

The Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

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

June-November 2003

HEY WE'RE BACK!!!

The *Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter* is a joint project of the Bell Island Community RCMPolicing Office and the Wabana Town Council, and we're back!!!

Our goal is to publish this Newsletter on a monthly basis to keep you; the community, informed.

“An informed community is a safe community.”

From the Corporal's Desk

I am not sure how long ago it was since the "*head feller*" at the RCMP Community Policing Office in Bell Island was from the Corporal rank. It was a few Sergeants ago for sure. In any case, it was certainly an honour to receive this position and to work with the wonderful people that live on this Island. Our family was excited about returning

to Newfoundland and Labrador but had no idea we won the lottery!

Since arriving in August, we have learned nothing but admiration for the way of life this Island holds. Nowhere else in Canada is there a more beautiful place. I say this after living and/ or travelling most of this country.

I was "made in New Brunswick" , as I commonly say, growing up in a small community near Fredericton. Small town living is second nature. I came to Newfoundland in 1988 to Whitbourne spending 3 years there in General Policing. I moved to Bay D'Espoir where I performed general policing duties for 3 more years then on to Gander Sub-Division Customs and Excise Section for 1.5

years. The next move was to Port aux Basques. This was my luckiest move as that is where I met my wife Tracy. Yes, she was "made in Newfoundland and Labrador" (and reminds me often). After almost 5 years in the Gateway Town, we moved to Halifax Detachment where I was responsible for various duties including detachment, break and enter section, street team drugs, general investigation section and of late the homicide section in Halifax Major Crime Unit.

Our family strongly believes in community service and volunteering. Our lives are full of both. I recently joined the Bell Island Kiwanas, the Health Care Committee, St. Phillip's Lions Club (I have been a Lion for over

14 years) and plan to join others including the Ferry Users Committee. You might also want to see www.drugplay.com. Tracy is now spending her time at Immaculate Conception and St. Augustine Elementary Schools at the lunch program and as a part time teaching assistant. Her background is working with children and adults with disabilities. Her dream is to start an adult learning centre for literacy issues.

Without getting too long winded I would like to say at this time that we have a definite community policing plan in place for Bell Island for the next three years. The plan includes training and support for the officers here, safe homes and community practices for all residents and travellers to the Island, youth programs and incentives to eliminate substance use, child protection/ family violence elimination initiatives and many other priorities brought to our attention. The police cannot work without the public's support!

I firmly believe members of the public should be able to

come to the police in confidence and share concerns that trouble them. Many persons who have met me so far have witnessed what I would call my "come see me and let's have a yarn" approach.

This will be the only writing I produce with so many "I" 's in it. This was a get to know you sort of document. I am responsible for a team of professionals and future entries in this newsletter will be about the great work the police and community are doing together. Every Bell Island RCMP officer has this approach. We are blessed to have such a fine group of Mounties here as we do now. I wouldn't trade any of them for a new pair of "Logans"!

You should know this....We may not agree always but we promise we will make you feel as comfortable as possible while we discuss any topic you choose.

**Thanks,
Boyd Merrill
RCMP Bell Island**

***IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO BUSINESS OWNERS
COUNTERFEIT
MONEY***

Recently, there has been a number of counterfeit money complaints. To protect the people and businesses on Bell Island we are asking the business owners to do the following: When someone enters your business and you determine they have given you a counterfeit bill record the serial number, name of the customer, date, time, and type of bill.

We will collect this information in an attempt to determine the source of the counterfeit money and to help prevent the money from circulating.

From the Hospital

First, I would like to thank the RCMP for inviting the Dr. Walter Templeton Health Centre to make submissions to the Community Policing Newsletter. This will be a great opportunity for the Centre to provide Bell Island residents with Health Care news and information.

The Dr. Walter Templeton Health Centre is a 20 bed facility that is operated by the Health Care Corporation of St. John's. Various services provided at the site include continuing care, palliative care, respite care and acute care that includes inpatient, outpatient and 24 hour emergency services. These services are complimented with an onsite laboratory and X-Ray. Patients requiring higher levels of care are transported to other health care corporation facilities as directed by the physician or nurse practitioner.

The nurse practitioner's role is new to our facility, however, not new to the Health Care Corporation. This person is highly trained and skilled to deliver urgent and emergent care while working collaboratively with emergency physicians at the St. John's emergency departments.

Other services at the Centre include Dental and Denturists service, Health and Community Services which include Public Health Nursing and Mental Health with their various programs.

Several community service groups also meet regularly at the Health Centre and we invite any health related groups to use our resources.

Dr. Alexa Laurie provides on site clinics Monday to Friday with the exception of Tuesday afternoon. Dr. Tucker provides clinics at his off site office Monday to Friday with the exception of Thursday afternoon.

Visiting hours at the Centre are 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. for long care residents. For acute care patients visiting hours are 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. daily. Children under 12 should not visit only under special conditions, for their health safety.

Visitors to our facility are asked to respect our "Parking Signs". There is no parking in the fire lane which is for your safety should emergency vehicles need immediate building access. Please keep the handicap space in front of our facility free for handicap permit holders who need this service.

The entire Health Care Corporation has implemented a smoke free policy at all health care facilities. The blue line in front of the Health Centre is to assist in this endeavour. Thank you for not smoking in front of this blue line.

This past summer we have flown our flags for the first time in many years. The flags will be flying during May to November each year.

Each year the Health Centre assists in erecting a community Christmas tree on our grounds in aid of the Wabana Boys and Girls Club. This worthwhile project is accomplished with the support and assistance from outside staff of the Wabana Town Council and Newfoundland Light and Power. This year the tree will be smaller than usual and near the building to assist in its maintenance during the Christmas season. You may make donations to the Wabana Boys and Girls Club in honour of a friend or in memory of a loved one. These donations can be made at the Health Centre or by contacting the

Wabana Boys and Girls Club.

Should you have any questions/concerns about your health or health services in general, please don't hesitate to contact your Health Centre for advice and service. As usual we look forward to providing Island residents with health news and information.

On behalf of all staff and residents of the Health Centre we wish you Health and Happiness during the Christmas season and for the New Year.

Art Morgan - Manager

Physician Tip:

The flu season is now upon us. Flu shots are available from your doctor. It is recommended that persons 65 and over, children or adults with any chronic illness and health care workers obtain a flu shot.

News from the Volunteer Fire Department

October 5 to 11 was Fire Prevention Week. The phrase this year is: WHEN FIRE STRIKES: GET OUT! STAY OUT!

Every year the Fire Dept. visits Immaculate Conception and St. Augustine's Schools and involves students in a fire escape plan for their homes. We do this by having the students prepare and submit a fire escape plan for their homes. The teachers and staff of each school judge the plans. Two winners are chosen from each school, and will be made firefighters for the day. They will be picked up in the Emergency Response Vehicle, with lights and siren activated, and taken to the fire hall where they will be treated to lunch with the Fire Chief and other members of the Fire Dept. They will also receive a Junior Firefighter Certificate from the Fire Dept. This year the winners were: Tasha Brazil, Samantha Pitts, Leah Curnew, and Brendon Fowler.

Congratulations to this year's winners, and we hope all the students continue to practice their home fire escape plans, and remember WHEN FIRE STRIKES: GET OUT! STAY OUT!

TO CREATE YOUR PERSONAL ESCAPE PLAN, DO THE FOLLOWING:

Install smoke alarms on every level - outside the bedroom, near the kitchen and garage. Keep clean and dust-free. Check smoke alarms monthly (some fire departments and manufacturers say weekly). Replace batteries yearly and alarms every 10 years.

Draw a floor plan of all levels of your home with normal and emergency exits including two from each bedroom. Designate a safe meeting place outside and someone to call the Fire dept. 488-2900 from a neighbors' house.

Practice the plan, including crawling out with eyes closed (heavy smoke impairs breathing and sight; staying close to the floor increases chances of escape). If needed practice using escape ladders.

Small children unable to escape can learn to open their windows and wave an article of clothing to attract attention. Instruct them to wait at the window until

someone comes and to never hide from the fire. Discuss with a fire department official whether an escape ladder would be appropriate.

Sleep with doors closed. If children are frightened, parents can close doors after the children fall asleep and use a room monitor to hear them in the night.

If awakened by a smoke alarm or a fire, instruct family members to feel the door for heat and check air at bottom. If you don't smell smoke and the air is cool, kneel and open the door slowly, turning your face away from the opening. If smoke is present or the door is hot, use another exit.

Purchase an A-B-C fire extinguisher and learn how to use it by remembering the acronym: PASS, PULL the pin, AIM the extinguisher, SQUEEZE or press the handle, SWEEP side to side at the base of the fire. (The rating is based on the fuel. A is a wood or paper fire; B is caused by flammable liquids; C is an electrical fire.)

James Pendergast,

Fire Chief

From the Food Bank

On behalf of the FOOD BANK we would like to sincerely thank all those who supported us on BELL ISLAND DAY. Again this year it was a great success.

Our donors who we wish to thank are as follows:
Yicks Service Store
Skanes-Foodland
Slades-Foodtown
Hurleys
Island Hide-A-Way
Dicks
Clarkes
Marilyn's -- Personal Touch
Tina's Unisex Styling
Noseworthy's--Hair Design
Debbie's--Modern Hair Design
My Friend's Place
Stoyles

Thank you to the RCMP for their coat, cap and horn. Also the council and the WBGC for the use of their chairs, tables and mesh for the Jail & Bail.

A special thanks to our volunteers Eileen Power, Shirley Murphy (who celebrated her 49th on July 17th) Ida Noseworthy, Marion Whalen, Mary

Dunne, Sarah Inglehart, Sandra Curnew, Ashley Fowler, Christine Tulk, Kathy Tulk, Lee Coady, Ros Verge and Bonnie Mercer.

Tony Noseworthy, Jeremy Harnum, Mark Fowler, Jason Fowler and John Bursey, we are very grateful for all your help. (GREAT JOB BOYS) Without the support of all you people it would not have been such a great success.

Winners of the ticket draws on the field were as follows: doll, boat tour and craft, drawn by Amanda Inglehart and won by Jessie White ticket #61. Draw on a night for two at Island Hide-A-Way B&B was won by Brad Squires ticket #285614. Congratulations and thank you.

It is time again when we have to say good bye to one of our great friends, Sergeant Ron Andrews, is leaving. We wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavours. He will be missed by us and not soon forgotten.

We would like to welcome

Constable Colleen Donovan who will be working with us for the next few years. We hope your stay will be a memorable one for you and us. We are looking forward to getting to know you. **GOOD LUCK.**

From the Town of Wabana
CHLORINATION:

Residents are advised that the boil order is still in place for the town. The contractor involved in installing the chlorination systems at our pump houses has almost completed their work.

The chlorination systems should be ready to go in early December. Notices will be posted to advise residents when the chlorination systems are installed and connected into our water supply.

**PAVING/ROAD
UPGRADING:**

Council was successful in securing funding under the 50/50 cost-sharing arrangement to pave and upgrade seven (7) local roads. The roads are:

Conway St.
Galway St.
Perry's Lane
Bowdring's Road

Snow's Lane
Shea's Lane
Kitchen's Lane

Due to the late tender closing and the weather, the paving/road upgrading has been postponed until next spring. The company involved in the paving/road-upgrading program has installed some ditching and new culverts.

Council is looking forward to having this work fully completed before next summer.

ASSESSMENTS:

All property owners in the town have received new assessment notices from the Municipal Assessment Agency in St. John's. There have been some changes to the assessments for some residents.

LIGHTHOUSE:

The Canadian Coast Guard has engaged contractors to demolish the lighthouse and relocate the light keeper's residence to a new location up the hill from the original site.

A new lighthouse has been constructed with many artifacts in place. The foghorn, light, and tower

have been relocated to the new building.

The original site of the lighthouse and light keeper's residence has been declared unsafe and a danger to the public. This site will be restored to its original state and the road will be closed to prevent people from entering this area. Future plans are ongoing to enhance and develop this area for residents and visitors to our island.

**DIANNE WHALEN,
MHA:**

Council wishes to offer its congratulations to our newly- elected MHA for Conception Bay East-Bell Island, Ms. Dianne Whalen. Ms. Whalen has been appointed to cabinet as Minister of Government Services and Lands, and Minister responsible for the Strategic Social Plan. This comes as very good news for our community. Council is looking forward to establishing a good working relationship with our minister and wishes her many years of successful and rewarding achievements.

News from the Bakery Committee

THANKS - YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!

The Bakery Committee of the Bell Island Community Development Cooperative (known to us all as the Co-op) take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in our new project "Breakfast at the Bakery" this past summer.

Our intention in setting up the breakfast program was twofold - to introduce people to the bakery and the cooperative, and to begin the refurbishment of this small bakery, which for so many years has been part of and provided employment in this community.

We are delighted to announce that our goal was met and exceeded by the generosity of Bell Islanders and visitors who took part in our "Breakfast at the Bakery" promotion. This gave us the opportunity to reintroduce the cooperative, the bakery, its products and our two bakers who are the finest to be found anywhere!

Today, the "Rolling Pin

Bakery" opposite the hospital boats five new windows recently installed by another Bell Island professional. This could not have happened without your support - and each of us who holds a voluntary position on the Board of the Bell Island Community Development Cooperative share the enthusiasm of our bakers and our customers as we envision the continued refurbishment of our bakery in the coming weeks and months.

Watch for us as we continue our fundraising projects - which will see the deli area refurbished, and the bakery area upgraded with a new air conditioner which is desperately needed. New tables and chairs come next, as well as new flooring and repainting of the entire area. It's YOUR Co-op and your year-round support of our products, as well as our fundraising efforts and on its behalf very much appreciated.

Our Membership Program as well as our external Loan Capital Program will be re-introduced in the

coming year. We look forward to a great year ahead with our bakery, deli and, of course, our Senior's Complex!

To each of you and your families, best wishes for the coming holiday season and the year ahead. We look forward to your continued support, which allows our Cooperative, our bakery and our Seniors Complex to remain active in our community.

**Kay Coxworthy
Secretary
The Bell Island Co-op**

FROM THE 'KIDS OF CAMP STARFISH'

Another great year for this camp sponsored by the environmental group Ocean Net. This was our second year, and we were able to run a four-week environmental day camp, while the two students hired worked for six weeks to both set up the agenda, receive training by Kay Coxworthy, Executive Director of Ocean Net and to report on the problems and successes encountered by the camp group.

During the four weeks of

the Camp, which took place in the basement of St. Mary's Church in Lance Cove during July-August 2003, the young people who took part (ages 8-12) were involved in a full and varied Agenda of environmental and civic activity that was supported by the parents, as well as groups and businesses on the island.

Special thanks for outstanding support of Camp Starfish goes out to new Environment Minister Tom Osbourne, who as an opposition MHA supported our application to hire the two student, Camp Counselors, Tammy Petten and Ashley Bennett. We're also very grateful to our former MHA Jim Walsh who provided lunch for the kids on two occasions. Thanks also to Carol Bennett and Janet Bickford who took on the voluntary task of supervising both the campers and counselors, especially during their visit to the Wabana Volunteer Fire Department and the outing to St. John's as well as the final week of the camp.

Our thanks also to the congregation of St. Mary's

Church in Lance Cove, the Co-op Bakery, and to "My Friends Place" as well as the Wabana Volunteer Fire Department on Bell Island for their support of the young people of "Camp Starfish 2003".

**Kay Coxworthy
Bell Island
November 21, 2003**

Thank You - We Didn't Forget

Many thanks to The Knights of Columbus of Bell Island and Father Dohey who organized an Appreciation Ceremony at St. Michael's Parish for the RCMP and Volunteer Fire Department of Bell Island on May 8, 2003.

Bike Rodeo

We would like to thank the following for their volunteered support and donations to this worthwhile event, your continued support is appreciated.

Skanes Enterprises Inc.
Ridgeway Variety
Skane's Foodland
Kiwanis Club
My Friend's Place
Hunts Distributing
Wabana Boys & Girls Club

Foodbank Staff
Gosine's Trucking Ltd.
V.O.C.M.
Home Hardware
Hurley's Distributing
Tom Spracklin

Court News

A 43 year old man faces charges of assault with a weapon, mischief and two counts of breach of undertaking when he attends court on April 7, 2004.

A 53 year old male faces a charge of assault and 2 charges of probation. He is set to attend court on April 14, 2004 to answer to these charges.

June

A 52 year old Bell Island man was charged and convicted of Impaired Driving and was sentenced to 9 months in jail and probation for 3 years and prohibited driving for 5 years.

A 17 year old male was convicted of Theft, Breach of Probation, and Unlawful Possession of Liquor, June 13.

A 17 year old female has

been charged with assault.

A disturbance at a local club has resulted in a 51 year old Bell Island man being charged with assault.

July

On July 7th, a 30 year old male appeared in court for the charge of Assault Causing Bodily Harm and received 1 year probation and a 30 day conditional sentence.

On July 12th, a 33 year old male was charged with impaired driving. This male appeared in court on September 5th and received a \$1000 fine and is prohibited from driving for one year.

On July 13th, a 51 year old male was charged with assault. Trial is set for December 17th.

On July 16th a 17 year old male was charged with Sexual Interference and trial is set for March 11th, 2004.

A 29 year old male is facing a charge of uttering threats after an incident on July 28th. This man will appear in court on March 23, 2004.

August

A 32 year old male was convicted of impaired driving. The man who attended court on August 8th, received 21 days in custody and is prohibited from driving for a period of 2 years.

On August 11th a 20 year old male was charged for Breach of Recognizance. The male appeared in court on August 13th, and received 14 days in jail.

On August 18th, a 32 year old male was charged with impaired driving. The male appeared in court on September 5th, and received a \$600 fine and is prohibited from driving for one year.

On August 23rd, a 17 year old male was charged with two counts of assault, one count of uttering threats and four counts of breach of an undertaking. This male plead guilty and a pre-sentence report will be heard before the Judge on March 11th, 2004.

A 36 year old man was charged on August 25th with impaired driving. The matter is still before the court.

A 44 year old male was convicted of assault and obstruct police when he appeared in court on August 28th. The judge handed down a total of \$500 in fines and placed the man on 1 year probation.

September

On September 4th, a 40 year old female was charged with assault and property damage. She appeared in court on October 29th and received a suspended sentence, 1 year probation, and a \$50 fine.

On September 8th, a 58 year old male was charged for impaired driving. Trial set is set for April 15th, 2004.

On September 12th, a 38 year old male was sentenced to 366 days in jail for cultivation of cannabis marihuana and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

On September 18th, a 48 year old male was charged with 2 counts of breaching his undertaking. The male appeared in court on September 26th, and received 21 days in jail.

October

On October 1st, a 30 year old male was charged for assault. The male will appear in court on November 26th to enter a plea.

On October 8th, a 47 year old male was charged with supplying liquor to minors and will appear in court on November 26th to enter a plea.

On October 10th, a 73 year old male was charged with providing liquor to a minor. Plea date is set for December 3rd.

On October 13th, a 37 year old male was charged for impaired driving. Court date has been set for November 28th.

November

On November 10th, an 18 year old female was charged with assault and uttering threats. She will enter a plea to the court on December 17th.

On November 12th, a 43 year old male appeared for trial for breaching his probation. He received 14 days in jail and 2 years probation.

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.

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 or **Cst. Colleen Donovan** at Colleen.Donovan@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. We can also be reached at the RCMP Detachment at 116 Memorial Street.
Or: (709) 488-3312