

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

ISSUE 83 : 2014-09-05

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2014 Sept 05 Friday

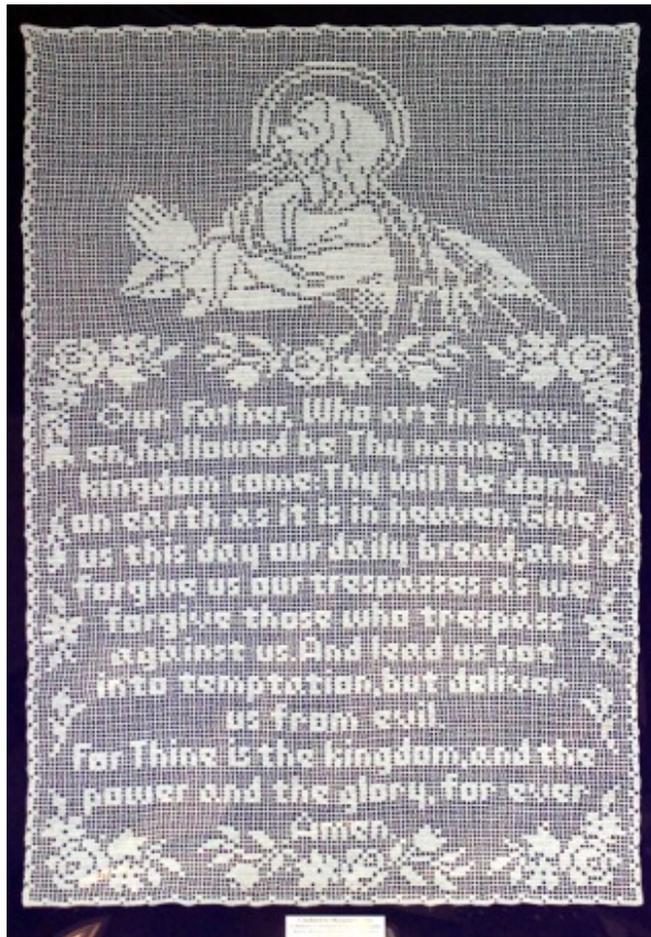
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MEMORIAL ARTWORK PRESENTED TO ST JAMES CHURCH

This beautiful piece of crochet work was recently completed after several months of work by Margaret Youden of Lark Harbour.

Mrs Youden donated the work to St James Church in memory of her husband Walter Youden (1934-2011), her granddaughter, Kaylie Margaret Wheaton (2001-2011), and her brother John Israel Sheppard (1953-2011).

The crochet piece, measuring some 3 x 4 feet, is now displayed in the Sanctuary of St James Church to the right of the East Window where it can be viewed and enjoyed by everyone.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2014 SEPTEMBER

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|----------------------|---|
| 1 st | Mon | Labour Day | |
| 7 th | Sun | Pentecost 13 - | 11:00am - LH, Holy Communion 7:00pm - JB, Prayer & Praise |
| 13 th | Sat | Parish Fund Raiser - | 7:00pm - John Sands performs at St James Church, LH. Tickets available. |
| 14 th | Sun | Holy Cross Day - | 11:00am - LH, Holy Communion 7:00pm - JB, Holy Communion |
| 21 st | Sun | Pentecost 15 - | 7:00pm - LH, Prayer & Praise 10:30am - JB, Holy Communion |
| 22 nd | Mon | Fall begins | |
| 28 th | Sun | Confirmation - | 7:00pm - Lark Harbour 10:30am - John's Beach |

2014 OCTOBER 2014

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|---|---|
| 5 th | Sun | Pentecost 17 - | 11:00am - LH, Morning Prayer 7:00pm - JB, Memorial Hymn |
| Sing | | | |
| 12 th | Sun | Harvest Festival - | 11:00am - LH, Holy Communion 7:00pm - JB, Holy Communion |
| | | <i>Please bring unperishable items to donate to the Food Bank</i> | |
| 13 th | Mon | Thanksgiving Day | |
| 19 th | Sun | Pentecost 19 - | 7:00pm - LH, Mem Hymn Sing 10:30am - JB, Morning Prayer |
| 24 th | Fri | United Nations Day | |
| 26 th | Sun | Pentecost 20 - | 7:00pm - LH, Holy Communion 10:30am - JB, Holy Communion |

2014 NOVEMBER 2014

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 nd | Sun | Back to Standard Time - | clocks back 1 hour |
| 11 th | Tues | Remembrance Day | |

2014 ADVANCE DATES 2014

Dec 21st Sun Winter begins

*Christmas Day and New Year's Day
both fall on Thursdays this year*

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

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

*Local businesses may contact 681-2256 for free inclusion*

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
~~~~~
- **The Roost, Gift Shop and Gallery, York Harbour**  
*sea glass, paintings, handmade glass beads* 681-2341  
~~~~~
- **Vater Family Daycare, Frenchman's Cove** 789-3940
~~~~~

**WELCOME BACK**

**AFTER**

**A GOOD SUMMER**

The BLOW•ME•DOWNER is posted on the Internet at the  
 Website [www.blowmedowner.webs.com](http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com)  
*before or on the first Friday of the month.*  
 Submit copy to [blowmedowner@gmail.com](mailto:blowmedowner@gmail.com).  
 Small social & personal announcements **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.*



## LIBRARY NOTES

by  
Susan Harvey



*More new books for the Newfoundland Collection. My overall impression is that they are generally not what you would describe as happy reading. And I would say that anyone whose ideas of life in our province are formed by such reading is misinformed. Nearly all have at least one child who is abnormal in some way. Of course, there are lots of books with similar themes set in other places; but not ALL of the books set in those places are like that. Maybe I am being unfair; perhaps I should make a point of looking for some HAPPY Newfoundland books. I am open for suggestions.*

- |                                                                            |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>Glass Boys</i>                                                       | Nicole Lundrigan |
| 2. <i>Left to Die</i>                                                      | Gary Collins     |
| 3. <i>The Millennium Arrives: Journey of the Newfoundland Flotilla '97</i> | Gerta Woodberry  |
| 4. <i>The Plains of Madness</i> NC                                         | Tom Moore        |
| 5. <i>Here Be Dragons: Strange Creatures of Newfoundland and Labrador</i>  | Bruce Hynes      |

1. *Glass Boys* is the story of a couple of families in Knife Point, Newfoundland (surely not a real place). It is a fair example of the “unhappy book” syndrome. The families are given to tragic accidents, violent outbreaks of temper, long-held grudges, family secrets, and some abnormal behaviour. The title may refer to the fact that one of the boys has the surname Glass. After only one suicide, it ends on a relatively peaceful note. Perhaps readers will relate to the characters more sympathetically than I did; if so, more power to you.

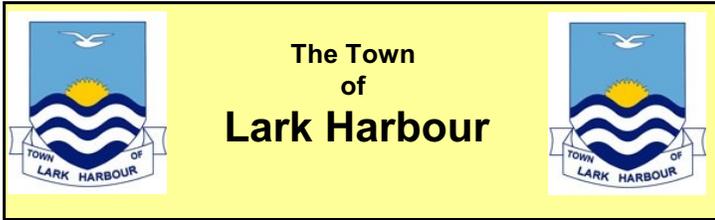
2. *Left to Die* is a re-telling of the sealing disaster of 1914. Mr Collins does give credit to Cassie Brown’s *Death on the Ice*, but he has also done a great deal of research to produce a version which helps the reader to feel that he is actually there on the ice. He has interviewed family members of survivors, and read old newspapers and looked at old microfilms; with the help of his wife Rose he collected thousands of pages of information. Plainly it was a job that he wanted to do. The result does give us a much fuller picture of the crowd that went so hopefully to sea to take part in a tragedy that many of them never returned from. As well as telling an important Newfoundland story, he has produced a book that is hard to put down.

3. *The Millennium Arrives* is the story of the flotilla of small boats that was organised to meet the *Matthew* when she arrived at Bonavista in 1997 to celebrate the arrival of John Cabot at Bonavista in the original *Matthew* in 1497. Most of the small boats were crewed by Canadians, but Gerta’s boat, the *Millennium* (confusingly named) had a captain who was not only the only female captain, but she was born in Germany. However, Gerta tells her story in a very natural way, sounding like an enthusiastic Canadian. While obviously very impressed with the significance of the whole occasion, she gives a lot of information about the details of the trip: sailing details, information on places where they stopped, details of how they lived together in a very small space and how they managed to get along when they sometimes had different ideas as to the best way to handle the boat. The boat did belong to Gerta, and she was the captain; but some of the men who acted as crew did give her a bit of a hard time. There were several changes to the crew in the approximately two months’ sailing time from Toronto to Bonavista Newfoundland; they seem to have all been enthusiastic about the trip, and did try to co-operate, but not always successfully. In all, it is an interesting and entertaining

account of an important historic event. Most of us remember the docking of the *Matthew* itself in Lark Harbour, but we didn’t see much of the flotilla. Gerta’s account brings back some of the feel of the occasion. It is good to hear how much she enjoyed stopping in the little places along the way, on the south coast and around the Avalon. She said many times how friendly everyone was, and how much trouble they had gone to in preparing for the arrival of the flotilla; lots of decorations and food and a real welcome. The details of the trip in her boat are also interesting, though I am not sure how many readers will be inspired to undertake such a trip, even if the chance should arise. Anyway, Gerta was brave enough to take the opportunity, and she has written a full account for our benefit.

4. *The Plains of Madness* is a bit of a surprise from Tom Moore. It is not a story of present-day Newfoundlanders, but a detailed account of the events leading up to the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, the crucial event in Britain’s victory over France to control Canada. Although apparently well researched, it is not a straightforward historical novel, but has a bit more of a science fiction feel to it. The main character, unnamed, is a teacher whose mental equilibrium has been disturbed by his work; his hair is long and bleached, he has a nose ring. Generally he is a mess. Finally he decides to see a psychiatrist. He visits Dr Valda Lake, who tries hypnotic therapy on him. The results are very surprising; during the hypnotic trances he finds himself living back in the 1700s when the British are trying hard to dislodge the French from their hold on the new world. Seemingly he is not part of the events, but he sees everything and even knows what the characters are feeling. Dr Lake is fascinated, and she checks with an expert on his historical accuracy. Not only does he turn out to be accurate, but as he comes out of the trance, he describes happenings in French, which he does not speak; and apparently the French is not modern French, but historically appropriate for the period. All this is the background for the story, which is interesting on its own merits. Frankly, it is a relatively painless way to read history, told in a way to help the reader understand what it was like back then. Mr Moore has produced a good, and educational, read.

5. *Here Be Dragons* is more about imaginary dragons than about real ones. In the old days seamen were travelling on relatively unknown waters, and there were many tales of huge vicious sea monsters that could attack ships and even sink them, with great loss of life. Plainly Newfoundland waters were pretty much unknown in those days, and many of the tales reportedly took place here. Mr Hynes has researched a number of the stories, and has also looked at many of the more unusual native creatures and has made some attempt to place them in the stories. He seems to have been fairly sensible in his weighing up of the evidence and the various explanations offered over the years, including the idea that some creatures might have been caught in a time warp and come out in a different place and time. Mostly his explanations avoid the science fiction rationale. The only incident he mentions that took place in our area (page 22) was in 1912 and involved a Josiah Sheppard and his brother Henry of Lark Harbour. It seems Josiah was out jigging fish near Ouibol (Wee Bauld in the book) when a big thing came out of the water, looked at him over the edge of the boat, and seemed to be looking hungrily at the fish he already had in the bottom of the boat. Apparently it grabbed the boat with its tentacles and pulled it under, leaving Josiah flailing around in the water. His brother was near in his motor boat and was able to rescue him. Mr Hynes assumes this was a giant squid, whose existence was not accepted at that time. Poor Josiah was just glad there were those fish in the boat, as he thought the monster would have eaten him if there had been no choice.



The Town  
of  
**Lark Harbour**

### Minutes of Council Meeting of 2014 July 16

**Present:** Mayor – John Parsons  
Deputy Mayor – Jamie Park  
Councillors – Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs  
Clerk – Joanna Pottle (Recording Minutes)

**Absent:** Councillor – Pauline Sheppard  
Clerk – Peggy Sheppard

*Meeting commenced at 6:45pm*

A meeting was held with Mr Jay Barry. Mr Barry had expressed interest in moving the Friday night Mixed Dart League from the Drop In Lounge to the Town Hall. There are roughly 25 players, 8:00pm to 11:00pm, Friday nights. They cannot get a liquor license so it would be BYOB. A further discussion is to be held at the next monthly Council meeting.

- Minutes of meeting of 2014 June 17 adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update – Waiting on status of application for Phase 2 funding.
- Amalgamation – Waiting on a reply from cabinet.
- Crown Land/Harbour View Road – Agreed to hold off on approving any applications until we know status of water/sewer.
- Playground equipment – Teeter Totter has arrived. New swings and basketball nets have been installed. Motion to purchase new hockey nets as previously discussed.
- Student Summer Grants – 3 students have been selected for the High School grant. Brief discussion on duties for students.
- Route 450 – Agreed to send another letter following up on condition of Route 450.
- Vehicle Wreck Removal – Most vehicles now removed. Clerk directed to send letters to residents that have wrecks remaining.
- 285 Little Port Road – Reply has been sent to the tax payer. This property is now up for sale.
- Floor waxing – Clerk directed to follow up.
- Financial Report approved. No accounts payable at this time.
- Collections Update – Proceed with tax sale.
- Building Permit Applications all approved.
- Motion to authorize clerks approving building permits for general renovations up to a maximum of \$20,000.00.
- Community Recreation Support Program – Application sent.
- Bill Payment Services – Motion to set up internet banking.
- 2014-2015 Community Enhancement Employment Program – Clerk directed to submit application for further funding.
- Dilapidated Property – Clerk to send letter to tax payer.

- Training Opportunities – Motion for clerks to attend PMA Fall Training Forum.
- Fall Elections – There will be an election of Council held in the fall. Clerk directed to get voters list prepared. Nomination days will be August 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Motion for Clerk Peggy to be the Returning Officer and Clerk Joanna to be the Poll Clerk.
- Agreed that a complaint received from a resident regarding property boundaries is not a council issue. Clerk directed to send reply.
- Clerk directed to follow up with Service NL before issuing approval of installation of new septic system.
- Brief discussion on visit of 2 geologists from Black Spruce.
- All Correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.

*Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.*

### EDITORIAL COMMENT

To date Council has received no word on funding for Phase Two of the Water and Sewer Project. Phase One has now been completed for almost two years, but since then no further work has been done due to lack of funding from the Provincial Government.

Even if funding was made available immediately, it is too late to begin work for this year, and unless funding is soon made available a full season of work may not be possible in 2015. Meanwhile the Town of Lark Harbour is paying interest on money borrowed for Phase One, for which residents cannot yet receive benefits. *It is high time Government made a move for our Town.*

How long before we must pay additional taxes for interest debts, while still receiving no benefits from what we are paying for?

## POST OFFICE HOURS OF SERVICE

### LARK HARBOUR

|            |             |                    |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Mondays    | 9:30 - 1:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |
| Tuesdays   | 9:30 - 1:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |
| Wednesdays | 9:30 - 1:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |
| Thursdays  | 9:30 - 1:00 | 2:00 - <b>5:00</b> |
| Fridays    | 9:30 - 1:00 | 2:00 - <b>3:30</b> |

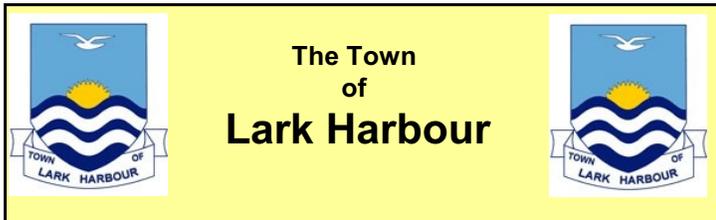
### YORK HARBOUR

|            |               |                    |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Mondays    | 10:00 - 12:00 | 2:00 - <b>5:00</b> |
| Tuesdays   | 10:00 - 12:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |
| Wednesdays | 10:00 - 12:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |
| Thursdays  | 10:00 - 12:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |
| Fridays    | 10:00 - 12:00 | 2:00 - 4:00        |

## BLOW-ME-DOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY NORMAL HOURS

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mondays & Fridays    | 2:00 - 5:00pm                  |
| Tuesdays & Thursdays | 2:00 - 4:30pm; 6:30pm - 9:00pm |
| Wednesdays           | 2:00 - 4:00pm                  |

*Normal hours resume on September 04,  
remaining in effect until further notice.  
The Library is normally closed for Public Holidays.*



The Town  
of  
**Lark Harbour**

**Minutes of Council Meeting of 2014 August 19**

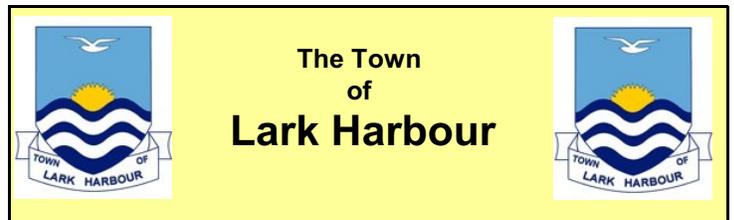
**Present:** Mayor – John Parsons  
Deputy Mayor – Jamie Park  
Councillors – Pauline Sheppard, Stanley Childs,  
Llewellyn Childs  
Clerk – Peggy Sheppard

**Absent:** Clerk – Joanna Pottle

- Minutes of regular meeting of 2014 July 16 and special meetings of 2014 July 22 and 2014 July 31 all adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update: Reviewed correspondence between Anderson Engineering, DO, and DIA. Discussion on fish ladder located at the dam site. Also, discussion and correspondence received from DO regarding fish monitoring. Clerk to contact engineer to attend meeting and site visit.
- Reviewed email received from tax payer who met with the executive assistant to Minister Marshall regarding importance of Water and Sewer.
- Amalgamation – Both Councils are still waiting to hear from the new Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs regarding the requests put forward in our initial letter.
- Friday Night Darts – To date there has been no reply to the letter sent to a private enterprise regarding the possibility of having Friday night darts at the community hall. Agreed on need for strict rules to be in place before this could happen. Clerk to contact interested persons and draft letter with conditions.
- Bell Aliant Long Distance Charges – Agreed to send another letter regarding removal of monthly long distance service charges.
- Route 450 – Review of letter received from Minister Nick Magrath. Agreed to follow up.
- GeoPark Update – Reviewed letter from Paul Wylsol. More meetings to be held in the fall.
- 2014-15 Capital Grant Program – Application received.
- Marine Atlantic – Review of response received regarding decreases in ferry crossings.
- 2014-15 Community Enhancement Employment Program (CEEP) – Application sent to and received by Dept of Municipal Affairs.
- Dilapidated Properties – Agreed to follow up at next meeting regarding letters sent to dilapidated property owners. Clerk directed to contact Department of Environment regarding potential hazards relating to vehicle wrecks.
- Financial Report – Motion to approve financial report and accounts payable for the amount of \$135.29.
- Collections Update – Agreed to proceed with sale.

- Building Permit Applications – Motion to approve building permits applications.
- Write Offs – Motion to approve write off of \$277.93.
- Elections – All agreed to have an advanced poll on 2014 September 9. Nominations will be accepted at Lark Harbour Town Office on Wednesday August 27 and Thursday August 28 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. SEE NOTICE BELOW.
- Gas Tax 2014-2019 – Review of funds to be received over the next five years.
- 2015-2016 Capital Works – Agreed to continue with Water and Sewer and will proceed with application for funding for Phase 2.
- Surplus Vehicle – Replacement fire truck has arrived. Clerk to follow up with MHA Eddie Joyce regarding new fire truck.
- Mill Licence Application – Motion to approve operation of residential mill.
- Correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.*



The Town  
of  
**Lark Harbour**

The following persons have been nominated for election to Lark Harbour Town Council:

**Rose Sheppard**  
**Jeremiah (Jay) Barry**  
**Kerry Barry**  
**Jamie Park**

As of the close of Nominations on Thursday 28 August 2014, no further nominations had been received. Therefore the four nominees are elected by acclamation and will shortly be sworn in as Councillors.

However a fifth person is needed to complete the Council membership, and Nominations will be accepted to fill that vacant seat on Council at a date to be announced. Interested persons should contact Lark Harbour Town Office at 681-2270 for information.

Should there be more than one valid Nomination for this remaining seat on Council, an Election will be announced after the close of nominations.

*Congratulations to the new Council members.  
We offer them our sincere thanks for their interest  
in the Town and their willingness to serve.*

## Obituary

**VERA KATHRYN JOYCE**

1952 March 03 - 2014 August 18

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Vera Joyce announced her passing after a brave battle with cancer at Western Memorial Regional Hospital, Corner Brook, on Monday, August 18, 2014 at the age of 62 years.

Vera left to mourn: her loving daughter Deanna Joyce (Donald); grandchildren: Dylan Joyce (Kadie) and Donna-Lee Joyce; step children: Donald Joyce and Joanne; sisters: Janet Roberts (Ronald) and Wanda Wadden (Richard); brothers: Todd Childs (Rhonda Sheppard) and Wallace Childs (Barbara); brothers & sisters in law, as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and special friends. She was predeceased by husband Garland Joyce (2011); parents: Wallace (1980) and Ena (2007); sister Melinda Reader (2012); special friend Harvey Sheppard (2011).

Friends visited St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, on Tuesday from 7:00-9:00pm, and Wednesday from 2:00-4:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm, from where the funeral service will take place on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 2:00pm, with the Very Reverend Baxter Park officiating. In keeping with Vera's wishes, cremation will take place with interment following at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to St James Anglican Church. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made by visiting the website at [www.country-haven.ca](http://www.country-haven.ca).



## Obituary

**MILLIE THELMA WEBSTER-BOLAND**

1965 December 02 - 2014 August 15

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Millie Webster-Boland announced her passing at the Health Science Complex, St Johns, NL, on Friday August 15, 2014 at the age of 48 years.

She left to mourn with fond and loving memories her husband of 10 years, Ted; four furry animal friends: Charlie, Tyson, Jack and Cocoa; siblings: Mimie Webster, Albert Webster (Cecil), Terry Webster (Sue), Bert Webster, Karen McCarthy (Gord), Betty "Betty Boop" Webster and John Webster; also a large circle of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents Walter and Doris Webster. Friends visited Country Haven Funeral Home, 167 Country Road, Corner Brook, NL, on Sunday August 17th between the hours of 2:00-4:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm.

In keeping with Millie's wishes cremation will take place and interment will take place at a later date. As expressions of sympathy flowers are graciously accepted or donations may be made in Millie's memory to the Bay of Islands SPCA. The family guest book may be signed by visiting our website at [www.country-haven.ca](http://www.country-haven.ca).



Editorial -

**NL PCs CHOOSING NEW LEADER**

On Saturday 2014 September 13th, after an abortive attempt a couple of months ago when all three candidates at that time wilted and dropped out like worn-out runners in a St John's marathon, the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland & Labrador will meet to elect a new party leader who will also become Premier until the next election. Three individuals have been nominated in this second marathon. In alphabetical order they are:

|                  |                                                                                                               |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paul Davis       | ex RNC Officer; MHA Topsail; Minister of Health & Community Services.                                         |
| Steve Kent       | b. 1978; MHA Mount Pearl North; held several posts as Minister in provincial governments past and present.    |
| John Ottenheimer | b. 1953; lawyer; MHA St John's East 1996-2007; ministerial posts in previous governments; Chairman, NL Hydro. |

According to the latest polls, Mr Davis leads as the first choice of the largest number of people, with Mr Kent second, and Mr Ottenheimer third in popularity.

*Continued at right**Continued from left*

All have had quite recent political experience in various different areas of NL politics, provincial and municipal, although Mr Ottenheimer is not currently involved as are Ministers Davis and Kent. Each of them has also had some experience in either business or law enforcement, so all seem reasonably well prepared for the role of Premier in that regard.

Mr Ottenheimer has not been active directly in politics for a few years, but is presently involved with NL Hydro, a current hot topic of public debate that is likely to remain so as long as concerns about Labrador hydro development, specifically Muskrat Falls, continue. Once out of the public eye, a politician has to make the effort to bring himself to the notice in a positive way, and given the fact that the Newfoundland voter attaches great significance to constituency involvement by its MHAs, Mr Ottenheimer may face some disadvantage, although his image was that of an effective MHA when in office. However he must also deal with the fact that, again unlike his opponents, he does not hold an elected office. Whether he can overcome this limitation remains to be seen. And should he run as an MHA somewhere in the Province as soon as possible?

One thing to be hoped for is that the PCs will have finally emerged from the doldrums of the last year or two since Danny Williams' retirement from politics and the earlier leadership fiasco with Messrs Barry, Bennett and Coleman. In the general interest of the Province, this is an essential condition.

—SLH

Editorial -

## **GARBAGE AND GUTLESS GOVERNMENTS**

**T**HE COST OF DEALING with the tons of garbage and litter we produce daily in our modern consumer society is horrendous. Millions of dollars are spent on it in Newfoundland & Labrador alone, and the cost worldwide is staggering. But who pays for it? We, the taxpayers. The sad thing is that a substantial amount of the cost is unnecessary, because much of it results from careless disposal.

Recently while driving from Lark Harbour to Corner Brook I was appalled at the quantity of garbage in the form of paper cups, aluminium cans, fast food packages, bottles and sundry other discarded items littered along the shoulders of the road. There was enough to fill dozens of garbage bags, not including the many more items concealed in the ditches and brushwood along the roadside. Every year gangs of people are paid to gather it in bags which are collected and transported to the official garbage dump at taxpayers' expense. In addition, members of many organisations and businesses often volunteer their time to clean up along highways, trails, beaches, parks, lake and river shores, and in the woods. Yet more litter quickly appears in those same locations.

Why?

Too many people are simply too lazy to save their empty bottles, cans and fast food wrappers until they see a container where they can properly dispose of them or, failing that, take them home.

Many of these items carry refundable deposits. So why doesn't that work? One answer may be that some points of purchase refuse them. But they made money when they sold them, so why should they not spend a little to keep our countryside clean? Another reason, however, may be that the deposits paid are so abysmally insignificant compared with the disposable income most people enjoy today, that they don't care about getting the deposit back. There was a time when children scoured the roadsides to collect empty bottles which they could then take to the nearest convenience store and exchange them for a bottle of pop or a candy bar. But few of today's children do this any more; they have enough money in their pockets they don't need to, or maybe they can't find a store that will accept what they collect.

So what can be done?

Let those who create the litter also pay for it. Introduce legislation to increase deposits on potential litter items to levels where they are no longer insignificant. To make this effective, we need governments that care enough about the environment to legislate such deposits to make it worthwhile. A minimum of a dollar per item may be sufficient, but if not, then increase it until it is. Some people of course will never stop littering, but with mandatory refund of significant deposits, concerned individuals will take up the slack and make themselves a few dollars.

Unfortunately many governments consist of far too many individuals whose greatest concern is to ensure their re-election next time round. These politicians are unwilling to pass legislation demanding effective deposits and ensuring that all suppliers participate along the entire chain from manufacturer through distributor and retailer. Such cynical and gutless governments exist at all levels, municipal, provincial and federal. Lobbying by international corporations enterprises who contribute vast sums to party coffers may also be obstacles as they have been behind the delays in legislation to control carbon emissions (the so-called 'carbon tax') and various other

controversial legislative measures throughout history, including effective anti-litter legislation.

Only when we elect governments that operate consistently on fair democratic principles concerned with the welfare of society instead of favouring their own supporters, only then will we receive the kind of legislation that is our right, whether it relates to garbage management or to anything else. Gutless governments are among the greatest obstacles to effective legislation. The same quality of consideration that we expect to see applied to the creation of laws governing euthanasia, abortion, child abuse, or any other serious social or economic issue, should also be applied to the problem of garbage.

— SLH

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## **Rant : A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER?**

Welcome back to another season after what has been characterised as one of the hottest summers in Canada's climatic history. Weather extremes have been reported from all regions of Canada, "from Coast to Coast to Coast" as our media types often characterise it, although for many of them the East Coast seems to end at Halifax.

Even here on the Island of Newfoundland, where a small funnel cloud was reported in the Central region. Even in Lark Harbour, we have experienced unusual weather this year. Throughout July, from Canada Day to month's end, Lark Harbour temperatures were consistently in the 20°-30° Celsius range, and there were even several days exceeding 30° Celsius, a rare event for our peninsular location normally exposed to cooler air in summer from whatever direction the wind is blowing. Winds were generally light, sometimes non-existent, and we were seeking shade. We even experienced more thunderstorms than normal, with one lasting an entire evening of about 4-5 hours with minor damage from a few lightning strikes in the area. Rainfall was quite minimal during July and most of August, with the occasional heavy thundershower, but mostly sunny and dry conditions, causing many homeowners to find their wells running dry. However the flow of excellent water from the little spring at Blow-Me-Down never faltered through the entire summer, yielding its cool, clear refreshment without fail to the dozens who use it.

Many old-timers are forecasting a mild winter, as the dogberry trees have produced few berries this year, compared with last year's bumper crop before the record-breaking cold and prolonged winter.

On the negative side, world news has been prominent, with strife in Ukraine, Syria, Gaza, Israel, Iraq, and the demonic ISIS murdering and kidnapping of thousands in the name of religion. Then thousands more painful deaths from the ebola epidemic in West Africa, a continent which cannot adequately care for its people under normal conditions, without having to deal with an epidemic causing thousands more deaths.

There seems to be little doubt now that climate change is a reality, but there are still some ostrich-like persons, particularly some in the higher echelons of government, who deny it. What are they trying to prove, if not their own greed and lack of prudence? Many of these in denial are the same ones who are giving away our country's resources and stripping our social programs to the point of uselessness.

One has to be thankful that we live in a benign country, with adequate resources of most kinds, and a secure, safe way of life. But how long can it last, given governments obsessed with creating "budget surpluses" and reducing corporate taxes?

—SLH