

# *The Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter*

**The Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Avalon East District - Bell Island Detachment  
Executive Editor: Cherie Bennett**

**April 2004**

## ***From the Corporal's Desk***

I trust by the time everyone is reading this that the Provincial Strike will be over. Thank God! The effect it has had on the province is somewhat apparent but the effect it has had on Bell Island is more visible. Now I am not going to get political. But there are some observations that are worthy of discussion or at least print.

During the first few weeks in April I watched voluntarism flourish. Bell Islanders sure believe there is a necessity for volunteer work. In fact, from what I saw during the strike, many locals claim volunteers are the pillars of pillars of our social system. The fact is that there are numerous functions that have to be done and no pay goes along with it. People here "volunteer" because they feel it has to be done. Our

own residents brought wood and baked goods to those in need at the picket lines, shelters were set up and those affected were made as comfortable as possible. The clergy checked on those who were segregated and community members assisted others that needed help. Everyone started to look out for everyone else on the Island. Excellent effort!

I was told Bell Islanders are fighters. I saw this first hand. There is no doubt to this statement. I especially witnessed these traits in the membership of the Ferry Users Committee. I watched members of this committee tirelessly attend meetings, draw up correspondence, brief cabinet ministers, consult and discuss issues with union and government leaders, consult with police, hold town hall meetings,

give press releases, comment on media venues and deal with the pressure of repeated phone calls from persons who feel the committee members are there for needs and sometimes complaints. During the entirety of this event I never heard one complaint from any member. Even at times when attacks on them became personal and discriminatory. The high road was the one taken. Fighters they are....quitters they are not!

I overheard some praising others for their efforts while few condemned. The facts are as such. No one usually gets praise for trying to help others. In fact those that do volunteer are not looking for praise. Helping others is expected in communities and those that criticize and do not help themselves should be

silent. This is a bold statement but haven't you ever heard "If you don't have anything nice to say.....".

Here is where we all should be in terms of public discussions:

The strikers should be praised for being as cordial and cooperative as possible during a time where they were legally fighting for their rights.....this is a free country - their behaviour during this difficult time was exceptional! The essential workers should be praised for their professional behaviour during a trying time trying to keep things flowing - keeping people fed and warm in their homes. The public should be praised for their patience and understanding - the lack of access to St. John's and beyond was hard to accept but justified given the conditions (like everything else being inconvenienced for a short time was not the worst thing that ever happened in their lifetime). The students should be praised for their patience for dealing with a difficult learning environment - having their schools subject

to strike condition is unfortunate but also a reality of the world we live in. The sick should be praised for their understanding - hospitals and health care is appreciated just as those who provide it are. Those in need of funding, of work, of assistance also should be praised for dealing with an unusual time that tried all our emotions. This is where we should be thinking and not just of ourselves.

I trust there were times where our passions were tried but in all of this turmoil we withstood. In the midst we still had many visitors coming home from Ontario and other places, hockey tournaments here and away, students touring Britain and beyond, in fact life went on and we withstood it as any strong fighting community would. Bell Island should be proud .....we are and we should be.

P.S.  
From a concrete policing perspective only there was not one incident during this strike, not one arrest, not one injury, nothing but cooperation and respect. For that I thank each of

you. Bell Island rules!  
**Boyd Merrill**

***From the Bell Island Ferry Users Committee***

As our contribution to the newsletter is being submitted on April 18, we are in the midst of a very disruptive strike which is causing significant hardship and suffering.

The Community is also reeling from the Budget 2004 plans to reduce 4 daily trips from the ferry schedule and to increase ferry rates by 25% over 4 years.

We are attaching for publication in the Newsletter our most recent public circular updating the efforts of the Committee on strike related matters and addressing the issues and progress we are making to avoid ferry schedule cuts etc. Please read carefully and we need your full support to help us in the lobby effort in whatever way you can assist.

Also attached is the final version of the petition that was an initiative at the public meeting and

recently tabled in the House of Assembly. We are encouraging you to forward a personal signed copy to the Premier's Office seeking his support.

The major efforts of the Committee for which we welcome your support in the next few weeks will be as follows:

1. Continuing heavy lobbying to increase the daily strike trips to 4 per day
2. Demanding that the Provincial Government never allow another strike blockade of the ferry service by introducing measures to ensure a full schedule and no blockades just like the Government successfully lobbied on the Gulf service in 2003.
3. Continuing efforts and Ministerial discussions to secure a reversal of the ridiculous ferry schedule cuts which if implemented would see the 2 vessel morning service and the midnight service discontinued and more importantly the planned tie up of the Flanders daily at peak period at 5 pm leaving commuters and users to

wait several extra hours each evening in the line-up.

4. To ask Government to honour its pledge to lower ferry rates and as a matter of principle not implement the planned 25% increase. Family of 4 travelling by vehicle rate for example for a round trip would rise from \$12.00 to \$15.00 over the next 4 years.

5. To request Government to honour its promise to construct a new ferry to replace the Hamilton Sound.

Bell Islanders have fought and won these battles before and with your support we will ensure our ferry service remains accessible and affordable. To fail, would be to face certain economic decline, with less local and commuting jobs, a tourism industry that would collapse and a reversal of all the economic and job gains made in recent years. Bell Islanders want jobs not income support and we need an affordable and efficient ferry service for that to happen. Current cutbacks planned will see the resettlement mentality rise its head and with it the

depression on the late 1960's and 1970's and the lost confidence in Bell Island's future, housing values sinking and out migration escalating. **BELL ISLANDERS WILL NEVER ACCEPT TRAVELLING THAT ROAD AGAIN.**

In conclusion as the strike winds up we must all pull together to ensure the ferry service is not downgraded as proposed in the Budget. Just imagine Government trying to tie-up the Flanders at 5 pm and attempting to strand dozens of commuters and users in their vehicles in the Cove for hours every evening not to mention the negative impacts on the tourism trade. **IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AS IT IS NOT A RATIONAL IDEA AND BELL ISLANDERS WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE IT DOES NOT HAPPEN.**

Please feel free to contact Committee Members with your support and suggestions and also let your MHA Dianne Whalen (729-4712) know how you feel about commitments

not kept.

***Bell Island Ferry Users  
Committee***

***Submitted by Ed Kent  
Committee Consultant***

***Ferry Users Committee  
Ferry Strike Issues***

As the strike continues to blockade Bell Islanders access to the mainland, the implications of the strike continue to take their toll. The impacts include a denial of our right to travel on the Provincial highway system, disruption of people's lives and their livelihoods, extra out of pocket expenses, lost wages and business, missed medical appointments, and untold economic damage. Those who have to travel have had to endure costly and time-consuming wait times.

**THE FERRY BLOCKADE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. BELL ISLANDERS WILL NO DOUBT REMEMBER HOW BOTH SIDES IN THE DISPUTE TREATED THEM.**

The essential services agreement signed by the Marine Workers Union and Government failed to consider Bell Islanders rights and was especially punitive to commuters with

no trips scheduled before 9:30 am (later changed to 8 am), both unacceptable. One trip of 20 per day was insultingly inadequate. The Committee's petition called for a minimum of 4 trips per day. The Committee has met and lobbied our MHA Minister Whalen, Minister Rideout and the union reps repeatedly and our pleas for more trips and compassion have fallen largely on deaf ears.

The Committee is confident that Bell Islanders will rally and take whatever measures may be necessary to continue to demand an end to the blockade and not rest until Government implements a permanent solution. Unions should not be allowed to block marine highways. Our Committee will not rest until our Provincial Government moves to ensure that ferry services have their full schedules protected during labour disputes and for Government to practice what it has preached to the Federal Government and achieved on the Gulf service. (FULL SCHEDULE)  
**PREMIER, PLEASE DO AS YOU HAVE PREACHED TO THE**

**FEDS. LEGISLATE OR USE ALTERNATE MEANS TO ENSURE THE 16 PROVINCIAL FERRY SERVICES CANNOT BE DISRUPTED BY LABOUR DISPUTES.**

Action plan-Strike issues:  
The general public have to assist the Committee to ensure ferry services are never again blocked by strikes. We need for you to lobby, phone, write, and email the open line shows, media and politicians. Government Ministers can be reached at Confederation Building, Box 8700, St. John's, and A1B 4J6.  
MHA Minister Whalen-729-3679/729-4753  
-dianne.whalen@gov.nl.ca  
Minister Rideout -729-3679 - wstminister@gov.nl.ca  
Premier Williams 729-3570- premier@gov.nl.ca  
Also may we suggest you sign your name and mail the attached petition to the Premier's Office and ask for the prayer of the petition to be reviewed and acted upon with respect to the essential service issues during a strike and the

reversal of the unfair budget measures imposed on Bell Island.

***Ferry service budget measures***

As you are aware, the 2004 budget measures for ferry services, if implemented, would have grave consequences for Bell Islanders and Bell Island's economy and will lead to loss of jobs and businesses, a crippled tourism industry, money out of the pockets of all users, not to mention the longer ferry wait times and inconvenience.

As reflected in the petition circulated and then tabled in the Legislature, Bell Islanders are calling for fair treatment in application of the budget measures and the reversal of intentions to reduce the ferry schedule by 4 trips daily and reversal of the plan to increase fares by 25%, after lower fares promised.

The Committee has met several times with Government Ministers and appealed to the Premier to reconsider and the same prayer is reflected in the petition. To date, we have a commitment that the ferry schedule cuts will be

revisited as to their reasonableness and fairness and the negative implications for Bell Island's economy.

The planned budget measures included:  
Daily schedule proposed to be cut by 4 round trips:  
-Unacceptable  
Bell Island's service is the only service of the 16 ferry services slated for scheduled trip cuts. WHY?  
- A 20% cutback of 4 round trips. Specifically:  
Both vessels crews would be limited to 12-hour daily shifts, a limitation that would not apply to the other 16 Provincial services.  
WHY?  
The second vessel morning service would be terminated and would not start until noon.  
The midnight trip would be cancelled.  
The 2 vessels would only operate together for 3 hours daily 2 –5 pm  
The most incredible proposal of all would see the main vessel Flanders tie up at peak traffic by 5 pm daily leaving users and commuters to wait several hours to get home. Same as shutting down the TCH Outer Ring Road at 5 pm????

Rates to increase by 25% versus promised decrease: Unacceptable  
Planned increases in ferry rates of 10%, 5%, 5%, and 5% over the next 4 years would betray a promised ferry rate decrease set out in the Election PC Blue Policy Book. Increase would have very negative impacts on the economy and the tourism industry. A family of 4 travelling by car could expect to see their ferry rate cost per trip increase from \$12.00 to \$15.00.  
Promised new ferry to replace Hamilton Sound deferred?  
Despite commitments to replace old ferries no action has been taken in Budget 2004. A replacement program must be started in 2004.  
Action Plan- Ferry service budget measures: As these planned measures are unreasonable and unfair and will lead to the economic decline of Bell Island we must rally and fight to have these planned measures reversed. Please make your concerns known to Premier (729-3570), Minister Rideout (729-3679) and MHA Minister Whalen (729-4712).

***PETITION-Bell Island Ferry Services***

(Presented in the House of Assembly in April 2004)

To the Honourable House of Assembly of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, in Parliament assembled, we the undersigned petitioners of Bell Island, as in duty bound, petition, humbly pray and call upon the House of Assembly.

Whereas at a March 30, 2004 public meeting assembled on Bell Island, residents had gathered to consider an impending crisis facing Bell Island due to a threatened blockade of their marine highway by a public service strike. Whereas the Provincial Budget of 2004 had proposed measures to reduce ferry services and raise ferry rates with significant negative impacts to the Community's economic future.

Reconsideration of ferry rate increases:

That proposed ferry rate increases of 25% slated for implementation for the on Island portion of our Province services only, not

be approved for implementation.

That instead, Government continue to Party policy contained in the PC 2003 Blue Policy Book specifically "phase in adjustments over a 5-year period to bring rates on provincial ferry routes in line with the cost of highway travel" be implemented in its place, with lower rates, not higher rates.

That Government ferry rate policy be applied in a manner consistent with Government's own pleas to the Federal Government not to increase Gulf ferry rates and that Government adopt Intra- Provincial rates based on the equivalent cost of road travel.

B. Reconsideration of proposals to reduce Bell Island's ferry service and schedule by 20%:  
That the proposed 20% reduction in Bell Island's 21 daily round trip schedules by 4 trips to 17 trips be reconsidered. That the long-standing core schedule not be changed. That the 2 vessels operating together on the service not be reduced from 8 hours

daily to 3 hours.

That the restriction to limit daily sailing hours to 12 hours on Bell Island's service only is unfair and that it be lifted in favour of a minimum of 14 daily sailing hours per vessel on all Intra- provincial ferry services.

That schedule cuts not be implemented as they will cripple Bell Island's growing economy, threaten the jobs of Bell Island's 850 employed workforce and trigger major increased and counterproductive budgetary spending resulting in increased Government income support payments to displaced workers.

That shutting down one of Bell Island's 2 ferries at peak traffic at 5 pm would be equivalent to shutting down one of the 2 exit lanes on the TCH from the City at 5 pm and neither is acceptable.

Proceed with an investment in 2004 to construct a new Provincial replacement ferry:

That consistent with the

policy position laid out in the PC 2003 Blue Policy Book; as well as consistent with a 2001 House of Assembly resolution; and further consistent to a plea by the Auditor General in annual reports that Government move forward to build new replacement ferries.

That in view of an incontestable desperate need for new ferries to replace an aged fleet, that Government secure lease financing in 2004 and undertake an economic investment to construct a new replacement ferry for the Hamilton Sound at a Provincial shipyard.

Appeal for fairness for Bell Island in any 2004 ferry service schedule reductions:

That in applying any reductions in ferry service schedules for 2004 that Bell Island not be singled out as the only ferry service out of the 16 Intra- Provincial ferry services to have a cut apply to its scheduled trips.

That the loss of 4 trips daily or a 20% cut in scheduled service with no cuts in the schedules of other services would not be fair and will

result in serious economic consequences for Bell Island and that the decision be revisited.

That schedule cuts will hamper Bell Island's rural rejuvenation and renewal leading to rural economic stagnation and should not be approved.

Seek to re-negotiate essential services agreement, which resulted in a cut of 95 % to schedule.

That NAPE be requested to reconsider the January 2004 essential services strike agreement, which reduced Bell Island's ferry schedule from 21 trips to an unacceptable 1 single daily trip to Bell Islanders and Bell Island's economy.

That as a minimum during the strike 4 round trips be provided.

Move to have all 16 Intra-Provincial ferry services designated as strike free: As Government, in order to protect the health and safety of its residents and the economy, has successfully lobbied the Federal Government to declare the Gulf Ferry service as strike

free with a full schedule during labour disputes, than the Provincial Government act quickly to extend the same right to its own 16 Intra-Provincial ferry services.

That land and marine highways not be blockaded, preventing users from travelling and thus compromising public health and safety as recently ruled by the Canadian Labour Tribunal Board in November 2003 on the Gulf service. As in duty bound your petitioners humbly pray.(1850 signers)

***Thank You From Cathy Somerton Diamond***  
Sincere Thank You:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people of Bell Island for the generosity shown to me on the night of my benefit dance. Shirley Murphy's Audio, St. Michael's Parish, Knights of Columbus, Hospital Staff & the people who bought and

sold the \$10.00 tickets, Kiwanis Club, Nape local, Health Care Corporation, Sisters of Mercy, Service Store, Martin Hurley, Gary Hunt, Bayview Grocery, Home Hardware, Personal Touch, Tina's Unisex, Krista Noseworthy, Easy Save, Dick's, Linda's Grill, My Friends Place, Murphy's Garage, House of Stoyles, Tremblett's Ambulance Service, Stephen Marshall (Roebothan, McKay, & Marshall), Cooperators Insurance, Staff at Transportation & Works (Confederation Building), Doctor Tom Desai, Hamilton Sound Crew, St. Michaels' School, Imm Conception School Social Club, to the many people who attended the dance, people who sold tickets at the dance (Brenda Sweeney, Valerie Hoffman, & Patsy Durdle), and the people who couldn't attend the dance, but sent cards and donations. Your thoughts and prayers will be forever remembered and appreciated.

The past four months have been a difficult time which started on probably one of the most important days of the year-Christmas Day.

On December 25, 2003, I went to the emergency department of the Health Sciences Center with what I thought was the stomach flu. Upon arrival they took blood work and when the report came back it had indicated that I had less than 10% of function in both of my kidneys, which meant that over 90% of my kidneys function were destroyed so I was admitted.

On Boxing Day, I was brought to the operating room for a kidney biopsy and had the surgeon insert a central line in my chest, this is the line used for my dialysis. I am being dialyzed three times a week -three and half hours a treatment, these treatments make me very nauseated, weak and tired, I hate them but they are the only thing that is keeping me alive until I get my new kidney. Unfortunately, the Nephrologists have no-idea what happened to my kidneys and I asked if they will ever come back on their own and her answer was "No". The amount of damage done to my kidney filters was compared to "going in and setting a village on fire and

destroying everything".

I am blessed to have eleven brothers and sisters who are willing to donate one of their kidneys to me, of all things that I have to ask them for; I never thought it would be an organ. It goes to show that you never know what lies ahead for you. Out of the eleven, there are eight that can donate, five here on Bell Island and three in Ontario. Our first tissue typing was supposed to be on March 1, 2004, but because of an unforeseen circumstance it was cancelled. We were then rescheduled to be tissue typed on Monday, March 29, 2004, but because of the pending strike at that time they couldn't take the tissues and risk having them die if the strike were to take place and apparently the process takes 4-6 weeks. So I am patiently waiting for the strike to be over.

The proceeds from my benefit dance will help towards the cost of my transplant since transportation, accommodations and medications are very expensive and insurance

will not cover them.

I guess you are wondering why I have gone into such detail of my present condition but, I feel that you are wondering and asking the question of what happened to her kidneys? Who's going to be the donor? When is she going for her transplant? These are normal questions and I would be wondering too if it were someone else. So, I have basically given you (the residents of Bell Island) everything that has been going on with me since my diagnosis on Christmas Day. Now, I would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for your generosity, your kind words of encouragement, your prayers and your understanding of how difficult this situation is on me, my husband, Emma -our six month old daughter, and our families. Even though the past four months has been a struggle for me, I know that there is light and a new beginning of wellness for me at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully in the near future there will be a shiny new kidney for me from the love and generosity of my family.

***Sincere Thanks,  
Cathy Somerton Diamond***

***From St. Michael's Roman  
Catholic Parish***

Dear Friends:

For the past few weeks, we have all tried to cope with the lengthy strike and the limited services of our Ferries. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is printed, we will be back to normal and the stress of the strike is over especially for those employed with the public services of government.

We have just celebrated the joyful blessings of the Easter liturgies in our respective churches. It has truly been a time of renewed faith and hopefully a personal faith experience for many. I wish to extend a sincere thanks to all who participated in the many liturgies of our church and to offer gratitude in the many ways you participated. I wish to take this time to thank Mr. Des McCarthy and his cast who dramatized the stations of the cross on Good Friday. It was a very prayerful liturgy and celebrated with reverence and sincere faith.

It truly helped all of us to know the great suffering Christ endured and the infinite love He has for us all .

In the midst of all the hectic activity of the Easter season, many individuals, families and couples struggle to overcome personal anxieties and crisis especially to maintain relationships. I can only say, we must reach out to special friends to help and encourage us and to keep God at the center of all we do each day. Please do not give up easily when confronted with personal crisis and resort to alcohol, drugs or gambling to find comfort and relief , for we all know , heart to heart talking , good friends and sincere prayer will help all of us to meet the challenges of the times.

In conclusion, I wish to remind all parishioners that as the weather improves that we all take an active role in maintaining our church properties especially our cemeteries. I ask that you make a special effort to clean the graves of your loved ones and please do

not leave it until the week before the cemetery mass. We have many tourists who visit our Island in early summer and therefore, I ask that you attend to the improvement of our cemeteries as soon as possible. Also, I ask that those who park near our church to have a chat or to eat a meal, please do not litter. Please do not throw garbage around church property and this includes cigarette butts . It only shows a disrespect for our church which is the House of God.

May the blessings of the Risen Lord give us all a spirit of hope and courage so that we will remain faithful to our God as we continue to do our best to love God and neighbour.

**God Bless**  
**Father Wayne Dohey**

***From the Volunteer Fire Department***

***Fires:***

As of Jan 25 ,2004 we have responded to 13 calls.

- 1-Ambulance call (other 2 ambulances were off the island)
- 2-Grass fires
- 1-chimney fire

- 2-pans left on stove
- 1-window blown out
- 1-car fire
- 3-false alarms
- 1-wire down
- 1-alarm sounding

***Fire phone:***

We would like to remind everyone that if they have to make a fire or other emergency call (488-2900) that they wait for the beep, before giving the message. otherwise your message will not be recorded on the answering machine, please speak clearly, give your name, location of emergency, type of emergency, time and date. Your message will be recorded and transmitted simultaneously to the Firefighters pagers. Also if you dial the Fire Dept. number by accident please do not hang up with out saying that you called the wrong number, other wise we are left hanging, because we got the alarm but not the message, so we will have to go to the Fire Station and trace the call.

***Hockey Tournament:***

The Fire Dept. and Boys & Girls Club held it's annual hockey tournament on April,16, 17, 18. The tournament was a great

success with 8 teams taking part with everyone having a laugh and a good time. We would like to take this time to thank all the players , the refs.(a special thank you to Todd Tobin & Gord Drover who did the majority of the games), staff of the Boys & Girls Club, and members of the Fire Dept. for pulling together to make this a successful weekend. We would also like to thank Garry Hunt & Molson Breweries Ltd. for sponsoring this tournament for the past 16 years. Also Mary Noseworthy & Dicks Snack Bar for their donation.

The winners of the tournament:

- FIRST PLACE:**  
**THE GREENERS**  
Joe Somerton  
Hubie Spencer  
Noel Fowler  
Bobby Flemming  
Jason Flemming  
Wayne Parsons  
Colin Parsons  
Jim Parsons  
Dave Drover  
Finner Hawco

- SECOND PLACE:**  
**THE RIDGE**  
Greg Lawrance

Mike Young  
Patty Carroll  
Tom Drover  
Dennis Young  
Kevin Power  
Rick Hussey

Sportsman Awards:

Town Square - Paul Neary  
Young Guns- Ricky Neary  
The Ridge- Dennis Young  
West Mines Sports Bar-  
Gerald Hynes  
Islanders- Pat Hutchings sr.  
The Greeners- Jason  
Parsons  
New Lab Medical- Gerry  
Sweeney  
Firemen- Keith Pitts

Most Sportsmen Overall:

Pat Hutchings jr.

We would like to congratulate all the players on their awards and hope they had a laugh and a good time, because that's what it's all about . Hope to see you all again next year.

***Jim Pendergast***  
***Fire Chief***

***Wabana Boys & Girls Club***  
***"Every Kid Has Potential"***

During our Easter break the club held a spirit week which was sponsored by GAP Inc. This week was a hit for all of our members, especially the UH-OH! and

Mini Olympic events. There were many prizes awarded each day and participants were provided with lunch for two days. We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped during the week and the parents who also showed interest in the events.

A reminder to all members and parents that from April 26th – May 3rd the club will be closed due to staff attending a National Conference in B.C.

Congratulations to Keith Neary who was chosen Youth Volunteer for March. Keith is the son of Michelle and Keith is a level 1 student at St. Michael's High. He is also a member of the Youth Volunteer Program and a Teen Mentor at the club. Also congratulations go out to the Boy (Sean Hammond) & Girl (Ashley Arnold) of the month. Ashley, Sean, & Keith are three of many young members who attend our club on a regular basis and volunteer. Without these fine young men and women, we would not be able to offer as many programs to the younger members, great job teens keep up the good work. The club is always looking

for volunteers to help with our every day programs, so if you are interested in becoming a volunteer call the club, we can always use an extra set of hands. Our Annual Walk/Bike A Thon will take place on Sunday, June 6th at 2:00pm. Any child or parent interested in taking part in our annual walk can pick up sponsor sheets at the club on May 24th. There will be a party for all walkers after all sponsor money has been collected and handed in to the club. Many prizes will be given away at the party.

Our Annual Awards Day will be held on Sunday, May 30th at 2:30. This is a day when we acknowledge the members for their achievements for the year 2003 programs. We invite all members of our community to attend especially the parents. Show the children and the youth that you care and attend their awards day and applaud their achievements.

Due to the on going strike the "Bell Island Idol" has been postponed until late June or early July. Some of our contestants and

volunteers are tied up with the strike, which makes it very difficult to run a successful project. So anyone who is interested in becoming a contestant please call Joe at the club (488-3801).

During the Recreation Easter Ice Hockey tournament the Cambridge hockey teams made a generous donation of \$500.00 to the Boys & Girls Club. It was great to see that the former Bell Islanders and club members remember the importance of organizations such as the club is to the young children of Bell Island. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

On the weekend of April 16-18 the Firemen/Boys and Girls Club held the annual floor hockey tournament and \$1050.00 was raised for the club. We would like to congratulate the Greeners who recaptured the championship after losing it to the New Lab Medical the past two years. We like to thank the teams, referees and anyone else who helped during the weekend. Also a thank you goes out to the New Lab Medical teams who made a donation to the

club.

***Joe Sommerton***

***Feedback Received via E-mail***

My husband and I were born and raised on the Island, as well as our 3 children. It is great to see the RCMP take such a great interest in the Island, especially the children. With so little at their disposal, it is so easy for them to become idle as they get older and get into trouble. Years ago, the RCMP, or some of them, only seemed interested in people their own age, it is nice to know that that has changed. Please keep up the good work and hopefully your replacements will follow in the same way.

Judy

***Submission by Cst. Colleen Donovan***

**A letter from daughter to mom**

A mother enters her daughter's bedroom and sees a letter on the bed.

With the worst premonition,

she reads it, with trembling hands:

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm telling you that I eloped with my new boyfriend. I found real passion and he is so nice, with all his piercing and tattoos and his big motorcycle. But it's not only that mom, I'm pregnant and Ahmed said that we will be very happy in his trailer in the woods. He wants to have many more children with me and that's one of my dreams too.

I've learned that marihuana doesn't hurt anyone and we'll be growing it for us and for his friends, who are providing us with all the cocaine and ecstasy we want.

In the meantime, we'll pray for the science to find the cure for AIDS, so that Ahmed can get better. He deserves it.

Don't worry Mom, I'm 15 years old now and I know how to take care of myself and some day I'll visit for you to know your

grandchildren.

Your daughter, Judith

PS: Mom, it's not true. I'm at the neighbour's house. I just wanted to show you that there are worst things in life than the school's report card that's in my desk's drawer...I love you.

***Court News***

On April 1st, 2004 a 37 year old male charged with Impaired Driving attended court and was convicted receiving a 90 day sentence and is prohibited from driving for 39 months.

A 44 year old male appeared in court on April 7th, 2004 and was convicted of the following: Breach of Undertaking - 10 days consecutive, Assault with Weapon - 10 days - DNA ordered and Mischief - 10 days consecutive.

A 33 year old male attended court on April 7th, 2004 and will return to court on September 29th, 2004 for trial in relation to Possession of Property Obtained by Crime charge.

A 54 year old male will return to court for trial on May 11th, 2004 after a postponement to answer to charges of Assault and Breach of Probation.

A 18 year old male was charged with mischief after the Wabana Volunteer Fire Dept. and police were called to a local school for a fire alarm. The accused is suspected to have placed plastic in an upstairs heater causing the fire alarm to activate. He will attend court on May 12th, 2004 to answer to the charge.

A 37 year old former Bell Island resident opted to transfer the following charges stemming from 2 incidents in the spring of 2000 on Bell Island to Ontario for guilty pleas: Assault and Breach of Undertaking and sentenced to 45 days and 30 days consecutive respectively, twelve months probation on each, a firearms prohibition for 5 years and a DNA sample was ordered. In addition to the above the accused also plead guilty to Uttering Threats and was sentenced to 30 days

consecutive and 12 months probation. Also he was convicted of Fail to Attend Court and received 15 days consecutive.

A 49 year old male was charged with assault after police were called to a domestic dispute on April 12th, 2004. The accused will appear in court on May 26th, 2004 in relation to said charge.

Two males responsible for the property damage at the St. Michael's Parish Church have been identified and the matter is being recommended for diversion. The damage occurred sometime in January 2004.

On March 1st 2004, a 22 year old male was convicted for break and enter and theft and received two years in jail.

On April 4th, 2004 a 54 year old man was charged for Breach Of Undertaking and is scheduled to appear in court on May 12th, 2004.

On April 13th, 2004 a 65

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year old man was convicted of sexual assault and received 60 days in jail and 2 years probation.

On April 20th, a 33 year old male was charged with assaulting his girlfriend in her residence on April 16th.

### Lost and Found

On March 30th, 2004 a key belonging to a Honda vehicle was turned in to the detachment. The key was located on Lighthouse Road. Anyone missing such a key please contact Cst. BENNETT at 488-3312.

### ***Thank You***

Many thanks to all the business who are kind enough to allow the newsletter to be displayed for pick-up.

The newsletter is also available on the internet at website:  
[www.bellisland.net](http://www.bellisland.net).

Thanks to Reg Durdle for his help in doing this and for the excellent job he does on the website.

### ***Closing***

If you have any comments,

concerns, or questions about the newsletter please contact us **Cpl. Boyd Merrill** at [Boyd.E.Merrill@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Boyd.E.Merrill@rcmp-grc.gc.ca) or **Cst. Colleen Donovan** at [Colleen.Donovan@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Colleen.Donovan@rcmp-grc.gc.ca). We can also be reached at the RCMP Detachment at 116 Memorial Street.  
Or: (709) 488-3312.