

LARK HARBOUR

THE

YORK HARBOUR

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

ABOUT THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT ST JAMES, LARK HARBOUR



On Christmas Eve as usual the service was held at St James Church, Lark Harbour, at 4pm and was quite well attended. Several children present from the Sunday School sang a little song, *Jesus Came*, which went to the tune of *Jingle Bells*, and the service concluded with a fine rendering of *O Holy Night* as a duet by Deloris Youden and Linda Park, all accompanied on the organ by Sharon Parsons. The musical ending set a perfect mood for Christmas Eve.

The church looked particularly attractive with the Christmas tree and the lights in the roof. Installed there a year ago, the lights cast a soft hazy blue and white glow which simulated a night sky, as can be seen in the two pictures above.

Rev Nelson Chatman delivering his Christmas message next to the beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

*We hope that all our readers enjoyed
a restful and peaceful Christmas
and we wish everyone a
Happy and Prosperous New Year*



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

2015 JANUARY 2015

1 st	Thur	New Year's Day
4 th	Sun	Christmas 2 - 11:00am LH, HC; 7:00pm JB, Pr & Pr
11 th	Sun	Bapt of the Lord - 11:00am LH, HC; 7:00pm JB, HC.
18 th	Sun	Epiphany 3 - 7:00pm LH, Pr & Pr; 10:30am JB, HC.
25 th	Sun	Epiphany 3 - 7:00pm LH, EP; 10:30am JB, MP.

OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The O.B.I.E.C. would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our 50/50 fundraiser.

The winner of \$2,400 was Matthew Guy of Corner Brook.

Roy Park of Lark Harbour drew the winning ticket.



APPRECIATION OF VOLUNTEERS

At this time of year it is customary to thank all those who have given their time and effort for the benefit of our community during the past year. Too often people are cynical about public service, but we should remember that many hours are devoted to this work by those involved, and their efforts are not always appreciated by those whom they try to serve. It is also often notable that many of the complainers have never offered their own services to the Town.

It is very difficult, even in a small town like ours, to name everyone who has contributed by their voluntary public service, and some are inevitably left out. Here are some of those who deserve our recognition.

Town Councillors of both Lark Harbour and York Harbour.

Our Volunteer Fire Fighters.

Those running the School Breakfast Program.

Members of the Church Vestry, Sunday School teachers,
 and others who volunteer in the work of the Church.

Food Bank organisers and collectors.

Those running youth organisations for various ages of children.

Members of the Outer Bay of Islands Enhancement Committee.

Organisers of the 50 Plus Seniors Club.

Organisers of the Blow-Me-Down Days Annual Festival.

There are doubtless many more who have not been identified here. We offer our apologies and wish all of them continued success in their efforts on behalf of our Towns, and our support when they encounter the inevitable frustrations.

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

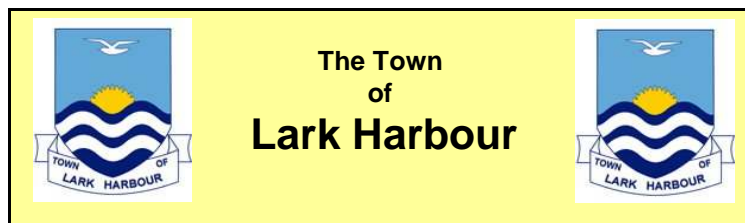
WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR READERS

AND TO EVERYONE ELSE

NO MATTER WHERE YOU MAY BE



The Town
of
Lark Harbour

Report of Regular Council Meeting for 2014 December

Present:

Mayor-Jamie Park
Deputy Mayor-Jeremiah Barry
Councillors - Kerry Barry, Dennis Sheppard
Clerks - Joanna Pottle (Recording), Peggy Sheppard

Absent:

Councillor-Rose Sheppard

Guest:

Sergeant Richard White, RCMP

Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm.

- ! A discussion was held with Sergeant Richard White regarding any issues that we have in our community at this time. Council raised their concerns about the off road motorized vehicles on the main road. Council also requested more patrols in the area.
- ! Adoption of the regular meeting minutes of November 17, 2014.
- ! Water/Sewer Update: No update on Phase 2 application. Funds have been received for cost over run for Phase 1B. Council reviewed letter received from Minister Hutchings regarding new drinking water.
- ! Amalgamation: To date no decisions have been made.
- ! A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible with Fire and Emergency Services to discuss the specifications of the new fire truck.
- ! CEEP 2014-2015: The breakwater project is still underway. To date we have approximately 80 feet completed. Clerk directed to look into extra funding to continue further with the project.
- ! Budget 2015: A motion was made to approve the budget for year 2015 as presented.
- ! 235 Little Port Road: Clerk held a discussion with the property owner regarding land situated at 235 Little Port Road. It was noted that the owner may be interested in selling the property. Clerks directed to keep in mind if anyone questions about vacant land for sale in the community.
- ! Financial Report approved with accounts payable of \$6,406.31.
- ! Collections Update: An update was given to Council regarding tax payers in arrears.
- ! Christmas Newsletter: The Annual Christmas Newsletter will be mailed out to the residents within the next week.
- ! Celebrate Canada: All agreed to apply for funding again before deadline date.
- ! Upcoming PMA/MNL Training and Workshops: Dates were reviewed.
- ! Capital Grant Program: We will be receiving \$7,500 as funding to make a start on the recreational skating rink in the New Year. All agreed to re-apply next year for additional funding to enable the project to be completed.
- ! Physical Activity Program: Review of letter stating that we were not approved for funding this year. All agreed to reapply in the New Year.
- ! Discussion held regarding dog complaint. Letter has been sent to the owner.
- ! Review of concern from resident regarding traffic flow at the Town Hall. All agreed to have a sign erected and mention as a reminder in our Christmas News Letter.
- ! Discussion held regarding roaming dogs in the community. Clerk directed to send a letter to the dog catcher discussing our concerns.
- ! Review of petition from residents in the community regarding the Christmas Parade. All agreed to write a letter back to the petition holder and have a further discussion at the next meeting with the York Harbour Council.
- ! An applicant has been selected as cleaning person for the upper level of the Town Hall.
- ! Motion made to purchase a new Microwave for upstairs.
- ! All correspondence viewed with no follow-up necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Editorial

PEACE ON EARTH GOODWILL TO ALL MEN

In the seventy plus years of my life, which included part of the Second World War, I am unable to recall a Christmas more troubled by strife and killing than is this one of 2014.

I remember the wartime rationing of food and clothing in Britain, and even my own personal deprivation when the Dinky Toys coveted by every British boy were in short supply because of the urgent post-war effort to earn as many export dollars as possible; but the rationing and other privations we endured were nothing to compare with the inhumanity seen in so many areas of the world as there is today. True, in 1945 the end of the war revealed the atrocities of the Nazi concentration camps, and since then there have been the [Pol Pot](#) massacres in Cambodia, [genocide/ethnic cleansing](#) in Eastern Europe, and numerous similar but lesser events around the world, but few have reached the horrendous level of cold-blooded murder achieved by ISIS/ISIL (Islamic State In Syria/Islamic State In the Levant) during the last year or so. Even Al Qaeda has not reached that level of depravity, although they have come close.

And much, if not all, of today's slaughter and mayhem is presented as religious zeal, but often it is very perverted and misplaced. Religion, including Christianity, has certainly been responsible for plenty of evil down through the ages, a fact that we in the West often seem to forget or even wilfully ignore. Consider the atrocities perpetrated not only by monarchs but actively encouraged by religious leaders during the Crusades, the Reformation, and the many other wars and persecutions history has witnessed. Archbishops and Popes have been at times among the most ardent supporters of such activities. It is hardly surprising then, that religion in general has come under attack in our "more enlightened" times!

There's a familiar old saying, "*Don't throw out the baby with the bath water.*" As a father who participated in raising three children, I have experienced the sometimes less-than-pleasant state of the water after a small child has bathed in it. But all cleaning agents tend to assume at least some of the characteristics of the dirt they remove. Religion is no exception.

What has brought the great religions of the world into disrepute is the tendency for their believers to become over-enthusiastic. Most religions, including Christianity, have always encouraged proselytisation, using means varying from gentle persuasion to the use of torture, and in extreme cases even death. Few religions can boast never having perpetrated excesses of zeal.

The [Crusades](#) are prime examples of excessive zeal, often accompanied by an equally excessive desire for personal gain. The use of force to persuade infidels to change their beliefs, and

the techniques involved, were applied with equal enthusiasm and excess by both sides, Christian and Moslem. The [Spanish Inquisition](#) was also known for its use of torture and violent death.

Despite these events which have often been judged to be perversions of religion, we should be careful not to "throw out the baby with the bathwater" because that very bathwater was in practice the cleaning agent. Religion, as any human institution, may easily be misused, but when correctly used it can be the bathwater of humanity. Compare it with a vehicle, a great benefit when properly used, but in the wrong hands it may become a deadly weapon. Likewise, Christianity, with its doctrine of peace and love, and Gabriel's message of "*Peace on Earth*" with God's gift of forgiveness to mankind through Jesus Christ, should be the world's salvation rather than a punishment for dissenters.

So far this discussion has been mostly about Christmas from the viewpoint of the Christian. But there is no reason why similar ideas should not be foremost in the minds of nonbelievers too, in the form of [humanitarianism](#). After all, it is in the interest of most nonbelievers also to have Peace on Earth. Yet we hear relatively little of that message in our consumer-driven world.

Consumerism has largely prevailed in modern times, identifying the elements of Christmas that suited its purposes, while neglecting others. The old message of *Hark, the Herald Angels sing Glory to the newborn King* has been effectively replaced with the parody *Hark the Herald Adverts cry, telling us "Go out and Buy"*.

For many adults now, Christmas has become an event for buying and receiving the most expensive gifts they can afford. For children it is "What do you want Santa Claus to bring you this year?" and they will most likely select the latest gimmicky toy featured in the television advertisements. The result is often unwanted or useless gifts for the recipients and a huge burden of debt accumulated by the givers. The only beneficiaries of that are the retailers. They are entitled to make a living like everyone else, but encouraging excessive debt among their patrons is surely not necessary. It is certainly not the true spirit of Christmas for believers, nor is it what most of the nonbelievers hoped for.

Perhaps it is not reasonable to expect people to take much notice during the mad hustle and bustle of the days approaching "the Holidays". But once past the 25th, when at least the buying frenzy is over and the anticlimax between then and the New Year has set in, perchance some might be persuaded to reflect a little on what has been happening in the weeks leading up to this point. Maybe they might ask themselves if it is all really worth it.

Editorial:

WHAT IS FASCISM? IS IT A RISK TODAY, OR NOT?

During the past hundred years the world has experienced several examples of [Fascism](#). Some of the best known examples developed during the 1900s under Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and Franco in Spain, but there have been others, more recent, including Sukarno and Suharto in Indonesia and others in Latin America. It has often been confused with Communism, but the two are quite distinct in their pure forms.

The name *Fascism* covers a broad range of political ideas, but essentially it is a form of nationalism with extreme right-wing, intolerant and authoritarian views. Although it may begin within a system where it coexists with democratic philosophies, typically it establishes safeguards such as propaganda and censorship programs that support its own principles until eventually it becomes a single party system protected by military and civil authorities which it controls. Typically it answers to one leader who holds the power of a dictator.

As well as focusing on poverty and issues of social unrest, Fascism has also used a technique of victimising certain groups within society. In Nazi Germany, the Jews were blamed for many of the national woes, and everyone knows how that developed with [Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass](#), and the grim system of [concentration camps](#) like Auschwitz, Belsen and Dachau, where millions of Jews were slaughtered in gas chambers.

Historically, Fascism has flourished in situations where economic or social conditions are weak, allowing a leader to arise who can promise improvements in those areas. In Germany after the country's 1918 defeat in World War One there had been years of extreme poverty, high unemployment, major devaluation of the currency, and a pervasive sense of social discontent and inferiority. Conditions were ripe for a leader who achieved credibility and promised solutions to these problems. It was during those times that Hitler arrived on the scene, the perfect time to succeed.

It is easy to ignore world events, particularly when they seem to be far away, and do not directly threaten us. But the words of [Martin Niemöller](#), a Lutheran pastor, who wrote these famous lines, express the risk very well:

Continued at top of next column

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

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

It is easy to dismiss these words of Pastor Niemöller as the thoughts of an eccentric or a fear-monger, but he aroused the Nazis against him sufficiently to be imprisoned for his opinions. He survived the Nazis and eventually died at the ripe old age of 92, at Wiesbaden, Germany, on 6 March 1984, still speaking out about his concerns. His words can be a caution to us not to become too comfortable about what is happening around the world and what could conceivably happen in our own country if conditions became right. Vigilance and the exercise of our democratic right to speak out are, as Niemöller said, essential for the protection of our democracy and the rights of individuals.

More people however are becoming concerned about the stifling of free speech and the rise of Fascism around the world, particularly here in North America. One such person is a Newfoundlander named Ed Finn. Mr Finn has written an article on Fascism in the November 2014 issue of *The Monitor*, a publication of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. It is available for downloading at [CCPA Monitor, November 2014](#), on pages 38 and 39. For more information on Mr Finn himself and his career in politics and journalism, see [Ed Finn in Wikipedia](#) or [Ed Finn: still fighting the good fight after all these years](#).



A Note about Ed Finn

*Born in 1926, Finn became editor of *The Western Star*, the daily newspaper of Western Newfoundland. He wrote about the 1958-9 Loggers' Strike and lost his job as a result of his opinions. Since then he has held a number of posts with various organisations, including trade unions, and was the founding leader of the Newfoundland & Labrador New Democratic Party. His most recent employment was as editor of the CCPA Monitor. He is now retired.*