

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2012 December 07 Friday

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SHOAL POINT ENERGY PRESENTATION AT LARK HARBOUR



Some of the presenters at the meeting with Shoal Point Energy, the exploration company to be working here

ON WEDNESDAY 2012 NOVEMBER 14, several representatives of Shoal Point Energy along with others from various government departments involved with the oil and gas industry, visited Lark Harbour to present information about their plans for exploration of hydrocarbon-bearing rocks under the seabed along the west coast of Newfoundland. Known as the Green Point Shale formation, Lark Harbour roughly marks its midpoint. The company has licences to explore the formation which they believe is “a very large resource, with the potential to be the Hibernia of western Newfoundland.”

About 70 people attended the public meeting and viewed an informative slide presentation describing the processes to be used. A well would be driven to the depth of the shale and lined with steel and cement. A fluid mixture (99.5% water and sand, and 0.5% additives normally found in consumer products) is then injected into the well, thousands of feet below the ground water aquifers and the seabed. This fluid releases the oil or gas from the shale so that it can then be pumped to the surface. The process is known as “hydraulic fracturing”, or “fracking”. (It is currently being opposed for the fluid additives and the large quantities of polluted water it leaves in the environment.) Significant local benefits will accrue if oil or gas are discovered. Support industries would be established, creating jobs, and taxes and royalties would be paid to all government levels.

A question and answer session followed, with several questions relating to the “fracking” process and to environmental, safety, employment, trucking, and other matters.

Shoal Point Energy is an independent Canadian company with offices in St John’s and Toronto, and several Newfoundlanders are

among its principals. The exploration methods are said to be safe and clean, and the company officials stated that they wish to “provide stable, long term employment and make a difference to the future of western Newfoundland”. The speakers also expressed genuine concern that their company should be a good corporate citizen protecting the interests of local residents, those in the fishing industry and other local enterprises, and the natural environment.

The project is expected to begin in the next two or three years when specific plans and financing have been finalised. Shoal Point Energy will continue to update us of its progress and to keep us informed. We shall follow developments with great interest.

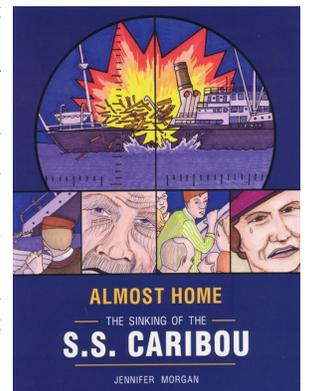
Almost Home: the Sinking of the S.S. Caribou a children’s book by Jennifer Morgan

A new book for children, written and illustrated in comic book form by Jennifer Morgan, is *Almost Home: the Sinking of the S.S. Caribou*. Published by Breakwater Books at \$12.95, it tells the true story of Thomas Moyst, 2nd Engineer on the S.S. *Caribou*, the Newfoundland Railway ferry torpedoed by the German submarine U-69 while crossing the Gulf at 3:21am on 14 October 1942.

The story is told from the viewpoint of Mr Moyst’s grandchildren Vi, age 12, and George, age 11. Author Jennifer Morgan is herself the great-granddaughter of Mr Moyst. She never met her great-grandfather but she based her narrative on accounts she heard from relatives who knew him well, and on her own research. It is a sad story, dramatic but not gruesome, well told in a manner suitable for children, and it deals with an important event in the heroic annals of Newfoundland’s involvement in World War Two.

The book is not yet in the Library, but should be available now in stores where Newfoundland books are sold, such as *Island Treasures* in the Corner Brook Plaza. The reading skill level is about 10 to 14 years, and the illustrations are colourful and lively.

The loss of the S.S. *Caribou* is an event all Canadians, especially Newfoundlanders, should know of, and this book will make a fine but inexpensive Christmas gift for children aged about 10 to 14.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Items in *Italics* relate to St James or St Ambrose Churches.
 HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer

2012	DECEMBER	2012
2 nd	Sun	Advent 1 - 11:00am, Holy Communion St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
3 rd	Mon	Christmas Tree Lighting, 6:30pm, refreshments served.
8 th	Sat	Annual Santa Claus Parade, 11:00am, York Harbour to Lark Harbour, refreshments served afterwards.
9 th	Sun	Advent 2 - 11:00am, Holy Communion St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Memorial Tree Service
13 th	Thur	6:30pm - Lighting of the Christmas Tree
16 th	Sun	Advent 3 - 7:00pm, Sunday School Pageant St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion
21 st	Fri	First Day of Winter
23 rd	Sun	Advent 3 - 7:00pm, Memorial Tree Service St Ambrose - 10:30am, Holy Communion
24 th	Mon	Christmas Eve - 4:00pm, HC, Christmas Eve Service St Ambrose - 7:00pm, Holy Communion
25 th	Tues	Christmas Day
30 th	Sun	Christmas 1 - 7:00pm, Evening Prayer & Carol Sing St Ambrose - 10:30am, Morning Prayer & Carol Sing

2013	JANUARY	2013
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1st Tues New Year's Day

2013	ADVANCE DATES	2013
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Lark Harbour Town Tax Discount Dates

- \$20.00 discount on LH taxes if paid in full by Thursday Jan 31.
- \$15.00 discount on LH taxes if paid in full by Thursday Feb 28.
- \$10.00 discount on LH taxes if paid in full by Friday Mar 29.

The BLOW•ME•DOWNER is posted on the Internet at the Website www.blowmedowner.webs.com before or on the first Friday of the month. Submit copy to blowmedowner@gmail.com. Small social & personal announcements are free. Larger than 3 column inches may be refused. All copy must be submitted at least three days before the first Friday of the month of publication.

Eddie Joyce, MHA

Bay of Islands District

If you require assistance, please contact my office at:

Fortis Tower, 5th Floor, Suite 501
 4 Herald Avenue, P.O.Box 2006,
 Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6J8

Ph: 634-7883 Fax: 634-7885
 Email: ejoyce@gov.nl.ca



MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR

Rev Nelson Chatman

ANGLICAN PARISH OF THE BAY OF ISLANDS



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2012 FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS!!

SINCE WE ARRIVED HERE IN OCTOBER, we feel blessed by your kindness and friendship and we feel that our working together will help each of us to feel God's Spirit grow within us, as we do good for His Kingdom. We have met many of you and have made special visits, many of you have visited our new home and we have enjoyed worshipping together. Vida and I just want to take this opportunity to extend to you special people "A Very Blessed Christmas And A Prosperous New Year" with all the "Love Joy and Peace" that only God can bring.

Luke 2:12-15, NRSV

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger'. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

Praying God's Peace upon you, keep safe and let God be the centre of your Christmas celebration.

Love & Blessings,
 Rev'd Nelson+ & Vida

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

AS NOTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE, the end of the year is a time to take stock of what we have done. For the BLOW•ME•DOWNER it has been a year of challenge as we have had to deal with the loss of our printing facilities. This has resulted in a serious drop in readership since printed copies went out to every home in both our towns, and now the BMD is read mostly by those who have computers and Internet access to reach the Webpage. The total is not precisely known, perhaps about 100, but certainly less than half the number who received our final printed issue in September.

This issue is the last before our winter break. Our next issue will be in early April. We shall continue to evaluate our situation and decide whether we should continue publication under the present circumstances where we are able to produce only the electronic copy version, absorbing those modest costs ourselves. After more than seven years of publishing it would be very disappointing to cease at this juncture.

It is difficult to assess the importance to the community of a regular publication such as this. Many people have said they enjoy it, but we have no indication of how important or worthwhile it is in the opinion of the majority of those who used to receive hard copies.

We shall continue to publish in the new year, but will appreciate feedback from community members and other readers.

Meanwhile, we wish everyone a safe, pleasant and restful Christmas and New Year. And if you have any good ideas about ways of making the BMD more available, please let us know.

Stuart L Harvey, Editor of the BLOW•ME•DOWNER

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* • •

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. See panel on page 2. 634-7883
- **Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Ave Corner Brook**
memorial furnishings 634-1529
- **Quik Lube Plus, 65 Humber Road Corner Brook**
automotive repairs, servicing 639-5823
- **Sheppard's Clover Farm Store Lark Harbour**
groceries, hardware, gas, Sears agency, marine 681-2160
- **Vater Family Daycare, Frenchman's Cove**
789-3940

MUSKRAT FALLS PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD

A FEW DAYS AGO, on 2012 November 30, Stephen Harper visited Happy Valley-Goose Bay to sign the long-touted Federal Loan Guarantee of \$6.3 billion for the Muskrat Falls loan, bringing the Project one step closer to reality. A loan guarantee however does not give the Province any money at all: it simply tells lenders that if our Province cannot pay, the Government of Canada will. We benefit because the loan will cost us less.

The Project is now to proceed, but it has not resolved the opposition that is being voiced by aboriginal and environmental groups in Labrador. Nor will it remove the opposition of Quebec to a project which will certainly bite into their profits from the sale of Churchill Falls power. One major positive, though, is that when the transmission lines are completed from Labrador, across the Island, and over to Nova Scotia, we shall no longer be subject to the stranglehold on our power that Quebec has enjoyed ever since they refused all reasonable terms until Joey Smallwood signed the agreement with Hydro-Quebec back in the 1960s.

Premier Kathy Dunderdale, also present at the signing, stated that the way is now clear for the Project to proceed. But that may not be as easy as she thinks, with increasing opposition being expressed especially in Labrador. Time will tell.

US PRESIDENT OBAMA RE-ELECTED



BARACK OBAMA, above, re-elected President of the United States of America, member of the American Democratic Party, is seen here delivering his acceptance speech at about 3:30am the day after the election. Thousands of Canadians watched the election into the wee hours of the morning. Why? Do you suppose thousands of Americans watched our federal election last year? Proportionately there should have been at least tens-of-thousands of Americans watching it, because there are ten times as many Americans as Canadians. But I doubt if more than a few were watching. Indeed, I doubt if most of them even knew we were having an election. That may be understandable, though, as we limit our elections to a month, while the Americans let theirs run on for at least two years.

So why are we Canadians so absorbed in American politics? Well, one big reason is likely due to the fact that pretty well everything that happens down there involves us here. But not vice-versa. As Pierre Elliott Trudeau once said, *When the American Elephant sneezes, the Canadian Mouse falls out of bed.* We are obsessed with what goes on south-of-the-border, but with very good reason. After all, when Americans buy our fish, our newsprint, oil, natural gas, beef, wheat, or anything produced in Canada, they account for a large proportion, often most, of our production of that commodity. Exports to the USA account for about 80% of all Canadian exports, directly employing millions of Canadians in well-paid jobs, bringing in billions of dollars that otherwise we wouldn't have. If they hit hard times, which is possible, so will Canadians.

So what? you say. *I don't get to see much of that money.* Perhaps not. But we all benefit from it, either directly or indirectly. If those products are no longer bought by Americans, or even if they buy less, some Canadians, perhaps many, will lose jobs. Maybe that's why so many of us watched the antics and junketings around Obama and Romney.

On the other hand, maybe the reason we watched was just because they put on a much better show than Harper and Ignatieff and Jack Layton put on last year. It wouldn't be surprising: the American election campaign cost billions of dollars, compared with just a few millions spent here. But was it worth it?

*Season's Greetings to All our Readers
May You and Yours enjoy a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year*

DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL USE OF FIREARMS

See the Bullet Holes



THIS PICTURE WAS SUBMITTED RECENTLY BY A READER. The sign shown here is located at the start of the South Head Lighthouse Trail at the top of the Beacon Road, and it has been damaged with several bullet holes from a small gauge firearm. The use of firearms in this manner is unlawful and dangerous, with the potential to maim or even kill other users of the Trail. Local people and visiting hikers are still using our Trails and may do so all winter.

On its Website under *Regulations for All Hunters* the Provincial Department of Environment and Conservation lists a number of regulations governing the use of firearms. See the Website at:

<http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/hunting/hunters.html>

Among the regulations are these:

It is unlawful:

to discharge a firearm from or across any railway bed, highway, public or private road.

to discharge or handle a firearm while hunting without exercising reasonable care for the safety of other persons.

to discharge a firearm within 1,000 meters of a school, playground or athletic field, or within 300 metres of a dwelling.

The intent of these regulations is clear: they are designed to protect all persons, including legitimate and responsible users of firearms, who may be using roads or trails anywhere, at any time.

The individual(s) responsible for the damage to the sign should be aware that Lark Harbour Town Council will do its utmost to enforce and prosecute under these regulations for the safety of all.

BUTTERFLIES, like the Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) shown opposite, are seen only in warm and relatively calm weather. This one, with several others and some other species, was feeding on nectar in flowers of “elephant ears”, a bamboo-like plant which produces vanilla-scented blooms in late summer. Butterflies are among the most beautiful living creatures, but they are also very fragile and susceptible to destruction by insecticides. Many species of butterflies can be observed in Newfoundland, attracted to our gardens by scented flowers such as lilac, lavender, etc. Why not encourage them? Not only are they beautiful, but they help to pollinate garden plants.

DUMPING OF OFFENSIVE GARBAGE

See and smell the moose remains
beside Beacon Road

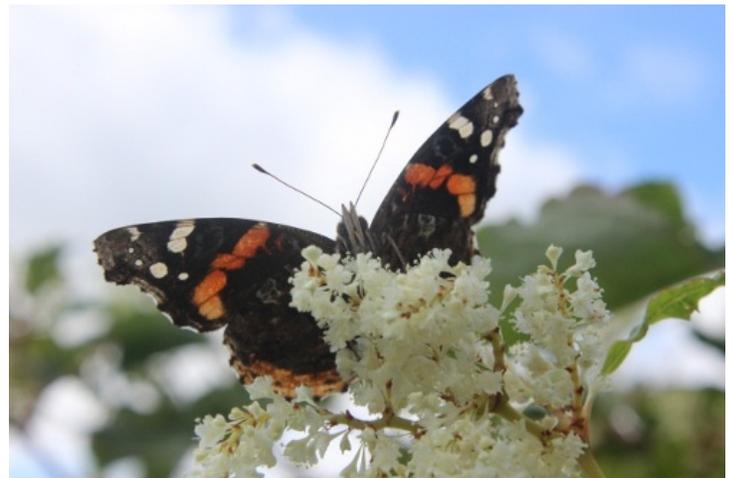


THE BOTTLE COVE AREA is one of our most popular visitor attractions, but almost every year there are people who treat it as an appropriate place to dump offensive garbage. Anyone who has walked along the Beacon Road, beyond the upper Bottle Cove parking area to the top, must have noticed that someone dumped the refuse from a moose kill beside the road. The stench is now pretty well gone, but the mess is still there.

Visitors to our town regularly remark on the great natural beauty of our surroundings; but some have also commented on the disgusting array of garbage in some places. Bottles and cans are bad enough, but any person who claims to be a hunter but deposits garbage such as this in the picture does not deserve the right to hunt anywhere. Given the chance, even pigs won't mess in their own place.

Help us to maintain our community and its assets for the enjoyment of all. If anyone can provide information about this dumping, please contact Lark Harbour Town Office (681-2270) so that appropriate action can be taken.

A Memory of Summer 2012



Obituary
MAMIE MELINDA READER
 1949 July 03 - 2012 November 18

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Mamie Reader announced her sudden passing at Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital in Stephenville on Sunday, November 18, 2012 at the age of 63.



Left to mourn with fond and loving memories were: her husband, Quentin, of 41 years; sons: Wallace Childs (Barb), Jamie Reader (Melaney) and Jason Reader (Causandra); grandchildren: Carter Childs, Cady Childs, Martin Park-Childs, Jordan Park and Landen Reader; great grandchild: Jake Park-Childs; sisters: Janet Roberts (Ronnie), Corner Brook, Vera Joyce, Lark Harbour and Wanda Wadden (Richard), Chateauguay, Quebec; brother: Todd Childs (Tanya), Stephenville; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her father, Wallace Childs (1980); mother, Ena Childs (2007), father-in-law: Roy Reader, mother-in-law Neatha Reader (1975) and brother-in-law: Garland Joyce. Cremation took place at Humber Valley Crematorium.

Visitation took place at St Augustine Anglican Church on Hillview Avenue, Stephenville, on Wednesday 21st from 2:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00pm from where the funeral service was held on Thursday, November 22nd at 2:00pm, with Rev Dawn Barrett officiating. Burial was to take place at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations could be made to the charity of one's choice.



FOOD BANK NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



***The Sunday School is still
a good example for all of us***

IT SEEMS SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT Shelley Swift is the one who can really encourage Food Bank donations. At present apparently the children are worried about the children who depend on the Food Bank and might not be able to celebrate their birthdays: there has been an unusual number of cake mixes, prepared icing, and decorations donated lately. Some lucky children will have a happy birthday!

The rest of us are still not doing so well with our donations, but perhaps the approach of Christmas will help. I was surprised to be asked to pick up some food items from Allison's Clover Farm store in Lark Harbour. Apparently this was inspired by TRA the wholesalers. Not a lot of food, but the store staff had changed up people's cash donations, and I was handed \$82.00 in bills! A donation like this goes a long way to provide a few little Christmas extras for Food Bank clients. Thank you TRA, Allison, and her staff. →

Obituary
ALBERT S WHEELER
 1924 December 02 - 2012 November 13

PASSED AWAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012 at the Corner Brook Long Term Care Centre, Albert S. Wheeler at the age of 87 years.

Leaving to mourn with fond and loving memories: wife, Annie Wheeler (née Pond); children: Frank Wheeler (Patsy), Sam Wheeler (Karen), Lena Childs (Austin), Susan Wheeler, Glenda Childs (David), Dean Wheeler (Bonnie) and Andrew Wheeler; grandchildren: Vicki Wheeler, Sonya Gilbert, Andrea Childs, Ian Childs, Brad Wheeler, Alison O'Brien, Shane Wheeler, Jessica Mollon, Dane Gilbert, Jennah Childs, Jordan Childs, Danika Wheeler, Deidre Wheeler and Drew Wheeler and 14 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law: Mona Wheeler and Ruby Wheeler; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by precious granddaughter Trina Wheeler (2007); parents Frank and Bertha Wheeler; sisters Melina Childs, Florence Batt, Jessie Sheppard, Irene Sheppard, Eliza Druggett, Annie Sheppard and Mildred Humber; brothers Frederick and Harold.

Friends visited St James' Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Wednesday from the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm.

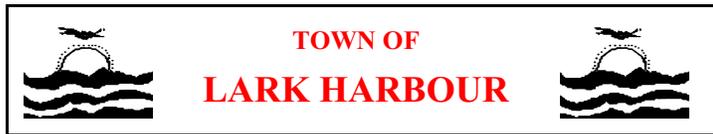
A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Mr Wheeler's Life was held on Thursday, November 15 at 2:00pm and was well attended by large numbers of relatives and friends. Rev Nelson Chatman officiated, assisted by Lay Ministers Lorraine Humber and George Sheppard. The organist was Sharon Parsons. Danika Wheeler and Jenna Childs read scriptures and the song *Peace in the Valley* was sung by Alan Humber who accompanied himself on the guitar. Pall Bearers were grandsons Shane Wheeler, Ian Childs, Jordan Childs, Brad Wheeler, Dane Gilbert and Drew Wheeler. Interment followed at the Anglican Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St James' Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, or to the charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Fillatre's Funeral Home, Corner Brook. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made through the website www.fillatre.ca.

The family wishes to thank everyone for their kind words of sympathy and support and the many acts of helpfulness received during this time of bereavement.

← If you have trouble remembering to bring food to church with you, cash is always acceptable; tax receipts can be given for amounts more than \$10.00. It might also be possible to mark special envelopes to be put into the church collection plate. Joy, our co-ordinator, often has to make buying trips to the stores to get certain items which didn't happen to get donated in sufficient quantities, and needs cash, of course, so it is always welcome. Cash donations to the Food Bank are tax deductible when you do your tax return for this year.

Still hoping someone else will soon be prepared to take over the position of Food Bank representative for the congregation. I have not found it especially onerous, but I am away each winter. Also, I have not been able to drive as much with the eye surgery, and can't be sure whether there may continue to be problems. Really, it is basically a matter of collecting up food brought to the church and taking it to an outlet in Corner Brook when there is enough — usually a weekday morning, preferably a Monday or Thursday.



MINUTES OF MEETING 2013 November 20

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

Meeting commenced at 7:00pm

- Update on the Recreation Committee given by Clerk Joanna. Annual Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 8 at 11:00am, starting in York Harbour by Betty and Kevin Wayson's and going to Littleport. If weather is suitable, Parade will go Down Below and end up at Lark Harbour Community Hall for refreshments. Recreation Committee bank account now set up; signing authority remains the same: one clerk plus Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- Minutes of meetings of Oct 2, 16, 30, & Nov 13 all approved.
- Water & Sewer Update – Clerk Joanna spoke with Steve Osmond of Anderson Engineering last week. All paperwork has gone to the Department of Municipal Affairs for approval. Still unsure of when Phase 1B will go to tender. Application for Phase 2 due Nov 30; Anderson Engineering to complete it on our behalf. Lock for gate on Dam Road purchased, to be put in place soon.
- Bottle Cove Road & Breakwater Update – Revised Capital Investment Plan (CIP) submitted to Gas Tax Secretariat, but more information required for approval. Clerk to obtain and submit this information. Breakwater Project began on Nov 19 with 9 workers employed. Council discussed possibility of an employee using own personal quad to gather rock: more information required before this is permitted.
- Crown Land Grant received for land at end of Littleport Road.
- Building Extension Permit Inquiry – No permit extensions will be issued; instead, a new permit must be purchased.
- Regionalization – Letter of support from one resident reviewed.
- Surveillance system – Council reviewed letter from Western School District in response to request for assistance in setting up the surveillance system that has been purchased. Western School District is unable to provide assistance, so Council will find an installer in the spring. Areas to be monitored are the Town Hall, Stage/Storage buildings and the playground. Clerk will inquire of South Shore Council who set up their surveillance system.
- Financial Report – approved; no accounts payable at this time.
- Building Permits – All approved.
- Referral letters – Approved quarry pit for ZR Enterprises.
- Seminars – Clerks Joanna and Peggy to attend *Basic Emergency Management Course* and *Moving Forward... Working together* to improve the property assessment system.
- Domain Name Expiration – Agreed Clerks should have training to be able to update website on a regular basis.
- Christmas Tree Lighting – Annual Christmas Tree Lighting to take place Monday December 3rd at 6:30pm. Carol singing and refreshments to follow at Lark Harbour Community Hall.
- Waste Disposal – Information received that effective January 1, 2013, Corner Brook Waste Disposal will charge by tonnage as opposed to by volume. This could result in a considerable increase. Clerk directed to check into cost of a split truck for garbage collection. Also to check into cost of a compost machine.

- **2013 Budget Review** – Approved with the following tax structure:

Residential Property Tax	3.3 mil	Minimum \$265.00
Business Property Tax	5.0 mil	Minimum \$265.00
Business Tax	\$125.00	
Poll Tax	\$265.00	
Utility Tax	2.5% of Gross Revenue	
- Due Date is March 31, 2013. Residential, business and poll tax will each receive a \$20.00 discount if paid in full by Jan 31; \$15.00 discount if paid in full by Feb 28; or \$10.00 discount if paid in full by Mar 31.
- Payment Plans are available – Residents may set up a monthly or quarterly payment plan with no interest charges added to the account as long as regular payments are maintained. If a payment is missed, service charges will be added to the account for the months that payments are missed. A signed agreement will be put in place and residents may make payments by cash or cheque. If no agreement is signed or no post-dated cheques are received at the Council Office by March 31, interest will be added to the account effective April 1. Payment Plans will be available only to residents whose accounts are not in arrears as of Jan 1, 2013.
- Council reviewed letter from a tax payer regarding service charges applied to her account. Agreed to send a letter informing her that tax structure will be changed effective 2013 so that service charges will not be applied if regular payments are made.
- Letter from a resident regarding a building in unsafe condition. All agreed to send a letter to the owner of the building to have it repaired or removed.
- Review of letter from MHA Eddie Joyce to Department of Transportation and Works regarding the ruts on Route 450 near Cook's Brook Bridge. Will follow-up on this in spring.
- HEDB – All agreed to send a letter of support.
- All other correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

A NOTE OF THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

AS WE APPROACH THE END OF THE YEAR, it is fitting to offer our appreciation to all those who in one way or another have made contributions to our communities. Many of them devote hours of their spare time to important things, and others take care of small things we may not notice when they are done as they should be, but we would certainly notice if they were not done. Those people receive little or no pay for their voluntary work, and we could not pay them anyway if they were to demand hourly wages.

*It's hard to remember everyone, and always a few get missed,
but here are some of them:*

1. The Volunteer Fire Fighters and Firettes.
2. The Town Councillors of Lark Harbour and York Harbour.
3. Lark Harbour and York Harbour Anglican Church Women.
4. Members of the OBIEC, Trails Committees, School Volunteers, Sunday School Teachers, Church Volunteers, Summer Festivals organisers, Harbour Authority, Library Board, Food Bank, club, card games, sports events, bake sales, seniors' outings, all organisers.
5. People who greet you or who give you a friendly wave when they pass you on the street.

●●●●● *They make our towns better places to live.* ●●●●●
●●●●● *If we have missed anyone, we apologise.* ●●●●●



BLOWME DOWN LIBRARY

Notes by
Susan Harvey



NEW ROTATING COLLECTION

The new rotating collection has arrived and is available for loan. It looks like a good one, and I was especially pleased to see a lot of mysteries in the Large Print sections. It was also noticeable that two out of the three LP sections were softcover, which is a big change. Many of the books are Linford Library Mysteries, Romances, and Westerns. We have not usually received many Westerns in the rotating collections, but I counted TEN in this one. Some readers have been looking for more Westerns, and it seems Lesley's requests have finally borne fruit. It is nice when the people speak and someone listens.

We begin with four new books in the permanent collection and then some from the new rotating collection (the Large Print items).

- | | | |
|--|----|------------------------|
| 1. <i>The King of Torts</i> | | John Grisham |
| 2. <i>The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection</i> | | Alexander McCall Smith |
| 3. <i>The Loss of the Marion</i> | NC | Linda Abbott |
| 4. <i>Man on the Ice</i> | NC | Rex Saunders |
| 5. <i>Damaged</i> | LP | Alex Kava |
| 6. <i>Sham</i> | LP | Roger Silverwood |
| 7. <i>No One You Know</i> | LP | Michelle Richmond |
| 8. <i>Eight Weird Tales</i> | LP | * Rafe McGregor |
| 9. <i>Kindred in Death</i> | LP | * J D Robb |
| 10. <i>The Fault Tree</i> | LP | * Louise Ure |
| 11. <i>A Mold for Murder</i> | LP | * Tim Myers |

* These books have not yet been reviewed.

1. *The King of Torts* is a legal story. The main character is lawyer Clay Carter, whose life has many exciting ups and downs. He works in the Office of the Public Defender in Washington, DC. This is a low-paid, unrewarding position which he has held for five years ever since graduating from law school; he doesn't know that his fortunes are about to change amazingly. While defending yet another no-hope case with no fees worth talking about, he notices some similar cases, all with the same strange twist, which apparently no one else has noticed. Clay receives a mysterious call from a Max Pace, who is very knowledgeable about cases involving pharmaceutical companies; it seems Clay's client might actually have a case against one unnamed company. Max's interest lies in protecting this company's reputation; he wants Clay to abandon his client without mentioning the drug which may have caused him to commit his crime. Max possesses information about other drugs and the companies that make them. When Clay finds that he can make millions by bringing class action suits against these companies, he agrees. He quickly sets up his own legal firm, hires a lot of staff, and begins advertising for clients who have suffered the effects of this company's drug. The story describes his astonishing success. He makes unbelievable millions of dollars, allowing him to buy a plane, a yacht, a home in the Caribbean. However, it turns out that there are pitfalls, and the money can go as quickly as it comes. He has to fight hard to stay afloat. The reader will not want to put the book down before knowing how Clay can get out of his predicament.

2. *The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection* is also a mystery of sorts. Actually, there is no real mystery; Mr. McCall Smith seems to be mainly interested in portraying the people of Botswana, especially the women. He spent many years in the country, and plainly feels a

good deal of affection for the people. His women running the "detective agency" are very naive and very formal with each other. The reading is easy and pleasant except for the characters' names; that does get to be a little tiresome.

3. *The Loss of the Marion* is based on a true Newfoundland story about the loss in 1915 of the fishing boat *Marion*, which sailed from the Burin Peninsula to St Pierre and was never heard from again. Ms Abbott suggests a possible fate for her, but there is no way to know if it really happened. The story tells of the effects of this event on the relatives of the 17 men who were lost and on the small community where they lived. The book described life in a Newfoundland community very well. It is easy reading, and the reader really wants to find out what happens to the characters. Definitely worth reading.

4. *Man on the Ice* is the true story of Rex Saunders, who went out in May 2009 for sealing, and wound up spending two days trapped on an ice pan. He was alone, miles from shore, and only had with him a flotation suit and a 5-gallon gas can. A good story of a family man and experienced fisherman whose faith in God helped him out of a tight spot.

5. *Damaged* is an adventure story, very topical: the main event is a hurricane. The story is set mainly in Pensacola, Florida, and much of the action involves preparing for the approaching storm which is forecast to be headed directly for them. There are several sub-plots involving a mysterious killer illness, missing people, and a large cooler found floating in the Gulf and filled with carefully wrapped body parts. Perhaps the most exciting part is the description of the female "rescue swimmer" being lowered from a helicopter. On one occasion, she is the one who gets the floating cooler; on another, she rescues a man in the water AND his two dogs. A good read.

6. *Sham* is a British police procedural. In this case, more procedure than mystery. In fact, the mystery is complicated and offers little to help solve it; there is a rather unconvincing surprise twist at the end. By then we know more about DI Angel's work habits and problems with his bosses than the personalities of those involved in the crimes. Easy reading and maybe more realistic than something more exciting.

7. *No One You Know* is a rather different type of murder mystery. The main character is Ellie Enderlin, whose sister Lila had been murdered 20 years earlier and no one had ever been tried and convicted for it. Ellie had always been very close to her sister, who was recognised as a brilliant mathematician even in her teens. They had not been as close in the time just before the murder, and Ellie has always wondered about what might have happened in that time to explain the murder. After 20 years she happens to run into the man popularly believed to be the murderer, and it starts her on the hunt for other possibilities. They are not generally very helpful; but finally she does find a previously unconsidered suspect who turns out to be the villain. A good read, and the reader also learns a little about mathematics and, surprisingly, about coffee beans.

8.* *Eight Weird Tales* is just what it sounds like: a collection of short weird stories featuring some magic and the supernatural.

9.* *Kindred in Death* is one of Nora Roberts' crime novels featuring policewoman Eve Dallas. She has to work on a case involving friends.

10.* *The Fault Tree* is the story of a blind woman who "witnessed" a neighbour's murder; and is being stalked by the killer, who believes she must have seen him and can identify him to the police.

11.* *A Mold for Murder* is a "soapmaking mystery". Murder of a soapmaking queen and lots of tips on making soap.

Editorial:

IS IT “JUSTIN TIME”?

JUSTIN TRUDEAU, 40-year-old son of the late Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, has declared himself a candidate for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada when the election of a new leader is held in the spring of 2013. Many people are excited by his candidacy, believing that the young Mr Trudeau is the person to revive the rather moribund federal Liberal Party; but many others are doubtful if he is experienced enough in politics, or even if he possesses the necessary qualities needed for a successful leader in today's often vicious and cut-throat political environment. His father would have been able to handle it, but what about the son? Is it “Justin Time” now, or is it too early for him to succeed? Would he be well advised to wait a bit longer?

The fiasco resulting from Michael Ignatieff's attempt to lead the Liberal Party to victory in the 2011 Election shows just how risky it can be to place much confidence in a so-called “star” candidate, which Ignatieff never really was. He was unknown in Canada, had little political experience, and was seen as an ivory tower academic.

Justin Trudeau does not come with the negatives that Ignatieff had. Trudeau's worst problem may be his father's legacy, the National Energy Program of 1980, so detested by western Canada, especially Alberta. However he clearly distanced himself from this when he spoke in Calgary: “*It is wrong to use our natural wealth to divide Canadians against one another. It was the wrong way to govern Canada in the past. It is the wrong way today. And it will be the wrong way in the future.*” He seems also to have avoided the disdain of many Quebec voters for his father, yet he seems to have inherited the family charisma. Until his declaration of candidacy he had done little to make his name noted as a politician, but obviously that is changing, and there is plenty of time, although he has made a few bloopers since.

In general terms Justin Trudeau is setting out to establish a credible candidacy as Liberal leader and future leader of Canada. He has a refreshingly different approach from the confrontation we have witnessed over the years, particularly since Harper came on the scene, and at age 40 he represents a new generation in Canadian federal politics. He possesses qualities of honesty, sincerity, originality and energy so essential if our institutions of government are to be enabled, first, to recover the respect they have lost nationally among Canadians and, second, to restore Canada's respect among our UN allies and other nations around the world.

Declared candidates as of 2012 Dec 01, in alphabetical order:

David Bertschi, 52, lawyer, Liberal candidate in 2011.

Alex Burton, 44, Vancouver lawyer, BC Crown Prosecutor.

Deborah Coyne, 57, Ont lawyer, ran in Toronto-Danforth in 2006.

Martha Hall-Findlay, 53, ex MP and previous leadership aspirant.

Marc Garneau, 63, MP, Astronaut, President, Cdn Space Agency.

Karen McCrimmon, 54, Cdn Air Force Vet, ran in 2011 election.

Joyce Murray, 58, ex MLA in BC, now MP Vancouver Quadra.

George Takach, 55, lawyer, no political experience, IT expert.

Justin Trudeau, 40, exp as teacher in BC, Montreal MP since 2008.

The above list is subject to change.

LEADERSHIP RACE TIME LINE

2012 Nov 14 - Leadership Race began.

2013 Jan 14 - Deadline for candidates to file nominations.

2013 Jan-Apr - Debates, Interviews, etc with candidates.

2013 Apr 14 - Leadership Vote Result will be announced.

Obituary**RODGER SHEPPARD****1947 April 06 - 2012 November 25**

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Rodger Sheppard announced his passing on Sunday, November 25, 2012 at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook at the age of 65 years. He left to mourn with fond and loving memories his wife Betty (née Keats); children: Steven, Julie (Wayne) Webb and Craig (Lori); grandchildren: Jordan, Scott, Sarah, Emily and William; step-daughters: Michelle (Doug) Harder and Janis Oliver (David McKenzie); step-grandchildren: Ryley, Emma, Evan and Ella; father Ronald Sheppard; brothers: Chris (Theresa) and Wade; sister: Michelle; brothers-in-law: John (Mena) Keats, Howard (Sherry) Keats and Reg (Jean) Keats; sister-in-law Marilyn Coles; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his mother Susie Sheppard.



Friends visited Fillatre's Funeral Home, 4 St. Mark's Avenue on Tuesday from the hours of 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, November 28 at 11:00am from St Michael's & All Angels Anglican Church with Rev Canon Roberta Woodman officiating. Interment followed at Mount Patricia Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations could be made to a charity of one's choice. The family guest book could be signed or memorial donations made through the website www.fillatre.ca.

Editorial: THE GRINCH THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

On 2012 November 29, the United Nations held a vote to accept Palestine as a non-member observer state: this did not make Palestine a full member. Perhaps the most important change is that it is now a *state* rather than an *entity*, a step in the right direction and a change which has greatly pleased Palestinians. The result of the vote was 138 For, 9 Against, and 41 abstained. Canada voted Against, along with Czech Republic, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Panama and the United States. Aside from Israel and the US, not a very inspiring group. And should we always agree with the US anyway?

Our Federal Government has argued that Palestine is a terrorist state so in their opinion it does not qualify to be a member of the UN. John Baird, Canada's foreign minister, said in his speech at the UN, that accepting Palestine as a state there “would not advance peace”. Palestine has indeed used terrorist tactics against Israel, which has then retaliated with superior armaments including fighter aircraft.

But does any of this justify Canada's decision to vote against Palestine's application? If we want a nation to become a responsible member of the world community, will snubbing it help? Not likely. Fortunately a large majority voted to accept Palestine, and afterwards thousands of Palestinians were celebrating the success. Let's hope that progress will now be made towards a “two-state solution” for Palestine and Israel, advancing a long-lasting peace in the Middle East. But if it happens, it will not be due to Canada's efforts.

Meanwhile, Canada and eight other UN members have become “the Grinch that stole Christmas”.