

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

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INTRODUCING THE REVEREND DAVID TAYLOR



Reverend David Taylor at his desk in the Rectory, Lark Harbour

RECENTLY I had the opportunity to sit down with Reverend David Taylor, the new Rector of our Bay of Islands Parish. I had originally arranged to meet with him for about half an hour to obtain information for this article, but we chatted about a variety of topics relating to our Parish and the role of the Rector in it, and when I looked at the clock I realised we had been talking for two hours.

Rev David, who has stated that he doesn't mind whether we call him "Reverend Taylor", "Reverend David", or simply "David", is a Newfoundlander who has spent the greater part of his life in the western areas of the Island and in Labrador, having worked as an accountant in Labrador City for the first decades of his working life. Encountering a problem of deteriorating vision which made reading columns of numbers on spreadsheets an increasingly difficult task as more time passed, he decided that he should retire from that occupation. Then he was accepted by the Diocese of Western Newfoundland as a candidate for ordination, and he entered Queen's Theological College, St John's, to begin his training.

About three years ago he became Rector of the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Burgeo, the Parish of St Boniface, Ramea, and the Church of the Transfiguration in Grey River. This requires journeys taking hours by boat between the three points, and even with an assistant, much time is spent in travel between those points. So we have a priest who is experienced in dividing his time between three places, as he will be doing likewise between St James, Lark Harbour, St Ambrose, John's Beach, and St Mary's, Curling, although here

there should be fewer delays caused by stormy weather. Rev David is however very cognisant of the scheduling problems even in our easier environment.

Reverend David believes, as we his parishioners do, that a very important part of a minister's work involves demonstrating the role of the Church in small communities like ours by visiting members of the parish, especially the sick, the aged, the homebound, and those in hospital, and he said he expects much of his time to be occupied with fulfilling this obligation. He is aware of our shrinking congregation due to increasing age and the lack of younger people taking part, and he is pleased to see an active Sunday School here at St James Church. But he is also cognisant of the difficulty of keeping young people, especially teenagers, involved in church life once they have received Confirmation. He has already begun a Confirmation class in which the candidates will be encouraged to act as servers, cross bearers, choir members, and various other activities during worship or other aspects of church life in our communities.

Our conversation covered a variety of other issues faced by the Church in today's congregations, such as the attitudes towards gay persons who have a place in the modern Christian spectrum and should be included as Jesus would have included them. He believes that sermons should be concise and relevant to the various questions that we as modern Christian people have to resolve in our own lives as we do our best to follow the teachings of Jesus which are aimed at all human beings and not only those who attend church regularly, but also those who attend rarely or never. One major difficulty that may be a little hard to resolve will be the timing of worship services on Sundays in an effort to please everyone in the three church locations. We are likely to find that service times may not all be convenient for everyone, and we may find ourselves having to attend church at times we would not freely choose and may not be very convenient for us.

It was an interesting and friendly conversation with a cheerful, positive gentleman who is enthusiastic about his responsibility and who will, I am sure, work hard to make our Church more relevant in the communities he serves. I believe he will advance and develop the great work of his predecessors in our Parish of St James, Lark Harbour, York Harbour and John's Beach; and also in the Parish of St Mary's, Curling, where he will be spending half of his time.

We wish Reverend David and his wife Elaine a long, effective, and spiritually satisfying ministry in our Parish.

— SLH

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LH=Lark Harbour YH=York Harbour JB=John's Beach
 HC=Holy Communion MP=Morning Prayer EP=Evening Prayer
 P&P=Prayer & Praise HB=Baptism MHS=Mem Hymn Sing
 ● Full Moon

2016	NOVEMBER	2016
3 rd	Thur	3-5pm Blow-Me -Down Library 40th Anniv Celeb
5 th	Sat	Standard Time - turn clocks back one hour tonight
6 th	Sun	7:00pm, St James, HC
8 th	Tues	Presidential Election, USA
11 th	Fri	9:45am Remembrance Day Service at LH
13 th	Sun	11:00am, St James, Morning Prayer
14 th	Mon	● Full Moon
20 th	Sun	11:00am, St James, HC, Int'n'l Children's Day (UN)
27 th	Sun	11:00am, St James, HC

2016	DECEMBER	2016
1 st	Thur	6:30pm, St James, Family Carol Service
4 th	Sun	7:00pm, St James, HC
10 th	Sat	Human Rights Day
11 th	Sun	11:00am, St James, HC
13 th	Tue	● Full Moon
18 th	Sun	6:30pm, St James, Sunday School Pageant
21 st	Wed	Winter begins (Winter Solstice)
24 th	Sat	6:30pm, St James, Dressing of the Crèche & HC
25 th	Sun	CHRISTMAS DAY

2017	JANUARY	2017
1 st	Sun	NEW YEAR'S DAY
8 th	Sun	
12 th	Thur	● Full Moon
15 th	Sun	
22 nd	Sun	
29 th	Sun	

2017	ADVANCE DATES	2017
Feb 10 th	Fri	● Full Moon
Mar 11 th	Sat	Clocks forward 1 hour for Daylight Saving Time
Mar 12 th	Sun	● Full Moon
20 th	Mon	Spring Equinox
Apr 11 th	Tues	● Full Moon
16 th	Sun	EASTER DAY
May 10 th	Wed	● Full Moon
14 th	Sun	Mothers' Day
22 nd	Mon	Victoria Day
Jun 9 th	Fri	● Full Moon
18 th	Sun	Fathers' Day
21 st	Mon	Summer Solstice
Jul 9 th	Sun	● Full Moon
Aug 7 th	Mon	● Full Moon
Sep 4 th	Mon	Labour Day
6 th	Wed	● Full Moon
22 nd	Fri	Autumn Equinox
Oct 5 th	Thur	● Full Moon
9 th	Mon	Thanksgiving Day, Canada
24 th	Tues	United Nations Day

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

Several local businesses supported the *BLOW•ME•DOWNER* in the past. Their inclusion here is a recognition of that support. Other local businesses will be included at their request.

- **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
 - **Creative Photography by Linda, 131 Main St, Lark Hr**
Email: creativephotographybylinda9@gmail.com
131 Main St, Lark Harbour 709-681-2255
www.creativephotography-bylinda.com
 - **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. 634-7883
 - **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
- ● ● Please support our local enterprises ● ● ●

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OBIEC Outer Bay of Islands Enhancement Committee

Users of the Trails developed by the OBIEC are reminded **NOT** to light fires along the trails or in the woods at any time. This is a potentially dangerous practice and presents a risk of grave damage to the environment, nearby property, and *perhaps even to human safety.*

**PLEASE DO NOT LIGHT FIRES IN THE WOODS
OR ALONG THE TRAILS AT ANY TIME.**

Visit our [Webpage](http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com) which contains eleven years of past issues of

The BLOW•ME•DOWNER

and many other items of local or national interest including historical information, many photographs and even some previously unpublished fiction
at

www.blowmedowner.webs.com

**PLEASE READ THE IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON PAGE 7
ABOUT YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE OUR LIBRARY
AND HOW YOU MAY HELP TO PREVENT THE CLOSURE**

BREAK-UP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM A SIGN OF THE TIMES?

With the win of the “Brexit” faction in the UK and the avowed decision of the UK Government to follow through on it and leave the European Union, it seems quite likely that the very existence of “The United Kingdom” may come into question.

The concept of a “United Kingdom” came into existence shortly after the death of Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1603. Elizabeth died with no direct heir of her own, so there was no obvious royal individual to succeed her. She had managed to unite England at a time when the country had been seriously threatened in 1588 by the Spanish Armada which was virtually destroyed by the navy Elizabeth had nurtured during her reign. The English nobility had no intention of risking their country by allowing anyone of whom they did not approve to take Elizabeth’s place. Edward VI, Henry’s son, the sickly boy king, reigned for 6 years until his death at age 16. It was in 1549 during his reign that the first English *Book of Common Prayer* was compiled by Archbishop Cranmer. “Bloody Mary” then succeeded Edward for 5 years and became a bad memory which Elizabeth took drastic measures to remove on her accession. Elizabeth successfully led England through the uncertain years of the Reformation, when the return of Catholicism was a dreaded memory not to be repeated at any cost.

The “Virgin Queen”, as Elizabeth became known, did all she could, with measures that rivalled those used earlier by Mary against the Protestants, to remove any remaining traces of Catholicism in England, and she became the champion of Protestantism in Europe. On her death it was decided to offer the throne to James VI of Scotland, the closest living royal relative of Elizabeth. James, perennially short of funds in Scotland, willingly accepted the offer and moved to London, largely deserting his poorer country to the north, and became King James I of England as well as James VI of Scotland. It was King James I of England who caused the Bible to be translated into English that became known as “*the Authorised Version*”, or “*the King James Version*”.

In 1605, two years into James’s reign, the famous Gunpowder Plot, a Catholic scheme to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London was discovered. With the capture of Guy Fawkes as he stood watch over the barrels of gunpowder in the cellars below the Parliament building, a new witch hunt began as many Catholics were tortured and terminated. Guy Fawkes was burned at the stake, of which the celebration still persists to this day in England every November 5th with “Bonfire Night” and the effigy of Guy Fawkes.

The “United Kingdom” concept was born, but it did not receive formal acceptance as such for many years. And now, after a referendum a couple of years ago in which Scotland voted clearly to remain in the EU, while England voted to leave it, negotiations have begun to follow through on the vote. It begins to look as if the United Kingdom itself may be in jeopardy, with Scotland demanding greater independence from London to enable it to remain in the EU.

The UK was never quite content to be in the EU, resisting for years until eventually joining in 1973. Now, 43 years later, it seems that England will be leaving the Union, but what about Scotland? If Scotland is able to remain in the EU after England leaves, what will happen to the “United Kingdom”? The name will certainly become a misnomer, and it is possible that the close relationship between England and Scotland that has developed over 200 years may become unravelled. This would not be a surprising development, given

growing concerns over global domination by multinational business conglomerates, the rising interest in greater independence as evidenced by the breakup of the Soviet Union, the ever-present independence aspirations as seen in Québec, and the dissatisfaction of some countries over the functioning of the United Nations.

After the Second World War, and perhaps due at least in part to some of the horrific events that have become history, most nations seemed to be interested in developing greater cooperation among themselves, as evidenced by the founding of the United Nations out of the League of Nations. Various regional organisations like NATO and SEATO came into being, designed around the concept of mutual anti-aggression pacts. However many of these same international organisations are now experiencing disillusionment and even failure among their members, reducing their effectiveness for the purposes for which they were originally established. The tendency to criticise and sometimes even to withdraw is becoming more widespread. It may be that the withdrawal of the UK from the EU is merely an extreme example of this withdrawal syndrome.

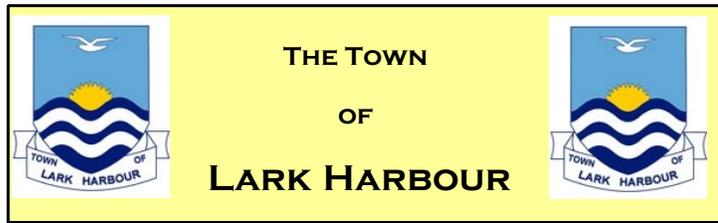
It remains to be seen whether England’s withdrawal is a mere flash in the pan, but if it becomes the prototype of disintegration of other nations which formed confederations as did the small states that now comprise Germany and Italy, we may be entering a period of break-up of larger nations and a return to a world of small republics, all jealous of their borders, with the potential to erupt in little wars that may easily be much more sinister than ever before due to the proliferation of weapons more lethal than ever before. The Middle East is already a region of uncontrollable factions bristling with the desire to make war on each other and with the potential of nuclear weapons at their disposal some day soon. Imagine too the result of a break-up of the United States of America, given their history of Civil War rife with racial hatred, memories of slavery, Ku Klux Klan, extremely unpopular Muslim immigrants, and their present obsession with the Second Amendment. It is presently a remote possibility, but the popularity of a demagogue like Donald Trump gaining power or, worse still, frustrated at failing to, and taking revenge on his opponents, is a grave danger. The tactics of ISIS, Al Qaeda, and similar movements that might develop, would be a kindergarten romp compared with what could befall.

The 1914-18 War to End All Wars and the conflagration that followed in 1939 could already have signposted the beginning of the end of civilisation as we know it. The world needs more nations prepared to work with each other, not to separate into more distinct factions, and not to leave it to multinational corporations whose concern is exclusively to guard their own bottom line with no care for the rest of humanity.

It is a conflagration to be avoided at all costs. But how?

ENGLISH MONARCHS 1509 TO 1688

Monarch	Born	Died	Reigned	Duration
Henry VIII	1491	1547	1509 - 1547	38 years
Edward VI	1537	1553	1547 - 1553	6 years
Mary I	1516	1558	1553 - 1558	5 years
Elizabeth I	1533	1603	1558 - 1603	45 years
James I	1566	1625	1603 - 1625	22 years
Charles I	1600	1649	1625 - 1649	24 years
Charles II	1630	1685	1660 - 1685	25 years
James II	1633	1701	1685 - 1688	3 years



PLEASE READ THE IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON PAGE 7 ABOUT [YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE OUR LIBRARY](#) AND HOW YOU MAY HELP TO PREVENT CLOSURE

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of 2016 September 19

Present: Mayor Jamie Park
Deputy Mayor Melanie Joyce
Councillors: Rose Sheppard, Richard Sheppard
Clerks: Joanna Pottle (Recording), Peggy Sheppard
Absent: Councillor Kimberly Herritt

- Minutes of regular Council meeting of 2016 August 31 adopted.
- 2016 By-Election: Newest Council member Richard Sheppard was sworn in. The Oath of Affirmation was signed.
- Water/Sewer Update: No further update given at this time.
- Financial Report approved. No accounts payable at this time.
- Budget Variance Report: Reviewed with no follow up necessary.
- Write Offs of \$286.86 approved.
- Budget 2017 to be retabled at the next monthly meeting.
- A discussion was held regarding email sent to Council regarding fitness equipment. Agreed not to sell any fitness equipment.
- Agreed to have a meeting with HMJ Consulting to gather more information on a Municipal Plan.
- A resolution was made to withdraw the money currently in the recreation account and have the account closed (Other Account listed under the Town of Lark Harbour). At this time, the Recreation Committee is not functioning and service charges are still coming out monthly. This money will be donated to the Fire Department. Since the Recreation Committee was put in place by both Towns of Lark Harbour and York Harbour, a resolution was also made by the Town of York Harbour.
- Reviewed complaint from resident. Agreed not a council issue.
- Agreed to send letter to resident regarding abandoned vehicle.
- Smokers' receptacle to be relocated elsewhere in front of the Hall due to concerns with parking from resident.
- Council reviewed concern from resident's breakwater near the end of Main Street. Agreed to look at the area to access the condition.
- Clerk to contact DOT regarding road conditions in Lark Harbour.
- All correspondence reviewed with no follow-up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

MUSKRAT FALLS AGREEMENT

Congratulations to Premier Dwight Ball and his Government on arriving at an amicable agreement with Todd Russell and other First Nations leaders of Labrador over the dispute about methyl mercury expected when the Muskrat Falls reservoir is flooded.

It was a sensitive issue for the Labrador indigenous people, who have hunted and fished there from time immemorial and naturally do not want their food sources to become polluted. But it was also a sensitive issue for the Government due to the extra costs involved at a time when money is a scarce resource and the Muskrat project is already over budget.

It appears that vegetation left in the flooded area is likely to produce methyl mercury as it decomposes in the reservoir. The chemical will then remain in the sediment on the floor of the reservoir. [Methyl mercury](#) is a dangerous chemical and many readers may recall "[Minamata disease](#)" which caused very serious, sometimes crippling neurological damage among residents of the town of Minamata, Japan, in the 1970s. This must be avoided at any cost.

The Labrador indigenous leaders have been demanding that flooding of the reservoir should be delayed until the affected trees and soil can be removed. But some flooding is apparently needed to winterise the area. In good Canadian tradition a compromise was reached in which some flooding will be done now, but the water will be drained next spring to allow the trees and soil to be removed. The Government has undertaken that if scientific evidence indicates, corrective measures will be taken.

It seems that both parties are more or less satisfied with the agreement, although some not directly involved in the talks are withholding their judgement. But let us hope anyway that no further issues arise and the terms of the agreement can be followed to the satisfaction of both sides, for the general benefit of all residents of Newfoundland and Labrador.

[TWO-THIRDS OF WILDLIFE WILL DISAPPEAR BY 2020](#)

Check this CBC News report for some very disturbing information from the World Wildlife Federation. Click on the title above, or on this link : [WWF](#).

It's not all bad news, but it's bad enough. And even if you are one of those people who either don't believe reports like this one, or, worse still, don't care, read it anyway, because the ultimate truth is even more disturbing.

If we humans make the habitats of two-thirds of the world's animals unlivable, then there will inevitable be some spill-over that will affect us. It may be in the form of destroying some of our own environment so that we find ourselves short of food, water, or air to breathe; or we may find ourselves facing ever more violent weather conditions, which appear to have been increasingly evidenced over the last few years.

But regardless of what form it takes, we need to be aware and taking measures to reduce the causes as much as we can, before it is too late. The "tipping point", the ultimate truth, may not be very far away, if not already a historical fact.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Our English Language is a beautiful, clear and precise medium of expression. It has been enriched over the centuries by adapting vocabulary from other languages and cultures so that a greater total of ideas, concepts, and objects can be described in English than is possible in perhaps any other language on earth. More individuals use English as a second language than any other, and more books exist in English than in any other tongue.

But for those same reasons it is perhaps often the most misused and distorted language than any other. I can say this with some authority as I spent most of my professional life in an often rather unsuccessful effort to teach spoken and written precision and accuracy of language to our younger generations. It was a worthwhile, if sometimes frustrating, occupation because the world required then, as it still does, care and precision in the use of words if we are to understand our communications with each other. These skills are important in many more work places than merely those of the legal profession.

Below are described several examples that the leaders of our nation, members of our media, and other professionals often use in their communications with us, but presumably also among themselves. As educated people they should be aware that the abbreviations and metaphors they often use are confusing or completely unknown to some of us. Language should be used with caution as accurate and effective communication is at the heart of all human endeavours.

Have you noticed how many of our politicians and commentators have begun talking in **metaphors**? Here is one example.

Recently a certain politician was referring to the cost of a project somewhere in northern Canada. He spoke of the cost as if it was a northern geographical location rather than a sum of money. Why did he say the cost will be *NORTH* of 53.8 million dollars? What is wrong with the good old simple words “the cost will be greater than 53.8 million dollars”? Is it an attempt to appear sophisticated? Or more knowledgeable than we humble but lesser mortals? Or (and I hope not) perhaps to make it sound like a smaller sum than it really is? We need more clarity in politics, not more confusion and manipulation.

And what about that frequently-used expression “from coast to coast”, when “across Canada” would be at least as effective and more inclusive too? Political language should be concise.

Then there are those who speak of “NU-CU-LAR” energy, giving it three syllables when the actual word is “NUCLEAR”, pronounced “*new clear*” or “*noo clear*”, and has only two. This particular example is quite frequently heard among some reporters and commentators employed by CBC and other news agencies. Are they unaware that their pronunciation is incorrect, or are they really unable to pronounce the word correctly? One hopes their reporting is more precise than their pronunciation of such relatively familiar words.

But it is not just politicians mangle our language. The language of the stock markets is even more interesting in this regard. One method of making money in the market is known as “short selling”. It simply means that, if you are prepared to take the risk, you can sell shares that you do not own by borrowing them for an agreed period of time and replacing them by buying at a lower price when the share value has fallen and hopefully you have made a nice profit. Speculators will refer to being “short” or “long” in a certain company, depending on whether or not they own shares in that company. In the right

circumstances this can result in very healthy profits, but the risk can be ruinous if the shares rise in value instead of falling within the agreed time. Perhaps stockbrokers wish to prolong the mystique that frightens away many less experienced clients in their business by adding extra confusion into their technical language?

I am not aware if these kinds of obfuscation occur in languages other than English, but with human nature being what it is the world over, it would be surprising if it were not the case. If you have experienced similar occurrences in other languages or in your trade or profession, it would be interesting to learn of them.

A few other examples of poor use of language will also bear mention. One of the most irritating mannerisms (for want of a better name for it) is illustrated here:

Well, like, it was a great day, like with everybody there, like, all excited, like, about what was happening, like, and then, like, it started raining, like, and everybody got in their cars, like, and went home.
No further comment is needed on this.

How often have you heard news reports like this:

The Fire Chief said the fire would be extinguished very soon, but John Smith said flare-ups could continue for several hours.

Are the Fire Chief and John Smith one and the same person in this sentence, or are they two persons who have rather different opinions on the state of the fire? I have heard statements like this example often used in news reports. Presumably they were taught somewhere to use this construction. However it is a totally unnecessary ambiguity which would be easier to avoid than to use: the sentence could be much improved and made more concise at the same time with a slight rearrangement of words as below:

Fire Chief John Smith said the fire would be extinguished very soon, but flare-ups could continue for several hours.

Punctuation is another element necessary for effective communication. Consider the following:

The nurse said the patient is missing.

As it stands, this sentence is ambiguous. Who is absent? the nurse or the patient? We do not know. If read aloud, the lack of punctuation should tell the reader that no pauses are to be made in the sentence. But this is the cause of the ambiguity, so we must add some punctuation. For clarity, at least one comma is certainly required, and perhaps two, depending on the intended meaning. In the example given, the commas separate the spoken words from the supporting narrative words, and their location in the sentence is critical.

*The nurse said **the patient is absent.***

The nurse,** said the patient, **is absent.

In the first sentence, the spoken words in bold type were: **the patient is absent.** The nurse was speaking. In the second one, the spoken words were separated into two parts. The patient was speaking. Both are correct, but their meanings are very different. Commas (or even speech marks) are used there to separate spoken from narrative words. If the commas are heeded, the meaning will be clear. If not, confusion may reign.

How important do you believe accuracy and precision are in our daily use of language? Are they important enough?

—SLH

MORE ON DONALD J TRUMP

If you can take more!

“I will tell you at the time.

I will keep you in suspense.”

—Donald J Trump, 2016 October 19th

Those words were Donald Trump’s answer when the Moderator of the third US Presidential Debate on October 19th asked him if he would concede defeat, should the result of the election not end in his favour.

On the day after the Debate, Trump made the following public statement, ostensibly a promise, but delivered like a threat:

“I would like to promise and pledge to all of my voters and supporters and to all of the people of the United States that I will totally accept the results of this great and historic presidential election” Then, after a meaningful pause, and amid much noisy support from his audience of adherents, he added, **“If I win.”**

This is perhaps Trump’s most controversial statement so far.

After all the shouting is over, Democracy depends on the tacit agreement of everyone involved to accept the will of the legitimate majority. We saw this after the Conservative loss in our 2015 election when Stephen Harper accepted the Liberal victory, and a similar response will be expected when the American Presidential Election results are announced. This fact may be the weakest point of the system, and there is really no viable means of enforcing such acceptance. In other words, if those involved in a democratic election process choose to ignore the result and encourage their supporters to take things into their own hands, the inevitable result is likely to be at least mayhem and, at worst, civil war.

Donald Trump has shown himself to be the archetypical “loose cannon”, a person who is unpredictable and therefore a possible danger to his associates. Trump is precisely this, as he has the potential to be extremely damaging to the stability of the United States, and by extension, of the entire world. His answer given to the Moderator in the third US Presidential Debate of October 19th is perhaps just a tactic intended to keep his critics in suspense, or, on a far more sinister level, it may be a veiled threat.

And given the nature of many of those who have flocked under his banner and at his rallies have been heard and encouraged to yell chants like “Lock her up!”, referring to his rival Hillary Clinton, one has to be concerned. This is not appropriate in a democratic election.

“It’s only happening south of the border,” you say. “It doesn’t affect Canada.” If it did come to what Trump’s words may have hinted at, hopefully its effects would remain south of the border, but there is no guarantee of this. So, given the fact that almost every political, cultural, business or social movement in the United States arrives in Canada sooner or later—popular music, literature, sports, movies, tv programs, religious groups, businesses like Walmart, Hart Stores, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wells Fargo, Bank of America—you may be sure that some form of Trumpism would arrive eventually. ***

Americans seem to have a greater propensity towards extremism than do Canadians, although we must not pretend that we don’t have some home-grown extremists, including some very dangerous ones. They may be a bit less vocal here. But Hitler’s influence from Germany was felt in Canada. In the 1930s, and after World War Two

in the 1950s, McCarthyism spilled over into Canada. And if you doubt these possibilities, look at the way some young people—and not only young immigrant people—have responded during the last few years to the call of foreign terrorist groups.

It begins to look more and more unlikely that Trump will ever be elected President of the USA, so concerns may perhaps be unwarranted. We shall know on 2016 November 9th when all the results are announced.

However if what appears unlikely does become sad fact, then we in Canada will not escape the effects. Trump has declared himself to be “America first”, which would seem to mean that all his policies would be designed and delivered with little concern for the interests of other nations. And he has a large following of quite rabid supporters expecting him to follow up on his promises to them.

Given that the USA is almost certainly the most powerful nation on earth, with a huge military establishment and unprecedented economic strength, then today’s allies of the USA would be forced to accept whatever crumbs fell from the American table. International agreements would take second place, trade negotiations would be even more difficult for a small nation like Canada to safeguard its own interests, defence pacts like NATO would be jeopardised if not cancelled, and even the United Nations, never a very effective institution on the world stage, would be rendered even less effective.

Along with Mexico as the closest neighbours, since Canada’s ties to the United States are closer than Mexico’s and our population is smaller, we would feel the effects quicker and more acutely. The analogy of the Elephant and the Mouse would be even worse for Canada, and there would be little we could do about it. Our most immediate and effective protection would be to ensure an awareness on the part of all Canadians. But after so many years of quiet acceptance, that would be an enormous and very negative-looking task, with which many Canadians would be uncomfortable and embarrassed. Many Canadians might also be very difficult to convince that it mattered much anyway. Truly an alarming scenario.

We must just hope that no such measures become necessary to preserve Canada’s integrity and independence..

NOTE

*** *If you doubt the extent of existing American business activity in Canada, consider that many (but not all) companies that include the word “Canada” in their names are foreign-owned, mostly by American parent companies, but some by Chinese or others. There are also many that do not include “Canada” in their names.*

FIRST NEWFOUNDLANDER NOMINATED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

The above announcement was made on 2016 October 17th, Monday, when Justice Malcolm Rowe of Newfoundland was nominated to Canada’s Supreme Court by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

CBC News reported. *“Justice Malcolm Rowe has been on the Bench since 1999”* He must be a little sore by now after sitting there on a bench for 16 years! Maybe he had a nice soft cushion? Let’s wish him a more comfortable seat in his new position.

[LAST CHANCE TO SAVE OUR LIBRARY!](#)

Article by Norma Pickett

Retired Librarian and current Library Board Member

As most of you are now aware, on April 27, 2016, the NL Provincial Government announced the Province's Library Resources Board was adopting a new "[regional library model](#)", which would see 54 branches shut down over two years, leaving 41 open. The money saved by closing these libraries would be reinvested in the larger centres remaining open. The PILRB expect the implementation of this model will provide a better service for the Province as a whole. The way I see it, is that the smaller communities like ours will have nothing and the larger centres will have more hours and resources. How unfair is that? How undervalued and unimportant are those 54 communities feeling? Our [Blow-Me-Down Library in Lark Harbour](#), along with many others in rural communities, was saddened to think our new Liberal Government could be so cruel.

The cost of keeping 54 libraries open is under \$1 million. Today, \$1 million in government services would probably pave a few kilometres of roads in one community. Comparing the use of \$1 million, where do you think the most value lies? Not to deny how very important our roads are, Mr Joyce, we really do appreciate the improvements on Route 450, but when we look at library closures, we are looking at impacting 54 communities—there is no comparison. When looking at our own Library in Lark Harbour, I speak from experience when I say that the value packed into the 18 hours weekly that our Library is open to the public is value you will not get in another institution.

In June, after a focussed public outcry, Education Minister Dale Kirby reversed library cuts, at least temporarily. Kirby said that over the coming months, [consulting firm EY](#) will do a review of the library system to figure out where things will go. In the short term, the government has given the Provincial Library Board close to \$300,000 to continue funding the targeted libraries until March 2017. The results of the Review should be available in the new year.

At a recent Local Board Meeting, we met and discussed the advice and encouragement of our Western Division Board to participate in EY's Library Review which is presently ongoing. EY is holding two public consultation sessions on the West Coast, neither of them in areas where libraries are closing. However, we can all have our say by answering the Public Consultation Response Form questions and doing the on-line survey on the library homepage at <http://www.nlpl.ca/>. It is important we tell them, not only why our library is important to our community, but what we feel our library should be and what it can become (up to 2,500 words can be used in the commentary space). However, we only have a limited amount

of time to get this done. **The end date for the survey and questions is Thursday, November 10, 2016**, so we need to get busy. We are asking library patrons, young and old, teachers, students, municipal council members and all our family members to go online and answer the survey questions and write responses to the three public consultation questions. If you would like to have something to say, but feel intimidated by computers, jot your thoughts down on paper and bring them to the Library—there will be help available with entering the information.

Individually, we can do very little, but collectively our voices are valued and important. Coming out of the Western NL Divisional Meeting, the advice was, "*This is our last shot ... our last kick at the can, so to speak ... we will not get another chance. If we want to save our Library, we cannot wait. If we say nothing, the message we are giving to EY is ... we really don't care..*" The people doing the review are the people we have to convince. On October 16, on VOCM, Education Minister Dale Kirby said, "The decision to close libraries was suspended and there is no appetite to revisit that decision." Let us show EY how very important our Library is to our Community and why it should not close.

ON A HAPPIER NOTE COME CELEBRATE WITH US

On Thursday, November 3, 2016, from 3 - 5pm we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the official opening of the Blow-Me-Down Library.

If you haven't been into our Library in a while, we would still love to see you. Roxanne Sheppard is our new Librarian and she is doing a wonderful job with lots of fun things that might be of interest to you. There are Reading Challenges for students, Painting Classes and upcoming Quilting Classes for Adults, and lots of new books for our readers. If there is something you would like to see happening in our Library, give Roxanne a call and let her know at 681-2147.

So on the afternoon of November 3, please drop in to the Library for a visit, a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of anniversary cake. Invite your neighbour as well. You might even find that book you've been waiting to read!

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	3:00 - 6:00pm
Tuesday	3:00 - 8:00pm
Wednesday	3:00 - 8:00pm
Thursday	3:00 - 8:00pm

Telephone 681-2147

OF CABBAGES, iPHONES AND WASHING MACHINES

*“The time has come,” the Walrus said,
 “To talk in many modes:
 Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—
 Of cabbages—and overloads—
 And Samsung phones and washing machines
 That sometimes just explode.”*

(Adapted from Lewis Carroll’s poem
[*The Walrus and the Carpenter*](#))

It sounds rather like a joke, or one of those “urban myths”, but in fact it is neither: it is *true*. Samsung is a huge company based in South Korea. It manufactures a great variety of products, offers many services round the world, has a total value of half a *trillion* US dollars and half a billion employees worldwide. But it has problems.

Recently we have heard that certain Samsung [smartphone products have had to be recalled](#) because of exploding batteries that could be very dangerous; but also, there have been reports that some Samsung [washing machines have been exploding](#). It’s hard to think that an innocent-looking machine in your basement or kitchen can be such a lethal object. Though maybe it’s a tactic by Kim Jong-un of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to upset his neighbours to the south. Or even worse, it could be the start of a plot by electronic devices to take over the world.

Apparently if the machines are overloaded—and who doesn’t sometimes overload the washing machine?—it might actually explode, possibly causing injury to anyone nearby. Who on earth would believe that such a humble, useful appliance could be so vicious? A veritable wolverine among appliances!

Surprisingly, perhaps, it is true that [climatic conditions can cause cabbages to explode](#). Some thirty years ago there were cases of exploding cabbages in Central Newfoundland near Grand Falls, NL, and I recall a report of a man walking past a field of cabbages, thinking that someone was taking pot shots at him!** I doubt, though, that there is much danger from insurrectional cabbages.

But exploding washing machines??? Samsung has withdrawn and replaced the offending iPhones. As for exploding cabbages, I don’t think there have been any reports of such a danger this year, nor any significant risks of possible injury. But if you think you might have overloaded your Samsung washer, take care and stand back from it until it completes its cycle. In these days of worldwide insurrection you can never be too careful! —SLH

*** The explanation for exploding cabbages was that there had been a very dry spell that stopped the cabbages from growing, and the outside leaves then began to dry up and harden. Then rain came, and growth began again in the heart of the cabbage, and pressure built up until the dry outside leaves cracked open with the inside pressure, often with a loud report like a gunshot. Such occurrences are not uncommon when the right weather conditions have occurred.*

PLEASE READ THE IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON PAGE 7 ABOUT [YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE OUR LIBRARY](#) AND HOW YOU MAY HELP TO PREVENT THE CLOSURE.

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