

BLOW·ME·DOWNER

OF THE OUTER BAY OF ISLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

2017 April 07 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
 P&P=Prayer & Praise HB=Baptism MHS=Mem Hymn Sing
 ● = Full Moon

2017 APRIL 2017

2nd Sun LH, 7:00pm Installation of ACW Officers.
 4th Tues 1:00pm, St James Church Cleaning for Easter
 9th Sun Palm Sunday LH, 11:00am
 11th Tues ● Full Moon
 13th Thur Maundy Thursday LH, 7:00pm
 14th Fri Good Friday LH, 3:00pm
 16th Sun Easter Day LH, 6:30am & 7:00pm
 23rd Sun Easter 2 LH, 11:00am
 30th Sun Easter 3 LH, 7:00pm

2017 MAY 2017

7th Sun Easter 4 LH, 7:00pm
 10th Wed ● Full Moon
 14th Sun Easter 5 Mothers' Day LH, 11:00am
 21st Sun Easter 6 LH, 11:00am
 22nd Mon Victoria Day
 28th Sun LH, 11:00am

2017 JUNE 2017

4th Sun LH, 7:00pm
 9th Fri ● Full Moon
 11th Sun LH, 11:00am
 18th Sun Fathers' Day LH, 11:00am
 21st Mon Summer Solstice
 25th Sun LH, 7:00pm

2017 ADVANCE DATES 2017

Jul 1st Sat CANADA DAY
 9th Sun ● Full Moon
 16th Sun JB, 2:00pm, Flower Service in Cemetery
 23rd Sun LH, 2:00pm, Flower Service in Cemetery
 Aug 7th Mon ● Full Moon
 Sep 4th Mon Labour Day
 6th Wed ● Full Moon
 22nd Fri Autumn Equinox

Oct 5th Thur ● Full Moon ([Harvest Moon](#))
 8th Sun Thanksgiving Sunday
 9th Mon Thanksgiving Holiday, Canada
 24th Tues United Nations Day
 Nov 4th Sat ● Full Moon
 11th Sat Remembrance Day
 Dec 3rd Sun ● Full Moon
 21st Thur Winter Solstice
 25th Mon Christmas Day

BUSINESS & ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

- **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](mailto:info@captaincookbb.ca) 681-2906; 1-877-681-2906  
 ~~~~~
- **Creative Photography by Linda, 131 Main St, Lark Hr**
 Email: creativephotographybylinda9@gmail.com
 131 Main St, Lark Harbour 709 681-2255
 ~~~~~
- **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, St John's. NL* 634-7883  
 ~~~~~
- **Gudie Hutchings, MP, Long Range Mountains, NL**
Member of Parliament, Canada. 709 637-4540
 ~~~~~
- **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
 ~~~~~

● ● ● Please support our local enterprises ● ● ●

## ON CHARITY AND HUMANITARIAN AID

Many people want to cut foreign aid to poor and developing countries to enable more spending on projects within our own country. “*We need to take care of our own,*” they say, “*and other countries must take care of their own.*” Sometimes they will even quote a well-known phrase — “*Charity begins at home*” — erroneously believing that they are quoting from the Bible. There is in fact a related quotation in St Paul’s *First Letter to Timothy 5:8* :-

*But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

On the face of it this may seem reasonable to keep for ourselves what we have if there is dire need at home. But Paul’s instruction to Timothy should not be understood to exclude charitable giving to others, even to our enemies, as that would be directly against the teaching of Jesus (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27 et seq) in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

But whether we consider ourselves to be Christian or not, it makes good sense for our country to be involved in aid to poor and developing countries. In most instances, when medical aid, food, or other forms of aid is sent to famine-stricken regions, the packages are clearly identified as coming from Canada, and these create goodwill towards our country. Even buildings, such as clinics or schools, are usually identified as donated by Canadians or whatever country has provided them. It takes time for the benefits of such work to become known, but relatively little time when the people of those countries learn of the enormous differences between living standards in their countries and western nations like Canada. When humanitarian aid is provided to those countries it is precisely why goodwill towards Canada is generated in so many parts of the world.

People who have benefited from Canadian aid, whether it be from our Government, or through charities like Oxfam, or the Primate’s World Relief and Development Program (run by the Anglican Church of Canada) the people of those receive remember how this country helped them or their children. So for every dollar invested to help people in this way, we as Canadians benefit from a more positive image around the world. Canadian treatment of refugees and immigrants makes a big difference.

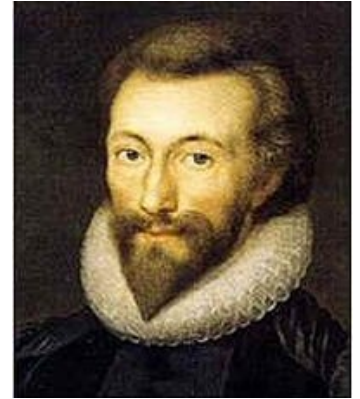
Meanwhile America’s President wants to cut back on humanitarian aid which will preserve life so that he has money to spend on more bombs, guns, and bullets to destroy life. Some Canadians would have our government do the same.

Even if you feel that our government should not spend our hard-won dollars on aid to poor countries, take a moment or two to think about the positive effect it creates for Canada in the long term. Having grown up in England after World War Two, I often think of the wonderful food parcels our family received from my mother’s friends who had emigrated to British Columbia in the 1930s. Those parcels, full of cans of BC salmon, packets of raisins, and other foods we could not get, were sent to us by people we knew. Aid provided by a government is less personal, but just as good. And it was charity which improved our austere lives in the late 1940s

Perhaps one of the most meaningful arguments in support of humanitarian action was made some four hundred years ago in *Meditation XVII* (17) by [Rev John Donne](#) (1572-1631), a priest of the Church of England and Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral, London. Donne was a person of great humanity and also possessed of a fine sense of

humour, as exemplified in some of his poems, such as [The Flea](#). Here is a quotation from [Meditation XVII](#) (17), one of his best-known writings. The language of 400 years ago, though similar to Shakespeare’s, is a little archaic to the modern ear :

*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod [= lump of earth] be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor [= a house] of thy friend’s or of thine own were: **any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in** [or, part of] **mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.***



Rev John Donne, 1573 - 1631

Even if we believe that our lives in Canada lack many things, and they certainly do, we should also be aware that we have so much more than people living in less fortunate countries like Haiti, or some areas of South America and Africa. We have available medical services and hospitals, fine schools, decent homes, and enough money to provide quality food. But in less fortunate countries there are millions of children and even adults dying from disease and starvation caused by pestilence, war, famine and natural disasters which are no fault of their own but totally beyond their control. Sadly, we cannot provide all the fixes, but we can provide some important help. We need only listen to refugees arriving in Canada to be able to understand the difference we can make if we try.

We do not expect recognition for any helpful actions, but occasionally recognition is publicly given. Such is the case when [Canada sheltered Princess Julian of the Netherlands](#) for three years during the Nazi occupation of their country. After the war ended in 1945, and in following years the Dutch royal family sent annual gifts of tulip bulbs in gratitude for Canada having sheltered the Princess and her family from what may have been almost death at the hands of the Nazis when they invaded the Netherlands. The bulbs have been planted in Ottawa each spring as a memorial of Canada’s support at a time of dire circumstances in the Netherlands.

Those who survive because Canadians helped in times of danger will be eternally grateful that we did not forget them and leave them to perish. We may never solve all the problems, but we can alleviate some of them if we have the will to try, and our little planet will be a much improved place.

It may not be an exaggeration to say that every dollar spent on international aid will eventually yield at least twice the value in national security. Most people are smart enough not to bite the hand that feeds them.

— SLH

*Cast thy bread upon the waters:  
for thou shalt find it after many days.  
Ecclesiastes 11:1*

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME KEEP IT OR LOSE IT?

It seems that once more the issue of DST is raising its head in Canada. Most of the country, including Newfoundland & Labrador, changes its time twice a year, advancing the clocks by one hour at 2:00am on the second Sunday of March, and retarding them at 2:00am on the first Sunday of November. A useful mnemonic is “Spring ahead, Fall back”. Most people adjust their clocks before going to bed on the Saturday night. A few forget!

The benefit is one extra hour of daylight in the evenings, very noticeable in the first few weeks of DST in spring, but on the negative side everyone loses one hour of sleep on the night DST begins, which many dislike. There is a corresponding disadvantage in November, when suddenly, on the first Sunday evening in November, the evenings are dark one hour earlier. Then we can all enjoy an extra hour of sleep in the morning.

The purpose of DST, as the name suggests, is to save the hours of daylight until part of the day when most people can benefit from it, reducing the need and the cost for artificial lighting, most particularly in the evening hours. This was a significant factor during wartime when fuel conservation was important.

DST is used in nine entire provinces and territories of Canada — Alberta, Manitoba, NB, N&L, NT, NS, Nunavut, PEI and Yukon — and four — BC, Ontario, Québec and Saskatchewan — where certain regions use it and others do not. [Click for details](#). This patchwork can be very confusing for travellers who are not aware of the local practice, especially in these days of air travel.

Some years ago, in 1988, [double DST was tried in N&L](#), which involved year round DST of one hour, and two hours from spring to Fall. Among other reasons it was rejected because of the danger for children going to school on early mornings when it was still dark.

DST has relatively few reasons for its adoption in many regions of the world. It can provide more opportunities for outdoor leisure activities, for example, by workers who otherwise have to spend a greater proportion of the daylight hours at work. But livestock farmers have not favoured it. On dairy farms the cows must be milked at about the same time each day, and poultry farmers find that if the hours are changed production totals can decline significantly. This is why parts of the Prairie provinces have resisted its introduction. The beneficiaries of DST have therefore mostly been urban dwellers who can enjoy the long light evenings for outdoor leisure activities on the golf course or in other outdoor sports. Consequently DST has created a divide between rural and urban dwellers. But even so the concept appears to be losing whatever support it had in the cities, so that a general movement has developed to abolish it everywhere. The accompanying map shows that many regions of the world that used DST in the past have abolished it already, and more are likely to follow suit. The main regions still using it are primarily highly urban, Europe and North America. China, India, Russia, much of Asia and South America, constituting a large proportion of the world's population

It is particularly a problem for long distance transportation enterprises like airlines. Canada extends across six time zones, so that points of departure and arrival may be several zones apart. Scheduling of flights across time zones for the thousands of routes used today can be quite complicated even when weather conditions are good, but when delays occur, caused by weather, mechanical

problems, or even security issues, it can be a veritable nightmare for schedulers and air traffic controllers alike.

Many people find themselves having difficulty adjusting to the time change in Spring due to losing one hour of sleep which disrupts their natural [circadian rhythm](#). In simple terms the circadian rhythm regulates, among other things, the body's natural need for sleep at particular times of day or night. As basically diurnal animals, most humans function less well if sleep is interrupted or reduced. This is a familiar experience for some shift workers especially when they encounter it for the first few times when they have to work the ‘graveyard shift’ during the hours when they would normally be sleeping. Instead, they have to sleep during the day when everyone else is active, and be alert and active when the rest of us are asleep. Medical studies have shown that such people may suffer physical or emotional problems, and sometimes actual health issues from lack of proper sleep. For many, the effect of DST can, like shift work, be very debilitating until the body has learned to adjust itself, and for some this may never happen. Surprisingly, though, there exist a few rare ‘night owls’ who seem to prefer such work.

An 82-year-old Alberta lady, [Ruby Kassian](#), has collected some 3,000 signatures on a petition to [repeal the DST Act](#) in her province. She has gained the support of at least one MLA, Jacquie Fenske, and they hope to make it a provincial issue and maybe a national one. Perhaps the call for such action will eventually spread across Canada. It would certainly simplify things. If it does, let's hope that the government of N&L will listen to the people, and also do something about our half-hour time zone: either eliminate it, preferably, or, less preferably, increase it to one whole hour. In a country the east-west size of Canada we cannot get rid of all time zones, but it would be much more convenient to change Newfoundland's half-hour time zone, unique in all of continental North America. But it may not be easy. Perhaps it is fun to be able to say that the world will end at midnight, and half an hour later in Newfoundland, but surely we can give that up, as we have so much more that makes this place unique — aside from our time and our weather. — SLH

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME USAGE - PAST & PRESENT



### KEY TO MAP COLOURS

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Using DST now       | - blue   |
| Used it in the past | - orange |
| Never used it       | - red    |



## NATIONALISM

### A LITTLE WILL NOT HURT YOU

The concept of [Nationalism](#) is not basically a bad one: it is good to be supportive of one's country, perhaps even to the extent of placing its importance ahead of some other aspects of citizenship. However it can become negative when a nationalist begins to use those beliefs in order to exclude others. For example the Scots whose ancestors were among the early European settlers of Canada should be proud of the achievements of their forefathers which brought benefits to so many parts of the world, including Canada. But if people of Scottish ancestry were to begin trying to exclude or, worse still, even remove other Canadians who are not of Scottish descent. Fortunately no one has tried to change Canada's all-inclusive attitude, and we need to guard against any such occurrence.

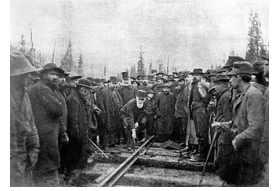
It is a small step from Nationalism to [Patriotism](#), and again, that is not necessarily a bad thing if it remains a strong love of country. That can be very positive, and it has often been an important factor in getting a country through hard times. However the danger arises when patriots begin to search for those whose values are not quite as patriotic. Blame may then be assigned to those who are less enthusiastic or disagree for a variety of social, cultural, or ethnic reasons. At this point Patriotism can take on a very ugly aspect and evolve punitively as it did in Germany in the 1930s. Hitler attempted to use concepts of International Socialism and give them a national application — not a bad idea if it can be held at the level of socialism on a national scale without punitive enforcement. But that is the problem, and without the proper safeguards government policy becomes *totally* the servant of the State, at the cost of lack of freedom for any who criticise the State: hence [Totalitarianism](#).

In order to succeed the State had to assume a greater, more important role than the individual, and Germans were required to subordinate their personal goals and rights to the common good. Hitler, if he ever had any altruistic intentions, then used his oratorical skills to inflame his followers against those who were less convinced of this theory and more concerned with the personal benefits of family and other more private concepts. The Jews, an ethnic group that was relatively easy to identify, once more in history became scapegoats blamed for problems they had not caused. They were easy targets for the ire of government and its supporters. From here it was a short journey to persecution in the name of [National Socialism](#), '*Nationalsozialismus*' in the German language, or [Nazism](#) as it had become abbreviated.

Our Canadian democratic state was founded 150 years ago this year, and the first Prime Minister was [John Alexander Macdonald](#). He had been the main instigator of the [British North America Act of 1867](#) (the BNA Act) which gave Canada its first real taste of independence from the Colonial British Government. Although Sir John was always a Scotsman and enjoyed his 'wee dram' perhaps a little too frequently, he devoted his life to his new country and was instrumental in establishing in 1867 a Parliamentary Government that still exists today. The BNA Act formed the underpinnings of a country of which modern Canadians can be justifiably proud. Sir John was also a strong advocate of the transcontinental [Canadian Pacific Railway completed in 1885](#) which linked eastern Canada, known then as 'Upper Canada', with the Pacific coast. This made it possible in



1885 to travel by train from the Atlantic to the Pacific and remain for the entire distance in Canada on the [Canadian Pacific Railway](#) (CPR), without having to cross the border into the USA and travel by the older [American Transcontinental Railroad](#) completed in the 1860s. Without that railway link between Eastern Canada and the Pacific West, the western half of Canada would almost certainly have defaulted to the more powerful economy and much larger population of the United States, already an established nation since 1776. Thanks to Sir John and his colleagues we have our own country that now proudly welcomes everyone to share our good fortune of living in one of the world's most stable nations.



Click photo for enlargement

Without a little nationalism in Canada, it is likely that we would have been swallowed by our more powerful southern neighbour, and today we would be trying to decide how best to deal with Donald Trump, whose mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, originated from the [Isle of Lewis](#) in the Scottish Outer Hebrides. (See [Trump's Ancestry](#))

To modify the familiar dictum, Nationalism is as Nationalism does. Without it, our country may never have begun to exist as we know it. But Canadians should not be too complacent. In Canada, to date, nationalism has not exhibited much of Trump's exclusivism, though a few of our more [conservative Canadian politicians](#) would like to see more exclusivism in play here. Of course, we Canadians do not want terrorists in our country any more than the Americans want them in theirs, but we are not yet prepared to close our borders to the "[...huddled masses yearning to breathe free](#)", the inscription inside the Statue of Liberty in America's New York Harbour. We must continue to guard against encroaching [xenophobia](#).

But Canada's history is not all worthy of pride. We must admit to some sad lapses through our 150 years as a nation. There have been too many isolated instances, of which we cannot be proud:

[Chinese head tax, 1885-1923](#),  
[Exclusion of 'Exodusters' in 1910](#),  
[Komagata Maru incident in 1914](#),  
[Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923](#),  
[Rejection of Jewish refugees on the MV St Louis, 1939](#),  
[Internment of Japanese Canadians in 1941](#)

See [Canada's immigration history of discrimination and exclusion](#)

Immigration is still restricted today in Canada, but much less than in years past. However controls are essential, and must be applied in the most humane ways possible, and Canada is doing its best to deal carefully with all immigrants, including refugees, bearing in mind that the refugees have in many cases suffered treatment and deprivation that we can only imagine.

But we are not entitled to be very critical of our American neighbours. Even though we were not personally responsible for it, we are shamefully besmirched by Canada's inhumane treatment of First Nations people, whose children were forcibly placed in [residential schools](#) where many died. Some of those schools operated as recently as 1996. The policy was a form of nationalism, intended to make them 'more Canadian' but it did grave damage to indigenous people.

A little nationalism can be good: out of control it becomes a monster.

— SLH

## Has the CANADIAN DREAM replaced the AMERICAN DREAM?

In the past people all over the world looked towards the USA as the place where they could build a new life and perhaps get rich. Over the years millions, including many who were frustrated with life in Canada, went south of the border to begin new lives.

In a short interview with Scott Gilmore who wrote the Maclean's Magazine article, Fareed Zakaria of CNN (Cable News Network, an American tv news channel) asked if the American Dream has been replaced by a Canadian one. A few current but important statistics were presented:

|                          | <i>Canada</i> | <i>USA</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------|
| College Degrees %        | 59%           | 46%        |
| Home Ownership %         | 68%           | 63%        |
| Life Expectancy in years | 81.2 yrs      | 78.7 yrs   |

Click [HERE](#) to read Scott Gilmore's article

Click [HERE](#) to read the full interview

## HOW MUCH PEE IS IN OUR SWIMMING POOLS?

### NEW URINE TEST REVEALS THE TRUTH

I recently came upon [an item with the above title](#) as I was reviewing the Internet news sites that I check most days. I was surprised when I first came upon it, but after reading it my surprise gave place to belief. Although it appeared on the [website of The Guardian](#), a British newspaper, the article referred to Canadian research conducted at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Using Canadian data, it describes how the study was conducted. The topic is one I have often wondered about. Incidentally I have not been in a swimming pool for at least 60 years, and am not likely to do so in the future. I can't swim anyway.

The test involved the measuring of an artificial sweetener, acesulfame potassium (ACE), which is contained in many foods but does not remain in the body. Here is a quote from the article:-

*After tracking the levels of the sweetener in two public pools in Canada over a three-week period they calculated that swimmers had released 75 litres of urine – enough to fill a medium-sized dustbin\* – into a large pool (about 830,000 litres, one-third the size of an Olympic pool) and 30 litres into a second pool, around half the size of the first.*

Read the [complete article](#) and make your own decision about it.

\* Note:- a 'dustbin' is the British name for a garbage can; and 75 litres is about 16.5 Canadian gallons, roughly enough to fill 8 buckets.

## ITEM OF INTEREST

If you think Punctuation does not matter, [READ THIS ARTICLE](#) A 'Full stop', the English name for a 'Period mark' as it is called in American language study, helps to reduce ambiguity in writing, thus enabling the reader to understand more clearly the intended meaning. This [article](#) demonstrates how important the least significant punctuation mark, even a comma, can be when it is used correctly.

## ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH VESTRY INFORMATION

**Rector: Rev David Taylor - telephone 681-2021  
St James Church - telephone 681-2505**

### VESTRY MEMBERS 2017

|                                      |                                               |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Wardens</i>                       | George Sheppard<br>Sam Sheppard               |
| <i>Assistant Wardens</i>             | Howard Sheppard<br>Don Travers                |
| <i>Co-Chairperson</i>                | Ruth Travers                                  |
| <i>Secretary</i>                     | Norma Pickett                                 |
| <i>Treasurer</i>                     | Roxanne Sheppard                              |
| <i>Envelope Secretary</i>            | Olivia Spurrell                               |
| <i>Cemetery Chairperson</i>          | Wallace Park                                  |
| <i>Cemetery Treasurer</i>            | Donna Sheppard                                |
| <i>Worship Committee Chairperson</i> | Sharon Parsons                                |
| <i>Communications Chairperson</i>    | <b>TO BE FILLED</b>                           |
| <i>Outreach Chairperson</i>          | <b>TO BE FILLED</b>                           |
| <i>ACW Representative</i>            | Helen Park<br>Brenda Travers                  |
| <i>Members at Large</i>              | Kitty Park<br>Lesley Sheppard<br>John Parsons |

### REPRESENTATIVES TO PARISH COUNCIL 2017

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Warden</i>          | George Sheppard |
| <i>Warden</i>          | Sam Sheppard    |
| <i>Co-Chairperson</i>  | Ruth Travers    |
| <i>Secretary</i>       | Donna Sheppard  |
| <i>Treasurer</i>       | Lesley Sheppard |
| <i>Synod Delegate</i>  | George Sheppard |
| <i>Member at Large</i> | Carol Rice      |

### STATISTICS FOR ST JAMES CHURCH

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| <i>Baptisms</i>                | 12 |
| <i>Marriages</i>               | 2  |
| <i>Confirmation Candidates</i> | 19 |
| <i>Funerals</i>                | 12 |

**A few positions are still TO BE FILLED.  
If you are interested, please contact  
Rev David or one of the Wardens.**

## LARK HARBOUR WATER & SEWER

To date, no further word has been received about continued work on our Water and Sewer Project, although last year Lark Harbour Town Council was informed that the funding was ready. Maybe the clerk whose work it was to print the cheques was laid off in one of the recent job cuts?

## What's next for IVANKA MARIE TRUMP?

[Ivanka Marie Trump](#) was born 1981 October 30 in Manhattan, New York City. She is a daughter of US President Donald J Trump and his first wife, Ivana Zelníčková Trump, from Czechoslovakia. Ivanka's name is a diminutive of her mother's given name.

She attended Georgetown University but transferred to University of Pennsylvania from where she graduated with a degree in economics in 2004. On 2009 October 25, after converting to Orthodox Judaism, she married Jewish [Jared Kushner](#) and they have three children, Arabella Rose (2011), Joseph Frederick (2013), and Theodore James (2016). She is said to be a friend of [Paris Hilton](#), great-granddaughter of Conrad Hilton, founder of Hilton Hotels; and [Chelsea Clinton](#), daughter of Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Until late 2015 Ivanka had supported her father in the Presidential election campaign, but she could not vote or work for him until she registered as a Republican. She now has a White House office, security clearance and access to restricted information as an *unpaid* adviser to the President.

Ivanka has raised a few eyebrows involving her apparel business from which she has not disassociated herself. It seems neither she nor her father feel obliged to distance themselves from their personal enterprises, a potential to become a major irritant if ignored.

Given her apparent interest in her father's activities, the question arises, *What moved Ivanka to become so closely involved in her father's Presidency? Does she have an ulterior motive that may eventually surprise everyone?*

A possible answer may be related to Donald Trump's age. Born 1946 June 14, he will be 71 years old in less than three months. Assuming that he maintains his good health, he has plans to run for a second term, 2020-2024.

If Trump does win that second term, when it ends on 2025 January 20<sup>th</sup>, he will be almost 79, rather old for a modern world leader, and Ivanka will be 43, a good age to run for nomination as President, and chance to have gathered support by then. She may even be ready to run earlier, in 2020, if Trump's health declines sooner. But in either 2020 or 2024 she could face competition from Vice President Mike Pence, whose sudden switch to the VP nomination last year was seen by many as a clue to *his* future aspirations for the top job.

In any case, by 2020, and certainly by 2024, much politicking will have occurred, world politics will have changed, and a lot will depend on the public perception of success or failure of Donald's Presidency. To date, results have not been very auspicious, and even some of his grassroots base supporters are already disillusioned.

Without drastic change, Donald Trump may be deemed as a 'failed president'. Unless he can change his tactics from instinctive to more rational, from 'alternative facts' to real credible facts, and begin governing as an elected President rather than as the CEO of a world-wide business, he may not survive even his first four-year term, seriously damaging Ivanka's prospects. But with such changes he may manage to occupy the White House not just for four years, but for eight, until 2024. — SLH



## THE AMERICAN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#), or 'ACA', or 'Obamacare', was signed into law by President Barack Obama on 2010 March 23. Its purpose is to provide affordable health care to American citizens, and [as of 2016 some 20-24 million additional persons are benefiting](#). Coverage is available on a [guaranteed issue](#) basis where all policies issued under the statute *must be offered to any eligible applicant without regard to health status*. Upon acceptance, costs are subsidized for poorer people, making it a very costly program as more people joined it.

Since ACA came into effect, costs have increased significantly, and during his election campaign Donald Trump branded it as a failed plan, vowing to replace it *with a cheaper and better system*. After his election a new Bill was introduced by the Republicans. [This Bill generated great opposition](#) from most Democrats and the moderate Republicans, largely because it would replace government payment with [tax credits](#) which do not help poor people. But rather surprisingly too, perhaps, it was strongly opposed by right-wing Republicans, the Freedom Caucus, who found it over generous!

The new Bill went before the House of Representatives with support divided almost entirely (but not quite 100%) on party lines, due to the fact that if Obama's ACA was repealed many people would be left without health care.

The House was about to vote on the Bill on 2017 March 24 at 4pm, but when it became clear that it would fail, at the request of President Trump the vote was cancelled to avoid embarrassment for himself and the Republicans. But since repeal of ACA has been a major unsuccessful GOP platform issue for seven years, it may cause greater embarrassment in the long run for both the Party and the President. [Paul Ryan, House Speaker](#) and a Republican himself, said, "It is time to move on." In contrast, [Nancy Pelosi](#), House Democratic Leader, described this day as "a great day for the American people". However cost problems remain with Obama's ACA, although many Americans would prefer to see it fixed rather than replaced.

These events mark the first and most serious failure to date of the Republicans and the Trump administration. And the USA may now be more divided under Trump than at any time since 1942.

*For details since the introduction of ACA by President Obama in 2010, visit [History of the Affordable Care Act](#).*

*To read more on the mess that is the new GOP health care bill, visit: [Why the Republican healthcare bill was doomed: a failed political balancing act](#).*

### A CANADIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT

*An important cause of the GOP bill's failure was the opposition from people now benefiting from Obama's ACA and from legislators who were aware of that fact. It became clear that many Americans consistently refuse to allow the government of their country, the wealthiest in the world, to provide adequate funding to support the health care of its own poorest citizens. Have they denied the proud and generous proclamation inside the base of the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free"?* — SLH



## SOME [RIVERS ARE PEOPLE](#) TOO

An interesting event has recently taken place in two distant and widely separated parts of the world: New Zealand and India. There is no direct connection between the two. But there are some very interesting legal ramifications in both countries: in both, governments have passed legislation giving certain rivers *the same legal rights as a person*.

In New Zealand it is the [Whanganui River](#), a relatively small one, only 145km long, about 100km shorter than the Exploits River in Newfoundland. It is a very beautiful little river, held sacred by New Zealand's indigenous people, the Maori. In India it is the [Ganges River](#), the world's third longest river at 2,525km, sacred in Hinduism and also essential to the daily lives of millions of people. The Indian legislation includes all tributaries of the Ganges, adding thousands of kilometres to the protected total.

The legislation does not make the rivers into 'persons'; it simply means that in designated cases the law can treat the river in the same way as it treats a person, thus making protection much easier from both legal and practical points of view. (See **NOTE** below.)

Since a river cannot protect itself, it must have a legal guardian to act for it in the same way as a child must have a parent or guardian. So by granting this status to a river, legislators believe that it will be much easier to protect that river as an important part of the environment. It took 170 years for this to happen in New Zealand. In India, the driving force is recognition of the great need to reduce pollution of the river not for religious purposes alone, but also because the Ganges is essential to the daily lives of the people as a source of water for domestic and agricultural purposes.

Given the concerns of Canadian indigenous people, similar legislation might be a more effective way to control encroachment on the dwindling natural spaces. Passing such legislation in Canada could also improve protection of some of our wilderness areas which are constantly being threatened with encroachment for residential, commercial, industrial and even leisure development. The biggest obstacle would likely be to convince government of the need for that stronger protection. Such legislation could be instrumental in the laws affecting pipeline, powerline and mining construction in regions inhabited by indigenous people living traditional lifestyles in the North. Such legislation could be effective against the powerful lobbying by developers and industrial interests. But of course, once passed, effective enforcement is essential.

### **NOTE: Definition of 'Person'**

*An entity recognized by the law as separate and independent, with legal rights and existence including the ability to sue and be sued, to sign contracts, to receive gifts, to appear in court either by themselves or by lawyer and, generally, other powers incidental to the full expression of the entity in law.* (Quotation from [Duhaime's Law Dictionary](#))

The definition uses the word "entity" without modifier or requirement that it should be a living thing.

## A FEW THOUGHTS, INTERESTING OR NOT



If someone were to take a worldwide poll about the unpopularity of world leaders, there is not much question that [America's President Donald Trump](#) (1946-) would be very near the top of the list. [Russia's Vladimir Putin](#) (1952-) would be up there too, along with [China's Xi Jinping](#) (1953-) and North Korea's [Kim Jong-un](#) (born 1982 or 1983).

All of them have caused consternation around the world because of their nationalistic policies and their attitudes that their way is the only way. All of them are among the wealthiest individuals in their own countries, with the possible exception of Xi Jinping. All of them have the reputation of being bullies. All of them have either been involved or are suspected of involvement in intrigues, and all of them have 'favourites'. All of them are surrounded by armies of personal security agents costing their respective countries the equivalent of the budget of a moderately large city. All have the reputation of using the rest of the world as a means of making their own countries as wealthy as they can, although that is not surprising.

### [Population in 2016 based on UN Statistics](#)

|              |                      |    |
|--------------|----------------------|----|
| China        | 1,382,323,332        | 1  |
| USA          | 324,118,787          | 3  |
| Russia       | 143,439,832          | 9  |
| N. Korea     | 25,281,327           | 51 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1,775,161,178</b> |    |
| <b>WORLD</b> | <b>7,432,663,275</b> |    |

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- Can you imagine being the leader of a country the size of China, where you are the boss of about one out of every six people on earth?
- If every Chinese person contributed one cent to a collection, the total would be almost 14 million dollars. In Lark Harbour the total would be only about six dollars.
- India is the second largest nation, with 1,326,801,576 people, 58 million fewer than China and a billion more than USA.
- United Kingdom ranks 21<sup>st</sup>, with 65,111,143, almost twice the population of Canada.
- Canada is far down the list, 38<sup>th</sup>, with 36,286,378 people.
- Iceland is 180<sup>th</sup> and has 331,789, compared with 528,448 in Newfoundland & Labrador, which is slightly more than the Cape Verde Islands, ranking us at 171<sup>st</sup> among the nations.
- Vatican City is listed as the smallest, 233<sup>rd</sup>, with 801 people, a few more than Lark Harbour and York Harbour combined.

## A NOTE ABOUT COVERAGE OF AMERICAN NEWS

For the past few months we have been exposed to vast amounts of news about the political situation in the USA, and much of it has been covered in **The BLOW-ME-DOWNER**. No apology is offered for this, because everyone knows, or should know, that whatever happens in the USA affects Canada, and often is repeated in Canada too. We do billions of dollars of trade with America each year, but Trump's policies may change that.

Since the election of Donald Trump, many Americans have been extremely concerned about how their country is changing, with its debate over issues like the travel ban, immigration, accepting of aliens as refugees, 'Made in America' policy, border 'thickening', changing environment policies, possible Russian involvement, etc ... and the list goes on. Even the current general confusion around the White House is a cause for our concern. Most, if not all, of these matters impinge on Canada, usually sooner than later. We need to know what is, or may be happening there, for us to protect our own interests.

If you have comments on my remarks, please let me know.

*(Because of interference from an unknown source, I have deleted the Visitors' Page on my website at [www.blowmedowner.webs.com](http://www.blowmedowner.webs.com), so please email me directly at [blowmedowner@gmail.com](mailto:blowmedowner@gmail.com). I may reinstate the Visitors' Page after allowing due time to elapse.)*

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