

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

# BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

ISSUE 84 : 2014-10-03

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2014 Oct 03 Friday

Editor: *Stuart L Harvey*

P.O. Box 17, Lark Harbour, NL, Canada, A0L 1H0

Tel: 709-681-2256

Email: [blowmedowner@gmail.com](mailto:blowmedowner@gmail.com)

Web Page: [www.blowmedowner.webs.com](http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com)

## CONFIRMATION AT ST JAMES CHURCH, LARK HARBOUR



Twenty-three young people were confirmed on Sunday 2014 September 28 at St James Church, Lark Harbour, in the Parish of Bay of Islands. The sacrament was led by Archbishop Percy Coffin of Western Newfoundland who, earlier that day at our sister Church of St Ambrose, John's Beach, had conducted his first confirmation since his elevation to Archbishop. A congregation of about 140 parents, relatives and other parishioners attended the 2:00pm service at St James. Refreshments were served in the Church Hall afterwards.

*Thanks to Philda Crocker-Joyce of York Harbour who kindly provided the above excellent photograph.*

### LARK HARBOUR TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

A By-Election will be held on 2014 Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, to elect a member for one vacant seat on Council.

There are two candidates:

**KEETCH, Deana**  
**SHEPPARD, Dennis**

## Obituary

**SNOOKS, CALVIN ERNEST**

1941 Jun 23 - 2014 Sept 18

It was with great sadness that the family of the late Ernest Snooks announced his passing at the Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital in Stephenville on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at the age of 73 years, after a brave battle with cancer.

He left to mourn with fond and loving memories his wife of 20 years, Agnes; stepdaughter Matilda (Dwayne); stepsons: Keith (Crystal), Elvis (Billy Joe), Ashley (Laura), and Yves (April); sister-in-law Sarah Lee (Joey), Annie Benoit (Stephen); brother in law Michael Hynes (Vivian), Johnny Hynes (Betty), Benedict Hynes (Tammy); 10 step great-grandchildren; 2 special friends: Delores Park and Marie Park; stepbrothers: Tom Joyce, Rene Joyce, Woodrow Joyce (Ethel), Ira Joyce (Mary); 2 stepdaughters: Gladys and Rose Joyce; as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Friends visited St James Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Sunday 21 September between the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm. The Funeral Service took place on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 2:00pm, officiated by Reverend Nelson Chatman, assisted by Lay Ministers Lorraine Humber and Ruth Travers. Interment followed at the Church Cemetery. Pall Bearers were Brian Joyce, Douglas Joyce, Donald Park, Keith Leroy, Stephen Benoit and Jackie Heffernan. As expressions of sympathy flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society. The family guest book was signed and memorial donations made by visiting the website at [www.country-haven.ca](http://www.country-haven.ca).

“Forever In Our Hearts”

*We offer our sincerest condolences to the families of Ernest Calvin Snooks and Eileen Eliza Youden during this sad time of their bereavements.*



## Obituary

**YOU DEN, EILEEN ELIZA**

1930 July 16 - 2014 October 02

It was with great sadness that the family of the late Eileen Youden announced her passing at Western Memorial Regional Hospital on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at the age of 84 years.

She left to mourn with fond and loving memories her children: Oliver (Roxanne), Fred (Barbara), Harold, Dave (Josie), Wayne (Julia), Myles (Brenda), Karen (Beaton), Ivey (Gerry), Pamela (Phillip), Lyndon, and Leona; special care givers: Bev Clarke, Brenda Larkin, and her grand-daughter Ashlee Bates; 32 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, as well as a large circle of other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her husband Harold; parents Clara Layden Gatehouse and Oliver Gatehouse, of Norris Arm; daughters: Hazel, Ruby, and Emma; grandchildren: Larry, Cheryl, Alex, and Joshua.

Friends visited St James Anglican Church in Lark Harbour on Friday 7-9pm, and Saturday and Sunday, between the hours of 2-4 & 7-9pm.

The funeral service took place at St James Church, Lark Harbour, at 2:00pm on October 06, officiated by Rev Nelson Chatman, assisted by Lay Ministers George Sheppard and Ruth Travers. Organist was Vida Chatman, who also sang a solo, *Where the Roses Never Fade*. Pall Bearers were Oliver Youden, Fred Youden, Wayne Youden, Myles Youden, Dave Youden, Jeremy Youden, and Honorary Pall Bearer was Harold Youden. Interment followed at the church cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, flowers were graciously accepted or donations made to the St James Anglican Church Fund. The family invited friends and relatives to Eileen's residence for refreshments after the funeral service.

Special thanks to our Volunteer Fire Dept: niece Tammy Pennell, Paul MacDonald, and Corey White. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. The family guest book may be signed or a memorial donation may be made by visiting our website at [www.country-haven.ca](http://www.country-haven.ca)

“Forever In Our Hearts”







## LIBRARY NOTES

by  
Susan Harvey



## October 2014

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>A Murderous Procession</i> | Ariana Franklin  |
| 2. <i>The Devil's Company</i>    | David Liss       |
| 3. <i>Unlucky 13</i>             | James Patterson  |
| 4. <i>Sharpe's Trafalgar</i>     | Bernard Cornwell |
| 5. <i>The Target</i>             | David Baldacci   |

1. *A Murderous Procession* is another *Mistress of the Art of Death* novel. This one is set in 1176, during the reign of Henry II. Again, the main character is Adelia Aguilar, the medical doctor trained in Sicily, where a female doctor is accepted; unlike in England, where she is regarded as a witch. To protect herself, Adelia must pretend to be the assistant of a male doctor, who is actually an Arab friend who has no medical knowledge at all. Plainly this awkward arrangement gives her much less authority in her efforts to investigate murders, which is her main claim to fame. However, one useful person who accepts her qualifications is the king of England, Henry II. Henry has great faith in Adelia and asks her to look after his 10-year-old daughter Joanna. However, it is not just her health in question; she is to be married to the king of Sicily, and the king wants Adelia to travel with her and make sure the wedding goes ahead as planned. Going to Sicily is going home, which is acceptable; but there are difficulties in the social arrangements. Joanna herself is fine with it, but her ladies in waiting are doubtful of Adelia's qualifications, and question her inclusion in the group; they do not make her feel welcome. And there are others in the group who are not happy to have a witch looking after their princess. Given the hazards of travel in those times, there are incidents along the road, which further complicate Adelia's life. But in the end, they do reach their goal, and Adelia is able to see her small charge married to the king of Sicily, which apparently is of political advantage to England. No one is very concerned as to how it will affect Joanna.

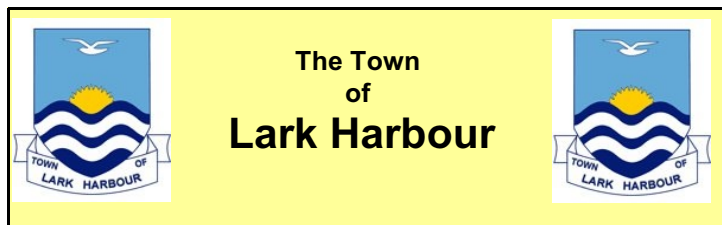
2. *The Devil's Company* is another historical novel, this time set in 1722. The company in question is the East India Company, which was generally regarded at the time as perfectly respectable and was mostly engaged in importing fancy cloth from India, which the wealthy liked to have their fashionable garments made from. The main character in this book is Benjamin Weaver, who would surely be a private detective if the story were set in the present; but at that time he was known as a thief taker, who took on problems for people as his profession. In this case, the problem turned out to be very complicated, and the East India Company seemed more and more to be less respectable and there were even a couple of deaths which seemed to be to their advantage. In the end, Benjamin does establish their criminal tendencies, after finding himself the object of some of their unfriendly efforts. The plot is pretty complicated, but the historical background is interesting, and it is a good read.

3. *Unlucky 13* is one of Mr. Patterson's *Women's Murder Club* series. The Murder club consists of four women involved in solving murders in San Francisco, as detective, legal and forensic talents. In this book, the club surely gets more than they wanted; "belly bombs", in which someone arranges a series of murders in which a tiny explosive hidden in a hamburger explodes on contact with stomach acid; a paranoid female killer who is determined to get even with a

detective she blames for the death of her lover; and, finally, a cruise ship taken over by pirates prepared to kill anyone in order to force everyone else to act as they instruct. Lots of action, and the reader will find it hard to put the book down. Eventually, of course, the criminals are identified, with at least one surprise. A good read, if you have a reasonably strong stomach.

4. *Sharpe's Trafalgar* is one of Mr. Cornwell's stories about Richard Sharpe, who has been involved in many fights as a soldier, most recently in India. At that time, (1805), most long distance travel was by sea, and a voyage from India back to England could take four months. Sharpe manages to get passage with a fleet of British warships, not realising that he is going to encounter an entirely different way of fighting. The British fleet is expected to fight the French and Spanish fleets at some point, and no one knows who will win; but the action will be very violent and many will be killed. Sharpe spends the first part of the voyage learning about the ship, and training for the expected fight. By the time his fleet meets the French fleet, at Trafalgar, he has learned about the guns (74 large cannons on his ship) and is able to play an important part in the fighting, which turns out to be very bloody and to have a horrendous death toll. The reader will be surprised to discover how tough sailors had to be in those days. We know, of course, that the British won the battle of Trafalgar, under Admiral Horatio Nelson; but we had no idea just how terrible the action was to live through. This book gives us some idea of the experience, and certainly fills in the picture of our history before many of our ancestors left England for the New World.

5. *The Target* is another story of the two CIA-sponsored assassins, Will Robie and Jessica Reel. In this book, they are again ordered to go and kill specified victims. Usually there is an elaborate plan as to exactly how the kill is to be accomplished, which does not always include arrangements to insure that they will escape alive. They may be given some explanation as to why this death is essential to the security of the United States, and they are often allowed to change the plan if they can think of improvements. So far they have always managed to perform the assassination as requested and then come home again afterwards. This time, however, the selected victim is in North Korea, which is very unfriendly to the US and all of its citizens. Its government is somewhat obsessed with security and with loyalty to the "Dear Leader", Kim Jong Un; and is quite prepared to immediately kill anyone who is not sufficiently respectful of the Leader. Robie and Reel do manage to carry out their mission as planned, and also manage to leave North Korea safely and return home. Again, many people are killed, mostly by Robie and Reel, and the North Koreans are angry enough to plan a revenge against the US. They decide that the most effective revenge would be to kill someone high in the US government, like the President. Knowing that he will be too well protected, they decide to go for his family, who will also be protected, but not as heavily. They have an experienced assassin of their own to send; she is called Chung-Cha and has also many kills to her credit and is considered to be capable of handling the security and the planning involved. Meanwhile, Robie and Reel have re-encountered (fatally) a group of Neo-Nazis and have then been asked to spend time with the President's family as additional security, as they are an obvious target for any idea the Koreans might have of revenge. Plainly this leads to a battle of assassins, which ends in a surprising way. The reader will probably be tired of people getting killed by then, but the ending will be a relief. Definitely an exciting and suspenseful read.



### Minutes of Council Meeting of 2014 September 15

**Present:** Mayor – Jamie Park  
 Deputy Mayor – Jeremiah Barry  
 Councillors – Rose Sheppard, Kerry Barry  
 Clerks – Peggy Sheppard (Recording), Joanna Pottle

*Meeting commenced at 7:00pm*

- Minutes of 2014 August 19 and 2014 September 2 adopted.
- Water/Sewer Update: Council will meet with Dept of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO), Anderson Engineering, and Dept of Municipal & Intergovernmental Affairs on September 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the condition of the water and sewer site. Clerks directed to follow up with Anderson Engineering regarding Phase 2 Application and what will actually be included in this phase.
- Amalgamation: Motion to proceed with the process.
- Route 450: Reviewed letter from Eddie Joyce, MHA to Minister Dan Crummell regarding Route 450 conditions. Clerk directed to contact Department of Transportation and Works regarding this area.
- Dilapidated Properties: More letters have been sent to tax payers regarding properties that have become dilapidated. Clerks directed to follow up and hold a further discussion at next Council meeting.
- Financial Report: Approved financial report and accounts payable of \$1,920.62.
- Collections Update: \$4,335.71 currently owing in taxes for the years 2013 and prior. Clerk to follow up regarding what can be done about overdue accounts.
- Motion made to approve all building permits. Agreed to add a disclaimer on Building Permit Application stating that those building a shed/garage must advise Council of any possible future intent to install a toilet in the building since approval must be obtained from Service NL before a permit from Council is issued.
- Write Offs of \$15.82 approved.
- By-Election for single vacant Council seat: Nomination Days set for September 24<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>. By-Election will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> if two or more persons are nominated.
- Snow Clearing Tender 2014-2015: Council will request tenders for the 2014-2015 season: a one year tender ending April 30, 2015. Tenders are due by October 17<sup>th</sup> and will be decided at the October Council meeting.
- Garbage Removal Tender: Current garbage contract ends December 31, 2014. Council will request tenders for the New Year. Further discussion at next monthly Council meeting.

- Letter sent to resident regarding complaint about the burning of toxic items on property.
- Letter sent to resident regarding dog complaint.
- Council reviewed letter from tax payer regarding upgrades to breakwater. Agreed to respond to letter.
- Letter reviewed from Provincial Business Equipment regarding store closure. Will send letter of thanks for service over the past years.
- Agreed to investigate the cost of installing an information signboard at the boundary of Lark Harbour.
- Motion made to purchase a camera for Council use.
- All agreed to start a Facebook Page for the Town of Lark Harbour.
- Review of important upcoming dates.
- All correspondence reviewed with no follow up necessary.
- Motion to accept Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Agreement.

*Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.*

---

## 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 - <b>5:00</b>
Fridays	9:30 - 1:00	2:00 - <b>3:30</b>

### YORK HARBOUR

Mondays	10:00 - 12:00	2:00 - <b>5:00</b>
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

---

## BLOW-ME-DOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY NORMAL HOURS

Mondays	2:30 - 5:30pm
Tuesdays	2:30 - 4:30pm; 6:00 - 9:00pm
Wednesdays	2:30 - 4:30pm
Thursdays	2:30 - 4:30pm; 6:00 - 9:00pm
Fridays	2:30 - 5:30pm

*Normal hours as above resumed on September 04, and will remain in effect until further notice.*

***Please note that afternoon opening times are now half an hour later than in previous years.***

*The Library is normally closed for Public Holidays.*

*Patrons may contact the Librarian Mrs Lesley Sheppard at 681-2147 during operating hours.*

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS

THE FALL IS NOW UPON US and one can only wonder where the most wonderful summer has gone!

Now comes time for reflection. This past summer, we have spent many hours in the Bottle Cove area, walking the trails. We are so blessed to have such freedom and live in such a beautiful town. On so many of my walks, I encountered many tourists as well as fellow Newfoundlanders. They were in awe of the place. On one particular evening, I sat on Bottle Cove Beach just before sunset and chatted with a lady from Ontario, She asked if I ever got tired of visitors saying how beautiful and peaceful it was here. I stated, "Are you kidding? I just beam with pride."

I personally feel this is where I need to say thank-you to the Outer Bay of Islands Enhancement Committee. The vision and work done far exceeds anything I could have imagined. It just keeps getting better. The Boardwalk is phenomenal. I meet so many of our citizens (old and young alike) using this area for walking as a form of relaxation and exercise. What a great promotion for healthy living. Again, thank-you!

One can never thank volunteers enough. We should all be very proud of the Council who has just stepped down. Thank-you Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for all your time and hard work on our behalf. To the newly-formed Council, thank-you for offering yourselves to be overseers of our town.

As a past Councillor and Deputy Mayor, I know it is not an easy path to travel. I encourage my fellow citizens to be supportive and helpful.

Thank goodness for volunteers.

— Lorraine Humber  
Proud Citizen of the Town of Lark Harbour.

---

*Editor's Note:*

*Thank you, Lorraine, for your timely letter of appreciation.*

*As Editor, I would like to add a note of my own appreciation for the wonderful work done by the Outer Bay of Islands Enhancement Committee and the Town Council for all their efforts to improve our town. I hope that the good work can be continued.*

*I wonder how many people are aware that the Bottle Cove/Little Port area is the favoured location for hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking" as it is more widely known. It seems fairly certain that if the Provincial Government permits exploration wells to be drilled in those most scenic areas of our community, that their natural beauty will soon become a thing of the past, no more than a sad memory. This is not even to mention the environmental damage that may also accrue to those areas.*

*The Government of Nova Scotia has taken action (see opposite column) to prevent use of the technique in their province after the people expressed concerns. With an election expected for next year, this is the time for Newfoundlanders to take similar action to protect their own valued environment before it is too late.*

— SLH

## FRACKING UPDATE IMPORTANT NEWS

THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA recently issued an important Press Release. Your Editor decided to reproduce the full text in the BLOW•ME•DOWNER because, as our closest neighbour to the island part of Newfoundland & Labrador, the policies of Nova Scotia are often based on many of the same considerations that apply to us.

We would do well to be aware of this decision of Nova Scotia and bring it to the notice of our own legislators.

*Here is the full text of that Press Release:*

### GOVERNMENT TO PROHIBIT HYDRAULIC FRACTURING 2014 September 03, 2:07pm

Energy Minister Andrew Younger announced today, Sept 3, the Government of Nova Scotia will introduce legislation this fall to prohibit high volume hydraulic fracturing for onshore shale gas.

"Nova Scotians have overwhelmingly expressed concern about allowing high volume hydraulic fracturing to be a part of onshore shale development in this province at this time," said Mr Younger. "Our petroleum resources belong to Nova Scotians, and we must honour the trust people have put in us to understand their concerns. We will therefore introduce legislation to prohibit using this technique to stimulate onshore shale projects."

The decision comes after considering comments submitted by many Nova Scotians over the past 10 months, as well as studies, including an independent review commissioned by the Government of Nova Scotia, and the recent Council of Canadian Academies' report for the federal government.

The minister and government have also received input from Mi'kmaq communities in a variety of ways.

"I also spoke this morning with Mi'kmaq Chiefs Paul Prosper, Terrance Paul, and Sidney Peters and they expressed support for the government's decision to prohibit hydraulic fracturing operations in shale petroleum developments," said Mr Younger. "Our cabinet met with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs earlier this year and this was among the issues discussed at that time.

"The first onshore well in Nova Scotia was drilled in 1869 and petroleum development remains an important part of our energy and economic future. Coal gas methane projects, such as the current well-supported project in Stellarton, and developing our offshore resources remain key priorities of government."

All submissions, presentations, and documents for the hydraulic fracturing review are available at <http://www.cbu.ca/hfstudy>.



Editorial -

## TERRORISM vs DEMOCRACY: THE SCOURGE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Since the beginning of the present millennium in 2001, we have witnessed some unprecedented cultural changes, of which one of the most alarming is the rise in terrorism.

Throughout human history terrorism has always been a feature, but in this century, with the hijacking of civilian airliners on 2001 September 11, there has been an escalation in terrorism. Civilians of course are always the target, but the events of 9/11 are a milestone of viciousness causing the deaths of more than 3,000 innocent people with the destruction of the Twin Towers of the New York World Trade Centre.

Since 2001 we have seen a further escalation in terrorism with the rapid rising of ISIL (*Islamic State of Iraq & the Levant*, also known as ISIS, the *Islamic State of Iraq & Syria*). With the appearance and growth of these groups we have seen an unprecedented slaughter in those regions where they are attempting, and largely succeeding, to take political control.

It is ISIL's avowed intent to dominate all areas of the world where Sunni Muslims are present. Their plan is either to force the rest to convert to their religion, or to slaughter them. Already large numbers of members of other religions such as Christianity or Buddhism, and even other sects of Islam, have been killed in a frenzy of savage religious cleansing that makes the Nazi Holocaust look almost humane in contrast. Refugees, the relatively lucky survivors of ISIL's misguided religious zeal, are fleeing those areas in the thousands, placing intolerable stresses in regions which are already facing problems that appear insurmountable.

Heads of governments, including Stephen Harper, are attempting to deal with this latest brand of terrorism being perpetrated in the name of religion. So far ISIL's activities have been limited to the Middle East where they have taken control of large areas of Iraq and Syria. They have recruited thousands of extremely able and often well-educated young men, including some 130 Canadians born in this country, the second generation sons of legitimate immigrants who are very concerned about their sons' beliefs and behaviour.

It has already become very obvious that countries like Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, England, France, Germany, western Europe in general, along with any country that wishes to maintain its policies of religious and social tolerance, must develop strategies to deal effectively with the growing threat of terrorism. It has already become a cancer in many western nations, and shows every sign of rapid increase. Yet we are hearing Canadians arguing that what happens in the Middle East, or any other place separated from us by thousands of miles, is no business of ours. We should stay away, they argue, and let them do what they want to each other.

Such a doctrine of isolationism however will not work, especially these days when an aircraft can transport large numbers of people half way round the globe in a few hours. We must face the fact that we are already involved, and if we value our way of life and wish it to be preserved for our children and grandchildren, we must act now. If we delay, we are creating more and greater obstacles for the future.

Since 2001, terrorism has become the greatest contemporary risk to democracy because it is so hard to identify and almost impossible to eradicate totally. It thrives best in disorganised regions that lack a strong economy with adequate policing and military support.

The second greatest risk is complacency. We in the Western democracies take too much for granted; we have the idea that our democratic principles are so well established that they don't need to be protected. However a quick glance through the history of the past century will clearly show that our institutions may not be as secure as we think. Hitler's success in Germany in the 1930s depended on his ability to undermine the democratic safeguards Germany had built since 1918, and if we think no one could assail our Canadian institutions, then we are sadly mistaken. It could happen here. And only we, the citizens, can ensure that it is protected by upholding our rights as defined in the Constitution of Canada.

If we do not take action against terrorism, even when it is not immediately threatening us, we may one day find ourselves in trouble. Our Constitution defines the terms of our democracy, but we the citizens are responsible to provide the protection of this most fragile system of government, and it is not easy.

But how do we counteract terrorism? It is useless to wait until it happens before we take measures. And it is equally useless to adopt the isolationist attitude, which allows the terrorists a clear and open field to operate. Instead, we must be prepared to become involved in international activities in close co-operation with our allies. We must also assist when we can in distressed regions of Africa, for example, where there is disease and poverty, building trust with those less fortunate nations and demonstrating the benefits of freedom and democracy as opposed to dictatorship. Only then will we gain the confidence of other peoples around the world, and at the same time demonstrate to them that some form of what we call democracy is in fact what they would also like to have.

Winston Churchill, one of the greatest leaders of all time, once remarked: *"Many forms of Government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."*



The very first examples of terrorism may go back many thousands of years, even millions, to the first occasion when an early caveman took a fancy to his neighbour's wife and carried her off to his own cave. The English word *rape* is derived from the Latin verb *rapere* which primarily means *to seize*, and does not necessarily imply a sexual act. Victorious armies have always claimed their enemies' property, including their women, as legitimate spoils of battle. The word *rape* thus came to imply not just seizure of enemy property, but also possession of captured enemy women. *Rape* thus came to include more than *seizure of property*, and became a synonym for a *forced sexual act*.



To read more on Terrorism, refer to the following Wikipedia article: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_terrorism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_terrorism)

## NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

*Each man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind.  
Therefore, send not to know for whom the bell tolls.  
It tolls for thee.*

John Donne, 1624

*Ebola, also known as Ebola virus disease, is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains (Zaire, Sudan, Bundibugyo, or Tai Forest virus). Ebola viruses are found in several African countries. Ebola was discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in several African countries.*

CDC, Atlanta, GA, USA

IT IS GOOD TO KNOW that the world is finally responding to the outbreak of *Ebola* in Africa. This disease may be the greatest health danger since the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. It progresses very quickly, usually causing the patient's death in a few days. There is no tested treatment or prevention, although researchers are working on it, including some here in Canada. To date more than 3,000 people, including many professional health workers, have died from the disease, and thousands more are either infected or at risk, mostly in less developed countries of West Africa.

The Black Death, also known as the Great Plague, struck Western Europe around 1349 and again in the 1660s. It is estimated to have killed as many as a third of the population, causing poverty, civil strife, and unprecedented social change. The virus was carried by rats and transmitted to humans by fleas. The slow speed of transportation in those times meant that it took years for the disease to make the journey from where it began, possibly in the Far East, to Western Europe. Today, any disease could be, and frequently is, carried round the world in a day or two, easily passed from one person to another in the enclosed space of the cabin of a jet plane.

The countries worst affected by *Ebola* are Liberia, one of the world's poorest countries, and its neighbours, almost as poor. Along with other nations, Canada is providing 2½ million dollars in essential medical supplies to these West African countries.

Sending our money to foreign places often prompts questions like, "Why are we sending our hard-earned money to Africa when our own health system is in need of every dollar we can provide?" This is a compelling argument for many people; it is however a very short-sighted argument for everyone.

It is true that we have serious problems needing attention in Canada. Infrastructure items such as hospitals, schools, roads, and bridges, all urgently need renewal or replacement. But we are a country of unimaginable wealth compared with most of the world, especially Africa and Latin America.

Imagine yourself living in a small community in, for example, Liberia. Your 5-year-old child becomes sick, but you have no medical training, and you don't know how to deal with it. You ask a neighbour for advice, but the neighbour knows no more than you do. Perhaps there is a clinic in the next village, but that will involve several hours of walking in the blazing sun along a dusty road, carrying your child. You consider waiting for the travelling clinic which is due to visit your village next week, but your child is running a high fever and is getting worse. You decide to make the journey.

When you get to the clinic, the trained nurse examines your child and says that all he needs is an antibiotic and he will be fine. Unfortunately, though, the clinic is out of antibiotic. A fresh supply is on order, but will not arrive for several days. The nurse offers to keep the child at the clinic and do what she can to keep his temperature down, and hopefully he will survive until the antibiotic arrives. This is the kind of situation that exists in rural areas of many nations of the developing world, and mortality, especially among infants, is a daily occurrence.

Conditions of this kind once existed here in Newfoundland. William Gabriel (1857-1951) came to Lark Harbour as teacher in 1892. He and his wife Mary had a family of fourteen children born between 1878 and 1904. Eight died before reaching one year of age, and another died before the age of five years.

We and most of the western world no longer have to live in conditions like those the Gabriels lived through a hundred years ago, but many in poorer nations still do, and often worse. But, as some people will say, "If we in Canada managed to improve our conditions for ourselves, why can't the people of Africa do the same for themselves?" A valid point, perhaps.

However, if we of the West choose to ignore the plight of citizens of the less fortunate nations, we must be aware that it will eventually come back to haunt us. *Ebola* has not yet arrived in Canada, although a few individuals have been treated for conditions which at first looked like *Ebola*, but eventually proved not to be. Nevertheless, the more people who become infected with the disease in other parts of the world, especially where facilities do not exist to deal with it, the greater the risk that it will arrive in Canada. Certainly we have precautions in place to deal with possible cases arriving in Canada, but it is only a matter of time before someone is missed or slips through the inspection system and in a few days passes the infection on to the general population. Therefore any efforts we can make to control or eliminate the spread of *Ebola* or any other virulent disease in other parts of the world, the more we are protecting ourselves.

John Donne (1572 – 1631), poet and cleric, understood clearly that we cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world when in 1624 he wrote the words quoted at the top of this page. Regardless of whether we believe that we have a religious or moral responsibility to care for those less fortunate than ourselves, we have a *practical* responsibility. If we choose to ignore it, we may find ourselves suffering consequences we did not expect.

*The Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA, USA, has published useful information about Ebola. Below are three of their websites.*

*For a brief summary :-*

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html>

*For more detailed information :-*

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/ga.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/index.html>

*These words of John Donne are often referred to as a poem, but they are actually part of his Meditation XVII, a sermon.*

**No man is an island, entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thine own or of thine friend's were. Each man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. Therefore, send not to know for whom the bell tolls: It tolls for thee**

Read about an Urban Myth

## THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD and A MODERN WONDER OF NEWFOUNDLAND



**T**HE ANCIENT GREEKS were surrounded with a world of wonders known as the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, with one exception, those wonders are but sad memories of far-off days, and only one of them still exists: *The Great Pyramid of Giza*, seen in the picture above left.

If you have the wherewithal to afford a trip to Egypt, you can go there and still admire its magnificence; and if you have the will and the stamina to brave the heat of the desert, you could even climb it. Constructed by slaves about the year 2550BC, more than four and a half thousand years ago, it was originally 147metres/481 feet high, but the ravages of time and human depredation have reduced it a little so that now it is only 139metres/455feet high. But at its base it still measures 230metres/756feet across, and who cares if it has lost a few feet off its top? It is still quite a structure by any standard!

Another of those Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Trust that wicked city to have owned such a wonder in its day, as famous then as Toronto's CN Tower today. Sadly, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon no longer exist. But what do we here in Newfoundland have to compare with any of these objects of wonder?

Take a look now at the picture above right. If you are not aware of the existence of this sight you may easily miss it when you pass under it, as many tourists visiting the Bay of Islands must have missed it. But there it is, in all its glory. It should be nominated as one of the leading Modern Day Wonders of Newfoundland.

Those four pairs of sneakers must be the only such sight to be seen in the world today. You won't see anything like that in New York, or Paris, or London, or even Corner Brook. It is unique, and should be enjoyed by all who have the desire to see it. It's not just *one pair of sneakers*, it is *four pairs* and that makes it unique! And it is right here, less than thirty minutes drive from Lark Harbour, visible to anyone who takes the trouble to look upwards as they pass beneath its stately majesty just a short distance east of Frenchman's Cove.



### FOUR PAIRS OF SNEAKERS

Four pairs of sneakers, hanging on a wire,  
Some hanging lower, some hanging higher,  
All hanging happily, away up in the air,  
A mystery for all who see them . . . *So who put them there?*

Was it Newfoundland Power - surely that can never be:  
They look so fine and pretty, for all who stop and see.  
Perhaps some alien being, come to surprise us all?  
But no, that's just impossible, a most unlikely call.

Some creature hidden in the woods, away far out of sight?  
Not likely, not some animal that did it in the night;  
Besides, there's none that's tall enough, not even a giraffe,  
And they don't live in Newfoundland, so that idea's a laugh.

Perhaps a flock of seagulls, flying overhead?  
But they cannot aim well enough, they're sure to miss instead.  
An owl, perhaps, out hunting on a night of the full moon,  
As he makes his eerie music, his weird and scary tune?

An old bull moose with a giant rack can stand quite tall and fair  
When he reaches up to his full height, but he couldn't reach up there;  
Nor a lynx, nor a great big whale spouting up from in the bay  
Could hang those sneakers on that wire, though they might try all day;

Or a mighty wind from Blowmedown on some wild stormy night  
Blowing up Four Pairs of Sneakers? No, that just can't be right.  
It's a secret we may never know, but I'll give you a little clue  
About which you may have some doubts, but me, I think it's true:  
The culprits who played this clever trick, the ones who made  
the move,

Were tricksters of the human kind . . .

. . . *barefoot kids from Frenchman's Cove.*