

# *The Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter*

**The Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Avalon East District - Bell Island Detachment  
Executive Editor: Cst. Colleen Donovan**

**October 2004**

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

Please read this in every classroom:

Holy Cow it just seems like I was just congratulating our Grade 12's for finishing school now we are discussing school being back in. Where did the summer go? I bet that is what most kids are complaining to their parents. But parents aren't complaining because school is back in...I bet!

It is about this same time that schools start calling about incidents of damage, petty things really in the larger context of life but none the less important to our community. In fact it seems like this time of year is season for damage at our signs, our community buildings and other places. This senseless type of

behaviour appears every year at the same time and for me it is a new type or series of crimes that I am less familiar with. Sure I have seen most types of crimes and have a fairly good understanding of the individuals who commit these certain crimes but never have I seen a community who raise such a large group of vandals. Especially a community who are so proud in their roots and heritage. That sounds a bit rough but lets look at some facts.

Bell Island enjoys a relatively low crime rate. At times crime is hard to locate at all. Good for us! That is a great trait to have as a community. The types of Criminal Code crime that does exist isn't necessarily violent as some communities are. Good again! We have a normal amount of traffic crime and

other breaches of the Highway Traffic Act. We are also in line with the rest of the province as far as other provincial laws (statutes) such as the Liquor Control Act, etc...but in the midst of all this are a number of teens who for no reason or motive want to beat up public or private property. Over the past three or four weekends we have at least three complaints of vandalism. We have had two small building fires and countless incidents of apple throwing at vehicles and similar foolishness.

Lets first make clear that the teen dances are not to blame nor is the sugar or carbs consumed at the dance. Possibly it is the coming of age of certain teens who are looking for attention after growing a little over the summer or trying to impress a certain

one or group. They might feel that they are coming into a period of growth where an identity is important. Well here is a news flash you can read to each of your students in school: **Malicious Damage does not get you a girlfriend or boyfriend. It does nothing to create positive relationships. It does not get you a position in the community. It makes people pity and laugh at you behind your back. It costs money to fix and often times the same money that would benefit you or your family members elsewhere. But not now since you wasted it - it is gone. Any idiot can break a window no problem. The window gets fixed and who remembers the window. No one. Who remembers you were acting like an idiot...everyone. The act has no importance. It is the actor who we feel sorry for.**

**P.S. If it is attention you need the police will give you all you want. You will be caught. Someone always talks! Respect to you only comes when you show respect to others.**

**Cpl. Boyd Merrill**

***THANKS FROM  
YOUR CO-OP  
BAKERY!***

Our summer breakfast program has once again ended for another year, and your support enabled us to purchase a new air conditioner for the bakery. Thanks to all who came each week, enjoyed our breakfast and contributed to our fund. Because of you, our bakers are working in air-conditioned comfort! Unfortunately someone tried to break into our premises recently and in the process smashed one of the new windows that we worked so hard to provide during our 2003 program. It's sad that such things happen in our community but the truth of the matter is that this is a regular occurrence in our town and others throughout the province and wiser groups than ours have tried to find solutions to no avail. We can only hope that this type of activity doesn't happen again and each of us will work with the RCMP to help keep our island home safe from this type of vandalism.

We enjoyed our few months offering the breakfast program. It was a great way for us to meet so many visitors to the island, and especially those who are returning to retire here. Welcome back, we're delighted to have you and you'll find we're a friendly bunch and Bell Island is a wonderful place to live.

Now that the breakfast program has ended, your Co-op Board is busy making plans for the months ahead as much needs to be done to continue refurbishing the bakery. If anyone reading this would like to serve on the Board of your Community Coop, please get in touch with any of us. Leave your name with Elaine or Georgina at the bakery and we'll be in touch! If any of you have ideas for fundraisers, again that information would be most helpful.

Again, a big vote of thanks to each and every one who dropped by to have breakfast and help with our fundraiser this summer. Special thanks to VOCM personality Paul McGee

who came over with his family and helps promote our great bakery products every chance he gets! Thanks to people like our "Toutin' Queen" Norma Higdon who never missed a Saturday morning at the bakery for her special breakfast of the best toutins on the go while her faithful little dog sat outside waiting for her and snoozing in the sunshine! It was also a great way to catch up with the news of so many old friends and to make new ones, and together we helped our bakers continue to provide this community with some of the best baked goods available anywhere. I, for one, never went home on a Saturday morning without a supply of cream puffs and toutin' dough!

Keep supporting your bakery and your Coop in the coming year and may Bell Island continue to grow and prosper!

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

### ***The Lighter Side***

The Officer says, "I clocked you at 80 mph. sir."

The driver says, "Gee, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60, perhaps your radar needs calibrating." Not looking up from her knitting the wife says sweetly, "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control." As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you keep your mouth closed for once?" The wife smiles demurely and says, "You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did." As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Darnit woman, can't you keep your mouth closed." The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine." The driver says, "Yeah, well you see officer, I had it on, but took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket." The wife says, "Now dear you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving." And

as the police officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife and barks, "WHY DON'T YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED??" The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?" "Oh heavens no, officer. Only when he's been drinking".

**Submitted by Cst. C.C. Donovan**

### ***Bell Island Ferry Users Committee***

#### **October 2004 Report from Ed Kent**

##### **1. Committee executive meets:**

On September 26, 2004 the Committee executive met to discuss emerging issues. A full of agenda of items were dealt with including the adoption of positions if Government continues to pursue options to downsize the service. In particular while the continuance of the 2-vessel service is considered a certainty and untouchable, the Committee is prepared to be flexible to modify the winter schedule if traffic

levels fall off. The Committee remains opposed to further rate increases and is committed to holding the Government to a commitment to build a new vessel to replace the Hamilton Sound.

The Committee expressed its frustration that the ferry docks were not been properly maintained to ensure maximum safety at the docks; disappointed that the ferry signs activation was still not addressed and that ferry line-up lane painting was not yet completed. The Committee adopted a position to oppose phase 2 of the previously announced 2005 ferry rate increase.

**2. Economic development meetings attended:**

The Committee was pleased to have participated in the economic development meetings convened by Minister Dianne Whalen at the Wabana Complex. The meetings were well attended. A full airing of the opportunities for further economic development were discussed. The Committee made a presentation identifying the ferry service as the foundation of Bell

Island's economy and stating its opposition to any reductions in service and the need for a new replacement vessel for the Hamilton Sound.

Additional follow-up meetings are planned in October and November and those interested in participating and contributing their time and ideas should call Paul Connors at Island Advisory Services, Mayor Gary Gosine or Myrle Vokey –executive assistant to Minister Whalen

**3. Ferry resolution passes:**

The Committee is pleased that the Mayor with the encouragement of the Committee has presented a 2004 ferry service issues resolution to the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Municipalities. The Federation held its annual meeting on the weekend of October 10 and unanimously adopted the resolution as outlined below.

**2004 Convention Resolution-Intra-Provincial Ferry Services: Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of**

**Municipalities**

**TO SEEK HONOURING OF COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCT NEW FERRIES**

\* To replace 30 to 40 year old unsafe ferry vessels and to end a 15 year construction freeze

\* To target a reduction to schedule disruptions and expensive breakdowns

\* To ensure refits of ferries at dockyards are planned and carried out effectively

**TO SEEK STRIKE FREE FERRY SERVICE STATUS**

\* To have Government adopt the same policy as the Gulf service, ensuring no schedule reductions due to a strike

\* To advocate on the Intra-Provincial service the same policy as the Gulf ferry service

**TO SECURE HIGHWAY DESIGNATION FOR FERRY ROUTES**

\* To seek Provincial road designation and equivalent treatment ferry routes

**TO HAVE PROMISED  
LOWER FERRY RATES  
IMPLEMENTED**

- \* To have Government implement equivalent cost of road travel policy
- \* To seek the honouring of the Blue Book Policy- Phased lowered rates over 5 years
- \* To ensure " Do as we say (Gulf), not as we do (Intra-Provincial).

**TO HAVE A FAIR  
APPLICATION OF  
FERRY RATES**

- \* To ensure rates when increased are implemented as approved
- In 2004 for example a 10% increase on some rates was implemented as high as 18%
- \* To secure comparable rate discounts on all services for seniors and students Province wide.

**TO ENRICH FERRY  
SCHEDULES AND TO  
OPPOSE SCHEDULE  
CUTS**

- \* To prevent schedule cuts that harm island economies,

tourism and jobs

**TO SEEK A FAIR  
RESOLUTION OF  
LABRADOR FERRY  
SERVICES**

- \* To support considerate policies respecting the best delivery of service to Labrador communities

**TO URGE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FOR  
40 FERRY  
CONNECTED TOWNS**

- \* To seek policies to support industries (fish processing and tourism) for ferry connected towns
- \* To dispel out migration policies that are not acceptable to Newfoundland and Labrador as a Province on the Gulf service and neither are they acceptable for the intra-provincial services.
- \* To seek ferry services those are accessible, affordable and safe

**4. Committee members:**

Gary Gosine, Alexa Laurie, David Brazil, Keith Kent, Boyd Merrill, Tony Power and Ed Kent may be contacted if you have ferry

service issues or concerns

***Dear Parishioners and  
Friends of St.  
Michael's Parish:***

I wish to sincerely thank the editorial staff of our regular newsletter for their kindness in allowing us the opportunity to submit our monthly contribution to the newsletter and to give our parish the opportunity to convey important issues and concerns.

During the past few months, our parish pastoral council have discussed the importance of completing a parish census. This is a major task but it is essential to have completed. The purpose of the updated census is for the parish to have a registry of the number of Roman Catholics in our community and to have basic information available when the need should arise. The purpose of this information is to have statistics for parish use only . It is a benefit to have such a census so that in the event that I need to contact parishioners especially in emergencies , I can avail of the

information. All information is private.

During the coming month, several parishioners will visit your home . They will ask you general questions concerning the number of Roman Catholics in your household and other public information such as your address and telephone number. I am sure they will visit homes that are not of our faith, tradition but I trust you will offer them courtesy and respect. I ask that if you are not home during their visit, you will return the call to our parish and offer to participate in the census.

Another issue of importance is that all children who are of the Roman Catholic faith, I ask that you register for the Home Religion Program especially for the sacraments of Eucharist, Penance and Confirmation. The programs are beginning very soon. Please call the parish office for further information.

I encourage all parishioners to join us for our weekly mass: Saturday 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Together , let us rekindle the spirit of faith

in our families and do our best to make Christ a welcomed guest into our lives.

**Sincerely:  
Father Wayne Dohey**

### ***NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF WABANA***

Council thanks our HHA, Honourable Dianne Whalen, for her assistance in having a paving program carried out this year on Bell Island. An excellent job was done in having West Mines Road and other streets paved, and the contractor who completed the work should be commended.

Council had seven new roads paved this year and the roads have been upgraded. Many of those roads were in very poor condition and long overdue to be repaired.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE RE: DUMP SITE:**

Effective Oct. 4, 2004, the dump site will be closed on Saturdays.

All household garbage and

debris will be covered at the dump site.

All businesses and residents are advised to bring garbage and debris to the dump site before 2:30pm each day so council employees can clean up the site and make sure all garbage is land filled.

The dump site hours of operation are from 7:30am to 2:30pm, Monday to Friday each week. Exceptions apply when certain Mondays are observed as holidays.

Council wishes to thank residents for their patience and understanding regarding the change over at the dump site. The dump site will be open on Saturdays again next spring.

#### **EXPLORATION PROJECT**

Council approved an Exploration Permit for Provincial Energy Ventures Inc. for bulk sampling at three sites in our town. This company has removed the material and shipped it off Bell Island. This material

will now be crushed and the crushed samples will be sent to the USA for testing. The company is interested in the waste tips material stockpiled around town. Any further requests from this company will require additional permits from all government departments and council.

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND  
LABRADOR  
FEDERATION OF  
MUNICIPALITIES:**

The weekend of Oct. 7th to 10th was the annual convention for the NLFM and held in St. John's. Our council members attended this convention and the workshops, meetings, and all events were excellent. This is a good opportunity for over 380 municipalities to get together, share ideas, concerns, lobby government and receive valuable information on new services or programs that are available for our town. This year our council again called on government for improvements to the ferry service and received the full support of the federation in our ongoing efforts.

**COME HOME YEAR**

Meetings have been held and plans are underway to have numerous activities next year during July and August. New posters have been made and will be distributed soon around Ontario and around town. Please contact the council office if you wish to be included in the calendar of events for next year.

**MHA, HONOURABLE  
DIANNE WHALEN:**

Council wishes to thank our MHA, Honourable Dianne Whalen, for hosting the meeting at the Wabana Complex on Oct. 6, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to invite representatives from Federal and Provincial Governments, local groups, organizations, and community volunteers to discuss future development and growth for Bell Island. More meetings are planned and council is very encouraged with our MHA taking such an active role.

**CHLORINATION  
SYSTEMS**

All of our pumping stations now have chlorination systems installed and chlorine has been added to

our water supply over the past few months. The boil order is still in effect until further notice.

**ARENA**

Our Arena Manager is working hard carrying out repairs, maintenance and getting ready for the upcoming ice activity season. He is hoping to have the ice ready the end of October or the first week of November. Please encourage your friends, family and everyone to get involved this year with the many programs offered, such as Minor Hockey, Figure Skating, Recreation Hockey, etc..Your support will be sincerely appreciated.

**SANTA CLAUS  
PARADE**

Council would like to remind businesses, groups, organizations and residents that the Santa Claus Parade event is just around the corner. This year you are encouraged to make a special effort to take part, build a float or whatever you feel like doing for the parade. Children love to see a parade. This year make it a priority on your

list of things to do.

**Mayor Gary Gosine**

***Bell Island Kiwanis Club***

The Bell island Kiwanis Club has been very active and visible within our community. We have enjoyed a busy yet beneficial summer. Our club was a co-sponsor of the very successful Bike Rodeo in June along with the RCMP and other local businesses and organizations. A good effort was noted by all and a great deal of thanks goes out to all who made this event a success.

The Kiwanis also were involved in three Motocross events on the Bell Meadow over the summer months. Fund-raising was done by our members through a toll booth and a canteen. The monies raised went to four separate charities on our Island. Thanks again to all who supported these events and the moneys given to help others.

Our club was active on Bell Island Day raising money in our chance booth. Special thanks to "Shaggy" Morgan

and friends for their support and assistance helping us sell tickets.

We would like to extend an invitation to all who would like to volunteer one night a week for fellowship, learning and community service to join our club. Kiwanis Clubs and their members are dedicated to helping young people and their projects and our club has been very successful in doing so. Please think about joining and talk to our members about same. The commitment is small. The amount of effort is minimal but the rewards are great. You can contact President Gary Gosine or Club Secretary Boyd Merrill for further information.

"It doesn't matter what you do....what matters is what you do for others!"

**Cpl. Boyd Merrill**

***Message From Our MHA***

It is hard to believe that within a week or so the clocks will go back and our thoughts will be focused on Christmas preparations! This has been a very busy

summer for my Department (Government Services) and for my district as well.

I was very pleased to see much needed road improvements completed on Bell Island this past summer with paving done on West Mines Road, Quigley's Line and Memorial Street. I was happy to assist in the renovation and maintenance work done at the Wabana Boys and Girls Club, and to provide assistance to Island Advisory Services, Bell Island Brighter Futures, The Food Bank, St. Michael's Parish and several other community groups.

At the Provincial level we are reviewing ATV legislation and finding ways to improve and provide better control in that area. I wish to commend the RCMP on Bell Island for their "Zero Tolerance" approach in protecting the citizens and environment in the use of ATV's.

During the summer I had the pleasure and honor to participate in a number of

social activities on Bell Island including ceremonies at the Lance Cove Memorial, The War Memorial, and the official unveiling of the beautiful Monument at the Bell Island Sports Hall of Fame.

On Wednesday, October 6, 2004, at the Wabana Complex I participated in a Town Hall meeting with citizens and representatives from various organizations. Over thirty people attended the meeting and we made a very successful beginning towards planning and shaping a successful future for the island. Thank you to all those who participated.

During the past four months my office responded to approximately eighty inquiries, and requests for information and assistance as well as commentary and advice regarding the future success of the island. We value your input and support.

One year has passed since the provincial election and we have made progress in several areas. As we move forward I ask for your continued support and cooperation. Through working together, I know we

can build a brighter future for the residents of Bell Island.

The Hon. Dianne Whalen,  
MHA, Conception Bay  
East & Bell Island Minister

### ***Food for Thought.....***

Woman to Woman  
Encouragement or even  
Woman to Man or Man to  
Woman Encouragement.....

Sometimes in the morning when it is hard to get out of bed and the day ahead just doesn't look good and you wonder why you struggle to make it through the day, you go to work and find a note from a friend on your computer or on you desk and it reads:

Someone will always be better looking

They will always be smarter

Their house will be bigger

They will drive a better car

Their children will do better in school

Their husband/wife will fix

or do more things around the house.

So let it go, and love you and your circumstances.

Think about it.

The best looking person in the world can have pain in their heart and the most highly favoured person on you job may be unable to have children

The richest person you know - they've got the car, the house, the clothes and might be lonely

And the Word says "if I have not Love, I am nothing."

So again, love you,  
Love who you are right now

"Winners make things happen. Losers let things happen."

To the world you might be one person, but to one person, you just might be the **WORLD**

Or you could open a Christmas card with a little package on your desk and find an **ANGEL** along with the following

note:

## YOU ARE SPECIAL

“Special” is a word that is used to describe something one of a kind like a hug or a sunset or a person who spreads love with a smile or a kind gesture.

“Special” describes people who act from the heart and keep in mind the hearts of others.

“Special” applies to something that is admired and precious and which can never be replaced.

“Special” is the word that best describes you.

Then you know that it is friends like those who make you want to go on and who help you make it through the day.

Author Unknown

**Submitted by: Dale Fitzgerald**

### *Early History of Bell Island - Part 2*

The journey was a long one - a matter of six storm tossed weeks - in which they were delayed by a succession of

strong headed winds. But at last, nearing Eastertide, the sun broke through the clouds to show the high wooded cliffs guarding the entrance to the land locked harbour of St. John's.

They passed through the Narrows and cast anchor in the sheltered port. Later the vessel was moored at one of the wharves and part of its cargo discharged. Then it was around to Hr. Grace where the remainder was landed. That summer Gregory Normore shipped out as shareman and fished along the ledge off the east end of Bell Island where cod abounded.

It seems a natural conclusion that the young Jerseyman was strongly attracted by the tree-clothed Island with its high cliffs, which must have reminded him of his native home. Its attraction was greatly strengthened for him when he went ashore there for the first time in the summer of 1740. The fishermen with whom he worked used the beach on the southern side of the Island to dry their fish. It was ideally situated for that purpose as it was sheltered from the cold northerly wind by high

cliffs and received plenty of warm sun for drying the fish spread out along the sandy shore. A few shacks had been built there in the shadow of the cliff, but were used only in the fishing season. After spreading out the fish, and while they were waiting for it to dry, what was more natural than that young Normore and his companions would wish to see more of the Island on which they worked.

The well-wooded slope rising from the beach - one of the few places by which the island can be climbed - struck Gregory Normore as an ideal place to build a house. There was running water and plenty of shelter there. But what probably impressed him most of all was the soil. He could tell from his experience as a farmer that here was rich land which could provide him with a comfortable living, combined with the harvest of the sea nearby.

That Fall he decided to remain behind when his fellow fishermen left for home. Before leaving they helped him to begin the construction of a house on the Beach Hill among the

woods which so impressed him that Summer. From the thick groves of fir, spruce, birch and witch hazel, he cut and sawed the wood he needed for the sills and posts, the beams, rafters and walls of his new home. He spent a lonely winter there separated from his nearest neighbours at Portugal Cove by three miles of stormy water. But he completed the inside of his house that winter, rowing or sailing his boat to Little Bell Isle between periods of fishing to procure the stones he needed for the wide fire-place. He cemented them in place with home-made mortar and with his own hands wrought the heavy dog irons and made the furniture.

When spring came he sailed to Carbonear and there wooed and won a girl named White, the daughter of an English planter. From that union came several daughters and five sturdy sons, whose names were Henry, Gregory, Edward, Robert and Oliver. Those names have been handed down through their dependents to this day.

Gregory Normore, the pioneer, died in 1785 and his

headstone, made of grey English sandstone imported from the Old Country, is still to be seen in the old Church of England cemetery at a high point of land on the Beach Hill over-looking the ground he was the first to own. The inscription on the stone, still legible after the wear and stress of 179 years, when this article was written, reads as follows:

“In memory of Gregory Normore of Great Belle Isle who died the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1785, aged 66 years. He lived respected and died lamented”.

In due course others came to settle on the Island in the wake of the Normores -----  
-To be continued.

**Submitted by: Don Squires**

***Newfoundland  
Definitions: Do you  
speak the language?***

Word:

- A. Glutch
- B. Yaffle
- C. Brieze
- D. Quid
- E. Bedlammer

- F. Angishore
- G. Twack
- H. Duckish
- I. Swig
- J. Scruff

Definition:

\_\_\_\_\_. To press down firmly

\_\_\_\_\_. A seal one year old

\_\_\_\_\_. A weak, miserable person detested by all

\_\_\_\_\_. An armful of dried fish

\_\_\_\_\_. The time between sunset and dark

\_\_\_\_\_. A chew of tobacco

\_\_\_\_\_. To drink straight from the bottle

\_\_\_\_\_. The back of the neck

\_\_\_\_\_. To examine goods but not buy nothing

\_\_\_\_\_. To swallow with difficulty.

**Question Time:**

Has anyone ever set foot on the famous “Bell” rock, located off the western corner of the Island?

Yes or No? If yes, answer the following questions about the episode.

Who?

\_\_\_\_\_

When?

Where were he/she/it from?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Wabana Boys & Girls Club**  
**“Every Kid Has Potential”**

Starting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Boys & Girls Club became a JUNK FOOD FREE ZONE. At our recent Annual General Meeting the clubs received statistics showing that, out of all provinces in Canada, Newfoundland has the highest rate of child obesity. After seeing these stats, Boys & Girls Clubs of Newfoundland & Labrador decided to become junk food free. So, as of the above date there will be no junk food in the canteen and the members will not be permitted to enter the building with junk food. We ask that the parents support the club in this decision and explain the purpose of healthy snacks to your children.

The Youth Volunteers would like to thank all who supported their Flea Market on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and remind you that they will be having another Flea Market on Tuesday November 30<sup>th</sup>. So, once you start your Christmas clean up, maybe you’ll find some items that

have been collecting dust for sometime, you mightn’t know what to do with it, then maybe you’ll like to give it to the Youth Volunteers for their Flea Market/Cookie Sale.

Our Annual Fall Fair will start on Thursday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and end with a Fun Day for the kids on Sunday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. The Fair will consist of Bingos, Fun Day, Card Game, and many different booths. There will also be a Bell Island PIE THROWING AUCTION.

Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our Annual breakfast with Santa. The cost of breakfast will be \$2.00 and any one wishing to have pictures taken it will be additional \$2.00 for 3 pictures. Breakfast & pictures will be from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Congratulations to our Boy (Brad Gorman) & Girl (Jessica Rees) of the Month for September and also, to Jennifer Lewis, who was chosen Star of The Month for the Homework Room. We ask the public, especially the parents of our members, to keep our Fund Raising Projects in mind. Your support is very

important to our organization.

**Submitted by: Joe Somerton**

***A Message From Your Community Owned Co-operative***

*“Bell Islanders have also been, as sociologists say, [empowered]. They have proof they can do for themselves what big business and successive governments failed to do. The island that refused to die has fashioned one more weapon it can use in the struggle for economic and social survival.”*

Rick Hayes wrote these words in an article that appeared in the March 1990 edition of the Atlantic Co-operator. He was, of course, writing about the community development process in the early 80's that led to the formation of the Bell Island Community Development Co-operative. Many residents may not remember but it took almost five years, thousands of hours of volunteer work (some of you might remember our “kitchen” meetings), and

close to \$300,000 in investment by the co-op and governments to create the first five permanent jobs on Bell Island since the closing of DOSCO in the mid 60's.

Forming our co-op and making both our Senior Citizen's Housing Complex and our bakery a reality was not easy. Thankfully, the Bell Island of today is not the desolate, depressing, and despondent Bell Island of the 60's, 70'. In the early 80's, a handful of people wanted to change the mind-set of the community and awaken the people to take their destiny into their own hands. They embarked on a grassroots and somewhat lengthy “community development process”. The success of that process was abundantly clear on December 2, 1984 when almost 300 Bell Islanders gathered at the CLB Armoury to formally endorse the formation of the Co-operative. The Co-operative was officially incorporated under the Provincial Co-operative Societies Act on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1985.

Our two initial projects

were the bakery and seniors housing complex. Much of 1986 was devoted to the housing project and our efforts culminated on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1986 with the signing of a \$637,200 contract with NLHC. The complex was opened in May of 1988 and is administered by a separate non-profit corporation. The idea of a bakery actually has its roots as far back as a February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1983 public meeting to form the Bell Island Resource Development Committee. After a litany of difficulties and setbacks, our bakery finally opened on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1989.

If forming our co-op was difficult, maintaining it has been even more challenging. The monumental volunteer effort to form this co-op and then establish a housing complex and our first business venture (the bakery) took its toll in the form of volunteer burnout. As well, the board was not as prepared for the business aspect of the co-op as it should have been and, consequently, struggled through a number of start-up difficulties. In fact, if not for the perseverance of a

couple of volunteers and the hard work of our staff, the bakery would have closed. Perhaps the most significant aspect of all of this is that the board was preoccupied from its important function of continuing to build community support for the co-op and its aims and objectives.

This past year and a half has seen our bakery stabilize thanks, in part, to increased sales on Bell Island. It is time now to begin a process to rejuvenate and re-energize the co-operative. The remaining people on the present board believe this process can start with a successful and well-attended Annual General Meeting (AGM). To that end, we plan to convene an AGM on **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004**. The meeting will be held at **St. Augustine's School** and will begin at **2:30 PM**. Should a quorum (25 members) not be present on that date, the meeting will be rescheduled for the following Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at the same time and any number shall constitute a quorum. To help the new board start on

a solid foundation, we have obtained funding to do a day and a half training module on strategic planning. This session will be conducted within weeks after the AGM.

This co-op now needs people. We need new members to buy shares (\$10 per share) and join the co-op. We need members and non-members to support the bakery by being a customer. Finally, we need members to attend our AGM on **November 14<sup>th</sup>** to conduct the business of the co-operative.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our formation meeting and January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our incorporation. On this November 16<sup>th</sup>, the bakery will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Perhaps a newly formed and motivated board of directors can use these milestones to reconnect with the community and bring this co-operative to the next level! I know that the skills and leadership required to achieve this are in this community. I would ask that you, members and

non-members alike, attend our AGM on November 14<sup>th</sup> and provide the much-needed motivation to a new board to begin the process to rejuvenate and re-energize our Bell Island Community Development Co-operative. Ultimately, the success or failure of this co-operative and its only business venture –the bakery- is in the hands of the entire community! To quote Mr. Sam Kean, former Registrar of Co-operatives, who spoke at our formation on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1984: **“Co-ops don't fail people; people fail co-ops”**.

**Submitted by: Ken  
Kavanaugh**

### ***Possible Firearms Licence Safety Courses***

We are presently seeking persons who may be interested in getting a Firearms Safety Course to Bell Island so that one would be able to apply for a **Possession Only Licence** (The old name was a FAC) or a **Possession and Acquisition Licence**.

We would need a significant amount of

persons in order that a course be done here on the Island. A good number would be around 24 or more. Also there has been an interest in developing a Rod and Gun Club on the Island. It could happen here quite easily. Some of the functions at a Rod and Gun Club might be .22 calibre competitive shooting at an approved range to be developed on the Island.

Cpl. Merrill has a background in setting up Rod and Gun Clubs. He has been a member of three clubs in Newfoundland one of which he developed. He is a certified Firearms Verifier and a Basic Firearms Instructor as well as an approved Range Officer. If you are interested in such activities please phone the RCMP between Monday and Friday and leave your name and phone number. We will be looking to have a course in the New Year possibly in February if interest is there.

**Submitted by: Cpl. Merrill**

***RCMP Alerts: Latest Email Fraud Threatens Extortion***

RCMP is alerting the Province of a new trend in fraudulent emails that threatens to have the receiver assassinated if a payment is not made.

This type of message started circulating on the Internet several months ago and has now appeared in Nova Scotia. It is a new variation of commonly called "419 frauds" or a type of fraud which originated in West Africa but is now orchestrated from around the world. These emails attempt to defraud recipients of money in various ways including promise of free money or prizes, through "over payment" of items a person might be selling, or through requests for assistance in transferring funds from foreign countries, and now through threats of extortion. "Although it sounds threatening and may frighten some people, the messages are SPAM mail and should not be responded to," said Cpl. Russ Allen, Atlantic Region Integrated Technological Crime Unit.

A Nova Scotia woman recently received an e-mail

message threatening to kill her if she did not pay \$50,000 US within the next 96 hours. The message instructed her to immediately respond and to not report it to the police.

Internet users receiving this type of e-mail should forward it to [waf1@phonebusters.com](mailto:waf1@phonebusters.com), a task force comprised of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police.

**Submitted by:  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador R.C.M.P.**

***BELL ISLAND  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES  
FAMILY RESOURCE  
CENTRE***

**PROGRAM CHANGE -**

Our parent & tot program has now been moved from Wednesday to Tuesday at the same time (12:15 - 2:15). During this time the Public Health Nurse weigh-in program will also be held from (1:00 - 2:00). Both programs are being offered together to allow for children and parents to

better access what Brighter Futures has to offer to the community. Fridays program will remain with no change - therefore - the new times will be Tuesday and Fridays from 12:15 - 2:15 with Tuesdays also having baby weigh-ins. Transportation can be arranged to take you to and from the centre only if you are staying to participate in the parents & tots program.

Brighter Futures is a family resource centre offering programs to families with children from ages 6 years down to the time of conception. All programs are free of charge to any resident of the island that has children in this age group. The centre is totally run by parents with a program coordinator in charge of day to day operations. Programs, rules, training, gatherings, and parties are all decided upon by the parent. With this said, if you are a parent of a child/ren 6 years old and under why not attend programs, have your say, and meet new friends for you and your child/ren.

RUMMAGE SALE - on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am a rummage sale will be held

here at the centre to assist with our fundraising efforts. The doors will not open until 10:30am sharp and no items will be held for a later time of pick-up during the day as some items are left and not picked up. There are many things for sale with some being just right for gift giving. I encourage you to drop in as there may be something of interest to you. Also, if anyone has previously loved items they would like to donate please call the centre and pickup can be arranged.

PICTURE WITH SANTA - this Christmas we will be offering a chance for your child/ren to have their picture taken with santa here at the centre. This will be held on December 11th from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Santa will be leaving for the North Pole at 12:30, therefore, please arrive early to insure picture. The pictures will be 5x7 prints with 3 copies of each picture 1<sup>st</sup> picture will be \$5.00 and \$4.00 for each child after that, with 3 copies of each picture. Example a family of three children wanting separate pictures with Santa would have a cost of \$13.00.

These pictures will be taken in a private room with no distractions to your child or Santa. Santa and I look forward to seeing you and your family.

**HOLLIE NEARY -  
PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR  
488-2699**

### ***Do Bell Islanders Want a BANK?***

It has been four and one half years since Scotia Bank abandoned this community (March 9, 2001) after **88** years of a profit-making operation. This profitable (**record profits of \$1.9 billion in 2000**) Canadian bank did very little to ease the pain of closing the only bank in a small, rural, economically depressed community. Yes they 'dangled the carrot' of providing a banking service from the Post Office but that was merely a callous ploy to retain its customer base during its withdrawal. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick they sold their buildings to allow for the establishment of Credit Unions but in this community they sold their building with the proviso

that it could **not** be occupied by another bank!

As expected and predicted this Scotia Bank branch closure has created difficulties for individuals, businesses, and the community as a whole. Its ‘bank in a box’ ATM service - when it works - only allows withdrawals and, consequently, residents are forced to do most of their banking in St. John’s. This is especially bothersome for seniors and low-income people who do not have ready access to transportation.

Businesses have been impacted in two ways. Being unable to make daily deposits as well as have daily access to the required coin/cash is troublesome enough. I believe, though, that the greatest impact for some is the loss of revenue due to people who now shop in St. John’s in conjunction with their new banking habits!

Of course, a loss in revenue leads to job losses and a loss in tax revenue to the town. With an already fragile economy, this community cannot afford to have any reduction in

business activity. It is also a well-known fact that it is especially difficult to foster business development or any form of economic development in a community lacking in a reliable financial institution. This view is not just the ravings of a ‘bank’ bitter resident. A September 2002 report commissioned by ACOA stated: “Small business owners in Atlantic Canada communities that have lost their banking services...state that their businesses and local economies have been seriously harmed by these decisions.”[CFO Sustainability Group – Report for ACOA. P.3]

So what do we do now? Well, we could do nothing, which closely resembles what we have done (as a community) to date! We could wait and hope that some other community minded bank would open a branch here – not likely! The only real but difficult option is for this community to create its own bank in the form of a **Credit Union!** Now there’s an idea whose time has come.

Credit Unions are a reliable and popular choice for many people around the world. By the end of 2003, 1 in 3 Canadians or 10,526,827 were members of the Credit Union/Caisse Populaire (credit unions in Quebec) System with total assets reaching \$154.4 billion. The Newfoundland and Labrador System has 15 Credit Unions spread over 42 locations with just over 41,000 members and total assets of \$451 million. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Credit Unions are incorporated under the Credit Union Act (1995) that outlines very strict regulations on the establishment and operation of a credit union. The Act also provided for the establishment of the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation (CUDGC) that, among other things, guarantees the deposits of credit union members in this province to a maximum of \$250,000 per type of deposit. Surprisingly, this even exceeds the \$60,000 guarantee provided by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) on deposits in private banks! CUDGC also monitors and examines all credit unions to ensure strict adherence to

regulations and business practices.

Starting a new credit union would not be easy. Besides the nearly \$100,000 in start-up costs, the Act and CUDGC regulations would require a minimum of 500 members, a minimum of \$50,000 in initial share equity (500 shares at \$100 per share), and a minimum initial deposit of \$200,000. Before tackling those requirements, the community would first need to embark on an education process and then individuals would need to collectively commit to the establishment of a credit union. All of this may be difficult but not impossible.

If anyone is hesitant or doubtful, consider the inspiring example of Eagle River Credit Union on the southern tip of Labrador. In January of 1984, the approximately 2500 residents of L'Anse au Clair to Red Bay learned that the only bank in the area, established in 1978, was closing and moving all accounts to Deer Lake. After failing to persuade the Bank of Montreal to stay, residents in the area worked together to set up a

credit union.

When it first opened, the Credit Union only offered shares, savings, and loans to its members. Six months later (February '85), it offered checking packages and, from then on, continued to expand its services. From its humble beginnings offering minimal services, Eagle River is now the second largest credit union in the province with five branches (including two on the Northern Peninsula) and boasting total assets of almost \$39 million. They have won several awards including "Credit Union of the Year" (1999 and 2001) and a Community Economic Development Award from the Province in 2002 as well as a CED Award from the Credit Union Central of Canada in 2003. Their struggle to form a credit union has united communities, and residents refer to it as "the best thing that has ever happened in this area."

I believe a credit union is possible on Bell Island but residents need to want one and make it happen. Had we started back in 2001, we could have had one by now.

Instead we were diverted and subverted by false hopes of an external benefactor providing financial services. It is time we relied on ourselves to create a solution to our banking problems. To make this happen, we will need the co-operation and support of the vast majority of Bell Islanders as well as that of the many businesses and organizations here. To begin with, we need a community meeting to appoint a steering committee to oversee the formation process. A few of us have been giving some consideration to kick-starting the process but we are not sure of the interest in the community? Why not kick-start us by contacting one of the people below and state your interest and support! If a year from now, this community does not have a credit union and you are looking for someone to blame, look no further than yourself. **The 'buck' stops with you!** Thank you.

**Do you want to see an attempt to establish a credit union on Bell Island?**

Contact: Ken Kavanagh  
488-2221

or

Wayne Flight 488-2962

E-mail:

[kavanagh.ken@gmail.com](mailto:kavanagh.ken@gmail.com)

**Submitted by: Ken  
Kavanaugh**

***Answers to  
Newfoundland  
Definitions***

1. c, 2. e, 3. f, 4. b, 5. h,  
6. d, 7. I, 8. j, 9. g, 10. a.

***Answers to Question  
Time:***

Who: John Butler & his  
Family

When: 1906

Where from: They were  
from Topsail

Why: To collect bird  
manure, to market as  
fertilizer

***Charges and  
Convictions***

On 2004-09-29, a 33 year  
old male from West Mines  
was found guilty of  
Possession of Stolen  
Property from a 2003-11-06

complaint of a stolen ATV  
having been sold on Bell  
Island. The purchaser  
received a three month  
Conditional Sentence and  
one year Probation.

On 2004-09-29, a 48 year  
old Wabana male appeared  
in court on a charge of  
Theft Under \$5000. The  
charge came from a 2004-  
08-06 incident that  
occurred in a West Mines  
incident while the home  
owner was asleep. The  
matter was set aside until  
2004-10-26.

On 2004-09-29, a 20 year  
old male from Lance Cove  
and a 24 year old male  
from Foxtrap (formerly  
from Bell Island) appeared  
in court. Both plead guilty  
to one charge of Possession  
of a Controlled Substance  
each, from an August 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2004 incident on Fourth  
Street. They both rec'd a  
six month conditional  
discharge and a \$50 Victim  
Fine Surcharge and six  
months Probation.

On 2004-09-29, a 28 year  
old male from Wabana,  
charged under the Dog Act  
for not keeping his dog  
penned up or tied up,  
appeared in court. The  
matter was set aside to

2004-11-05.

On 2004-10-07, a 43 year  
old male from West Mines,  
was found guilty of Driving  
While Disqualified and  
Breach of Probation from a  
December 18, 2003  
incident. He received 14  
days in jail and three  
months Probation.

On 2004-10-07, a 26 year  
old male from St. John's,  
charged with Assault With  
a Weapon and Causing a  
Disturbance from a June 29,  
2004 incident outside West  
Mines Sports Bar and his  
father's West Mines  
residence, attended court  
and the matter was set aside  
until 2004-12-07.

On 2004-10-15, a 59 year  
old male from Lance Cove  
was arrested and charged  
with having Care or Control  
of a Motor Vehicle While  
Impaired and having Care  
or Control of a Motor  
Vehicle With a Blood  
Alcohol in Excess of 80  
mg. This gentleman did not  
appear in court due and the  
matter has been set aside  
until 2004-12-01.

On 2004-10-25, a 32 year  
old male from the Green,  
appeared in court on a  
charge of Impaired Driving

from an August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 incident. The matter has been set aside until 2004-11-25.

On 2004-10-26, a 48 year old Wabana male appeared in court for a charge of Impaired Driving and a charge of Operating a Motor Vehicle while Blood Alcohol in Excess of 80 mg from a April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 incident on Beach Hill. The accused has plead not guilty and a trial has been set for 2005-04-27.

This same 48 year old Wabana male was also charged with Theft Under \$5000 from an August 6, 2004 incident from a West Mines residence. He has also plead not guilty to that charge and the trial is set for 2004-12-06.

On 2004-10-26, a 44 year old male from the East End, appeared in court on one charge of Uttering Threats, and one charge of Intimidation from a July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 incident that occurred in an East End residence. The matter has been set aside until 2004-11-08.

On 2004-10-01, a 24 year old Wabana male was

arrested and charged with two counts of Assault and one count of Mischief from an incident that same date at a residence on the Ridge. His plea date is set for 2004-11-24.

On 2004-10-04, a 24 year old East End male was arrested at his parent's residence. He was released the following day in Provincial Court to appear in court on 2004-10-27. He was charged with Mischief and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On 2004-10-13, police searched a residence on Bennett Street. A 25 year old male was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance and the plea date is set for 2004-12-15.

### ***Thank You***

Many thanks to all the businesses 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

