.pressprogress.ca/en/about-press-progress#.dpuf>



REPORT OF MEETING OF 2014 APRIL 15

Present: Mayor John Parsons; Deputy Mayor Jamie Park
 Councillors: Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs
 Clerks: Joanna Pottle (Recording), Peggy Sheppard
Absent: Councillor Pauline Sheppard

Meeting commenced at 7:00pm.

- Approved minutes of 2014 Mar 18 and April 3.
- Water & Sewer Update: Council still waiting on funds for Status Report #5. No word on Phase 2 funding. Hoping to hear something within the next two weeks. Mayor John to follow up with MHA Eddie Joyce.
- Amalgamation: Clerk directed to contact Municipal Affairs regarding meeting with Minister Steve Kent.
- Harbour View Road: Clerk in contact with Bell Aliant. Phone and internet services should be installed on Harbour View Road within the next two weeks.
- Beacon Road/Tower: Clerk directed to follow up on Beacon Road/Tower if no word received within the next week.
- Bell Aliant Extended Service Charge: Review of letter from Bell Aliant. All agreed to look further into having the charge removed and report back to the next meeting.
- Canada Post: Review of letter from Hon Gerry Byrne, MP, and Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA). The petitions have been sent and presented by Mr Byrne. Canada Post hours will be reduced as of 2014 April 27.
- Financial Report approved, with accounts payable of \$248,963.98.
- Clerks reported that there are now only 10 delinquent tax payers owing a balance of \$5,325.02 for 2013 and prior years. Clerk directed to follow up with Credit Recovery Ltd re tax payer outstanding taxes.
- No Crown Land Application approvals to date. Further information to be collected from Crown Land on both new ByRoads (Harbour View Road and Birchy Hill Road) before applications are reviewed.
- Mayor John presented a brief overview of the Greater Humber Joint Council and Western Health Meetings.
- Councillors will visit the Beacon Road area to have a further look at the washout in the area.
- Motion made to purchase new floor mats for Town Hall lobby and to have the floor waxed on the upper level.
- Review of retirement letter sent to resident.
- Council viewed agenda for 2014 Emergency Management and Response Conference & Municipal Symposium. Discussion on Council members possibly attending the symposium.
- All correspondence viewed with no follow up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

DISPOSABLE DIAPERS IN YOUR GARBAGE?

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, proper disposal of garbage is a major problem in today's society. Less known is the fact that one of the largest contributors to the volume and therefore the cost of garbage handling is the widespread use of disposable diapers, which have become standard in North America in recent years.

When our children were babies (1970-1980) we used cloth diapers most of the time, with disposables only when we travelled or perhaps occasionally in emergency situations. But now, pretty well everyone seems to use disposables, despite the additional cost to both their own personal finances and the environment.

Compare cloth diapers costing about \$500 yearly if you wash your own, or about \$1,200 yearly if you have a diaper service in your area, as opposed to \$2,000 or more for disposables, depending on available quality and special offers. These costs are according to a current diaper user** and a CBC interview with the operator of [Bellies & Bundles Baby Boutique](#), Coaker's Meadow Plaza, Torbay Road, St John's.

But as well as financial and environmental savings, there are other benefits perhaps more important to parents of small babies:

- ★ *Cloth diapers are soft against your baby's skin.*
- ★ *Cloth diapered babies get changed more often and that's healthy for your baby's skin.*
- ★ *Cloth diapers allow more air circulation and don't trap in heat, resulting in fewer diaper rash problems, plus cloth diapers are free of the many chemicals contained in disposable diapers.*
- ★ *Cloth diapers may encourage babies to potty train faster than disposables, because with disposable diapers, the babies seldom feel any wetness or discomfort.*

Disposable diapers are among the most common items in today's garbage landfills; due to their plastic components they are also some of the most durable. Using cloth diapers in place of disposables is therefore an effective way of helping to protect the natural environment.***

You want your child to enjoy a healthy world as s/he grows up, after doing all you can to promote a healthy upbringing, with good food, safe and comfortable housing, appropriate medical care and a good education. Protecting the natural environment is the next priority, to ensure a quality of life for your diaper-age child as s/he grows into adult life.

Think about it. If your child was born this year, s/he could still be living in the year 2100, and would be about 86 years old!

Check out the [Bellies & Bundles website](#) for contacts (Lesley Reid or Ashley Russell) and other information.

** Our daughter in Ontario who has a 16-month-old baby girl.

*** Unfortunately, as far as is known there is no cloth diaper service currently operating on the West Coast.

SENATE REFORM MAY NOT BE GOOD FOR NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

The *Canadian Senate*, the *Upper House*, the [Chamber of Sober Second Thought](#), or the *Home for Failed Politicians*, as some have nicknamed it—call it what you will—has long been a topic of public debate, often negative, the main criticism being that it is not an elected body. Members of the Canadian Senate are nominated by the Prime Minister in office at the time of a vacancy, then appointed by the Governor General who represents Queen Elizabeth. Senators may then serve for life or until age 75 when retirement is mandatory. The Canadian system is modelled on the British House of Lords, where the PM nominates new members, and the Queen herself appoints them. In the American system each state has two senators who are elected for a six-year term and must then stand for re-election if they wish to continue.

The main purpose of the Canadian Senate is to debate and suggest possible modifications to legislation which has already passed the House of Commons but is not yet passed into law. Because Senators do not have to stand for re-election as do Members of Parliament, they are able to operate more independently of their party structure, although usually they maintain an affiliation to the party of the PM who appointed them. Even so they can enjoy greater freedom of expression than can MPs who have to conform much more closely to the party line. The recent action by Justin Trudeau to break the formal connection between Liberal Senators and the Liberal Party has given them the freedom to exercise their conscience in Senate votes.

One great problem faced by [Senate reform](#) is that there is a *constitutional* definition of specific numbers of seats per province. The chart opposite shows that number. In recent years the populations of the western provinces, particularly of British Columbia but also of Alberta, have increased quickly as the availability of jobs has drawn vast numbers from Atlantic Canada, leaving that region with seriously declining populations. But the distribution of Senate seats has remained unchanged. The chart also illustrates the problem. Note that the third column is *Population per Senator* at the 2001 Census, not the entire population. The smallest province, PEI, has 4 Senators, yielding 33,824 persons per Senator, compared with British Columbia's 6 Senators, yielding 651,290 persons per Senator. This seems unfair, with BC having almost 20 times the PEI number per Senator. And the situation has become even more extreme since 2001.

In order to ensure that PEI's voice will be heard, there is a strong argument for having some such inequality. BC and PEI are the extreme example, but there are others. Generally, the eastern provinces have lost population to the West and now have much more generous representation than ever, a source of dissatisfaction for the West. This imbalance must be addressed, but the process is complex fraught with more difficulties than meet the eye.

Since the Senate numbers per province are enshrined in the Constitution which requires application of the 7-50 formula (7 provinces comprising at least 50% of the population), any change cannot be made without detailed consultation. Canadians have made it clear that they do not favour the opening of constitutional debate, and Stephen Harper is obtusely averse to entering into discussion with the provinces. So might there be another alternative?

When Harper formed his first government, Senate Reform was part of his platform, and the concept of elected Senators was mentioned. But election of Senators is not the process defined in the Constitution, which requires the nomination process described above. A process of *indirect election* has been suggested, where voters choose a Senate nominee who is then appointed through the traditional nomination

process, but even this may not satisfy constitutional requirements. And even if it did, there would be no guarantee that future PMs would feel themselves constrained to follow it.

Another possibility may be to increase the total number of Senators and assigning them to the Western provinces, but again needing a constitutional amendment.

Province or Territory	Number of Senators	Population per Senator (2001 census)
Newfoundland and Labrador	6	85,488
Prince Edward Island	4	33,824
Nova Scotia	10	90,801
New Brunswick	10	72,950
Quebec	24	301,562
Ontario	24	475,419
Manitoba	6	186,597
Saskatchewan	6	163,156
Alberta	6	495,801
British Columbia	6	651,290
Nunavut	1	26,745
Northwest Territories	1	37,360
Yukon Territory	1	28,674

Premier Ghiz of PEI has voiced opposition to any changes that would reduce either the number of Senators his province has, or the assigning of additional Senators to the West, since either case would result in weakened representation for PEI. Other provinces like our own are affected in the same way as PEI, and once we are past the preoccupations caused by the recent changes and disruptions in all three parties, we might expect some of the same objections to arise. However some accommodation is essential to satisfy reasonable claims from both ends of the country which feel themselves either short-changed now, or likely to be so in future. If those claims are not heeded, further disaffection is likely.

Given the resistance being encountered in so many parts of Canada, some accommodation must be reached, and quickly, if the Confederation is to continue to run smoothly. It would seem that any new arrangements will have to be brought about by changes in the Constitution of Canada, an unsavoury measure to most Canadians who have been rendered averse to constitutional debate in recent decades by threats of secession by Quebec, and even if there is a lull from that direction for the moment, there is no guarantee that it will remain so indefinitely.

If Stephen Harper allows the four years since the 2011 Election to run full course, we shall be voting in the fall of 2015. Hopefully there will be a new government replacing this one then, and if so it will be the job of that new government to resolve the Senate reform issue. However this PM has a tendency to make spur-of-the-moment decisions when he thinks it will benefit him, so the election may come earlier than the fall of 2015. So that may be as long as we shall have to wait before some Senate resolution can begin. In the meantime we can expect nothing more than the *status quo*, which in any case would be better than a rushed job which may end up no better than what we now have. For smaller provinces like ours, the Senate issue is too important to be dealt with by a quick fix.

SLH