

The Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

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

January 2004

From the Corporal's Desk

How do 5 police officers control the behaviour of 3500 people? How does a small RCMP detachment get rid of all crime for the same number of people? How do the Bell Island RCMP Officers keep tabs on everyone under their jurisdiction?

The answer to all three of the above is simple....They Don't, They Can't and There is no way they can!

Anyone who feels the RCMP (or any police force for that matter) are the only policing entity in a community well.....they watch to much TV. The super powers, the cape, the outrunning of trains (or out swimming the ferry in our case) only exists in our imagination. In the real world police officers are plain human beings who work with others to keep

communities safe. Working with others is the main component.

Community based policing, as it is called, is not really a 20th century idea or philosophy. Early in the history of civilized living the general population picked certain individuals to enforce the rules or laws of the community. These people were not special by any means they were simply chosen based on their character traits, ability and hopefully common sense. These persons were leaders but were not separate units from the public. They were part of the public. The public still played as big of part in policing as the police did. The public reported issues they wanted fixed and the police did their best in assistance with the public to fix these issues. The whole process breaks down when

the public forget their role and expect the chosen ones, so to speak, to do all policing on their own. This simply can't and doesn't work!

Here in Bell Island we have a great form of Community Based Policing. We probably could be a poster area for the concept. Communication flows from the police to the public and returns in the other direction continuously. This shows that all parties really care about their community. In places where the police have no community input you will find there is much less caring present.

What about reporting events as an official witness? Do you as a citizen have qualms about that? In reality if you see or hear an event, you are the only one who can tell

authorities what happened. If you tell someone else what you heard or saw than that is called "hearsay". Sounds familiar doesn't it. Direct evidence, the stuff you see and hear, is crucial in policing. It gives police authority to use their legal powers. Without witnesses their can be no police action. Police quite often hear "Why don't you do something about so and so.....?". And the police respond "What did you see or hear directly?" and the member of the public says "Well everyone knows so and so is doing this and that" and the police respond "Everyone except the police!"

How many of you have seen something going on and reported it to authorities just for information purposes only? How many of you knew you could? I mean how many knew they could report to police that persons known or unknown are behaving in a certain illegal manner and the caller does not have to be identified nor have police action the information immediately. The truth is that police receive numerous "information only" calls per week. This allows them to

characterize or profile an individual or group giving them information to work with in the future. This practice is the most common form of policing....Community based policing.

I believe the main reason the public sometimes does not want to get involved is the fear of having to go to court. Oh yes often people tell police "I don't want to be called a Narc...or I'll get beat up or worse", but in reality a fear or apprehension about going to court is the real reason. And going to court is really no big deal. While I am on this topic where did all of this intimidation factor come into our society....the intimidation factor that makes us afraid of lawbreakers? People aren't near as violent as the TV portrays. And in 16 years I have never seen a witness "beat up or worse" because they witnessed a regular police event such as a B. and E. or an accident. What is the alternative? Let people run wild until they are out of control... not a chance.

Many people have expressed concerns and

hopes for the future of Bell Island. I can't blame them. I personally see a wonderful future for this region of Newfoundland. And each person I have spoke to either in person or on the phone feels that they can share their concerns to the police without repercussion. Right again! I have never seen a community that was so vocal and caring about their own. This partnership situation results in lower crime rates plain and simple. Here we enjoy a relatively low rate of crime because the community cares!

Community Policing is also more than being a witness or being a reportee. It is about caring enough about your community to realize each one of us is a policeman of sorts. Each one of us is responsible for each other kids safety. Each one of us is responsible for setting an example for our peers and neighbourhood youth. All of the community is responsible for each other! If that wasn't so it wouldn't be called a community.

My grandfather said "It doesn't matter what you do in life...what matters is

what you do for others..". He was right. You are part of your community and you are part of Community based policing...whether you knew it or not!

Boyd Merrill

RCMP Notifications:

Door to Door Selling Tickets

Recently, we received a complaint that a young boy has been going door to door selling tickets for a draw to raise funds for the Wabana Boys and Girls Club that does not exist. This person(s) is trying to sell tickets from a draw that already took place. The draw dates on the old tickets are apparently noticeably changed.

The Wabana Boys and Girls Club do want the public to know that they are hosting a Wake-a-Thon and that people will be soliciting pledges within the next couple of weeks. The date of the Wake-a-Thon will be decided at their next meeting.

Anytime someone comes to your door asking for money for a fundraiser, if you have any questions, feel free to

call the Club/Organization to ensure they do have a fundraising event underway.

Anonymous Tips

I gather most of you have heard about the recent court decision where the judge dismissed impaired driving charges against an individual because an anonymous tip was received.

We would like you to continue to phone us with those tips. We will continue to locate the subject of the complaint and investigate. Please provide us with as much detail as possible. Describe the vehicle as much as possible: colour, make, four door versus two door, and a licence plate number. A description of the driver if the identity is known and any passengers (if any). Most importantly, please describe what you saw that lead you to believe this driver is impaired.

Of all crimes committed, this is one of the most dangerous and most senseless. Particularly when a cab ride on this island can be had for under five dollars. You can support your local economy and save lives.

The Town of Wabana
TOWN OF WABANA
TAX SCHEDULE FOR
2004

Property Tax- 11.5 mills-
residential (min.\$300.00)

Business Tax- 15.5 mills-
local commercial
(minimum \$250.00)

- 30 mills-dental and
medical

-150-mills-banks

-150-mills-oil

companies

2.5% of gross

revenue-utility companies

2.5% of gross

revenue-no fixed place of
business

Poll Tax - 300.00 per
year

Water Tax- 15.00 per
month-residential

- 30.00 per month-
commercial

- 4.50 per year per
student-schools

- 10.00 per month per
occupant-hospital

Sewer Tax- Same as Water
Tax

Permits- 10.00 General
Repairs-residential

- 20.00 General

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Repairs-commercial - 300.00 Sewer	- 40.00 pick up fee-3rd offense	year, one for rookie of the year, and one for long term service.
Hookup-residential - 300.00 Sewer	Impounding Fee- 50.00 cattle, sheep, etc.-1st off.	I am sure that everyone will agree that
Hookup-commercial - 100.00 Water	- 75.00 cattle, sheep, etc.-2nd off.	volunteering in the Fire service, is a major
Hookup-construction - 150.00 Water	- 100.00 cattle, sheep, etc.-3rd off.	commitment. As such, you are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year . No matter what the weather or what you are doing, when the pager sounds, you respond.
Hookup-commercial - 30.00 Water	Peddlers' Permit- 75.00 per year	Never knowing what you are going to be faced with when responding to someone's call for help. It goes without saying that all the members are dedicated to the
Reconnection Fee - 1st. Time - 60.00 Water	Car wreck Removal - 25.00 per wreck (After 'free' period designation during annual clean-up).	department and their community, but the firefighter and rookie of the year award go to the firefighters who go that "extra mile" for the Dept., this years winners are:
Reconnection Fee - 2nd. Time - 325.00 Sewer	<i>Diane Butler</i> <i>Town Clerk</i>	
Reconnection Fee - 20.00 Extensions- residential - 50.00 Extensions- commercial - 20.00 Building- sheds, garages, etc. - 20.00 Changing nature of business - 100.00 Building-new homes - 1.0% of value- commercial projects - 225.00-Incinerator permit per year - 50.00-Occupancy permits	<i>From the Volunteer Fire Department</i> January 15/04 On behalf of myself and the Fire Dept. I would like to wish everyone a Happy, and Fire free New Years. FIRES: From Dec.14/03 to Jan.14/04 we responded to two fires. 1-car fire 1-bon fire AWARDS: 3 Firefighters received awards at our annual Christmas Dinner Meeting.	
Tax Certificates - 50.00		<u>Angus Sweeney :</u> <u>Firefighter of the year</u>
Dog Licenses - 10.00 per year - 20.00 pick up fee-1st offense - 30.00 pick up fee-2nd offense	One for firefighter of the	<u>Keith Pitts :</u> <u>Rookie of the year</u> We would like to congratulate Angus and Keith on there awards, good job boys, keep up the good work.

award:!!!

An award was also presented to (me) Jim Pendergast for 29 years of service to the Fire Dept. and community. The award was presented by past fire chief Wince Kitchen on behalf of the Fire Dept. I would like to thank Wince and the members of the Dept. for this award, it really was a surprise.

P.S. Angus you don't have to share yours with me now.

MEMBERSHIP LIST:

JIM PENDERGAST---fire chief

SCOTT KITCHEN-----assistant chief

ANDREW SOMERTON--1st.deputy

TERRY KING-----2nd deputy

FRANK PENDERGAST--treasurer/fire prevention officer

ANGUS SWEENEY----secretary

GORD STOYLES

WADE REARDON

JIM ASHFORD

RONALD BARNES

GERRY SWEENEY

JABEZ BUTLER

JIM PENDERGAST jr.

JOHN TAYLOR

FRED BUTLER

BILLY O'ROURKE

KEITH PITTS

RICK WHELAN

WINCE KITCHEN--honorary member

WALTER FILLIER--honorary member

WARNING:

ANOTHER SAFETY WARNING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CONCERNS STATIC ELECTRICITY.

FOUR RULES FOR SAFE REFUELING:

1--Turn off engine.

2--Don't smoke.

3--Don't use your cell phone-leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off.

4--Don't re-enter your vehicle during fuelling.

BOB RENKER of

Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "Static Electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires. His results were very surprising:

1--Out of 150 cases ,almost all of them were women.

2--Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started, as a result of static.

3--Most had on rubber -soled shoes.

4--Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished.

5--Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas.

6--It is the vapours that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.

7--There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was

touched during REFUELLING from a variety of makes and models. Some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.

8--Seventeen fires that occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fuelling began .

Mr. Renker stress NEVER GET BACK INTO YOUR VEHICLE WHILE FILLING IT WITH GAS. If you absolutely have to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door touching the metal, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

You can find out more information by going to www.pei.org.

Once there, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static"

Jim Pendergast
Fire Chief

From the Bell Island Ferry Users Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 8, 2004

1. Quorum present:

A quorum of current executive members were present including:

Chair David Brazil
Treasurer Keith Kent,
Vice Chair Mayor Gosine,
Secretary Dr. Laurie
Member Corporal Merrill
Member Tony Power
Consultant Ed Kent
Ferry Manager Ben Hammett

2. Minutes of November Meeting reviewed and approved

On a motion by Corporal Merrill and seconded by Mayor Gosine the minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Meeting with Ministers Whalen and Rideout scheduled for Bell Island- Jan 19

Chairperson Brazil disclosed the planned meeting time with Ministers Rideout and Whalen was now finalized. The Ministers are scheduled to travel to Bell Island on January 19 on the 12:40 pm ferry and lunch with the Committee at the Wabana Complex. A brief tour of the Wabana Complex would follow and the Ministers would then meet with the Committee to discuss ferry issues. The Ministers would make a

brief stop at the Transportation depot for a visit prior to returning on the 4:10-ferry trip. The planned mine tour and meeting with the IAS Committee would be scheduled for a later date.

4. Pre-budget Committee presentation

Ed Kent presented for review a draft paper for consideration with respect to the Pre-Budget Committee meetings being chaired by Finance minister Sullivan on Jan 27 in St. John's. The Committee agreed on the substantive points to be covered with special emphasis on the economic importance of the ferry service.

The brief will call for:

Tender award for a new 28 car ferry to replace the Hamilton Sound with the expenditure being a major economic stimulus to a Newfoundland shipyard and the completed vessel filling an urgent need for a replacement vessel. Commitment to maintain the 2-vessel year round ferry service and schedule, especially to sustain the 400 commuter jobs and 200 local industry jobs

dependent on an efficient, effective and affordable ferry service.

Capital funding allocation in Budget 2004 to complete the final rehabilitation phase of the Bell Island ferry docks.

A requested investment in the extension of the 2 vessel ferry service to the early morning to encourage more Bell Islanders now dependent on income support to enter the workforce and commute to jobs at a considerable net saving to Government. Acceptance that the committed Blue Book 5 year plan to commence in 2004 to lower ferry rates to the equivalent cost of road travel may have to be deferred in light of fiscal constraints and in this light the rates would have to be held at current levels.

5. Ferry vessel deployments and refits:

FLANDERS:
Manager Hammett confirmed that the Flanders would not likely be returned to service until after January 15.

WINTER REFITS:

It was expected that the Hamilton Sound would have

to continue to provide the second vessel service this winter as the Beaumont Hamel was being scheduled soon for its own refit and would have to be assigned to Fogo Island to allow for their vessel's refit

The Committee expressed its ongoing concern over the lack of a planned refit schedule and requested the Manager Hammett to seek greater input for the Committee in assignment times for vessel refits

The Committee also requested that attempts be made to coordinate ferry annual inspections while the vessels are on dock to help avoid downtime while the vessels are in service which is disruptive to the schedule.

SECOND VESSEL:
Committee members expressed the view of the success of the second vessel realignment in recent weeks to allow for the second vessel to sail early in the mornings to cover off the loss of capacity due to the Flanders being on refit. The extra trips helped immensely offset what would have been an unbearable over flow of traffic problem and the

utilization demonstrated the considerable need for the early morning 2-vessel service.

EARLY MORNING SERVICE:

The Committee agreed on submission of a proposal to address the need for funding of the 2-vessel early morning service.

6. Inadequate terminal snow clearing

Committee members continued to express their frustration with the lack of effort to effectively clear snow from the terminal area after snowfalls. A highways division plow is parked on site but marine workers are not allowed to use it and highway workers indicate they have no budget for personnel to operate it and union agreements prohibit contracting the clearing to private operators. The Committee pleaded for a solution to the ridiculous situation.

Additionally, the Committee repeated its request for a small domestic snow blower to be purchased and deployed to allow some basic access to terminal waiting rooms,

washrooms and parking.

7. Electronic signs activation

Manager Hammett reported that despite a 6 month frustrating delay in securing computer service equipment to support the newly purchased signs, he was now pleased to report that installation of support equipment was being scheduled and that the system should be operational shortly.

8. Commuter access and pass improvements:

Tony Power, Chair of the Commuter pass sub committee reported good progress in meetings with Manager Hammett in introducing improved management of the issuance of commuter passes. Colored pass forms had now been requisitioned to improve control for each quarterly issuance. Permanent commuters had been identified for automatic pass issuance. Manager Hammett agreed to oversee an improved pass distribution system and also agreed to provide a commuter list with the Portugal Cove and Bell Island based commuters separated to assist in the

review process.

It was agreed that the Manager would use his discretion in allowing flexibility for priority access to the ferry for properly documented users in receipt of major medical therapy/treatment and who would otherwise endure major discomfort if compelled to wait in the regular line-up. The Commuter user rules would be considered for amendment to reflect the change.

Dr. Laurie expressed the view that there should be no circumstance, which would require a medical emergency extra ferry trip that had not been sanctioned by hospital personnel.

9. Deferred items:

FILLING COMMITTEE VACANCY: Committee members were invited to seek candidates who could be nominated for the one vacant post on the Executive, with consideration be given especially for a commuting student rep.
COMMUTER LINE-UP PRIORITY: It was agreed that consideration of the

need for any change in priority access for commuters after the early morning trips would be deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting.
BELL ISLAND TERMINAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND CONFUSION: Corporal Merrill requested the issue respecting safe access to the terminal be deferred until the next meeting.
SPEED UP MEASURES FOR TICKET SELLING: Deferred.

10. Gas trip issues:

The Committee confirmed its support for the continuance of gas trips on Tuesday's with priority to be given to the accommodation of the gas tankers on reserved trips with passenger restrictions. Manager Hammett reported that he was having a form printed that would be given to those passengers to arrive at the **TERMINAL** first to allow for a fair and orderly access to the ferry on a first come first served basis to passengers (including those with vehicles) when there are restrictions on numbers such as 25 on gas day. The current fuelling process

for the ferry vessels to minimize schedule disruptions was considered as acceptable. In cases where considerable traffic existed after the last sailing, discretion would be given to the captains to delay a fuel up to accommodate the clearing up of heavy vehicular traffic.

11. Input from ferry crews on service improvements:

The Chairperson reported that on a "trial" basis he would invite reps from the Captain's Guild and Marine Workers Union employed on the Bell Island Ferry service to meet with him and to discuss exclusively their input as to how to improve the ferry service. It was also confirmed that any member of the public could attend and participate in Committee regular meetings including ferry crew members.

12. Meeting adjourned at 10 pm

Next meeting is to be a private meeting with Ministers on January 19th.

Also pleased to report the following from the Meeting with Ministers:

The Bell Island Ferry Users Committee Is Pleased to Report on a Very Successful and Encouraging Meeting

with Transportation Minister Tom Rideout and MHA, Minister Dianne Whalen at the Wabana Complex on January 19,2004.

Chairperson David Brazil and Committee Executive Dr. Laurie, Mayor Gosine, Consultant Ed Kent and Corporal Merrill Attended on Behalf of the Committee with the Ministers Joined by Manager Ben Hammett, Executive Director John Baker and Members of the Ministers' Executive Staff.

The Committee received assurances that the Bell Island Ferry Service is viewed as the economic engine to sustain Bell Island's economy and an affordable, efficient and effective service was fundamental to maintaining the gainful employment of over 600 Bell Islanders.

THE KEY ISSUES ADDRESSED WERE:

1. Investment in a New Swing Ferry:

The Minister advised that construction of a new 28 car swing ferry continued to be a high priority for the Government in 2004 and That Cabinet would be

assessing an action plan in the near future towards the commencement of construction of a ferry to replace the Hamilton Sound. Minister Rideout described the need for new ferry infrastructure as an urgent infrastructure priority that had to be addressed and that such a direction was consistent with Government Policy.

The Committee is quite optimistic that a green light will be given by Government to construction of a new ferry in the very near future.

2. Preservation of Ferry Schedule And The Two Vessel Service:

The Committee emphasized the importance of maintaining on a year round basis of the current 2 vessel ferry service and the value of this investment in this service to Bell Island's economy and employment prospects for our people.

The Minister was very supportive of maintaining the existing service level and the committee is confident that the current schedule and 2 vessel service will be maintained in 2004

3. Early Morning Ferry Service Improvement:

The Committee made a case for the continued extension of the 2 vessel ferry service which currently includes 2 early morning trips from Bell Island at 7:20 am and 8:20 am.

The demand for more vehicle capacity in the early morning was seen as an urgent need.

The Minister recognized the need and agreed to review the possibility of the long term funding of this service level following further study by his officials.

The Minister agreed on a tentative basis that the current early morning trips would continue to be provided upon the return of the Flanders from refit (continuance is subject to further assessment of the need and funding availability for a long term extension.)

If the service is not used the case for the extra trips will be nullified.

4. Vessel Refits Schedules:

The Committee expects that the second vessel service will be provided by the Beaumont Hamel for a few weeks while Government prepare refit plans for the

Beaumont Hamel and the Earl Winsor.

The Hamilton Sound would then return to service.

5. Completion of the Bell Island Docks Project:

Minister Rideout advised that capital funds were being requested by his department in the 2004 budget to allow for the completion of the final phase of the Bell Island Dock Rehabilitation. A final decision would be dependent upon Cabinet approval.

Other News:

The Committee will be making a pre-budget presentation to Minister of Finance Sullivan's pre-budget meetings on January 27 outlining the urgent need for a new ferry, the importance of the year round 2 vessel ferry service, the need for improvements in the early morning service and the need to maintain the freeze on ferry rates to affordable levels.

The Committee welcomes support for its efforts from members of the general public and other interested parties.

Ed Kent

Committee Consultant

From the Manager of Ferry Services

Several small items for the news letter this time around.

Commuter Passes;

New commuter passes are being printed up for distribution to those who have applied for the \$2.00 rate and Priority Pass **and** were approved by the Ferry Committee. These should be ready for distribution on or about Monday 26th January 2004.

These new passes are now color coded for their duration of validity.

Thereafter a new color will be issued for the next quarter, and so on. All persons are reminded that an effort is being made to ensure as fair a system as is possible on this issue is being done, and therefore all who wish to avail of the Commuter Priority and Rate, **must** apply for it.

Medical Emergency response by the ferries.

Residents are aware that the highest priority is accorded to a Medical emergency (similarly for Police and Fire Fighting response). On occasions in the past, a private vehicle

has shown up with persons seeking to get to the other side, to go to one of the hospitals in St John's.

To ensure consistency and to make everyone aware of a policy on this issue, all persons who have a medical emergency must ensure that their travel to St John's on the ferry is sanctioned by the Hospital on Bell Island. There is a real risk otherwise, that a ferry could find itself responding to an apparent medical emergency by a private vehicle, and sails to honor this call-out - only to find the ferry now half way across the "Tickle", before we receive a call from the Hospital on Bell Island - with no ferry to take care of it, (as one ferry is responding already) - and the other storm bound and tied up. Also all Emergency response calls, will now go through a verification process to ensure the call to be genuine. Hopefully this system will sort out potential problems.

Electronic Signs.

By the time this news letter is out, it is very much hoped that these signs will be operational. They will be used to supplement the telephone taped message

(895-6931) and or the radio messages sent out to VOCM-Radio, OZ FM-Radio and CBC-TV (Radio).

However it's likely there may be some bugs in the system, perhaps some training required etc, so kindly ensure that the information given out by the Taped Message, Wharfinger(s), Radio... are treated in this order of reliability - with the signs last, for now. Once the system is proved, we will advise accordingly.

Ben Hammett

News from St. Michael's High School

Greetings from St. Michael's High and a happy new year to all!

Our school year is fast approaching the mid-point with Semester 1 exams happening from Jan. 21 – Jan. 30. Read on for a brief synopsis of the year's goings-on to date. . .

School Grounds Now a Non-Smoking Area: As of our first day back at school

in September, a total ban on smoking on the property was implemented. Co-operation from students has been exceptional and we are very pleased with this implementation. In past years, several new students (Grade 9s) would arrive at St. Michael's as non-smokers and during the year pick up the habit as a result of socializing with the older students. We're convinced that this new regulation is helping to curb that trend. Our thanks and appreciation to students for their co-operation and support.

Annual Remembrance Day Memorial Service –

Nov. 7: As in past years this service was held in our gymnasium. A number of special guests from the local Canadian Legion were in attendance with acting branch president Mr. Harvey Bennett being our guest speaker. Students were given the opportunity to place a poppy on the 2 crosses mounted in the front of our gym stage and our band and choir under the direction of their teacher, Ms. Jean Barry, played and sang the appropriate music and songs. A highlight of

the service was the playing of the Last Post by students, Susan Fitzgerald and Chris Gorman.

Memorial Service for Stephen Hutchings: A very moving and dignified service was held on September 11 to honor the life of last year's Level 3 student Stephen Hutchings who died tragically in a car accident on the Lance Cove Road on August 25. This marked the 2nd memorial service in our gym in the past 6 months; Judy Whalen was so honoured on May 7.

Annual Cap & Gown Awards Night: This annual ceremony designed to pay tribute to last year's graduating students was held on December 18 in our gymnasium. Aimee Brazil was the class valedictorian and received the St. Boniface Memorial Scholarship valued at \$500 for receiving the highest marks in Level 3; she was also awarded the governor general's medal for academic excellence. Trista Butler received the Dobbin Memorial Scholarship valued at \$2000 for receiving the highest ranking (among the St. Michael's High students) on the Department of

Education scholarship exam written in June. The following students received honors diplomas: Aimee Brazil, Trista Butler, Courtney Kavanagh, William Lahey, and Amanda Sparkes. Last year our graduation rate was 89%, one of the highest of any high school in the Avalon East School District. Our congrats to those deserving students.

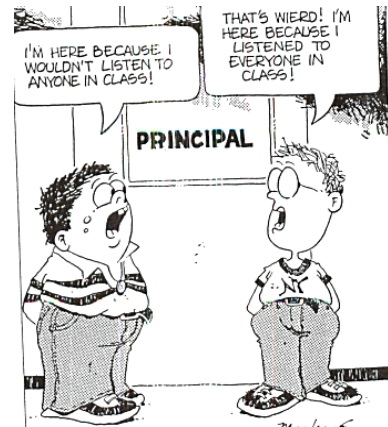
Senior Prom 2004: As in past years, our sr. prom is scheduled for the first Saturday in May – May 1.

Concluding Comment: To date we're quite pleased with the "winter weather" – before Christmas it was wonderful; since then, we have been experiencing winter but it all adds up to a much shorter one than last year! Best regards to all.

Jerome G. Delaney
Principal

Wabana Boys & Girls Club
"Every Kid Has Potential"
In January of this year the Boys & Girls Club started a youth Volunteer Initiative Program. This

program has been developed as a direct connection to our core



values and the needs of our club.

This program will offer incentives, training and experiential learning opportunities that will boost our teenage volunteers a step above when entering the workforce. It will also give our younger members more personal attention with an increased number of positive role models and enhanced program management. Interviews were held and 13 teenage members were chosen for the program.

The successful candidates are Amanda Arnold, Ashley Arnold, Tamie Arnold, Jessica Barnes, Sean

Hammond, Kim Lewis, Melissa Maddigan, Freddy Matthews, Ashley McLean, Colin Neary, Keith Neary, Jessica Rees, and Courtney Vokey, congratulations and we're looking forward to working with you. We are entering our final week for the Winter Program registration, if you haven't signed up for the programs now is the time to do so. Come in and get yourself put on a team for the programs of your choice. Some of the programs offered are Floor Hockey, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Soccer Baseball, and many more organized games. Don't forget your membership and your change of footwear.

Want to support the club! For a minimum donation of \$10.00 a year former members can purchase their 1st ever Boys & Girls Club card and number. In the past this has been one of our main fundraisers but unfortunately with our former members moving and changing addresses this project has taken a huge dip. So we ask existing alumni members to renew their membership and any other former members to please support this annual

project and buy back your old card. We will also accept contributions from non-members. Any individual or Business wishing to give an annual donation, we will accept it and add your names to the Honorary Membership list. For any information on the Alumni Club or have an address of a former member, call the club at 488-3801/2288.

On New Year's Eve, Chris Benoit and friends had a New Year's Ball at the club and all proceeds were donated to the club. We would like to thank Chris for this kind gesture and it is very much appreciated, the donation will be put to great use. Thanks for keeping the Boys & Girls Club in mind.

Joe Sommerton

From the Bell Island Community Food Bank

On behalf of the Food Bank I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope 2004 will be a prosperous one.

In the past year our fundraising efforts were

way down from previous years. Allstream (formerly AT & T) canceled their annual Golf Tournament & our annual Turkey Raffle was not a success due to our timing to other functions taking place. These functions always brought us in a substantial amount of money that we now don't have, therefore this coming year we will have to work harder to raise extra money. We would like to thank everyone for their support in the past years and look forward to working with you in 2004.

There is more to running a Food Bank than just serving families monthly. We are very much involved with **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS, BRIGHTER FUTURES, WABANA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB** and anywhere there is **CHILDREN**. Our goal is to help alleviate hunger among those who don't have sufficient means to do so themselves.

We ran into a few problems in 2003 with a client or clients picking up food and then dumping it behind the Fire Hall. This was perishable food that

was donated to us from The Sharing Association in St. John's (we get frozen food, bread, snacks or fruit & vegetables donated to us at different times other than our regular food & we call clients to come & pick up this food if they need it).

One of the things we ask our clients to do is if you don't want this food don't take it. Our food bank is only there to help people who are in need. This food is not meant to help with your groceries. Please remember we provide a 2 day emergency food supply only.

All help at the Food Bank is provided by "SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS". These volunteers work very hard and give their time to helping people and if it weren't for them we would not be operating. These people have received verbal abuse on several occasions in the past year as well as being accused of having their homes and basements full of food. I think it is time to put this to rest. If whomever has proof of this would put it in writing and identify themselves then we

would present it to our Board and they will handle the matter.

This year any unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated and action will be taken. Our volunteers work 5 days & some evenings stocking shelves, packing food, etc for clients, **YOU HELP US AND WE WILL HELP YOU.**

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR CHRISTMAS DRAW. The winners were:

Ticket # 325 ----turkey hamper won by Mrs. Graham Butt

Ticket # 521 ----Christmas Craft won by H. Highmore

Ticket # 68 ----Bucket Salt Beef won by Mrs. Annie Tulk

In the past couple of years, we have been involved with the distribution of **VOCM CARE BINGO CARDS FOR THE LIONS CLUB, PORTUGAL COVE**, at the end of the season the Lions Club made a donation to the Food Bank. This is another way you can help

support us. **PLEASE BUY THESE BINGO CARDS.** We would like to thank all who support us with this worthy cause. This project was taken on by our volunteers. We would also like to thank the following stores for selling the Bingo Cards: Brads Convenience, Yicks Service Store, Foodland, Easy Save, Kitchens, Slades and My Friends Place.

On a personal note I would like to congratulate Colleen & Boyd Merrill and Cherie Bennett for the wonderful job they are doing on this newsletter. I was particularly interested in the November issue from the Corporal's desk on alcohol. I think there is much we can do as adults and parents and would like to offer my help in any way I can.

Marilyn Sheppard

From the Kiwanis Club

The Bell Island Kiwanis Club is proud to announce the upcoming 2004 Kiwanis Curling Funspiel on February 27th, 28th and 29th at the Bell Island Arena.

This Funspiel is an annual event that includes fun and some prizes and surprises. Get off your couch and put in a team! This is a weekend of friendship and laughs. To enter a team you can get a hold of the following members: Gary Gosine, Walter Tucker, Gordon Skanes or Boyd Merrill. Professional Curlers and "Can't even spell curlers" are all invited to attend.

***From the Bell Island
Brighter Futures Family
Resource Centre***

***# 18 Normore Crescent
(709)-488-2699***

It has been a while since I have written in this news letter and I would like to thank the RCMP for continuing with this project. I also would like to wish all residents of the Island best wishes for a great new year. With a new year beginning what a great time to get involved into new things, do things with your family, kick old habits, etc. With that said why not attend our programs with your child, a friend's child, a grandchild, or a child you care for. To help you with some of your questions or concerns about

the centre I have answered a few that have been asked of me:

Q: Do I have to pay for programs?

A: All programs are **FREE** costs are taken care of by the Brighter Futures Coalition. The only thing you provide is yourself and your child/ren. This is a program funded fully by the Federal Government.

Q: I don't need anyone to show me how to be a parent!

A: This is not a place to show you how to be a parent. At the Centre parents get together, share ideas, have leisure time, and develop friendships. These are programs for you and your child to have time together playing and laughing in a friendly environment.

Q: Are you part of Social Services?

A: NO we are not, we are funded by the Federal Department of Health Canada, (example- Public Health Nurses). We offer programs that are suggested to us by parents with health and nutrition as a big part of those programs.

Q: If I go once will I have to go all the time?

A: You can come to the programs that interest you, you can come as often as you want and get involved as much as you would like. Also you can have another adult bring your child/ren for you if for some reason you cannot attend with them.

Q: I have no way to get to the Centre?

A: Transportation is provided on a as need basis. If you would like to come for the first time and need a ride- call the Centre and arrangements can be made. After that transportation can be made possible for you to attend programs.

Q: How can I get more information?

A: You can call the Centre and speak to myself or ask your Public Health Nurses. We would be glad to help you and if you would like to see the Centre before a program just call and arrangement can be made to show you around.

With all that in mind start the year out at Brighter

Futures with your child and enjoy the fun and excitement you can have. Here are some of our activities for the upcoming months:

Every Wed. & Fri. From 12:15 to 2:15 Parents & Tots program.

- Jan. 23 - celebration of National Literacy Day.
- Jan. 28 - Parents & Tots - crazy hair day.
- Jan. 30 - Birthday Celebration
- Feb. 4 - Parents & Tots - pajama day fun.
- Feb. 9 - Community Kitchens
- Feb. 11 - Parents Club
- Feb. 13 - Valentines Party

We have many programs that are being offered or can be offered if desired. If you have questions or comments call me at 488-2699 I would be glad to assist you.

All the programs are offered FREE OF CHARGE with transportation and child care being provided for programs if needed. Take advantage of a wonderful time to spend special time, out of the home, with your child

compliments of Brighter Futures.

Take that first step and always remember children have a “brighter future”.

Thank you,

Hollie Neary

Program Coordinator

News from the Coop Bakery

As another year begins, both staff and volunteers at the island’s Co-op Bakery are looking forward to the changes planned by the Board which we all hope will revitalize this community landmark. The “Saturday Morning Breakfast Program” last summer which, with the support of community and visitors alike, allowed us to replace the windows at the Bakery. Beginning in February and running throughout 2004, the volunteers who make up the “Bakery Committee” plans monthly fundraising events which will allow us to begin “Phase 2” of the revitalization of our bakery.

One of our first such fundraisers will be “Rummage Sale” which will be held in the basement of the Bakery in February on a date to be confirmed. So watch for our signs throughout the town and come support your local bakery – which employs two of the best bakers anywhere! Remember, your “trash” is someone else’s “treasure” so if you have any items you’ve been planning to get rid of or feel you’d like to contribute to a good cause, please call me at 488-2271 and I will let you know when you can drop them at the Bakery.

A big vote of thanks goes out to the local RCMP and Constable Boyd Merrill who provided a badly-needed air exchanger to the Bakery. The RCMP have been policing this community since 1950 and their participation in whatever goes on here on the island is almost a given. We don’t stop often enough to say “Thank You” to these men and women who share our lives. So, from all of us at the Bakery, our thanks for your generosity - and congratulations to Boyd (and all the gang at

the coffee shop on the Beach) who've "kicked the habit" and are no longer smoking. Boyd, his wife Tracy and daughter Morgan enjoyed our Saturday Morning Breakfast Program last summer – and we look forward to their participation in our fundraisers as the year progresses.

The support of this community is very much appreciated by the bakers and the Board of the Co-op, and we hope this will continue throughout 2004 as we work to revitalize the Bakery. Watch for our posters – and don't forget your donations to our "Rummage Sale".

Kay Coxworthy

Secretary

Legion

Our annual Xmas party was a success and that I would like to thank our volunteers for their support.

We are having a Valentines dinner and dance on Feb.14, [roast beef dinner], music is by Jerome. \$10.00 single. All are welcome.

For further information call the Legion at 488-2072.

Thank you,

Donald Sweeney

Submission from Cst. Steve Harper

This is a true story

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone. Fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often?

When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror. The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand.

Bob?
Bob from Church?

Jack sunk farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket.

A cop catching a guy from his own church. A guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after a long day at the office. A guy he was about to play golf with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached a man he saw every Sunday, a man he'd never seen in uniform.

"Hi, Bob. Fancy meeting you like this."

"Hello, Jack." No smile.

"Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids."

"Yeah, I guess." Bob seemed uncertain. Good..

"I've seen some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit, just this once." Jack toed at a pebble on the pavement. "Diane said something about roast beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?"

"I know what you mean. I also know that you have a reputation in our precinct."

Ouch. This was not going in the right direction. Time to change tactics.

"What did you clock me at?"

"Seventy. Would you sit back in your car please?"

"Now wait a minute here,

Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65." The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket.

"Please, Jack, in the car."

Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window. The minutes ticked by.

Bob scribbled away on the pad. Why hadn't he asked for a driver's license?

Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat near this cop again.

A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand. Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip.

"Thanks." Jack could not quite keep the sneer out of his voice.

Bob returned to his police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the

mirror. Jack unfolded the sheet of paper. How much was this one going to cost? Wait a minute. What was this?

Some kind of joke?
Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack,

Once upon a time I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters. All three of them. I only had one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again. A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again. Even now.

Pray for me.

And be careful, Jack, my son is all I have left."
"Bob"

Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. Jack watched until it disappeared. A full 15

minutes later, he too, pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.

Life is precious. Handle with care. This is an important message; please pass it along to your friends. Drive safely and carefully. Remember, cars are not the only things recalled by their maker.

Unknown author.

**Greetings from the Anglican Church—
Parish of Bell Island
St. Cyprian's and St. Mary's**

GIFTS!

We have just experienced the Season of Giving. From my experiences in life, giving can be a wonderful experience that unites heart to heart, that gives warmth and depth to relationships and makes

the spirit within feel alive and good. It is true, also, that no matter what gifts we give, the gift that really counts is the giver. For in giving we give something of ourselves; and if that is absent from our giving there is something essential and necessary missing. The Season of Giving, which we have all celebrated, reminds us that God is a Giver and, while His gifts are many, the greatest gift he gives to us is the gift of Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ.

There is a very special gift that I wish to mention and to encourage anyone reading this to use daily. It is a gift that God has given to us. It is the gift of PRAYER.

Many people remember the poetry of Alfred Lord Tennyson and his insightfulness concerning the gift of prayer: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day."

I would think, from listening to his words, that Alfred Lord Tennyson understood prayer as God's wonderful gift to us; a gift to be desired and a gift to be shared.

There is some lovely poetry written by Grace Campbell. It speaks about the experience of healing prayer. It is a gift to anyone who would listen closely to what she has to say about the gift of prayer. It reminds me about a friend who had been taken to God in prayer and had burdens lifted. I share it with you as a "gift."

SOMEONE HAD PRAYED

The day was long, the burden I had borne seemed

heavier that I could longer bear, and then it lifted-----

but I did not know, someone had knelt in prayer.

Had taken me to God that very hour, and asked an easing of the load, and He in infinite compassion, had stooped down and taken it from me.

We cannot tell how often as we pray for some

bewildered one, hurt and distressed, an answer comes—and many times those hearts find sudden peace and rest.

Someone had prayed in faith, a reaching hand took

hold of God, and brought him near that day. So

many, many hearts have need of prayer.

So, let us pray.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Parish

On behalf of our Parish Pastoral Council, I wish to offer a sincere thanks to all who support our parish through their Time, Talent and Treasure. Our parish continues to do very well spiritually and financially and thus I am very pleased. We invite all parishioners and friends to gather with us for our weekend liturgy as we celebrate our faith and build a strong community of service to the Lord. Our mass schedule is:
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.;
Sunday, 10:30 a.m;

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Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. Your presence is more than

welcome. Parents are reminded to register their children for the many Religious Education Programs in our parish. For example, children in grades 1, 2, 3, are offered a special Home Religion Program and youth in grades 4 and older are asked to register for the program in preparation for confirmation.

Please call the office for further information.

If you wish to update on the many activities in our parish, please consult our weekly parish bulletin or our parish web page on internet:

www.bellisland.net/rcparish

We offer you the weekly bulletin and other important information on our parish web page.

I encourage parishioners and friends to celebrate eucharist with us and

share in the many activities of the winter months which will include: St. Patrick's Day Dinner and dance along with fun activities. Also, we will have a family fun skate during the month of February. If you have any concerns or you are

interested in becoming more active in our parish, please call the office. Thanks for your continued support.

God Bless
Father Wayne Dohey

Court News

On January 4, 2004 a 43 year old male was arrested for an incident that occurred on December 26, 2003. He was charged with Uttering Threats, three counts of Breach of Probation, three counts of Breach of an Undertaking and one count of Breach of a Recognizance. He appeared in court on January 5, 2004 and is held in custody until January 22, 2004.

On January 8, 2004, a 42 year old male was charged with Driving While Prohibited and two counts of Breach of Probation from an incident that occurred on December 18, 2003. First court appearance is February 13, 2004.

On January 10, 2003, a 37 year old male was charged with Possession of Marihuana from a

December 27, 2003 incident. First court appearance is February 17, 2004.

A 33 year old Bell Island male will attend court on January 21st, 2004 to answer to a charge of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime.

A 18 year old Bell Island female was charged with Assault after an incident at a local teen hangout. She will attend court on January 28th, 2004 to answer to the charge.

A 30 year old male was convicted of assault and received a 60 day conditional sentence and 2 years probation.

A 14 year old male was charged and convicted of break and enter and received 6 months probation.

A 13 year old Bell Island youth will attend court on February 3rd, 2004 to answer to a charge of Uttering Threats.

Thank You

The Bell Island Policing Newsletter

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