

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

ISSUE 82 : 2014-07-04

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2014 July 04 Friday

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2014 JULY 2014

1 st	Tues	Canada Day <i>Fireworks in Blow-Me-Down Park, 10:00pm</i>
6 th	Sun	Pentecost 4 - LH, 11:00am - MP JB, 7:00pm - HC
13 th	Sun	Pentecost 5 - LH, 11:00am - HC JB, 7:00pm - Prayer & Praise
20 th	Sun	Pentecost 6 - LH, 7:00pm - HC JB, 2:30pm - Cem Memorial Service
27 th	Sun	Pentecost 7 - LH, 2:00pm - Cem Memorial Service YH, 3:15pm - Cem Memorial Service JB, 10:30am, HC

2014 AUGUST 2014

18th Mon Bev Hanna-Jones Bus Tour in Lark Harbour

2014 SEPTEMBER 2014

1 st	Mon	Labour Day
22 nd	Mon	Fall begins
28 th	Sun	Confirmation at St James Church

2014 ADVANCE DATES 2014

Oct 13 th	Mon	Thanksgiving Day
Oct 24 th	Fri	United Nations Day
Nov 2 nd	Sun	Back to Standard Time - clocks back 1 hour
Nov 11 th	Tues	Remembrance Day
Dec 21 st	Sun	Winter begins

*Christmas Day and New Year's Day
both fall on Thursdays this year*

Greetings for Canada Day

**Canada Day Fireworks Show
in Blow-Me-Down Provincial Park
at 10:00pm**

HAPPY CANADA DAY, EVERYONE

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

A list of local businesses and organisations. No charge.

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

Email: blowmedowner@gmail.com or Phone 681-2256

● ● ● Please support local enterprises ● ● ●

Local businesses may contact 681-2256 for free inclusion

Listed alphabetically :-

- **Byrne's Store, Main Street, York Harbour ***
groceries, hardware, gas & diesel, souvenirs 681-2040
- **Captain Cook B&B & Cottages, York Harbour**
Email: info@captaincookbb.ca 681-2906; 1-877-681-2906
- **Curling ONE Stop Service Station, Corner Brook ***
automotive repairs, servicing, fuel 785-2619
- **Drop In Lounge, 23 Main Street, Lark Harbour**
entertainment, food, licenced 681-2103
- **Eddie Joyce, MHA, Bay of Islands, Corner Brook**
Member, House of Assembly. Corner Brook Office 634-7883
- **Fillatre Memorials, 1 St Mark's Avenue, Corner Brook ***
memorial furnishings 634-1529
- **Gerry Byrne, MP, Humber-St Barbe-Bay Verte**
Member of Parliament. Corner Brook Office 637-4570
- **Lark Harbour Taxi, Jay Barry, Main St, Lark Harbour**
Lark Harbour - Corner Brook - elsewhere 681-2449
- **Quik Lube Plus, 65 Humber Road, Corner Brook ***
automotive repairs, servicing 639-5823
- **Sheppard's Clover Farm Store, Lark Harbour ***
groceries, hardware, gas, Sears agency, marine 681-2160
- **The Roost, Gift Shop and Gallery, York Harbour**
sea glass, paintings, handmade glass beads 681-2341
- **Vater Family Daycare, Frenchman's Cove** 789-3940

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POST OFFICE HOURS OF SERVICE

LARK HARBOUR

Mondays	9:30 - 1:00	2:00 - 4:00
Tuesdays	9:30 - 1:00	2:00 - 4:00
Wednesdays	9:30 - 1:00	2:00 - 4:00
Thursdays	9:30 - 1:00	2:00 - 5:00
Fridays	9:30 - 1:00	2:00 - 3:30

YORK HARBOUR

Mondays	10:00 - 12:00	2:00 - 5:00
Tuesdays	10:00 - 12:00	2:00 - 4:00
Wednesdays	10:00 - 12:00	2:00 - 4:00
Thursdays	10:00 - 12:00	2:00 - 4:00
Fridays	10:00 - 12:00	2:00 - 4:00

All Post Offices will be closed on July 1st, Canada Day

BLOWMEDOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

Mondays	11:00 - 4:00	
Tuesdays	1:00 - 4:00	6:30 - 8:30
Wednesdays	1:00 - 4:00	
Thursdays	1:00 - 4:00	

These Library hours will be in effect until early September.

To all our Readers

Have a

Safe,

Relaxing

and Enjoyable

SUMMER

HIDDEN INCREASES IN THE COST OF FOOD

!!! WATCH OUT FOR THEM !!!



LOOK AT THESE TWO CEREAL BOXES. Can you see any difference, aside from the fact that one is noticeably bigger than the other? But can you see another difference?

These two cartons contain the identical product, and both were bought at Sobeys, Corner Brook. On April 08 the box at left was bought for \$3.99. On April 16, only eight days later, the much smaller box at right was bought in the same store for the same price. The two boxes cost the same and look exactly the same until placed side by side, as in the picture. The box bought on April 08 contained 775g of bran flakes; the one bought on April 16 contained only 670g, a difference of 105g. But the price, \$3.99, was the same. A quick calculation showed that the small box contained 13.5%, or approximately *one eighth less product* than the larger one from the week before. This worked out equivalent to a cost increase of about fifty cents. At home, when I discovered the difference, I telephoned the store manager, asking if it might be a mistake, but I was told that the pricing was correct. He was not aware of the size difference.

When I explained my concern, the manager appeared to have a little trouble understanding at first. Maybe I didn't explain it well enough. No one likes to see price increases, but I know some cannot be avoided, and we are told to brace ourselves for more in the future because of increased world-wide demand for some commodities, especially food. **My concern here was about the way the increase was made, with very much the look of an attempt to hide the price change.** Identical boxes, except for the relatively small content statement, made it seem almost as if the company didn't want us to notice. If so, I consider it dishonest marketing. It leaves us, the trusting consumers, open to deception, including the absorbing of price increases that may be neither necessary nor justifiable.

The manner in which this price increase was done **could be construed as a deliberate attempt to conceal the change.** As consumers we have a right to know about these things, and companies should be open and transparent in the way they display prices for their products. Perhaps a short explanatory note on the shelf? After all, a price increase of 13.5% in one week is quite substantial. We consumers must protect our own interests by informing retailers that we want explanations of why things are being done as they are.

SLH



LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



A good month for new books in the Newfoundland Collection. It did seem as if one or two of the books gave a rather strange picture of life on the Island. I also wondered whether the mainland reviewers were really serious in what they said.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. <i>Good as Dead</i> | Mark Billingham |
| 2. <i>The Hit</i> | David Baldacci |
| 3. <i>Schnider's World: A Harp Seal Story</i> | Don Downer |
| 4. <i>The Son of a Certain Woman NC</i> | Wayne Johnston |
| 5. <i>Good-bye Momma NC</i> | Tom Moore |
| 6. <i>Angels Crying NC</i> | Tom Moore |

1. *Good as Dead* is an exciting book, with a lot of suspense. It begins with a hostage-taking event in a small London shop. The owner has become obsessed with the feeling that the law has lied about the death of his son, who is said to have committed suicide while serving time in a prison for young offenders. The shopkeeper, Javed Akhtar, cannot accept the idea that his son could kill himself, and he believes that the authorities are just saying so in order to conceal the fact that his son was actually murdered somehow in the prison. His obsession has made him unreasonable, and his plan involves getting a gun and taking a hostage whom he will kill if the police don't find out the truth about his son's death. His hostage of choice is an actual policewoman who uses his shop. He threatens to kill her if Tom Thorne, a detective on the murder squad, does not immediately begin an investigation of his son's death and tell him the facts. This is a big responsibility for Thorne, who does actually know the young policewoman, Helen Weeks; but has no previous acquaintanceship with the case. The police have no reason to doubt the suicide verdict, and are not encouraging. They have gone ahead and set up the standard response to a hostage-taking event, and are preparing to mount an assault on the shop with guns. They are on site with a negotiator and an assault force. Thorne is afraid that an assault with guns would end badly for Helen, the hostage. He and the negotiator manage to persuade their colleagues to hold off until Thorne has a chance to do his investigation. Naturally, the investigation takes longer than the assault force would wish, and he is under a lot of pressure. However, in only two days he does become convinced that the suicide idea is not likely, and he talks to anyone at the prison or elsewhere about the boy. Having formed a few ideas as to how it could have happened, his investigation turns up some information which at last tells him who wanted the boy to die and why. The answer is a real surprise; the reader will not want to put the book down until all is explained.

2. *The Hit* is written from a different point of view: that of a professional assassin. In fact, there are TWO professional assassins, one male and one female. They both work for a mysterious, supposedly governmental, organisation and their job in each case is to go and kill the target, cleanly and professionally, and without ever being given a reason why the death is required. However, by a further unexplained series of events, they are turned against each other; the man, Will Robie, is directed to kill the woman, Jessica Reel—and warned that she is probably trying to kill him. Most of the story concerns their attempts to find and kill each other, though both seem to feel some reluctance to finish the job in the usual neat manner. As the story proceeds both of them experience some doubt as to the scenario, and also as to the whole set-up which they have accepted and worked under for so long. The reader will be pleased to find that they

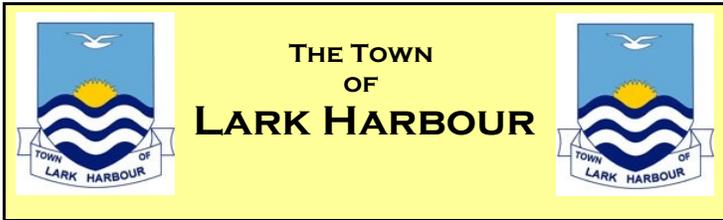
really don't want to kill each other, and will be interested to find out the explanation for the whole thing. Again, an exciting read.

3. *Schnider's World* is, as indicated, a story of a harp seal named Schnider. It is written by Don Downer, who previously worked for the School Board, and organised a school trip to St. John's when our girls were in school. The book is pretty much factual - not much story - and is intended to describe the life of seals to young people. Probably Mr. Downer was not thinking of VERY young people, more grade 5-6 and up, if they are to read it to themselves. It is quite readable even for grown-ups, and is presumably accurate in its details; anyway, it is short, and easy reading for most of us. Mr Downer's niece has produced many effective illustrations. The book would probably be a good present for a relative on the mainland who had no idea about the seal fishery. Or perhaps for one of the seal hunt protestors - maybe Pamela Anderson?

4. *The Son of a Certain Woman* is definitely a Newfoundland book. The "certain woman" is Penelope Joyce, who is a single mother whose fiancé abandoned her when she got pregnant. And the son, called Percy, has been disfigured since birth by a sort of birthmark which covers his whole face. It is described as red in colour, and very ugly. Such an obvious disfigurement can't be hidden, and Percy gets a lot of teasing from the other children. In fact, even adults say things to him, often suggesting that his ugliness is a punishment on his mother for getting pregnant when not married. The bullying Percy endures is fully described, as well as how he reacts to it, but the real story of the book seems to be more about Percy's thought processes. He is plainly very intelligent, and thinks of some imaginative ways to respond to the children's teasing. Actually, he has pretty much accepted his problem, except that he worries that no girl will ever like him enough to spend time with him. He is quite obsessed with sex, and fears that he will never get the chance to experience it. What he has done is to become fixated on his mother, who is very attractive. His dream is that one day he will have sex with her. She is surprisingly prepared to consider his needs, although she tells him he will have to wait. Percy's obsession becomes very much the main topic of the story, and it produces an interesting climax. The reader will learn something of the way life works for those who are visibly different.

5. *Good-bye Momma* is a fairly typical story of a young boy whose mother dies, and he has a lot of trouble adjusting to her loss and the other changes that follow. The boy, Felix, is the product of a marriage between a man from the mainland and a young Newfoundland woman. His mother is a gentle type, who is happy to continue living with her parents in the outport town of Delight. His father, however, is rather strict and very sure that his way of doing things is the only right way. Poor Felix must endure his father's very strict ideas of raising children; but his life is eased by his gentle mother and his grandparents. However, when Felix is only about 10 years old, his mother gets sick and dies. He is still missing her very much when his father takes up with a young school teacher in the next community. In spite of Felix's resistance, his father marries the teacher, and they move to a new home in the next community. Felix refuses to accept a new mother or a new school, and he does actually run away. In the end, of course, he will have to accept his changed circumstances. The reader will sympathise with his dilemma, and will hope that he does come to accept the situation.

One more Review continued near bottom of next page.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2014 MAY 27

Present: Mayor - John Parsons
 Councillors - Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs
 Clerks - Joanna Pottle (Recording), Peggy Sheppard

Absent: Deputy Mayor - Jamie Park
 Councillors - Pauline Sheppard

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

- Minutes of Meeting of May 14, 2014 adopted.
- Water & Sewer Update: Council still has not heard anything on Phase 2 of the Water and Sewer Project. Letter received from Municipal Affairs regarding approval for extra funding under the 90/10 rule for the cost overrun for Phase 1B of approximately \$88,000.00. Clerk directed to follow up with contractor regarding interest charges incurred for Phase 1B.
- Amalgamation: LH and YH Town Councils met with Minister Steve Kent on May 9, 2014, to discuss Amalgamation. A decision should be made within the next few months on whether or not Amalgamation will proceed.
- Beacon Road/Tower: Council viewed letter from John Boutlier regarding Beacon Road and tower.
- Letter reviewed from Minister Nick McGrath regarding Route 450. Mr McGrath is aware of our concerns regarding the roads and assured us that the Department is keeping a close eye on the road from Rattling Brook to York Harbour.
- Bell Aliant Extended Service Charge: Clerk directed to contact the Cox's Cove Town Office to collect more information on Telephone Service Charge from Cox's Cove to Corner Brook.
- Student Grants: Council has been approved for one SWASP Student and one Post Secondary Student.
- Motion to approve financial report. No accounts payable.
- Collections Update: Clerk informed Council that there are now 10 delinquent tax payers for 2013 and prior totalling approximately \$5,825.00.
- Approved all building permits.
- Approved write offs of \$265.00
- Agreed to contact Crown Land and have them visit Birchy Hill Road and Harbour View Road areas before any applications are approved.
- Playground Equipment: More information required before decision is made on what equipment to purchase.
- 2013 Audit: Council reviewed letter from the Auditors. All Annual Expenditure Reports are complete and accurate.
- Western Regional Waste Management: Agreed to order pass cards to make them available at the Council Office for residents wishing to bring material to the dump site.

- Council reviewed dog complaint. Agreed to write letter to dog owner.
- Complaint received from resident regarding dogs not tethered on hiking trails. Agreed to have signs erected in the areas.
- Letter received from Canadian Heritage and Official Languages confirming approval of \$500 for Canada Day Celebrations. Clerk to contact York Harbour Council to discuss July 1st celebrations.
- Review of letter from Municipal Assessment Agency regarding meeting on April 4.
- All agreed to follow up with tax payer regarding regulations to be followed before a building permit is issued.
- Review of letter from resident regarding Property Tax and Assessment. Agreed to remove additional charges from taxpayer's account.
- Agreed to look further into cost of a buffer for floor waxing.
- Email received regarding a public meeting to be held on June 10th at 2pm at the Grenfell Campus concerning the possibility of a GeoPark in this area.
- Council reviewed request for a darts league at the Town Hall. Further information is to be collected before a decision is made.
- PMA Training Opportunities: Agreed to send clerks to Deer Lake for PMA Regional Meeting on June 20.
- Municipal Council Handbooks: New handbooks were distributed to Council.
- Vehicle Wreck Removals: Clerk directed to gather more information on the removal of vehicles from the community.
- Tire Removal: A time will be set for tire removal in the town in the near future.
- Eaves Trough: Letters sent to construction companies requesting quotes for installing eaves troughs on the Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm



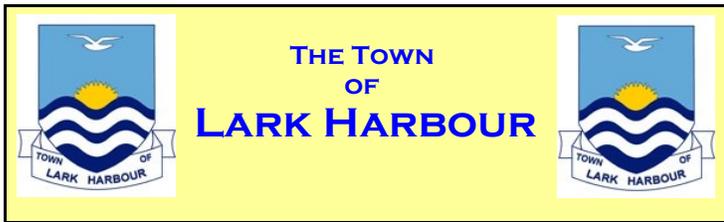
LIBRARY NOTES

by
Susan Harvey



*Continued
from previous page*

6. *Angels Crying* is the story of a young girl, Tammy King, who, at age 15, kills herself by jumping off a cliff into the sea. We learn of her short unhappy life from her birth to a single mother through several foster homes. Most of the foster homes were acceptable, but those run by one family produced an experience of sexual abuse, which was too much for Tammy. The book makes the point that in this case, Tammy was failed by the Child Welfare people and by the RCMP, both of whom were told of the abuse, but failed to do anything effective about it.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2014 JUNE 17

Present: Mayor - John Parsons
 Councillors - Stanley Childs, Llewellyn Childs
 Clerks - Peggy Sheppard (recording)

Absent: Councillor - Pauline Sheppard
 Clerk - Joanna Pottle

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

- Adopted minutes of May 27, 2014.
- Water/Sewer Update – Review of correspondence received from the Dept. of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs regarding an outstanding interest invoice from Mike Kelly & Sons. Review of correspondence and invoice from Anderson Engineering Consultants Ltd. to the DMIA requesting additional engineering funds to address requirements of Fisheries Act Authorization #12-06-004-Fairfax Brook. Review of correspondence from Dept of Fisheries and Oceans regarding sediment removal from their water intake as a result of work completed upstream. Review of correspondence from DMIA authorizing additional funding of \$88,336 for Phase 1B, based on a cost sharing arrangement of 90/10 Provincial/Municipal ratio and on condition Council is willing and able to meet its share of the costs.
- Clerk directed to follow up with Engineering consultant regarding final inspection.
- To date there is no update on Phase 2 application.
- Amalgamation – Final paper has been completed and submitted to the Cabinet. Awaiting reply.
- Crown Land/Harbour View Road – Review of letter sent to Crown Lands requesting a site visit. Awaiting reply.
- Playground equipment – Council viewed some equipment pieces and quotes that were obtained. Clerk directed to follow up with Humber Arm South Shore Council to try and find a more cost efficient method of getting playground equipment.
- Western Regional Waste Management – RFID cards are now available at the Town Office. Anyone wishing to take garbage to the Wild Cove dump site can sign out a card from the office, thereby avoiding charges for dumping. Residents can also get their own cards at the site. These cards are preloaded with a \$10.00 credit.
- Friday night darts – Council would like more information and will invite Mr Barry to attend the next monthly meeting.
- Student Summer Grants – Council was advised that approval has been received for 3 high school students, 4 weeks each, 20 hours per week. Clerk will advertise once the official letter is received from Advanced Education and Skills.
- Vehicle Wreck Removal – Clerk has contacted Rod's Auto Salvage who will remove vehicle wrecks at no cost as in previous years. Clerk will advertise to inform residents.

- Eaves trough contract – Mayor Parsons advised that he has contacted Sheppard Enterprise. Mr Sheppard has the required documents in order, and once he has signed the contract, he can begin work.
- Floor waxing – Review of quotes to purchase new floor scrubber. Due to the high cost, Clerk was directed to inquire about renting.
- Financial Report approved, no accounts payable at this time.
- Collections update – There are still 10 delinquent tax payers owing for 2013 and prior. No payment has been received for property on Little Port Road, if no payment is received by June 29, Council will proceed with tax sale.
- Clerk directed to write several letters to property owners regarding dilapidated properties.
- Building Permit Applications – all approved.
- Write off approved in amount of \$5.21.
- Crown Land Application – Review of application for proposed right of way. The right of way the applicant is requesting is not Crown Land. Clerk directed to discuss further with applicant.
- Canada Day Celebrations – Clerk directed to check with Blow Me Down Provincial Park if fireworks can be set off at the beach there. If not, they will be displayed at Bottle Cove Beach. \$500.00 has been received from Canadian Heritage for Canada Day Celebrations. York Harbour Council has agreed to donate \$250.00. Lark Harbour Council will also contribute \$250.00.
- Community Recreation Development Grant – Agreed to apply for the Physical Activity Equipment Grant. Any funds received would be used to purchase new swings for the playground.
- Clerk directed to follow up with Internet banking.
- Clerk directed to provide required information to have new signs produced.
- Clerk directed to contact DOT re: repairs to Route 450 in Lark Harbour. The condition of Route 450 from Frenchman's Cove to York Harbour is dilapidated and dangerous.
- Mayor Parsons gave a brief overview of topics discussed at the last meeting of the Great Humber Joint Council held in Norris Point on May 31st. One topic was Marine Atlantic. Council will send letter stating that downgrading this service is not acceptable.
- All correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

HIATUS

After a long and turbulent winter, in the weather and in politics national, provincial, and municipal too, in the nation's largest city, we seem to have entered a period of relative quietness. Of course, in Canada the summer doldrums have become a tradition, with the general exodus to the cabins and the backyard barbecue. In politics there are always events rumbling along quietly, like a distant summer thunderstorm, occasionally erupting into a brief period of tempest in some part of the country. Meanwhile, Rob Ford continues his shaky rehabilitation program, the Tories in Ottawa pursue their scurrilous attacks on every Canadian who is not dark blue conservative, and the Newfoundland PCs continue to lick their wounds in the hope that summer will allow them a degree of recuperation. God bless them, every one!

Enjoy your summer. It doesn't last long!

*Editorial***PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY WOES**

WHAT A LET-DOWN! On Monday June 16 the one and only surviving candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland & Labrador, Mr Frank Coleman, an eminently successful Corner Brook businessman, gave up the ghost. He didn't withdraw from the leadership contest, because there wasn't one: perhaps *abdicated* would be a more appropriate word, since he had not been elected, but rather *crowned*, by acclamation.

For six months since Kathy Dunderdale's resignation as Premier and MHA, Tom Marshall, himself planning retirement from politics, stepped into the breach and assumed leadership. Plainly he didn't want it, or he would have offered himself as a candidate for the job, which would have been a shoo-in for him. Somewhat reluctantly, as a faithful party member, he took over the Premiership, clearly defining his tenure as interim only, and was all set to hand over to Mr Coleman on a certain date in July. But that was not to be. *"A significant and challenging family matter has arisen over the last week that will see me unable to continue on to the convention in July, and hence unable to take the office of premier,"* Coleman said in a news conference.

In a surprise press release on Monday 16th, Mr Coleman withdrew from the leadership of the PC Party, with the explanation that a family health concern had arisen, and family came first. We must accept this explanation, vague though it is, but it is a disappointment for the PCs, after several weeks of preparation and much heralding of Mr Coleman as the right man to lead his party back from the edge of the abyss into which they were blindly stumbling under Ms Dunderdale's leadership. Interim Premier Tom, a very able and respected politician, had begun the recovery from the slippery-slide, and King Coleman was expected to continue the process. After all, isn't he CEO of a very successful chain of grocery and domestic furnishings stores in Atlantic Canada? And wouldn't he be another Danny Williams, if he had the chance?

This must have been a huge disappointment to many N&L PCs, aware of their party's decline in the polls, and anticipating a sudden upswing when King Coleman became Premier. But surely, given his apparent reluctance to enter the limelight even after his 'coronation' was announced, no one should be too surprised at his subsequent refusal of the crown; it seems as if his heart was not in it from the start. Maybe he could have done it in a manner reminiscent of Julius Caesar's refusal to accept the crown of Rome? Might there even have been a Brutus lurking somewhere in the hallowed halls of Confederation Building, ready to put in the knife? If so, why didn't s/he come forward and offer him/herself as a candidate for the job? That might not be entirely out of the question when it is considered that Coleman was a complete outsider from the political scene and had no experience in government. Hidden background attacks are sometimes made, when the attacker lacks the courage to stand up publicly.

Anyway, almost-King Coleman will no doubt be spending his summer attending to family responsibilities, while the party he had been drafted to lead, goes back to scraping the barrel to find someone to be Premier until next election.

So where are we now? In our Province's hour of need, who will come forward to serve? Who has the credibility to successfully offer

him/herself to bear the mantle of leadership? For the right person, it can be a life-affirming challenge as it was for Danny Williams and Joey Smallwood, who seemed to thrive on the vicious cut and thrust of politics. On the other hand, a man like Stephane Dion, who led the national Liberals into the 2011 election with such disastrous results for that party, may not be cut out for such leadership.

Names that have already arisen as possible contenders for the job include John Ottenheimer, born 1953, lawyer, past MHA and cabinet minister, defeated in St John's East in 2007; Steve Kent, born 1978, MHA for Mount Pearl North, currently Minister of Municipal Affairs. Others may enter the race over the next week or two.

It is important that more than one or two candidates should come forward to offer themselves as Premier. It should be someone with strong leadership qualities and a genuine concern for the Province, since we need a person who is able to stand firmly and work with our seven sitting Federal MPs, all of whom are either Liberal or NDP and therefore do not sit on the government side of the House of Commons.

As a final comment on the leadership woes of the N&L PCs, it may not be such a bad thing after all, either for the PC party or for the Province, that Mr Coleman made his decision to step down now, rather than later. While members of other parties may be rubbing their hands with glee at yet another Tory upset, they are the governing party at least until the election scheduled for 2015. Needed now is a strong permanent leadership for the Province, not the tentative approach of an interim leader for so long a time.

In today's fast-moving world, a leader must be able to tackle a problem quickly, and must have the support of the majority of the party's rank and file, not merely of those who occupy senior party positions; Mr Coleman did not. It is important to have a convention or preferably an online election such as those used by both the Federal and NL Liberal parties to select their new leaders within the last year. Also, if that person is not already an elected MHA, s/he must be validated as soon as possible in an election unless one is due within a year. This last condition may necessitate the resignation of a sitting MHA of the PC caucus, with the accompanying risk that the potential new Premier will not be elected, but it is an essential step in the effective accession of a new Head of Government. It remains to be seen if they will ensure that this condition is met, and so far it does not seem likely

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The PC party has announced that nominations will be open until July 7th, and a selection meeting held in St John's on September 13th, but still no word on a more open process like that applied by the Liberals in last year's public election of Dwight Ball.

To date John Ottenheimer, a politician with experience but not presently an MHA, has declared his candidacy; Steve Kent, currently Minister of Municipal Affairs, has hinted that he may run, but has not yet made a formal announcement.

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[Current Members of the House of Assembly](#)