

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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2013 November 01 Friday

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TUCKAMORE *or* TUCKEN-MORES



The *Dictionary of Newfoundland English* (Toronto, 1982) defines the word *tuckamore* and a number of its variants including *tucken-more*, as a “Small stunted evergreen tree with gnarled spreading roots, forming closely matted ground-cover on the barrens”, or “low stunted vegetation; scrub”. The variant must have been in use well before 1863 as it is cited by Rev Julian Moreton in his memoir *Life and Work*

in Newfoundland: Reminiscences of Thirteen Years Spent There, published in 1863 by Rivingtons of London. Rev Julian Moreton was an English missionary priest who spent thirteen years in Greenspond, Bonavista Bay, NL, from about 1848 to 1861. See his book at: <http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/hist-007.shtml>

There is also a short extract on page 3 of this BMD.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2013 NOVEMBER 2013

1 st	Fri	All Saints Day
2 nd	Sat	Daylight Saving Time ends tonight Set clocks back one hour before you go to bed.
3 rd	Sun	11am Pentecost 24 - Holy Communion 7pm - JB - Evening Prayer & Vestry Meeting
10 th	Sun	11am Pentecost 25 - Morning Prayer 7pm - JB - Holy Communion
11 th	Mon	10:45am - Remembrance Day Service - LH 7pm - JB - Remembrance Day Service
17 th	Sun	7pm Pentecost 26 - Holy Communion & Baptism 10:30am - JB - Holy Communion
24 th	Sun	7pm Reign of Christ - Holy Communion 10:30am - JB - Holy Communion

2013 DECEMBER 2013

1 st	Sun	11am Advent 1 - Holy Communion 7pm - JB - Holy Communion
8 th	Sun	11am Advent 2 - Morning Prayer 7pm - JB - Evening Prayer (Memorial Bulb Service)
10 th	Tues	6:30pm - Tree Lighting & Carols
15 th	Sun	7pm LH Memorial Bulb Service 10:30am - JB - Holy Communion
22 nd	Sun	7pm Holy Communion 10:30am - JB - Morning Prayer
24 th	Tues	7pm - Christmas Eve, Holy Communion 4pm - JB - Christmas Eve, Holy Communion
25 th	Wed	Christmas Day
29 th	Sun	7pm - Evening Prayer 10:30am - JB - Morning Prayer
31 st	Tues	New Years Eve

2014 January 2014

1 st	Wed	New Years Day
5 th	Sun	11am Epiphany - Holy Communion 7pm - JB - Holy Communion
12 th	Sun	11am Baptism of the Lord - Holy Communion 7pm - JB - Holy Communion
19 th	Sun	7pm Epiphany 2 - Memorial Hymn Sing 10:30 - JB - Morning Prayer
26 th	Sun	7pm Epiphany 3 - Holy Communion 10:30am - JB - Memorial Hymn Sing

Readers will notice that most of the dates in the *Community Calendar* above are church-related. This is because no other organisations have provided information about their events and dates, but those will be published if provided.

Please email the info to blowmedowner@gmail.com or drop off a paper copy at the street address which appears on page 1 of each BLOW•ME•DOWNER. (Email preferred)

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of local businesses and organisations. No charge.

Published also on our Website: www.blowmedowner.webs.com

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

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.

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. 634-7883
- **Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Avenue, 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

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before or on the first Friday of the month.

Submit copy to blowmedowner@gmail.com.

Small social & personal announcements welcomed.

All copy must be submitted at least three days before the first Friday of the month of publication.

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Obituary

JULIE MAY SHEPPARD

1974 May 12 - 2013 September 30

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of the late Julie May Sheppard (née Larkin) announced her passing at her family residence in Corner Brook on Monday, September 30, 2013, at the age of 39 years.

Left to mourn with fond and loving memories were her children Kyle and Melissa and their father; her mother Marjorie; her sisters: Shirley (Ron), Marilyn (Merle), Sandra (Brian), Tammy (Corey), Tracy (Alfred); brothers: William (Brenda), Terry, Shawn (Linda), Robert (Beverley) and Paul (Laura); loving companion Robert Brake, and also a large circle of nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends. Julie was predeceased by father Roy Larkin and grandparents: William & Miriam Youden and Issac & Julie Larkin.

Friends visited Country Haven Funeral Home, 167 Country Road, on Wednesday between the hours of 7-9pm. The Funeral service took place on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 2:00pm from Country Haven Funeral Home Chapel, Rev Canon Roberta Woodman officiating. Interment followed at Mount Patricia Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the family. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made by visiting the website at www.country-haven.ca



Obituary

RONALD ROLAND SHEPPARD

1923 February 01 - 2013 October 12

WWII Veteran, Royal Navy, #299576

PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY on Saturday, October 12th, 2013 at the Corner Brook Long Term Care Home, Ronald Roland Sheppard, at the age of 90 years. Left to mourn with fond and loving memories are his three children: Christopher (Theresa), Wade, and Michelle; life partner, Eileen Youden; grandchildren: Stephen Sheppard, Sherri Sheppard, Julie Webb, Tony Sheppard, Craig Sheppard, Jordan Roberts and Sarah Roberts; great grandchildren: Scott Sheppard, Jordan Sheppard, Aiden James Martin, Sarah and Emily Webb, William Sheppard; brothers: Isaac Jr Sheppard (Doris) and James Sheppard (Joan); as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Ron was predeceased by children Roger and Lawrence, brothers Clayton, Cyril and Ross, and sisters Jean, Olive and Susie. Visitation took place from St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, on Monday from 2:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00pm, from where the funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 15 at 11:00am with interment following at the church cemetery, officiated by Rev Nelson Chatman.

As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to St James Anglican Church Memorial Fund. The family guest book was signed or memorial donations made through the website at www.fillatre.ca



*The Greenspond Reminiscences
of
Rev Julian Moreton*

**Life and Work in Newfoundland:
Reminiscences of Thirteen Years Spent There**

The Reverend Julian Moreton worked at Greenspond, Bonavista Bay, from about 1848 to 1861. Used to the milder climate of southern England, he had a little trouble adapting to the cold winter conditions he experienced at Greenspond!

When writing it was necessary for me to keep my ink glass constantly upon the hob or in the fender; and the ink in my pen would freeze so as to oblige me at every second line or oftener to hold it to thaw by the fire.

No kinds of food can be kept from frost, except in cellars, which are built with earthen walls four feet in thickness. This, in a place like Greenspond where no butcher's meat could be brought in winter, was in one respect rather a convenience, for it was usual to get beef from St John's by the latest vessel before winter, and hanging it in some store or outhouse, where it would continue nearly uniformly frozen, to cleave or saw off a joint as we wanted it. Meat and bone alike required the saw and the hatchet.

The freezing of bread is as inconvenient as can be supposed, and many expedients are used to prevent it. The cellars are not suitable for

Continued at right →

→ (continued) this purpose because of their mouldy atmosphere. My first discovery of one very common mode of obviating this inconvenience was unpleasant enough. I was travelling to visit some of the many stations of my mission, and on my way stopped at a small island to hold divine service in a fisherman's house, for himself and his neighbours. After the service his mother asked me to take some tea before I went on my journey, and I gladly agreed to do so. While cutting bread and butter for me, my hostess complained of the difficulty of keeping the bread thawed, "and yet," she said, "I put the loaf in the bed, and wrap it up close as soon as ever the boys turn out." Alas for a weak stomach! However it was *that* food or none for me then, and I had to overcome all qualms. Little did I suspect that in my own house any such mode was used. One night, however, near the same time my brother, who had lately come to me from England, wanted supper in my absence. The two servant girls were gone to bed, and upon searching the pantry for himself he found no bread. In the morning plenty was on the breakfast table, and he asked how it was that none was to be found the night before. The girl's reply was, "O, sir, we always wrap up the bread and place it in the foot of our bed at night."

I believe it is a common practice of the fishermen's wives to keep their leaven tied in a small bag in the bed all the winter.

*Read Rev Moreton's entire Reminiscences at
<http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/hist-007.shtml>*

Obituary
MARY HUMBER ROBINSON
 1929 - 2013

IT WAS WITH GREAT SADNESS that the family of Mary Humber Robinson (née Barnes) announced her sudden passing on Saturday, October 12, 2013, at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital at the age of 84.

She is lovingly remembered for her kindness and wonderful sense of humour by her children:



Ruth & husband Terry Travers, Myles & wife Dianne Humber, Phyllis & husband Gary Mollon; grandchildren: Shawna & husband Aden Park, Nicole & husband Toby Roach, Christopher Humber, Jeffrey & wife Ashley Humber, Kaalyn Humber, Desmond & wife Jessica Mollon, Amy & husband Trent Sharpe; great grandchildren: Keegan Park, Hunter Park, Isabella Mollon, Sophia & Gabrielle Sharpe; sisters Lavenia Park, Myrtle Sheppard, special friend John Doman; as well as nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. She was predeceased by her husband Harold Humber in 1967 and husband Llewellyn Robinson in 1991; sister Jessie McCarthy, brothers-in-law Roy Park, Raymond Sheppard and Ben McCarthy.

Friends visited St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, on Monday from 2:00-4:00 & 7:00-9:00pm and Tuesday from 10am-12noon. The funeral service was held Tuesday October 15 at 3:00pm from St James Anglican Church, Lark Harbour, with Rev Nelson Chatman officiating, followed by interment at St Ambrose Cemetery in John's Beach. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or memorial donations made to St James Church, Lark Harbour, or St Ambrose Church, John's Beach.

EDWARD SNOWDEN - HERO or VILLAIN?

THE STORIES we have been hearing recently about governments lying, spying, and trying to fool us, the people, in one way or another, have done much to overshadow one individual who has made himself abysmally unpopular with most of them. That individual is Edward Snowden, *Whistleblower Extraordinaire*. If there has been any one person in recent years who has made a difference greater than almost any politician has been able to, it is this 30-year-old who has effectively been deprived of his personal future in the land of his birth, and also in much of the Western world.

Snowden is not by any measure a remarkable fellow. He wasn't born into a remarkable family; he hasn't always enjoyed the best of health; he wasn't a great success in school. He is perhaps as close as could be to your typical "ordinary guy". He has hurt no one, stolen nothing, threatened no one, badmouthed no one. All he has done is to reveal a lot of 'sensitive' information held by one of the security agencies of the USA. Now, for his trouble he is unable to return to the land of his birth, and may always be condemned to exile.

Can you really blame him? After all, when you watch one of the many spy thrillers on American television channels these days like, for example, *Covert Affairs*; or when you read spy novels like the Jason Bourne series by Robert Ludlum, or *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, by John LeCarré who actually served a number of years in the British→

LARK HARBOUR FRACKING MEETING

2013 October 21

ABOUT 45 PEOPLE ATTENDED THIS MEETING to discuss our best approach to Hydraulic Fracturing, which may become part of the economic future of Lark Harbour. The meeting began promptly at 7:00pm as advertised, and was moderated by retired Nurse Lorraine Humber. Bay of Islands MHA Eddie Joyce was also present.

Lorraine opened the meeting by explaining that her main concerns about fracking are the possible accompanying health issues. Then she quoted excerpts from various reports and studies she had read.

Several people expressed their personal feelings which generally arose from concern about damage which might accrue to the local environment from the numerous toxic chemicals injected into the fracking wells. Despite assurances by the oil companies that great precautions are taken, and that the wells drilled are designed to prevent leakage, few people were willing to accept this, and several quoted examples of problems occurring in places where fracking has already been used. There was a consensus that, no matter how carefully done, there are likely to be accidents and breakage over time, perhaps years after the wells are abandoned and the companies are long gone. Questions were also raised about the financial reliability of some companies involved, and the legal protections they have in case of lawsuits against them. Who then would be responsible for the cleanup needed, or for repair of damage to homes or businesses like the fishery or tourism? And how effective can such cleanups be?

It was decided that this group should express to all governments, but especially Provincial, that stronger legislation specific to the use of hydraulic fracturing must be introduced as soon as possible.

But there are problems. Particularly needed is clear resolution of the situation where at least three relatively independent authorities (the Federal and Provincial Governments through various departments, and the CNLOPB) all have jurisdiction, but no single authority has clear oversight of all aspects of fracking. It is important that this confusing situation be remedied, and in the interest of the residents of our Province, the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador must address it by introducing new legislation to harmonise what already exists.

The need for a steering committee to plan future action was raised, but postponed. The meeting closed about 9:00pm with all present invited to add their names and phone numbers to a list to enable them to be contacted in future. SLH

Thanks to all who attended

→ intelligence services MI-5 and MI-6. Then you can realise how Edward Snowden may have come to understand that, even if someone gets killed, the people of those 'real life' agencies are just playing a game of spies like we all played as kids at one time or another, and that it's not a real world any more than *Alice in Wonderland* is real. But those 'real' agencies are actually messing about with the lives of real people just like us. It is a refreshing thought that much, perhaps all of the 'real' world of espionage, is just a game, but it takes an ordinary but courageous fellow like Edward Snowden to remind us.

In the end, perhaps Mr Snowden is doing us a service by enabling us to see that none of this espionage and For-Your-Eyes-Only stuff is any more than the heated imagination of people who think they are superior to us, when truly they are no better than we are.

Isn't it worth thinking about?

Editorial : **FOOD BANKS
and
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

THERE ARE MANY ORGANISATIONS and charities that are constantly appealing to us for support in different forms: attending meetings, writing letters, helping in collections, donating food, passing the word on to our friends and, of course, donations in the form of money. Collectively known as NGOs, these organisations are involved in just about every area of modern society, and are an essential part of our nation's democratic structure, because in so many ways they take over where government leaves off. In recent years the Federal Government has provided less support to people in need, in the belief that their "trickle down" economic policy is sufficient.

Consider for example the Food Bank. In Canada we often believe that no one will be allowed to starve, or to live below the so-called "poverty level". The UFCW (United Food & Commercial Workers) keeps close watch on [food insecurity](#) as it is termed these days. They quote figures from a research report by three North American universities stating that 1 out of 8 Canadian families, about 1.6 million families, have great difficulty providing adequate food for their needs. Yet the average (before tax) income per family in Canada is \$35,369. One must therefore conclude that about half of Canadian families live on less than this amount. Newfoundland & Labrador has among the lowest incomes per family in Canada but, surprisingly, N&L has the lowest [food insecurity](#) rating (the lower the score, the better) with 10.6%, compared with the highest, Nunavut, 36.4%. Even Alberta, 12.3%, Ontario, 11.9%, and BC, 11.0%, have greater [food insecurity](#) than N&L.

In recent years the role of Food Banks everywhere in Canada has increased. This is unfortunate because as more people are having more trouble making ends meet, then there are fewer who are able to help out, leaving the Food Banks with fewer resources to distribute to a larger number of people in need.

While many NGOs are directly involved in matters of health and general welfare, there are many that provide support in less visible or obvious ways. As Jesus said, and it is of timeless truth, "The poor you have with you always." But some other areas of concern are also important in our lives, and one of them is the question of *freedom*. As Remembrance season approaches, we should take stock of how well we are protecting our freedom. But what exactly is *freedom*?

Is it being able to do exactly what we might want to do? Hardly. If it were so, then we would be free to steal anything we fancied—our neighbour's car, ATV, house, anything we want. So clearly this is not what *freedom* means. A practical definition of freedom must include more than our own personal likes and dislikes: it must include a clear respect for our neighbours.

Then the question arises, *Who are our neighbours?* Not just those who live near us but, paraphrasing Jesus, our neighbours are all of those whose lives make contact in any way with ours. And that includes a very large number of people. It is not only those whose homes we see when we look out of our own front doors; it is those whose homes are at the limit of our vision, and further; beyond the next mountain, or river, or ocean, and even at the other side of the world. If I go out and buy a shirt made in Bangladesh, a cell phone made in Korea, a DVD from the USA, or even one illegally knocked off in China, every person involved in the production, distribution, transportation, and sale of that item is, in the broadest sense, my neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan in the parable was neighbour

to the man who fell among thieves. Today, in a world where it is quicker to fly to Europe than it is to visit Nain, Labrador, everyone is my neighbour. Which brings me to one other NGO that has a greater effect on the world than is clear at first sight: [Amnesty International](#).

You will be aware that today there are millions of people who are "different" because of race, religion, politics, gender preference or simply for speaking out against wrongs done to themselves or others. This has often resulted in censure, imprisonment, torture, and even death. Recently 16-year-old Malala Yousafzai spoke out on female rights to be educated and was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen while going home in a school bus with two of her friends who were also wounded. Malala has since become a symbol of freedom for women and girls the world over, but some still want her silenced.

Malala is one person of exceptional courage, but there are dozens, male as well as female, who have stood up for what is right, and have suffered for it. Many have been imprisoned, interrogated and tortured for years. In Latin America, men and women have been imprisoned because they objected to the destruction of their homes to make way for some foreign company, maybe Canadian, to possess their farm land or cut down the forests with no compensation. Even in Canada, the murders of many women have gone unsolved because as prostitutes or persons "of no fixed abode" they were deemed not worthy of attention. [Amnesty International](#) (AI) investigates cases like these and garners support by online petition and money donations from those who feel that such wrongful treatment of human beings is shameful, should be made public, and action should be taken. Often it involves challenging the law, which in any country requires money and expertise that most of us do not possess. AI has achieved freedom for people in many countries—China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Romania, to name a few—and cases of unlawful incarceration are being worked on in these countries. Most recently AI was instrumental in securing release of two Canadians detained without charges in Egypt. Please look at this website and see if you do not think that we have a duty to help people trapped in these situations:

<http://www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now>.

In 1937 [Martin Niemöller](#), a German pastor, was imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps for involvement in a group that opposed Hitler and recognised the importance of speaking out. The following lines are attributed to him:

*First they came for the communists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist.*

*Then they came for the socialists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for me,
and there was no one left to speak for me.*

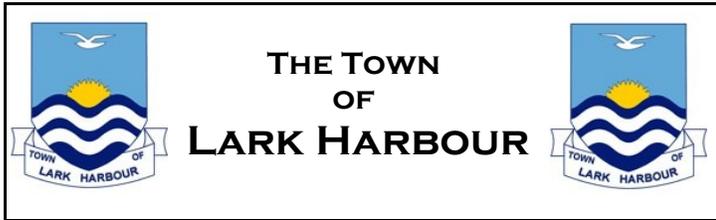
You can substitute other groups for communists and socialists and trade unionists, but the message does not change :

Silence gives consent

Martin Niemöller 1892 - 1984

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AMNESTY





Minutes of Meeting of 2013 October 22

Present: Mayor John Parsons; Deputy Mayor Jamie Park;
Councillors: Pauline Sheppard, Llewellyn Childs, Stanley Childs;
Clerks: Joanna Pottle (Recording) and Peggy Sheppard.
Guests: York Harbour Mayor Florence Lombard;
 Councillors: Gertrude Roberts and Julia Cook;
 Clerks: Sharon Calfas and Michelle Sheppard.

Meeting commenced at 6:45 pm

- York Harbour Council attended to review Garbage Tenders. One tender had been received and a motion was made by Lark Harbour Council to accept the bid of \$40,975 + HST & Landfill charges by Murphy Brothers of Corner Brook.
- Minutes of Regular Meeting of 2013 September 17 and Special Meeting of 2013 October 1 adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update – Clerk directed to gather more information before an agreement is made on how we will pay for Status Report #4. Agreed to send another letter to the new Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding Phase 2 postponement due to financial constraints for year 2012-2013.
- Fracking – Council reviewed letter from taxpayer re fracking.
- Amalgamation – October 29th is the date set for the next round of public meetings with Whey's Consulting.
- Council agreed to prepare a petition regarding Route 450. Petition will be available to sign in the Town Hall and local businesses.
- Council will investigate further into purchasing playground equipment in the New Year. A new fence has been installed on the side of the playground towards a resident's property.
- Harbour View Road – Meeting held with Service NL on 2013 Oct 22 to discuss options for resolving problems on Harbour View Road. Main focus now is getting water and sewer on the subdivision. In the mean time, those wanting to install their own septic systems will be allowed to do so by following the proper government regulations.
- Snow Clearing Contract – One tender received. Clerk directed to look further into purchasing of sand and salt so that Council will have total cost for previous years.
- Workshops/Information Sessions – Clerks gave overview on PMA Fall Forum that they attended on October 10 - 11 in Gander and Budgeting training in Deer Lake on October 16. Clerks directed to look into Councillors attending a session before year end.
- Agreed to contact property owner at the end of Little Port Road to request information on the land.
- The Bottle Cove Beach cleanup that was held on September 29th was a great success. 14 bags of garbage collected.
- Accounts payable totalling \$122.34 approved.
- Accounts receivable balance now totalling \$15,814.56.
- Write offs of \$6.74 approved.

- Approved all building permits as per list.
- Will proceed with Community Employment Enhancement Program (CEEP) after receipt of official letter from Provincial Government. Will continue rebuilding a retaining wall at the end of Main Street.
- Gas Tax Funding – Year 8A Allocation of \$15,445.52 received.
- Greater Humber Joint Council AGM – Regrets sent as no Councillors will be available to attend meeting in Jacksons Arm.
- Clerks informed Council of call received from Municipal Assessment Agency. The total assessed value has increased by almost \$1.8 million. 33 properties decreased but 155 increased in value, the increase ranging from \$100-\$57,000.00. Any resident wishing to discuss the assessment is encouraged to contact the Municipal Assessment Agency.
- Approved one Crown Land Application from resident.
- Victorian Order of Nurses Clinic - Council met in October with VON to discuss the possibility of re-opening the clinic. Further meetings are planned with VON and Western Health.
- Council viewed complaint from resident in York Harbour regarding dirt bike use in the Cedar Cove area. All agreed to post a message on our website and to erect signs in the area.
- Council will investigate further into placing a light on a pole by the skate board park area.
- Motion made to transfer credit card holder name from Mayor John to Clerk Peggy.
- Council reviewed complaint from resident; reply will be sent.
- All correspondence reviewed with no further follow-up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

TOWN AMALGAMATION MEETING AT LARK HARBOUR

2013 October 29

THE MEETING BEGAN at 7:00pm at the Town Hall and was moderated by Mr George Whey of WHEY Consulting, Gander, NL. About a dozen residents were present. A similar meeting was to take place at York Harbour Town Hall on 2013 October 30.

Mr Whey began by introducing Mr Arthur Skinner of the Corner Brook Office of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Mr Skinner observed the Meeting and provided information when requested.

Mr Whey then explained the purpose of the Meeting, which was to advise community members of the current stage of discussions between Lark Harbour and York Harbour and the Department of Municipal Affairs, and to answer questions. At this time two meetings have been held, and information has been gathered about the views of residents and Councils from both Towns. Mr Whey also presented a slide show which reviewed information presented in a circular mailing to all residents earlier in October.

Given that the Towns have already successfully shared many services for years now (including garbage collection, fire protection, school, church, public library) it is clear that such co-operation is beneficial and acceptable to the majority of residents. Mr Whey then stated that the concept of sharing other services such as town administration itself is a logical step. One of the most beneficial results of amalgamation would come from sharing large projects such

Continued on page 9, Column 2

Editorial -

The SENATE : DOES CANADA NEED IT?

With the news about the Senate expense scandal constantly before us, many people are asking, “Do we need the Senate?” The short answer is, in my opinion, “Yes.” But I would add, “We need a more effective Senate than we have at the moment.”

When the Canada we know today began in 1867, the House of Commons and the Senate were designed to work together. The main task of the House of Commons was, and still is, to evaluate *bills* that the Government or private members may present. These bills are the beginnings of new laws that may be needed. In order to make sure that the bills truly reflect ideas that Canadians want, the members of the House of Commons have several opportunities to examine the bills in detail before they become law. Each bill is given three readings, at which MPs can ask questions and suggest *amendments*. After each reading a vote is taken. Between readings the bill is debated in *committee*, where it is examined in greater detail by a smaller group, and more recommendations can be made for changes to improve or clarify it. Not until this process is complete does the House take a final vote to accept or reject the bill.

However, the bill is still not law. At this point it is sent to the Senate, whose task is likewise to scrutinise it and recommend changes in a manner similar to the House of Commons. The Senate also votes on the bill at each stage as it is studied. If it survives these processes, it is then submitted to the Governor General who signs it. Only then does it become law.

An expression we have been hearing often recently is that the Senate was designed to provide a *safeguard*, a “sober second thought” on legislation. However, as has been the case recently, when new Senators have been appointed whose task appears to be *not* “sober second thought” but blind acceptance of whatever the government in power sends over for their consideration, this *safeguard* has largely been cancelled. Add to this the fact that “omnibus bills”, which contain so much legislation on so many issues that members do not have enough time to examine and debate them as they should before the government declares closure and a vote is prematurely called. The present Harper government has used omnibus bills a number of times.

Under the British Parliamentary System on which our system was modelled in 1867, the members of the House of Commons are elected directly by the people. The Canadian Senate is based on the British House of Lords where members are appointed by the Prime Minister. The British House of Lords, however, also has members who have a hereditary right to a seat there, which is not so in the Canadian Senate.

Herein lies the problem: naturally, the Prime Minister appoints to the Senate individuals who hold views similar to his own. Therefore the only reasonable solution is to have a Senate elected directly by the people, but by a slightly different process avoiding overlap and duplication. This would make it similar to the American system.

Many people believe that the Canadian Senate should be abolished, but a better solution would be to reform it so that its members are also elected by the people.

Abolition of the Senate would of course save money, and bills might get passed more quickly. But then the *safeguard*, a feature of paramount importance in a democracy, would be lost. We have seen how certain measures have been “rammed” through both Houses by

the Harper government, with insufficient time allowed for debate. With the Senate loaded with the Prime Minister’s appointees, it has now become little more than a “rubber stamp” for government policies, and bills can pass the Senate even more quickly and with a little scrutiny as they now pass the House of Commons.

To be blunt about it, the current system is making a mockery of the democratic process in Canada, and we run a great risk of ending up with inferior legislation and of passing legislation that only a minority of Canadians support. This is not the way a democracy should work. This is why we need to retain the Senate, but not in its present state. This is why we *also* need to reform our electoral system to ensure that when the governing party has a majority of members in the House of Commons but *not a majority of the popular vote*, the Opposition is not ignored. Because more than half of those who voted in the last election did not vote for the present Harper government, the essence of democracy—“one person one vote”—is negated. In fact, a system of *proportional representation* would be ideal. An elected Senate would also go far to remedy this situation.

It would take a little while to work out the details, because broad consultation would be needed, but if an Elected Senate was agreed on, the details (for example, *How many Senators for each Province or Territory? How and when should they be elected?*) could be worked out quite soon.

There are many ways to do this, but basically a fair division of Senate seats between provinces like Ontario with **several million** people and Nunavut with just under **32 thousand** is necessary to allow smaller regions to feel that they can influence national policy.

There is great discontent in Canada today with the way the country is split between east and west at the border between Ontario and Manitoba. And when the divisive feeling between Québec and the rest of Canada is added in, things get worse. Such divisions allow and even encourage friction between regions.

However while reform of the electoral system, especially the Senate, is urgently needed, it will not solve all our problems. Politicians will still be able to play off region against region, industry against industry, and one economic group against another. That will not cease overnight. But if some of the main aggravations are removed, we can begin to concentrate on what will truly benefit the entire nation, not just some parts of it.

When legislation is rushed, or is not fully thought out, or does not represent the views of a majority of Canadians (several times the case under the Harper government) citizens grow cynical, lose confidence in their elected representatives and begin to question the value of it all. This is precisely what is happening now, resulting in small turnouts at election times, and people feeling alienated. When individuals in government are seen to be using their power to accumulate personal wealth, taking advantage of questionable tax loopholes, favouring certain sectors of society or commerce above others, or expending public funds in order to promote ideology which does not represent the views of the majority of Canadians, cynicism becomes rife. To paraphrase Shakespeare in *Richard the Second*, “*These signs forerun the death or fall of . . . nations*”.

In conclusion we must therefore take immediate and decisive steps to correct shortcomings in the system before it deteriorates further. The first step must be not to abolish the Senate, but to reform it.

SLH

The Senate was designed to provide a *safeguard*, a “sober second thought” on legislation.



LIBRARY NOTES
by
Susan Harvey



The books below were all new in our library, so apparently the loss of the rotating collections is not fatal. If a few new fiction books keep arriving, we can manage. And there will always be additions to the Newfoundland collection. And, of course, we may all learn to use e-books. When we each have our own little e-reader, it will be a lot easier to carry around than a thick book - say, to the doctor's waiting room. Our library system already has a fair number of e-books available, and will be encouraging us to read them.

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>Bones of the Lost</i> | Kathy Reichs |
| 2. <i>The Black Box</i> | Michael Connelly |
| 3. <i>How the Light Gets In</i> | Louise Penny |
| 4. <i>Exit Music</i> | Ian Rankin |
| 5. <i>Silken Prey</i> | John Sandford |

Newfoundland Collection:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 6. <i>More Than Just A Name: A Traveller's Guide to the Origin of Place Names in Newfoundland & Labrador</i> | Byron A. Brooks |
| 7. <i>Stories from the Hole in the Ceiling</i> | Anne Galway |
| 8. <i>Joey Smallwood, Schemer and Dreamer</i> | Ray Argyle |
| 9. <i>Every Little Thing</i> | Chad Pelley |

1. *Bones of the Lost* is another adventure of Dr Temperance Brennan, forensic anthropologist. In this story we don't get any traces of her affiliation with Montreal; the main action is all in North Carolina, with the usual messy corpse that is difficult to identify and account for. Dr Brennan finds herself very involved in the effort to identify the young girl, although the homicide detective on the case is not very co-operative. The completely different feature of this story is that Dr Brennan finds herself on the way to Afghanistan for a job calling for her expertise. We get what seems like a reasonably authoritative description of what a civilian would encounter on a visit to a military base abroad. Of course, Dr Brennan is accepted as an expert and everyone is supposed to help her do her job, which she does in her usual professional manner. Her results must be accepted, even though they are not exactly as expected. Her final revelations tie most of the threads of the story in a surprising way. An interesting read.

2. *The Black Box* is another story of Harry Bosch and his efforts to bring criminals to justice in his own way in spite of the LAPD's attempts to force him to work to their priorities. Still working with the OU (Open Unsolved) Unit, Harry insists on working a case he was involved in twenty years earlier. A young woman journalist from Denmark was murdered during the riots in LA following the Rodney King beating. In trying to figure out why a young woman would want to risk her safety amongst the violence, looting and destruction of the time, Harry tracks down a few informants who can give him more information. But his LAPD bosses tell him to stop wasting the unit's time on a seemingly insoluble case and work on a case which might add to their successful solutions. Harry is threatened with mandatory retirement. In the end, however, he does catch up with a particularly vicious murderer who makes a determined effort to get rid of anyone posing a risk to his safety—including Harry. Fortunately, at the last moment Harry receives assistance from a surprising source and succeeds again in providing justice for a murder victim. A good read.

3. *How the Light Gets In* is another story of a dedicated homicide detective whose superiors appear to be working directly against him. Except in this case his superiors do turn out to be working directly against Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in a story set in the province of Quebec. In a previous book Gamache did manage to stop the intended evil and to arrest the high profile man who seemed to be the main agent involved. However, it soon becomes clear in the present story that high level members of the Surete are still determined to enforce their own agenda, and to do whatever is necessary to weaken Gamache's position and stop him from interfering with their plans. During all this turmoil we spend some time in the village of Three Pines, where we meet many interesting characters - all good friends of Gamache. The contrast between life in this pleasant little village and the cold-blooded activities in the Surete - including actual murder—is very noticeable. The efforts of the villains are intended to end in more than one large-scale destruction with much loss of life. Gamache and his friends manage to figure it out just in time, and prevent much of the bloodshed. It will surprise the reader to find just how high the evil goes among the politicians of Quebec in this fictional account. A good different read.

4. *Exit Music* is yet another story of a successful detective, DI John Rebus, who has reached retirement age after a lifetime of solving crimes using his own rules. Again, his superiors seem to have it in for him and are spending a lot of effort weakening his department and trying to hasten his departure. No basic corruption suggested in this case, they are just fed up with the way he insists on doing things his own way. This story is set in Edinburgh, Scotland, and begins with the murder of a Russian poet, followed by another murder and several assaults. Rebus has a fine assortment of mysterious Russians, a long-time drug overlord with whom Rebus has history, and several high-up bank officials who seem very involved with the Russians to consider as possible villains. Rebus does manage to establish responsibility for the crimes in his usual manner: by forming his own theories and getting his staff somehow to help him pursue them. Another good read. A little surprising to encounter three books in a row with so similar a theme; but interesting that they are set in such different locations: Los Angeles, Quebec province, and Scotland.

5. *Silken Prey* is a totally different kind of story; more complicated, for a start, involving lots more people and some pretty sophisticated computer manipulation. Also quite a bit of political activity; the story is set in the US, and the main action is an election for senator for the state of Minnesota. The main character, Lucas Davenport, is a detective with an agency of the state police. He has been asked by the governor to look into the big story of the moment, in which some disgusting child porn has been, seemingly accidentally, discovered on the personal computer of the sitting senator who is facing a new determined candidate for the seat. When publicised, the story looks like influencing the election in his opponent's favour, but the governor is suspicious and suspects that the porn could have been planted - perhaps by someone working for the other candidate, who is a very wealthy and determined woman. In fact, the reader gets to see behind the scenes, and we see exactly how ruthlessly the whole thing is organised, with no hesitation to commit murder to keep the activity secret. We hear about all the political considerations, and try to keep up with all the activity involved in uncovering the truth—including at least four murders. An exciting read, but we have to hope not a realistic account of how our politicians wage elections.

Continued on Page 9, Column 1

Library Notes continued from Page 8

6. *More Than Just a Name* is a study of the names of settlements in our province. However, it is organised as a set of scenic trails located right across the province, with lots of historic notes about the countryside and each settlement. It would be a very good book for any tourists who had the time and interest to check out all the trails. Or for any of us who would like the idea.

7. *Stories from the Hole in the Ceiling* is a fun collection of stories from Newfoundlanders past and present. They all deal with a feature common in the past, where houses often had a hole in the ceiling over the kitchen stove to allow warm air to provide a little heat in the bedrooms upstairs. It seems children would often listen there to the adults talking in the kitchen. Many entertaining incidents.

8. *Joey Smallwood, Schemer and Dreamer* is another easy and entertaining re-telling of Joey's story. Mr Argyle is not a Newfoundlander, and the reader will notice several places where his picture of our province is a little off. I also thought he had not been careful enough about the chronology; sometimes it was a little hard to tell the order in which things had occurred. But, all in all, a refreshing trip back over the last 70 odd years of the province's history. A relief from the scandals of the federal government.

9. *Every Little Thing* is a love story, but not the usual thing. The main character, named Cohen, falls in love suddenly with Allie, who just happens to move in next to him. He likes everything about her, and even establishes good relationships with her family and friends. She responds, and for several years they are together and seem perfectly happy. But then, for no reason that Cohen understands, she takes a job with another man and almost immediately starts going around with him and soon he is the established boyfriend. This is hard for the reader to understand, as Keith, the new boyfriend, is not a likeable person and is quite hostile to Cohen. In time, his efforts get Cohen into prison. Even in prison, and with Allie's turning against him, Cohen still thinks about her and wants her back. There are many complications, and at the end there may be a suggestion of a happy ending. It doesn't sound too enjoyable, but the reader does get involved and hopes for the best.

Amalgamation Meeting report continued from Page 6

as water and sewage installations whenever this might be possible.

With the current situation where Lark Harbour is already embarked on a water and sewage project, and York Harbour is also interested in a system of their own, efficiencies would result from a joint pursuit of such services, with one single water system if it is deemed preferable by the consulting engineer (Anderson Engineering) who is presently engaged by both towns.

A further important benefit would arise from the fact that an amalgamated community would rank fifth in population of the Bay of Islands region, instead of ninth and twelfth as the two towns presently rank. This would provide greater strength of position when dealing with government and other towns in the area.

One important consideration to be addressed is the differential caused by debt (an additional \$130,000) to be assumed by Lark Harbour for its water/sewage system, while York Harbour currently has none. However, this differential can be resolved fairly as the additional cost would be paid by those residents connected to the system. This would not include York Harbour unless and until York Harbour residents should choose to go ahead with a similar plan.

Another point is that neither town presently has a *municipal plan*, essential for future orderly development. This must be addressed.

Mr Whey also remarked that neither of the present towns would need to lose its community identity, a concern raised by some.

Meanwhile, consultation will continue, and residents may continue to submit concerns and suggestions to Whey Consulting until 2013 November 15. It is reasonable to expect the process to be decided one way or the other by spring of 2014. See the yellow flyer you received in the mail in early October for further details.

Until 2013 Nov 15 written presentations or briefs may be sent by:

Email to larkharbouryorkharbour@wheygroucom

Fax to 709 651 3197

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