

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR VISITS LARK HARBOUR



On Thursday 2014 November 06, the Honourable Frank Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, accompanied by his wife Patricia, visited St James Church, Lark Harbour where they attended an event honouring men from the Outer Bay of Islands who served their country in two World Wars and the Korean War.

Lieutenant Governor Fagan was introduced by Captain Winston Childs (retired) and who revealed that the Lt Gov had a family connection with Lark Harbour as his grandmother was born here and his father served as a teacher and lay reader in this community.

Many community members, a large group of Veterans and the students of St James School also attended. The above pictures show (top left) Lt Gov and Mrs Fagan with two students who presented them with gifts; (top right) some of the Veterans who attended the occasion; and (lower centre) some of the students of St James School who sang a fine rendering of *Where have all the Flowers Gone?*

Others involved were Rev Nelson Chatman, Rector, Cody Giles, who played the Last Post and the Reveille, Veteran Michael Martin who spoke the Act of Remembrance, and organist Sharon Parsons.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2014 NOVEMBER 2014

- 2nd **Sun** Standard Time begins - clocks back 1 hour
 Pent 21 - 11:00am LH, HC; 7:00pm JB, EP
- 6th **Thur** 11:00am at Church - Lieut. Gov of NL present to
 honour Veterans with St James School Students.
 Congregation invited also to attend.
- 9th **Sun** Pent 22 - 11:00am LH, MP; 7:00pm JB, HC
- 11th **Tues** **Remembrance Day**, 10:45am, LH; 10:30am JB.
- 16th **Sun** Pent 23 - 7:00pm LH, HC; 10:30pm, JB, MP
- 23rd **Sun** Reign of Christ - 7:00pm LH, HC; 10:30am JB, HC
Please bring along your Samaritan Shoe Boxes
- 30th **Sun** Advent 1 - 7:00pm LH, HC; 10:30am JB, HC

2014 DECEMBER 2014

- 7th **Sun** Advent 2 - 11:00am LH, MP; 7:00pm JB, EP.
- 9th **Tues** 6:30pm - Carol Service & Lighting of Christmas Tree
 Hot Chocolate served in Church Hall afterwards.
- 11th **Thur** VON Footcare Clinic - See below.
- 12th **Fri** *Drawing of OBIEC 50/50 Fundraiser. See at Right.*
- 14th **Sun** Advent 3 - 11:00am LH, HE; Also Memorial Lights
 Service at 7:00pm at both LH and JB. JB also EP.
- 21st **Sun** Winter begins.
 Advent 4 - 7:00pm LH, EP, Sunday School Pageant.
 10:30am JB, HC.
- 24th **Wed** Christmas Eve - 4:00pm LH, HC; 7:00pm JB, HC.
- 25th **Thur** **Christmas Day**
- 28th **Sun** Christmas 1 - 7:00pm LH, EP; 10:30am JB, MP.

2015 JANUARY 2015

- 1st **Thur** **New Year's Day**
- 4th **Sun** Christmas 2 - 11:00am LH, HC; 7:00pm JB, Pr & Pr
- 11th **Sun** Bapt of the Lord - 11:00am LH, HC; 7:00pm JB, HC.
- 18th **Sun** Epiphany 3 - 7:00pm LH, Pr & Pr; 10:30am JB, HC.
- 25th **Sun** Epiphany 3 - 7:00pm LH, EP; 10:30am JB, MP.

FOOTCARE CLINICS IN LARK HARBOUR

The Victorian Order of Nurses is now holding
FOOTCARE CLINICS
 at the Town Hall in Lark Harbour!!

If you or someone you know is Diabetic, has corns, calluses, etc.,
 and needs a Qualified Footcare Nurse,
 please give the VON a call for more information
 or to book an appointment for an upcoming clinic.
(709) 634 2042.

The next clinic to be held is December 11th, 2014.

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** !!!

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

OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

50/50 FUNDRAISER

Get yourself some extra dollars for Christmas

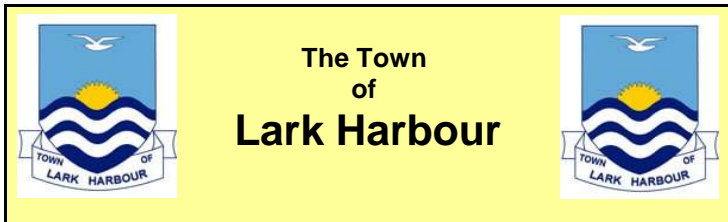
Tickets \$5.00 each.

Draw Date December 12th, 2014.

Maximum Prize is \$5,000.00

Tickets available at: Sheppards Store, Lark Harbour
 Byrnes Store, York Harbour
 The Roost, York Harbour

or by calling 681-2214 or 681-2906.



The Town
of
Lark Harbour

Report of Meeting of 2014 October 23

Present:

Mayor: Jamie Park; *Deputy Mayor:* Jeremiah Barry;
Councillors: Rose Sheppard, Kerry Barry, Dennis Sheppard
Clerks: Peggy Sheppard (recording), Joanna Pottle

Meeting commenced at 6:30 pm

- ! New Councillor Dennis Sheppard was sworn in.
- ! Minutes of 2014 Sept 15, 2014 and special meeting minutes of October 1, 2014 adopted.
- ! Water/Sewer Update: Application for phase 2 funding under the Municipal Capital Works Program submitted. Cost included is \$1,648,527.62, which includes \$30,282.87 for repairs to Phase 1B. Clerk to follow up with DFO regarding repairs needed. Motion to apply for Phase 2 funding under the New Building Canada Fund.
- ! Amalgamation – Both Lark Harbour and York Harbour Town Councils met with the new minister of the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr Keith Hutchings, on Thursday, October 9th, 2014. No further update since that meeting. Clerk to follow up with MHA Mr Eddie Joyce.
- ! CEEP 2014-2015 – Approval received for a Community Employment Enhancement Program grant of \$20,000.00 to be used to continue repairs to the breakwater. Residents have until Wednesday, Oct 29 to apply to the Council Office giving name and hours they need to be EI eligible.
- ! Route 450 – Review of letters sent to Mr David Brazil, Minister of the Dept of Transportation & Works, and follow up letter from MHA Mr Eddie Joyce.
- ! By-election – Results of votes were presented.
- ! Garbage Removal Tender – Council accepted tender of Murphy Brothers for \$43,843.00 + HST and landfill charges.
- ! Clerk directed to check on having a second clean up in the fall.
- ! Discussion on RFID cards for access to the Wildcove Dump Site. There have been concerns regarding the type of waste being removed and what those costs could be to the Town. Agreement to be made for residents who wish to sign out a dump pass.
- ! Snow Clearing Tender – Council accepted tender from ZR Enterprises Ltd for \$33,900.00 + HST for 2014-2015.
- ! Discussion on the addition of a \$20.00 Emergency Service Tax to each household and business property.
- ! Dilapidated properties – letters have been sent to owners of dilapidated and unkept properties.
- ! Vehicle wreck removal – Rod's Autosalvage has been contacted to remove another 6 vehicle wrecks during the next week.
- ! Gas Tax 2014-2019 application for \$145,995 submitted.
- ! Financial Report approved with accounts payable of \$494.50.
- ! Approved transfer of \$50.00 from general account to gas tax account to cover services charges while awaiting gas tax funding, to be returned to general account once the money is received.
- ! Collections Update – Currently 4 delinquent taxpayers for 2013 and prior, owing a total of \$3,342.55. Discussion followed. Agreed to send a final notice that if payments are not received by November 23rd, accounts will be forwarded to Credit Recovery.
- ! Water issue – Discussion of water supply issue with the school. Agreement to be drafted to prevent water loss at the Hall.
- ! All Building Permit Applications approved.
- ! New septic system application – Review of Certificate of Approval received from Service NL for a home owner to install a new septic system. Approval had previously been given on condition of the Certificate of Approval.
- ! Write offs approved of \$1,606.24.
- ! 911 system – Review of letter received from MHA Mr Eddie Joyce to Minister Judy Manning requesting a meeting for our municipality regarding changes to the 911 system.
- ! Great Humber Joint Council Meeting at Massey Drive on Saturday, October 25. No one available from Council to attend.
- ! Review of the 2015 assessment service fee at a rate of \$28.00 per parcel and per tenant, for a total of \$12,852.00.
- ! Complaint received from 4 residents regarding the burning of hazardous material such as shingles, tires, etc. Agreed to send letter to the person responsible for the burning.
- ! Complaint received from resident regarding roaming dogs, letter has been sent to the dog owner.
- ! Review of an incident at the skate park where a child's scooter was destroyed but other youth. Agreed to install another surveillance camera (which we already have) on the pole at the skate park. Clerk directed to contact NL Power for permission.
- ! Review of letter from Port Au Port/Bay St George Fracking Awareness Group voicing concerns over fracking in our area.
- ! Discussion on the Memorial Church service to be held on Thursday, November 6. Lieutenant Governor will be in attendance. Representation from Council has been requested. Deputy Mayor Jeremiah Barry will perform this service.
- ! In honour of soldiers that were killed this past week, flags at the cenotaph would be flown at half mast until their burial.
- ! Discussion on an advisory board, to be tabled in spring.
- ! Will advertise for cleaning person for upstairs of the Town Hall.
- ! Fire Department quarterly meeting Thursday, Nov 6, at 6pm.
- ! Brief discussion on remuneration. Clerk directed to gather more information.
- ! Letter from St James All Grade School acknowledging receipt of two scholarships.
- ! Correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

THE TORY CONVENTION OF 2014

On the thirteenth day of September
Of the Year of Grace Twenty-Fourteen
The PCs chose a new leader
In the strangest Convention we've seen.

It wasn't their first time of trying
To replace Kathy Dunderdale's loss.
Frank Coleman was all set to enter
As the new Conservative Boss.

But a few weeks before he'd take over
He seemed to develop cold feet,
And Tom Marshall, all set to retire,
Had to stay in the Premier's seat.

Nominations were opened quite promptly
With three well-known names on the list:
Steve Kent and Paul Davis, both ministers,
And John Ottenheimer, not to be missed.

On the first vote Steve Kent was outvoted,
And he told his folks then, "Vote for Paul!"
And some of them did, but some didn't,
And the voting was too close to call.

Now Paul's votes totalled three hundred and forty,
With three thirty-nine more for John.
Folk said, "That's close, for sure, but Paul has one more,"
And they got in their cars and were gone.

The music was playing, all set to begin,
When the Chairman came on the stage live.
"The total of votes was six-seventy-nine,
"Of which half is three-three-nine point five.

"Now Paul has three hundred and forty,
"Not enough to elect him for sure,
"For the rules say the winner needs half plus one vote,
"Which is three-forty plus point five more.

"Another vote therefore is needed,
"To resolve these confusing events."
Said the people, "Quite so, there's a problem, we know,
"But a new vote just doesn't make sense!"

Said the Chairman, "A new vote's essential,
"There's really no choice for us here.
"Half the votes plus one more is what's needed for sure,
"To produce a majority clear."

So now there was panic, for people had left,
Which meant that some votes would be lost,
So phone calls were made and the media would aid
To get voters back at all cost.

Now some were at parties, with friends, or gone home,
Some were gone on the Bell Island ferry
Which turned in its track and brought them all back
To Portugal Cove in a hurry.

One man had disposed of his Convention ID,
Believing he'd need it no more,
But recover it he did in a very fine bid,
From a dumpster just near the hall door.

Then back at Convention the voting began
For the third time that Saturday night,
And everyone wondered, How will this turn out?
Will this latest vote make it all right?

Well, the counting began, and all to a man
Were waiting agog for the score
At two after ten, when most people by then
Had been present for twelve hours or more.

Said the Chairman, "The voting's decisive this time.
"This election is finally done.
"Mr Ottenheimer's votes number three-twenty-six:
"Mr Davis has three-fifty-one."

Now my friends, if anyone tells you
That politics here's dull and mean,
Just tell them the story of events at the Tory
Convention of Twenty-Fourteen!

BRIEF EXPLANATION FOR THE THIRD VOTE

The NLPC Party Constitution states that the winning candidate must receive at least 50% of valid votes, plus one vote. The first ballot results eliminated Steve Kent. The second ballot then produced a single vote difference between Davis and Ottenheimer, as shown below. Some considered that one vote was all that was needed to declare Davis the winner, but had that been done it is likely that questions would have been raised by Ottenheimer's supporters, and perhaps by others. It was therefore decided to hold a third ballot, in accord with demands of the party Constitution.

Result of Second Ballot	Votes for Paul Davis	340
	Votes for John Ottenheimer	<u>339</u>
	Total Valid Votes cast	679
	Fifty percent of Valid Votes	339.5
	Required for Clear Majority	340.5

The Party Constitution requires the winner to receive at least fifty percent of valid votes plus one vote. Paul Davis had received 340 votes, and was therefore half a vote short of a clear majority. A third ballot would be required.

The third round of balloting began, followed an hour later by the tallying, while the media people interviewed the candidates and voters, and there was much speculation on the statistical chance of an outcome like this occurring.

Finally, at two minutes after ten, when most people had been in the Convention Hall for about twelve hours, the results of the third and final ballot were announced.

Paul Davis	351 votes
John Ottenheimer	326 votes

This was a clear majority of 26 votes for Paul Davis who was then declared the Twelfth Premier of Newfoundland & Labrador.



LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



Some of the new books from the Newfoundland collection.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Dear Everybody</i> | Anne Budgell |
| 2. <i>No One to Tell:</i> | Janet Merlo |
| | <i>Breaking my Silence on Life in the RCMP</i> |
| 3. <i>Sea Folk</i> | Jim Wellman |

1. *Dear Everybody* is the story of the transformation of a New York socialite into the wife of a Labrador trapper. Barbara Mundy had always lived in New York City, with a very privileged life. Some of her friends talked about volunteering with the Grenfell Mission in St. Anthony Newfoundland, and in the Labrador. It sounded like an interesting experience for a few months, and in 1944 Barbara left New York to go to Northwest River Labrador. Handicrafts were an important part of the Mission's effort to improve the lifestyle of the local population, in addition to the donation of many items of clothing by, mostly, American women. Barbara was put in charge of the store where locals could buy the donated clothing. She found the experience to be rewarding, but not particularly interesting. In fact, what really surprised and excited her was the life in Labrador itself. She couldn't get over the beauty of the place, and the way in which people could enjoy it. She was especially fascinated by the stories of the trappers and their trips up Grand River, now the Churchill River. She became very eager to go herself and see the Grand Falls. When she finally persuaded some friends from the Mission and some trappers to let her go with them, she could not believe how much pleasure the experience gave her. She found she didn't even mind the hard work involved, walking in snowshoes and always cold and wet. Apparently she more than pulled her weight, and she found the whole experience very enjoyable. One of the trappers, Russell Groves, became a good friend, and eventually they decided to get married. They must both have wondered if it was a good idea, and certainly their friends expressed doubts. Barbara wrote letters about all of this to her friends and relatives in New York, and to her friends who had volunteered with the Mission and who had shared some of her experiences. She would start with the "Dear Everybody" salutation and make many carbons to be mailed all over the United States. Anne Budgell has used many of these letters, among other sources, to get the information to write this book. Barbara wrote very enthusiastically about all her experiences, and also about her own mental state; she obviously thought that her plans would not sound like a good idea to her friends, and she must have had some doubts also. But in the end she married Russell anyway, in a quiet ceremony in Labrador. The letters quoted in the book do sometimes indicate her appreciation of Russell's difficulties with the marriage, and occasionally she wonders if he loves her; he doesn't like to talk about it. She persuades him to take her up the river for a winter's trapping, though most of the trappers' wives stayed in Northwest River for the winter. Russell has always trapped alone, so there is no one else to help with the trip once he has split away from the Grand River to go to his own trapline. Barbara continues to enjoy herself, and it sounds as if she did her fair share of the work of pulling heavy sleds and walking with wet cold feet. The reader may learn something about the life of a Labrador trapper, and will probably be surprised at Barbara's enthusiasm; but it is good to read that she never regretted choosing life in Labrador nor ceased to find the life exciting. Her fascinating story is the main part of the book, but her experience

with the Mission is also interesting. It reminds me of our experience when we first came to Canada. We were at a small school in Labrador, just over the Quebec border. We soon found that the best medical care available was from the Grenfell Nursing Station at Forteau. We also encountered the enterprises Barbara mentions, the crafts and the handmade clothing. It didn't make us decide to make our home there, but we could sympathise with some of Barbara's reactions to the place. Also the hospital at St Anthony was perhaps the best hospital experience I ever had. Our first child, Bill, was born there. Plainly, Anne Budgell was also favourably disposed to the International Grenfell Association and she has written an interesting and educational book in that setting.

2. *No One to Tell* is the story of an RCMP constable's life, and how it came to an end. Apparently, growing up in Newfoundland, Janet had always wanted to be a police officer, and when she graduated from the RCMP training depot in Regina in 1991, she was very happy. Her first assignment was in Nanaimo BC, and initially seemed to be just what she had expected. She found that she enjoyed going out on the routine calls as a constable; she felt that she was doing the job as she had wanted and was able to help the people involved and to support them in their troubles. Unfortunately, it turned out that some of her fellow policemen did not fit her idea of what a policeman should be. Among a few cases of actual dishonesty, Janet noticed an attitude that troubled her. Some of the others made jokes that disrespected their clients and even other members of the Force. Soon she realised that most of the scoffers were men, and that even officers, who were also mostly men, were often cruel and disrespectful to the more vulnerable members. Janet herself suffered many quite unpleasant remarks. Mostly it was women who suffered, at the hands of men. It became a tiresome reality that she must put up with countless unpleasant, often sexual, remarks and that she would be criticised for having a big mouth if she complained; and, further, she would get absolutely no justice if she complained to superior officers. They said she should "get over it" and "move on". This kind of life was very stressful for her, and her health suffered. She was diagnosed with PTSD and had to take sick leave. All of this affected her husband, who also worked for the RCMP. The general level of stress made the family situation so unstable and unpleasant that Janet felt she had to file for divorce. By then she felt she had to come out and tell how the perpetual sexual harassment and her repeated failures to get any recognition had affected her, and she sued the RCMP. This made her detractors more convinced that she was just a big mouth who didn't belong in the Force. So in the end Janet was forced to retire, after 20 years which had started so promisingly. She and her daughters returned to Newfoundland and her family, and they were surprised and pleased how good it felt to get away from the stressful environment and home with family.

3. *Sea Folk* is another of Jim Wellman's collections of sea stories of our province. As usual, each short section tells of some particular incident or an interesting person. In one of the stories the widow of a fisherman who drowned is convinced that if he had worn a flotation device he might not have drowned, or at least they would have been able to recover his body. She happened to be an artist who was able to sell her paintings for around \$400, which was just about enough to buy a workable life vest, which is constructed so that its wearer is able to work in it, unlike the traditional life vest. The widow resolved to buy enough of these life vests in eight years for all the fishermen who had fished with her husband. Perhaps that would be a good project in other communities?

Editorial

DEALING WITH VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM

A debate has been raging in Canada for a couple of weeks now, since the alarming events of 2014 October 20th in Quebec and October 22nd in Ottawa, as to whether they were really acts of terrorism, or simply the acts of deranged individuals.

On 1605 November 5th a man named Guy Fawkes was arrested in the cellars beneath the English House of Commons. He was standing guard over a large collection of barrels of gunpowder which would be set off when King James I of England and VI of Scotland would be present for the opening of Parliament. Fortunately for the King and MPs of the time, the plot was discovered before it could be put into effect, and Guy Fawkes was savagely tortured until he revealed the names of his accomplices. A dozen or so men, commoners and nobility, were then rounded up, interrogated, tortured, and in most cases executed by various means. The event became known as [The Gunpowder Plot](#), and is often regarded as the first case of terrorism to be classed as such.

But it wasn't the first. An even earlier documented "terrorist event" was the [murder of Julius Caesar](#) in the Senate of Rome on 15 March 44 BC. This act was perpetrated by other Senators, including the infamous Brutus (*et tu Brute*), and it changed the face of Rome, replacing the system of government with the Emperors who were for the most part military dictators.

A similar event to remove Hitler from power was the failed [attempt of 1944 July 20th](#) when a planned explosion failed by chance to destroy its intended victim. Although supported by many of those close to Hitler, had it succeeded Hitler would have been killed, and the Third Reich would have changed significantly, perhaps advancing by as much as a year the end of the Second World War.

But were these events Acts of Terrorism? To qualify for that designation, it must be shown that they were serious and violent attempts to disrupt the course of government, and all three match that criterion. Had it succeeded, The Gunpowder Plot may well have caused violent unrest in England, perhaps altering the course of history; the stabbing of Julius Caesar did change the form of government in Rome, moving it from a "democratic" system, albeit one where only the relatively wealthy voted, to a form of dictatorship. The failed attempt on Hitler's life changed nothing.

There is little question that each of these three events can be classed by definition as acts of terrorism, though not necessarily with bad results in at least one case, and have usually been judged by history as such acts. There is however much uncertainty about last week's events in Quebec and Ottawa. These were undisputably fearful events for the victims, their families, witnesses, and first responders, but not much is yet known, and may never be, about the mental states of the perpetrators. They were clearly unstable individuals who demonstrated no regard for human life, but it is unclear whether their intentions were to create social disruption. The most reasonable conclusion is that they were in some way disgruntled at the military or the establishment, as are many people, but these young men either lost control or may have made specific decisions to seek vengeance. We may never know the full truth.

However, both events have been labelled as terrorism because they impacted governmental institutions: the Quebec incident killed one off-

duty soldier and injured another; the Ottawa incident shot and killed a soldier on ceremonial guard at the National War Memorial, and then created mayhem inside the Houses of Parliament. In both instances the underlying causes may have been personal problems in the lives of individuals who, unlike most of us when we are faced with incidents that make us angry, are capable of coping with our negative impulses. These young men could not cope with theirs, and in consequence they became the perpetrators of violent and inhuman acts against others who were in no way responsible for whatever internal troubles the perpetrators were experiencing. These are not acts of terrorism, but instead they are the actions of psychopaths whose problems remained hidden to those who knew them. They are sick human beings who need intervention by qualified medical practitioners.

We begin to question what conditions might have occurred to bring about such actions in the minds of a small minority of individuals. Perhaps among possible causes may be the profusion of violent events we have recently seen in the news, from groups like [ISIS/ISIL](#), [Al-Qaeda](#), [Boko Haram](#), and others; or uncontrollable feelings of personal disempowerment; or events buried deep in past memories. Some authorities even attribute the increased acceptance of violence in the entertainment media as a possible cause: we are unlikely ever to know with certainty.

The sole conclusion we can draw with certainty from these events is that our response should not be one of panic, or of calling for immediate changes in behaviour and legislation, which can lead to over-reaction, thus creating more problems than it solves. This is not appropriate unless proof can be found that the incidents were linked to involvement with terrorist groups. We have seen enough in recent years of government's and the legal system's over-reaction to presumed terrorist threats, prime examples being those of [Mohammed Harkat](#) and the child soldier [Omar Khadr](#).

If we take pride in our democracy — *for its protection of the rights of the innocent, the concept that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and the awareness that even the best of legal systems can result in serious miscarriage of justice* — we must be extremely watchful of legislation produced in stressful situations. Gut reactions may be useful stimuli to debate, but they are not appropriate precursors to the framing of legislation on such far-reaching issues as terrorism.

UPDATE ON THE SNEAKERS

Remember the Five pairs of sneakers

hanging on the wire?

Before the end of October, all had been removed.

Was it that, like apples on a tree in November,

they eventually fell off on their own?

or did they receive help from some mysterious

Newfoundland Light & Power Company employee?

Alas, like so many of life's mysteries,

we may never know the answer.