

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

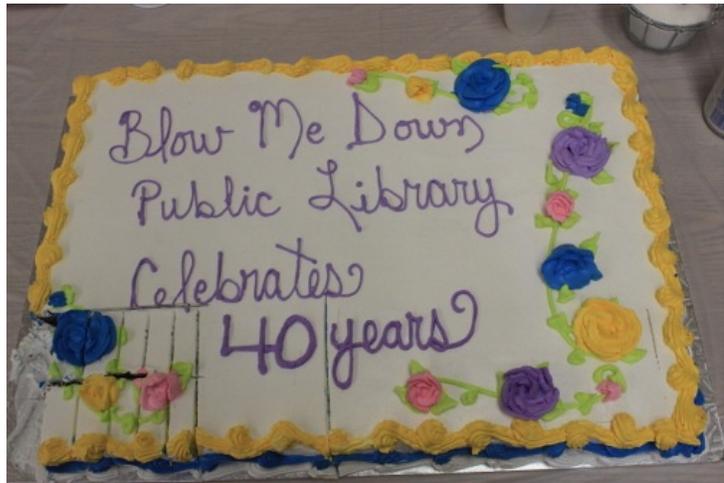
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2016 December 02 Friday

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SAVE OUR SMALL LIBRARIES



On 2016 November 3rd, Board Members and Patrons of BlowMeDown Public Library in Lark Harbour celebrated 40 years of continuous Library service in the community. Board Members and Patrons of all ages gathered to enjoy a cake and refreshments and to reminisce about events and personalities over the years.

Located in St James All-Grade School, Lark Harbour, the Library first opened its doors to the public on 1976 November 5th after years of letter-writing and argument with the Provincial Library Board who strenuously opposed 'Joint Service' libraries—public libraries located in the schools of small communities across NL where a separate facility may not be possible.

Over these forty years our Library has faithfully served students and adult readers of both Lark Harbour and York Harbour. However, last year the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador decided to close more than half the libraries in small communities like ours. This arbitrary and short-sighted decision caused an uproar across the Province and the libraries were given a temporary last-minute reprieve. We are still awaiting a final decision from the Government, but if the closure plan is upheld we can promise that we in small towns faced with the loss of our libraries will put up a fight: we have few services, and we will not accept quietly the loss of one valuable service we do have. — 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 DECEMBER 2016

1st Thur 6:30pm, St James, Family Carol Service
 4th **Sun** 7:00pm, LH, HC
 10th Sat LH-YH Santa Claus Parade
 Human Rights Day
 11th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, HC
 13th Tue ● Full Moon
 14th Wed St James School Christmas Craft Fair
 18th **Sun** 6:30pm, St James, Sunday School Pageant
 21st Wed Winter begins (Winter Solstice)
 24th Sat 6:30pm, LH, Dressing of the Crèche & HC
 25th **Sun** **CHRISTMAS DAY** - No Church Service

2017 JANUARY 2017

1st **Sun** 7:00pm, LH, HC, The Naming of Jesus
 8th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, HC, The Baptism of the Lord
 12th Thur ● Full Moon
 15th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, Epiphany 2, MP
 22nd **Sun** 11:00am, LH, Epiphany 3
 29th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, Epiphany 4

2017 FEBRUARY 2017

5th **Sun** 7:00pm, LH, Epiphany 5
 10th Fri ● Full Moon
 12th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, Epiphany 6
 19th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, Epiphany 7
 26th **Sun** 11:00am, LH, Transfiguration of our Lord

2017 MARCH 2017

1st Wed Ash Wednesday - LH, 3:30pm
 5th **Sun** Lent 1, LH, 7:00pm
 8th Wed 7:00pm - LH, Midweek Lenten Service
 11th Sat Clocks forward 1 hour for Daylight Saving Time
 12th **Sun** Lent 2, LH, 11:00am
 ● Full Moon
 15th Wed 7:00pm - JB, Midweek Lenten Service
 19th **Sun** Lent 3, LH, 11:00am
 20th Mon Spring Equinox
 22nd Wed 7:00pm - LH, Midweek Lenten Service
 26th **Sun** Lent 4, 11:00am, LH
 29th Wed 7:00pm - JB, Midweek Lenten Service

2017 ADVANCE DATES 2017

Apr 2nd **Sun**
 9th **Sun** Palm Sunday
 11th Tues ● Full Moon
 16th **Sun** EASTER DAY
 May 10th Wed ● Full Moon
 14th **Sun** Mothers' Day
 22nd Mon Victoria Day
 June 9th Fri ● Full Moon

18th **Sun** Fathers' Day
 21st Mon Summer Solstice
 Jul 9th **Sun** ● Full Moon
 Aug 7th Mon ● Full Moon
 Sep 4th Mon Labour Day
 6th Wed ● Full Moon
 22nd Fri Autumn Equinox
 Oct 5th Thur ● Full Moon ([Harvest Moon](#))
 8th **Sun** Thanksgiving Sunday
 9th Mon Thanksgiving Holiday, Canada
 24th Tues United Nations Day
 Nov 4th Sat ● Full Moon
 Dec 3rd **Sun** ● Full Moon
 25th Mon **CHRISTMAS 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.

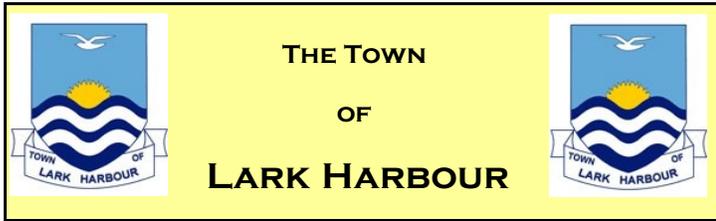
- ~~~~~
- **Byrne's Store, Main Street, York Harbour**
groceries, hardware, gas & diesel, souvenirs 681-2040
~~~~~
  - **Captain Cook B&B & Cottages, York Harbour**  
Email: [info@captaincookbb.ca](mailto:info@captaincookbb.ca)                      681-2906; 1-877-681-2906  
~~~~~
 - **Creative Photography by Linda, 131 Main St, Lark Hr**
Email: creativephotographybylinda9@gmail.com
131 Main St, Lark Harbour 709-681-2255
www.creativephotography-by-linda.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 ● ● ●

A Joyful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to Everyone

Visit our [Webpage](#) to read eleven years of past issues of

The BLOW•ME•DOWNER

items of local or national interest & historical information
 photographs and even some previously unpublished fiction at
www.blowmedowner.webs.com



Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of 2016 October 24

[Approved Nov 28 by Council for publication]

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

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

- Minutes of regular meeting of September 19th and special meeting of October 4th and October 6th adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update: Clerk directed to contact the Engineering Company for further update on Phase 2 process and to follow up on engineering costs as per letter sent from Municipal Affairs. Council viewed reply letter from Municipal Affairs regarding Phase 3 funding.
- Municipal Plan: Clerks directed to contact other towns to obtain more information on the process of a Municipal Plan.
- Budget 2017: Council viewed draft budget that has been compiled. Agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss this further.
- Skate Rink: Discussion regarding supplies to be purchased for skating rink (bladder) that was purchased last year. Mayor Park will look for supplies to be purchased before the bladder is put in place for the winter season.
- Financial Report: Approved with accounts payable of \$391.00
- Budget Variance Report reviewed with no follow up necessary.
- Collections Update: Clerk provided update of taxes owed.
- Building Permits: Approve building permit.
- Write Offs of \$226.64 approved.
- CEEP 2016-2017: The Town is pleased to report that we have been approved for a CEEP Project again this year. We are anticipating the start date to be November 7, 2016. Council agreed to meet and have a look at sections of concern in the area. A letter will be sent to Municipal Affairs for approval for a Council member to work on the project.
- Celebrate Canada: Council will apply for funding for Canada Day Celebrations in 2017.
- Fire Department Appreciation Night: Brief discussion was held on

November 26th at Lark Harbour Town Hall.

- BMO Bill Payment Service: Agreed to proceed with this service.
- Financial Statements: Discussion held regarding the current status of Gas Tax Financial Statements. Clerk directed to contact Auditor.
- Discussion held regarding septic approvals for property owners.
- Agreed for Councillors and Clerks to attend Municipal Assessment Training in Corner Brook on December 8th. Clerk directed to contact Acting Clerk to work at the office.
- Clerk advised Council of Great Humber Joint Council meeting being held on October 29th in McIvers.
- Council viewed complaint from resident regarding water running on property. Will follow up on this issue.
- Agreed to send letter to pet owner regarding dog complaint.
- Agreed to send letter to owner regarding condition of property.
- Complaint discussed regarding pot holes and washouts on Park & Youden Road. Agreed to have necessary repairs made.
- Review of Weekly reports from Chase the Ace Committee.
- Complaint received regarding Pennell Road. Repairs to be done.
- Agreed to purchase new printer for the office.
- Complaint discussed regarding driveway. This is a DOT issue and not a Council issue.
- Discussion regarding 2016 Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. The Christmas Parade will be held on December 10th and the date for the Christmas Tree Lighting will be the same day as the Carolling Service at the Church.
- Review of email received regarding Beacon Road. Clerk directed to follow up on this.
- All correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

Merry Christmas
 and
Happy New Year

CUBA, FIDEL CASTRO and THE 1962 MISSILE CRISIS

In 1962, during the so-called “Cold War”, the world came dangerously close to a real Third World War in the [Cuban Missile Crisis](#) when Cuban leader [Fidel Castro](#) and the USSR under [Nikita Khrushchev](#) agreed to establish a missile base in Cuba. Cuba had previously been virtually a satellite of the USA under its [President Batista](#), until Castro successfully achieved complete independence from the USA and embraced communism. Thus Cuba became the first country in the Western Hemisphere to have a government that was anathema to the USA, and such close relations with the USSR.

Attempts were made in the late 1950s by the USA to limit or even remove Fidel Castro as Cuban leader, but the efforts were futile, the [Bay of Pigs](#) event being the best known, and Castro became ensconced in his position.

Cuba is only about 90 miles/150 km from the coast of Florida. Castro and his Cuba became a sore point with the Americans, intensifying when the USSR began to establish a ballistic missile base on the Island. A missile base so close to the American mainland was totally unacceptable to the US government under President John F Kennedy, and so, when nuclear missiles were being shipped from USSR to Cuba, the US Navy set up a blockade. This roused the ire of Khrushchev, especially as the US had deployed missiles in Italy and Turkey, with the obvious intention of keeping the USSR at bay. Relations between East and West became extremely tense and a new Cold War, maybe even a Third World War, seemed imminent.

Since then, over the years, tension gradually eased, with the removal of the Berlin Wall, the break-up of the USSR, and more amicable relations between East and West, but under Russia's [Vladimir Putin](#) relations have once again become more tense. The recent divisive election in the US has also increased tension around the world, and there is more talk of western military deployment in Eastern Europe (e.g. Ukraine, Poland, and the Baltic countries), the Middle East, and other regions where today there is growing concern about possible unilateral Russian intervention or expansion.

The 2016 Presidential Election in the USA, described as the most vicious and hostile in modern times, with Donald Trump threatening to restrict or expel Muslim immigrants from America, to end military involvement in areas captured by ISIS, and even to kill many of the trade agreements and mutual defence pacts created by the USA and its allies, has aggravated emotions around the world. Trump's avowed plan to build a wall to keep Mexicans out of the USA and to force Mexico to pay for it, has alienated neighbours to the south, and also made Canada uneasy about our future commerce with the USA. Most national economies today are highly stressed, and international security against terrorism is already stretched close to breaking point. Simultaneously many nations are feeling that they can no longer count on American policing of international bullying, or even support. If such feelings continue, it is possible that nations otherwise well disposed towards America may become disillusioned and begin to consider strengthening their ties with non-Western powers as a form of insurance.

So far, Trump has provided few comments about his attitude to Cuba, but he has hinted that he will reverse the recent moves by the USA to improve relations there. However the recent passing of Fidel Castro may precipitate some change. Fidel Castro himself was perhaps not very receptive to improved relations with America, but

with his older brother now out of the picture, Raul may feel himself able to be more flexible. Raul has had years to see the benefits that have accrued from international trade and tourism with small countries like Canada, and it is only reasonable that he has eyed his closest neighbour, the world's largest economy, as offering far greater possibilities. So it seems likely that we may expect changes, and fairly soon. However this, and much more, depends heavily on Trump's attitudes over the next months and years.

An interesting document by Theodore ‘Ted’ Sorensen, close advisor to President John F Kennedy during and after the time of the Cuban Crisis, throws what may be a very different light on past relations between Cuba and America. Sorensen was close to Kennedy for many years, and wrote a personal account of his experiences in a document which he instructed to be withheld from publication until after Fidel Castro's death. In the untitled document he provides a rather different picture of Fidel, who has consistently received negative portrayals by the US media. The relationship between Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Fidel is perhaps the only positive evidence of the man's real nature: Sorensen's paper supports the notion that he was a man of much warmer personality than years of negative American journalism was prepared to admit. It was traditionally assumed that the missile base was provided under a joint Cuba-USSR agreement, but Sorensen provides a surprisingly [different perspective on the Cuban Missile Crisis](#):

Castro had little to do with the placement of the missiles on his island (and did not like that Khrushchev had done it secretly), and he had no say in their sudden withdrawal. Castro had wanted to condition their withdrawal on a series of American compromises that we would probably still be negotiating today if Khrushchev had agreed.

It will be interesting to see what happens regarding Cuba over the next while: how will this feisty little nation choose between Russia and America, given the unlikelihood of Trump's offering any very friendly overtures to a country that was a pariah in American eyes for half a century? Will it become the subject of a tug of war between East and West? Or will it, perhaps as the only reasonable solution given its history and location, tenaciously hold on to its current independence from either main power bloc and doggedly pursue its own course?

WITH NUCLEAR WAR RAISING ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN CANADA MUST ACT FOR DISARMAMENT

“Scientific predictions say even a limited nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan using about 100 Hiroshima-sized weapons would lead to a drop in the world's temperature of 1.25 Celsius degrees; a war fought with U.S. and Russian high-alert nuclear weapons would lead to a drop of four Celsius degrees and the detonation of 4,400 strategic nuclear weapons out of the world's remaining stockpile of 15,500 would lead to a drop of eight Celsius degrees. **Such a nuclear winter would endure for decades, effectively decimating the globe's economic production and killing billions of people.**”

From an article by Erika Simpson

Erika Simpson is an associate professor of international relations at Western University and was a speaker at the Building Momentum for Nuclear Disarmament conference in Ottawa on Oct. 24, 2016.

To read Professor Simpson's entire article, click [HERE](#).

Opinion A TRUMP for USA and a LEITCH for CANADA?

It is three years from 2019 when we Canadians expect our next Federal General Election, and there is now an array of candidates seeking to be Leader of the Conservative Party in the hope of displacing Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada when the time arrives. It is four years to the next USA Presidential Election in 2020 and, barring unforeseen events, Donald Trump is expected to run for a second term as President against the Democratic nominee and perhaps by then some other serious third party competitors.

Before then, in 2018, will come the [US Mid-Term election campaign](#) when the 435 Members of the [House of Representatives](#) are elected (every two years, in the even-numbered years). Depending on the state of opinion on Trump at this point after 2 years in office, and which Democratic candidates show interest in opposing him, there is likely to be much talk about who will be running in the Presidential Election of 2020. In contrast, 2018 is likely to be a fairly quiet year in Canadian Federal leadership politics, only warming up in 2019.

If it seems to Canadians that Americans spend a great amount of time preparing for and having elections, it is true. This is due in part to simultaneous elections at state and municipal levels for State governors, City mayors, judges, and many more that we in Canada appoint but do not elect, right down to the local dog catcher. Ballots are often large sheets to accommodate all the voting options scheduled on that election day, which is why some Americans believe they are more 'democratic' than the rest of us.

In Canada we will also be having many similar elections, although they are on a smaller scale, less expensive, and shorter, compared with the USA. But Canada will have changed by 2019 in ways we cannot foresee, not least as a result of Trump's policies. In any case, a deluge of water will have gone under the bridges by 2019, and the world, not just Canada, is certain to be a very different place.

It seems highly probable that Trump's policies, if he pursues all the issues he raised during the campaign, will affect every part of the world. His presidency may skew elections, cause revolutions, civil wars, border conflicts, ethnic issues, and population movements. The [European Union](#) will change after [Brexit](#), but in different ways now that Trump is part of the scenario. The map of eastern Europe may look very different, depending on the status of NATO and whatever relationship develops between [America's Trump and Russia's Putin](#), who has [annexed the Crimea](#) from Ukraine. Changes in America are already apparent in the unprecedented scale of unrest since the election results were published, showing Hillary Clinton ahead in the popular vote by two million or so. That, however, is irrelevant, except perhaps as an irritant in the minds of her supporters.

Currently there are [credible suspicions that Russia is infiltrating the UK](#) and perhaps other western nations. Said Andrew Parker, head of Britain's [MI5](#), about Russian activities, "*It is using its whole range of state organs and powers to push its foreign policy abroad in increasingly aggressive ways – involving propaganda, espionage, subversion and cyber-attacks. Russia is at work across Europe and in the UK today.*" This is yet another change we have to face, possibly presaging a return of the Cold War with heightened levels of espionage after more than a generation relatively clear of such clandestine stuff.

Now, in the shadow of all these changes in the world picture, we have [Kellie Leitch](#), one of about a dozen others, seeking the [leadership of the Conservative Party of Canada](#) (the CPC). While

most of the others offering themselves for the job are less extreme in their platform, [Kellie Leitch](#) is presenting herself not only as an echo of some of ex PM Stephen Harper's less acceptable policies, but also as a supporter of some of Donald Trump's wilder ideas.

One specific idea Ms Leitch has suggested is the controversial 'anti-Canadian values' notion which she and a few other Conservatives raised during the 2015 Federal Election: the '[tip line](#)' for reporting barbaric cultural practices'. It was roundly rejected.

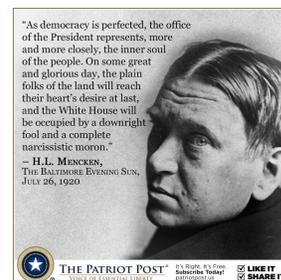
Another may be the suggestion that immigrants should be formally screened for "[anti-Canadian values that include intolerance towards other religions, cultures and sexual orientations, violent and/or misogynist behaviour and/or a lack of acceptance of our Canadian tradition of personal and economic freedoms](#)". While most Canadians would agree that we should not encourage such intolerance, it is profoundly difficult to screen effectively. It may be the result of events in the life of an applicant for immigration, or even a third party attempt to sabotage an application. It has the clear trademarks of a Trumpish approach, and is not truly a 'Canadian value'. Such value judgements are invariably fraught with uncertainty and may close the door against some refugees fleeing threats of persecution.

Ms Leitch's apparent interest in this item may result in its inclusion in her platform as a leadership candidate. It has elicited criticism from Michael Chong, Lisa Raitt, and other more moderate [Conservative leadership hopefuls](#) and members of other parties.

It appears that Ms Leitch is the most politically right-inclined of those so far seeking the leadership. It's interesting to note that her fund-raising has also been the most successful to date, but without specific knowledge of the type of contributors it is difficult to draw any conclusions. She does seem to be a predictable right-wing successor to Stephen Harper, so to avoid a return to Harperism or, worse still, a Trumpish right-wing populism, we must hope that a more moderate individual will be leading the Conservative Party of Canada in our next General Election.

Among people of moderate political beliefs, Trump's stirring up of sludge from the bottom of the pond is a matter for concern. He may be 'draining the Washington swamp' but he is also creating an unpleasant odour reminiscent of Fascism, and Kellie Leitch is dabbling in it. [Support for Fascism is growing in other countries](#), including Germany (the most powerful nation in the European Union), France, the UK, and others. We do not want it in Canada.

The American writer and philosopher [H L Mencken](#) (1880-1956) may have hit the nail on the head when he wrote: *As democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day, the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be occupied by a downright fool and a complete narcissistic moron.*



Perhaps we should never aspire to perfection, but only to be as close to it as we can get.

HIGHWAY 450 AT LAST REPAIRED

And about time too!

Route 450 between Lark Harbour and Frenchman's Cove has finally received the repairs it has needed for several years, and not before time! It is now possible to drive this most scenic stretch of highway without having to slow down almost to walking pace in order to dodge the dozens of potholes. In French they call them *nids de poule* which means "hens' nests", but some of ours would have been better named "ostrich nests" on account of their size. But let's give credit where it is due, and acknowledge that the Highways Department has done a good job for us, at least until the imminent ravages of winter occur, as undoubtedly they will.

Have you ever noticed that most of the worst spots for broken pavement and the potholes that quickly develop are usually where a side road or a driveway slopes down as it joins the main highway? Even in relatively dry weather, it is often possible to see water flowing on the road from an adjoining driveway. The damage seems mostly to be due to meltwater and run-off in mild spells as it flows down the side roads and then stands on the main highway strip. Then it stands on the main pavement, slowly percolating down through tiny fissures where it eventually freezes when the temperature falls below zero. Freezing water can exert tremendous force (enough to crack an engine block) so the asphalt then splits and loosens, breaking into ever smaller pieces which are flicked out by passing vehicles, and lo and behold, a pothole is born. This can happen very quickly when there is a high volume of traffic, particularly if there are heavy trucks.

If this standing water could be drained off before it can freeze or, better still, be prevented from flowing on to the pavement at all, there may be a good chance that the surface would survive intact much longer. But this demands that the main highway be built with a crown, slightly higher in the centre of the roadway, so that water will not accumulate, but instead will be shed off into the ditches on each side of the main road. This may cause a little erosion of the highway shoulders, but those repairs are much cheaper to fix than pavement.

This concept of a crown along the centre of the highway is a road building technique used widely in regions of high rainfall in the southern US because without a road's ability to shed water off to the sides there is a great danger of hydroplaning in the frequent heavy rainstorms. There is a similar danger on some NL highways where two parallel ruts created by traffic can easily be seen especially in heavy rain or even sometimes when approaching the crest of a hill. An excellent example of this could be seen on Route 450 on the uphill side of the highway climbing the steep hill immediately west of Cook's Brook. Much of that was replaced when the new bridge was constructed, but it will be interesting to see how soon those ruts develop again. It was so noticeable that in winter melts and summer rainstorms, it was not uncommon to see two little rivers of water flowing *along* the roadway, especially in wet or thaw conditions.

In Newfoundland & Labrador a slight crown could well be a means of effectively extending the life of highway pavement. Even one extra year on the life of a highway would save the government a huge amount of money.

SIX MONTHS AFTER BREXIT

On 2016 June 23 the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales voted, by a majority of 51.9% to 48.1% to leave the European Union. Now, after almost six months to consider their decision, more are beginning to regret it.

A problem that began to appear shortly after the results were announced was that the country had voted without a full understanding of the consequences. (1) It seemed that many felt that they had not been presented with the possible full effects of a LEAVE vote - the effects on employment and prosperity in general of the entire country. It also seemed that the result showed a country very deeply divided, with some regions voting to LEAVE while others voted to REMAIN. A majority in Scotland (62.0%), Northern Ireland (55.8%) and London (59.9%) all voted to REMAIN, while all other regions voted between 58.8% and 59.3% to LEAVE.

Those who voted to REMAIN are now mulling over the arguments they could raise to have another referendum. My own home region voted quite strongly to LEAVE, but if I had been living there still, I would have voted to REMAIN because I strongly believe that it is necessary in today's world to develop international relationships. Britain is essentially and geographically a part of Europe in the same ways that Newfoundland is a part of Canada. Isolationism achieves nothing.

Read :- [John Major: case for second Brexit referendum is credible](#)

Refer for details to :- [EU Referendum: Final Results](#)

and :- [It's Brexit: A visual guide to the UK's dramatic decision](#)