

The Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

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

August 2004

From the Corporal's Desk

Community Events:

I stand amazed at the number of events a small community such as ours hosts in the run of a summer. The participation and support from the community for special events and homecomings is extraordinary! Or is it???

As an "outsider" to the community (according to some) I was truly surprised to see car shows, motocross events, community days, outdoor pubs and dances, waterfront music concerts, car rallies, arena dances, and other events for family and friends on an island community. The amount of preparation and planning is surely well worth it. I must say that even when events are attended by the hundreds we have the legacy of boasting no problems nor

occurrences where emergency operational personnel are called upon other than the occasional mishap. We have been truly blessed. In relation to policing matters stemming from special events....police have been rarely needed if at all. Surely none I can remember in the past 12 months. This is a definite source of pride for the organizers...give yourselves a hand!

What does all this say about Bell island? Simple. We have some happening people here looking to make things happen and make things for people to do. Better than most communities I would dare to say. I have lived in larger centres that had much less to do as far as organized events are concerned. But in all that there is still some turmoil. Some resentment or discontent raises it's

ugly head from time to time and that is too bad. Most of the complaints coming from those who never raised a finger to help organize anything in their lives. I queried some of these complaints to determine the cause as it amazed me that in a place where we have so much we can have a few who are never satisfied. My findings were that some people who had opinions with negative attitudes never even tried to contact the event organizers who they had issues with to see if the issues could be resolved. How do we do that? Complain but not try to fix it?

Does this discourage the shakers and shifters on the Island that makes things happen. The answer is no. For the most part they feel as most do - that is there will never be a time where

all are satisfied.....just the majority that are thankful that those who do...keep on doing so they can enjoy these events. Keep up the good work guys and gals. You enrich our community with these activities!

Direction:

What is it that men won't ask for, women claim that they have no sense of and most importantly young people today lack? (Dumb question especially when the answer was in the title of this segment).

Possibly the most important issues of our society today is the lack of direction our young people have and the question is why don't they? Given all the technology in our midst why isn't there something we can just push or buy that gives us what we want. We all had direction...I mean all us over 30. We had direction right from early on. Can you remember talking to the neighbour in their yard about your plans to enter a trade school or work for the Power Commission or build houses or whatever? Can you remember those discussions with your parents about getting enough

money together to get an apartment and paying for same with the job you just got? Can you remember the many card games with Mom and Dad where important issues were talked about? Remember the support from family and the ideas they gave when you asked them? I do. I also remember the TV shows we watched that had good morales and values in them that gave us ideas how to succeed in the future...how family structure should be and how to help others.....Do those shows still run on a certain channel? And those stories in the news about good decent people making things happen. The stories about positive happenings. You don't see much of those anymore. Wait. Maybe that is why the young people claim there is no direction today - because there isn't.

For the most part young people today don't have parents to talk to get advice as most are working or too busy with their own agendas. Neighbours are responsible for complaining about others children and not available for those conversations we had. And

family is spread out, stressed out like the majority of the population after listening to and internalizing all the bad news in print, on TV and in other media. TV gives us the Simpsons, The Osbornes and the proverbial list of foolishness that kids watch and get absolutely no benefit other than learning how to sauce back, how to swear and how to become a house sitter. What direction is that and who is allowing all this TV watching, video game playing and lack of discussion that is meaningful? This question can be answered by looking in the mirror. We are, we must be....it's no one else's fault.

We as parents need to make rules and set up structured environments. It is our duty and responsibility. We are supposed to turn off the TV's after so much per day, ensure quality food is entering our kids, ensure that the discussions we have are valid and positive and not just arguments. It is our job and some of us haven't been doing it. Let's have a test. What

does your neighbours kids want to be when they grow up? What shows did your child watch today? What did your nephew read and think about the war in Iraq? How many kids do you know that use drugs and alcohol and aren't old enough to drive a car or vote? What is anyone who owns these aforementioned kids doing about the drugs and alcohol other than blaming someone else?

It is not that some kids today don't have direction....the truth is some are completely lost and no one is offering them a compass.

Cpl. Boyd Merrill

**Students & Parents – St. Michael's High School
From: Jerome G. Delaney,
August 8, 2004**

As you may already know, I have recently been appointed a full-time professor of Educational Administration in the Faculty of Education at Memorial University.

It is therefore with mixed emotions that I have submitted to the Avalon East

School Board my resignation as principal of St. Michael's High School effective this coming September. I began this principalship in September, 1997 and during these past 7 years I have thoroughly enjoyed working here at St. Michael's High. I usually don't stay that long; in my 2 other principalships (Our Lady of Lourdes High, Lourdes and St. Stephen's High, Stephenville) I stayed 4 years in each. However, the enjoyment and self-satisfaction I've received from working on Bell Island have been most gratifying.

To all the students, parents, teachers and members of the community at large that I've had the pleasure of knowing, I express my sincere gratitude for the kindness, respect and co-operation you have afforded me over these past several years. I tell my friends and colleagues "on the other side of the tickle" and indeed throughout this province, that Bell Island is the best kept secret in Newfoundland and Labrador; it has been an honor and a privilege to have had the wonderful experience of being a high

school principal on this island.

To the students who will be returning to St. Michael's in September, I encourage you to work hard and do well academically – effort is what it is all about. To our graduating students who will be pursuing postsecondary studies (and especially those attending Memorial), my office is located in E4022 (Education Building); please drop by for a "chat". My telephone # is 737-2071 and my email address is jdelaney@mun.ca.

Although my formal relationship with St. Michael's will be ending in the next few weeks, I plan on dropping over periodically, hopefully for various school functions – how's that for a hint for an invitation from time to time.

As to my successor, by the time you read this notice, the school board will probably have made that announcement.

Kindest regards and best wishes for the future.

Jerome G. Delaney

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

From: Diane Butler

WATER SHORTAGE

We are all very thankful and happy for the wonderful sunny and warm days we are having. However with the good weather, comes the bad news, and that is, our water supply is not able to keep up with the increased demand on the system, and of course very little rainfall is contributing to the decrease in water levels. With this in mind we once again have to caution our residents that WATER MUST BE CONSERVED, otherwise we will be in even worse conditions. I know only too well how frustrating it is to be without enough water to take a shower, water the garden, flush toilets, etc. etc. and with company in just about every home this year, it makes it even more frustrating. Council is trying its best to supply water to all people most of the time, but there are times

when areas will be left with very little pressure or no water at all. Please understand that this is a problem in many areas of the province this year, and various councils are becoming very strict with people who abuse the water supply. We have not reached the point where we have actually had to turn off water to various areas, but we will soon have to do this if offenders continue to fill their swimming pools, water their gardens, wash their cars when the supply is so low. We ask that those activities be restricted to after dark when the pressure is up a little and even then to please be diligent in how much water you use.

Council asks for your cooperation while this dry spell continues.

**COME HOME YEAR
2005**

We ask again for people to serve on the Come Home Year 2005 Committee. If you are interested in helping to make next years celebrations a success we ask that you volunteer your

abilities and services. Please call the town hall if you are interested in becoming part of the Come Home Year Committee. Please call 488-2990 or 488-2025.

ROAD PAVING

Council is pleased to report that several roads have been paved this year and are hoping next year more will be paved.

TAXES

A big thank you to our residents who have paid their municipal taxes on time this year. We wish to remind those who have not paid yet, that after the Mar. 30th, 2004 deadline, those accounts become in arrears and will be collected through Credit Recovery if repeated notices are not adhered to. So please have those arrears paid immediately, or you may just receive a phone call from our collection agency any day.

TIDY TOWNS

Thank you to everyone who cleaned up their properties this summer and hopefully this year we will

receive a Tidy Towns award. We wish to publically thank Mr. Billy Stone who so kindly accompanied the Tidy Towns officials on a tour of our island. Much appreciated Billy. It is indeed gratifying to see how much pride you have taken in your properties. So thank you very much for your efforts, our town is looking very clean and very attractive to our visitors and our residents.

St. Michael's Parish

Summer Activities

We are in the final stretch of the summer holidays and we all try to slow the pace of time but in reality every day passes by so quickly. It was a wonderful summer and a great time for family and friends to celebrate and enjoy the many friendships we all hold precious in our hearts. I am very thankful to all who shared in the many activities of our parish during the past few months. I wish to congratulate the cast of the Dinner Theatre who so generously gave their time and talent to offer us such entertainment which was a marvellous

success. It was a display of fine talent by all. Likewise, I wish to thank all who organized the excellent meal and to all who offered their support by attending.

On August 8th, we had our Family Day with over 150 people attending. We had prizes for all along with plenty of food and pop. Again, to all who shared in the festive occasion, I wish to thank you.

As many of you have noticed, major work was completed to our cemeteries, church grounds, grotto site in Lance Cove and my residence. I wish to thank all our workers especially our faithful parish worker Tom Cole and our students Ashley Curnew and Todd Cole who helped in the completion of the work during the summer. I wish to offer appreciation to all volunteers who contributed to improving our grave sites and ensured the resting places of your loved ones were given the dignity and respect they fully deserve.

As we look forward to the opening of the school year, I wish to remind parents

that the children who are to participate in the Home Religion Program for this year must enroll for the program in early September. The registration forms are available at the parish office or the church. If you have a child in grade 1, they can participate in the Year 1 program. Likewise, the registration for First Eucharist, Penance and Confirmation will begin in September. Please do not omit to register your child or else you will have to wait until another year. Therefore, please call the office at 488 2525 or consult the parish bulletin for further information.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all parishioners and friends for your continued support to our parish and encourage you to keep up the great work. Our parish is always inviting new members to share in the work of the parish. All tasks are equal and we need your support. Be assured of my continued support and I look forward to another school year as we continue to support the needs of our youth and

share in the mission of proclaiming the good news of the Lord.

**God Bless
Father Wayne Dohey**

Bell Island Mineral Lands

Call for Proposals issued for mineral development on Bell Island

Ed Byrne, Minister of Natural Resources, advised today that a Call for Proposals is being issued for the exempt mineral land on Bell Island.

Minister Byrne indicated the department has received an unsolicited proposal from a company interested in the iron ore resource on Bell Island. However, the former mine was declared Exempt Mineral Lands under the Mineral Act in 1977. The underground mine on Bell Island closed in 1966 due to a combination of market requirements and competition after 73 years of operation.

"We want to facilitate and gauge a broader interest in the resources of Bell Island in light of the fact that we

have received an unsolicited proposal," said Minister Byrne. "Through this Call for Proposals we are asking proponents to come forward and inform us of their level of interest."

The Call for Proposals is also required in order to approve any exploration activity on Bell Island due to its designation as Exempt Mineral Lands. The analysis of proposals will be based on the information submitted and on any further information the department would obtain in subsequent discussions with proponents. Each proposal will be judged on the basis of information submitted and an estimation of its overall economic impact to the province.

"To this point, we have not engaged in discussions nor are we involved in negotiations with any potential proponent related to this Call for Proposals," said Minister Byrne. "I also point out that we are not obliged to accept any proposal we may receive as a result of our effort to determine the level of interest in this property."

The deadline for the submission of proposals is September 17, 2004. The complete Call for Proposals is available at: www.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/cfp/bellisland.pdf

**Submitted by
Ed Kent**

***Bell Island Ferry Users
Committee***

August Report

The August Report of the Committee will briefly summarize the ongoing and unresolved issues outlined in the extensive July edition on a multitude of ferry related issues.

1. Protection of current ferry schedule-

The Committee has yet to hear back from Transportation Department officials as to whether they have abandoned any plans to reduce the Bell Island ferry schedule. While the year round 2 vessel ferry service is protected, the Committee is concerned over suggestions that the hours of service for both vessels are under consideration for possible

reduction. The Committee seeks your support to ensure that the ferry schedule is not cutback thus ensuring continued future growth for Bell Island's economy and continued support for our commuting workforce and those dependent on the ferry service.

2. Cabinet decision on new vessel construction program:(replace Hamilton Sound)

The Committee is still awaiting word from Transportation Minister Rideout on his commitment to present a ferry vessel replacement program before Cabinet for consideration this summer. The Hamilton Sound which sails several months on the Bell Island service as a replacement is long overdue for replacement by a hoped for new 28 car ferry.

Continuing breakdowns of the Beaumont Hamel since returning from an extensive 3 month refit continue to be a concern.

3. Cabinet consideration of strike free status for ferry services and designation of ferries as part of the Provincial highway system.

Our Member Minister Whalen has committed to use her best efforts to secure Cabinet support to achieve strike free status for Provincial ferries so as to avoid the a repeat of the April 2004 striking of the ferry service.

4. Provincial Ferry Coalition awaits Minister's meeting:

The newly formed Provincial Ferry Committee is still awaiting Minister Rideout's agreement to meet with the Executive of this newly formed Committee. Mayor Gosine is the Bell Island executive member and the Committee is anxious to have a number of concerns addressed on ferry rates, vessel adequacy, improved scheduling etc.

5. Electronic signage activation remains a mystery and an embarrassment for Government?

6. The Committee employed under Government grants 6 students this summer to promote the ferry service. A users survey was carried out as well and various

usage stats were compiled and will be released later.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

A. The Committee executive is hoping to schedule a meeting in September to address ongoing issues and welcomes your input and attendance. Please contact any of the following members with suggestions and concerns (Chairperson David Brazil, Mayor Gosine. Dr. Laurie. Officer Boyd Merrill, Keith Kent, Tony Power, and consultant Ed Kent.

B. Ferry users are invited to contact Minister Whalen's and Minister Rideout's Office to express your views on the ferry service and ferry issues and to support the efforts of the Committee.

C. As the ferry service is the foundation of Bell Island's economy, the public are invited to offer suggestions to the Committee and your MHA on growing Bell Island's economy and supporting justification for improved ferry service and including views and suggestions on :

- consideration of a possible coordinating body to oversee further tourism development and new opportunities,
- views on Minister Whalen's planned new focus and possible enriched new advisory body to promote economic development and job opportunities,
- possibilities for new mining exploration and development on Bell Island in light of recent Government public proposal call seeking expressions of interest.

D. The Bell Island web site operated by Reg Durdle includes many interesting sections and news and the Bell Island Users Committee section on the web site is recommended to keep abreast of the news.
www.bellisland.net

Ferry users are encouraged to provide feedback and support to the Committee and your MHA Minister Whalen and be active in promoting and growing the ferry service and in turn grow Bell Island and ensure a better future for all.

Contributor:
Ed Kent- Committee consultant

Engagement Announcement

Wayne and Carol Kent are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary-Ellen Kent to Kevin Cole, the son of Tom and Connie Cole. The date of the wedding is to be announced.

Charges and Convictions

On 2004-07-07, a 24 year old male from the East End appeared in court on a charge of Assault and a charge of Mischief from a May 19th, 2004 incident at the medical clinic. The matter has been set aside until 2004-09-08.

On 2004-07-08, a 35 year old female from Lance Cove charged with Assault Causing and Theft from two separate incidents on July 8, 2003, one in Lance Cove and the other at Bells Bar, appeared in court and the charges were stayed.

On 2004-07-08, an 18 year old male from the East End charged with one count of Mischief from an incident that occurred on April 5th, 2004 at St. Michael's High School, appeared in court, pled guilty and rec'd a

Conditional Discharge, one year Probation and 40 hours of community service.

On 2004-07-08, a 41 year old East End male pled not guilty to charges of Assault, Causing a Disturbance, Mischief and Obstructing a Police Officer from a May 17th, 2004 incident that occurred in the East End residence of his girlfriend. The trial is set for 2004-01-17.

On 2004-07-09 and 2004-07-30, a 49 year old male from West Mines charged with Assault from an April 9th, 2004 incident at Casa Mia Apartments, appeared and had the matter set aside until 2004-09-13.

On 2004-07-15, a 42 year old male from the East End appeared in court on a count of Impaired Driving on an ATV on Bennett Street on May 1st, 2004, appeared in court and pled not guilty. The trial has been set for 2004-09-13.

On 2004-07-28, a 48 year old Wabana male appeared in court for a charge of Impaired Driving and a charge of Operating a Vehicle while Blood

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Alcohol in Excess of 80mg from a April 29th incident on Beach Hill. The matter was set over until 2004-09-07.

On 2004-08-03, a 26 year old male from St. John's, charged with Assault With a Weapon and Causing a Disturbance from a June 29th incident outside West Mines Sports Bar and his father's residence in West Mines, attended court and the matter was set aside until 2004-10-07.

On 2004-08-17, a 47 year old male from the East End, appeared in court on a charge of Supplying Liquor to Minors from an incident that occurred on September 26th, 2003 at his residence. A trial was supposed to commence that date but the trial has been postponed until 2004-10-23.

A 44 year old male from the East End was charged with two counts of Uttering Threats and one count of Intimidation from a July 23rd, 2003 incident that occurred in an East End residence. This male appeared in court on 2004-08-18 but the matter was set aside until 2004-09-07.

An 18 year old male from Wabana was charged with Driving an Unregistered Motor Cycle on the road from a July 27th incident. The bike was seized and a tickets issued for the assorted offences.

An 18 year old male from West Mines was charged with Armed Robbery from an August 1st, 2004 incident at Ridgeway Convenience. On 2004-08-20, he pled guilty and received three years in jail.

A 32 year old male from the Green was charged with one count of Impaired Driving from an August 1st, 2004 incident. His plea date is set for September 22, 2004.

A 20 year old male from Lance Cove and a 24 year old male from Foxtrap (formerly of Bell Island) were both charged with one count each of Possession of a Controlled Substance from an August 6th, 2004 incident on Fourth Street. Their plea date is set for September 29th, 2004.

A 48 year old male from Wabana was charged with Theft Under \$5000 from a West Mines residence

while the home owner was sleeping on August 6th, 2004. The plea date was set for 2004-09-29.

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

