

The Bell Island Community

Policing Newsletter

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

November 2004

From the Corporal's Desk

You are what you believe you are!

Have you ever heard this before. Athletes use this principle. Motivational speakers as well. Teachers preach this principal and parents share this daily with their children....or at least they should! This concept is a simple one really. It encompasses a belief and a direction to follow or achieve. If you set a goal and strive for this goal you will achieve. Just ask me. You will get recognition for changing into what you believe you are and others will see you differently than they did before. Where is this all going?

I would guess that if you asked Bell Islanders in 1910 what they were they

would respond that they were hard working, God fearing souls living in a community of good times and a growing economy. If you asked in the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's you would get the same answer from most. This was the economic core of the Avalon Peninsula. Others from "Around the Bay" looked to Bell Island in envy as the work, the economy and the most thriving part of Conception Bay was directly in the middle. How many have said to me that if you were in St. John's with a fifty dollar bill then everyone knew you were from Bell Island? Lots!!! The perception of Bell Islanders was strong, positive and proud. And I believe it still is!

What about "Around the Bay?" - Manuels, Long Pond, Seal Cove, Holyrood,

Spaniards Bay, Brigus, etc...What was going on there? You are right. Things were taking off their as well. Some were thriving because they could find work in Bell Island or supply goods to the island, others because the provincial economy was doing well and St. John's was expanding outwards. And it still is.

The question I pose in this writing is why did everyone else around Bell Island keep going and growing and Bell Island stopped. The answer is simple, it didn't. That's right, it didn't. People have merely convinced themselves that it did. Sure people had to leave Bell Island to get work and some followed family to other provinces but the remainder who stayed made things work for them, just look around.

There are many businesses in Bell Island. Businesses that take products to and from the island to town, across the province and to other provinces. There are numerous islanders exporting their knowledge each day to the city to be used by business or educational facilities. There are local businesses offering services to locals such as food, convenience items and other staples. Bell Islanders have construction companies, development services, manufacturing plants and tourism services. Bell islanders are happening individuals who sometimes forget just what is really happening around them. None of this could have happened if people didn't believe it could.

But alas sometimes Bell Islanders are prone to negative discussion and doomsday thinking....just like other community members in this great province do at times.

I suggest enough is enough. The time has come for new thinking, new perspectives and the opening of new paradigms for all. Someone realized this same new

thinking was needed in the areas now known as **Conception Bay South**. This group of people thought that a new identity, a new respect would be achieved with a new label, a new name for their group of communities. It worked and it continues to work for them today and beyond. Just drive through and look around. Growth is everywhere because the residents all believe it will. Take a look at an area called **Conception Bay North**. What is happening out there? The same thing! Locals are banding together if not in person but in spirit resulting in community growth, economic advancement and a better life generally for all. (I would guess some might argue all progress is not good but very few...).

Where does that leave Bell Island. Yes **Bell Island**. It leaves us humbled. It leaves us thinking for the first time since the mines closed that maybe our new identity will bring with it a new thought process for our residents. It certainly has started. Look at the enhanced Ferry system over the past year. You can actually get to St. John's

without getting in line for hours coming and going. Look at the housing situation. People are actually moving back to Bell Island. People are building here, yes building new houses. Discussions are being held for other developments. New "Bed and Breakfasts" are in planning or being renovated. Our roads are full of trucks delivering roof trusses or concrete or building supplies. Things are happening and yes the old way of thinking is no longer acceptable. In fact there should be a fine for negative thinking in Bell Island today. Anyone found being negative about their own community should be sentenced to spend 5 days on Water Street telling others that Bell Island is alive and doing well and yes a newly re-thought community called **Conception Bay Center** is the place to watch in the next 20 yearsor more. Agree? Send a message to all that you are from a proud piece of Newfoundland and Labrador history...you are from **Bell Island, Conception Bay Center, NL., A0A-4H0**. It's past

time for a change!

If you agree with this seek an new identity for your Island - **Bell Island, Conception Bay Center, NL**. Oh yes one more thing - if you believe you are - you soon will be! Have a great day!

Submitted by Cpl. Boyd Merrill

R.C.M.P. Welcomes a V.I.P. from the North Pole

The R.C.M.P. and Health, Community Services on Bell Island are throwing a Christmas party for Special Adults at the R.C.M.P. detachment on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 1:00 p.m.. If you are the parent or guardian of a person with a developmental delay and have not yet received an invitation, please call the R.C.M.P. detachment at 488-3312. We would love to see you there. Lots of fun and food will be provided.

Submitted by Cst. Noble

NEWS FROM THE BELL ISLAND COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT CO-OP

“Co-ops don’t fail people – people fail co-ops”

How true it is! When 350 people came out to the old CLB Armoury for the formation meeting of our Co-op on December 2, 1984, you could feel the energy in the room as we all looked forward to full participation by the people of this community. Eventually over 500 people purchased shares in what is, essentially, YOUR Co-op. So many of those faces are now gone, but the memory of their faith in the Co-op system and in this community is still as fresh as it was 20 years ago. How I wish we could say the same of circumstances in the ensuing years.

On November 14th, our Co-op held its Annual General Meeting at St. Augustine’s School on Bell Island, with an attendance of 40 people, including Mayor Gary Gosine. As Vice-Chair Ken Kavanagh stated in his Board Report, “the purpose of this annual meeting is to kick-start the process necessary to rejuvenate and re-energize this community-owed

enterprise.”

In the past, we have had difficulty finding enough members even to make up a quorum, allowing us to hold an AGM. Another factor we had to contend with was the lack of individuals offering themselves as potential Board members. Something has to be done if we are to rejuvenate our community co-operative – and it must start with YOU!

Despite the lack of community support in some areas, we have had our successes – our Bakery is now in a better position than it has been in many years, and the reason for that success can be laid squarely, in my opinion, on the shoulders of our two employees, Elaine Fitzgerald and Georgina King, and the good people who consistently purchase some of the best baked goods available in this province. A “Bakery Committee” which is made up of members of the Co-op Board meets regularly to discuss concerns and to plan fundraisers such as our successful “Breakfast at

the Bakery” initiative for the past two summers which has resulted in the total replacement of our windows at the Bakery and the purchase and installation of a badly-needed air conditioner.

Our Seniors Complex is providing quality housing for our senior citizens, and the amount of volunteer effort that goes into the running of that complex has to be seen to be believed! This Complex was separately incorporated as a non-profit corporation by the Co-op in 1987 and the Board Members of the Co-op, with two external community volunteers constitute the Housing Board.

We believe that our Co-operative is still an important and relevant stakeholder in this community, but it needs to begin a process of renewal. A new Board with a full complement of directors can lead that process – and we need 12 community volunteers to give us that full complement. We were successful in finding 11 of those at our meeting, but there’s still one vacancy, and if anyone is prepared to serve, please call me at

488-2271. A full list of the new Board will appear in the next Newsletter.

This present Board has done a little pre-planning to help facilitate this process of rejuvenation and renewal. We have applied for and received funding from the provincial Community Capacity Building Program to hold a strategic planning session which will be held for interested and available Board Members in St. John’s early in the new year. This workshop, led by a trained facilitator, will provide an excellent opportunity for this new board to develop a strategic work plan to address the many issues facing our Co-op.

At our recent AGM, the idea of a Credit Union for Bell Island was again raised and it appears there is still a definite interest in pursuing this topic which will happen during the coming year. Watch for further details in coming bulletins. Watch also for our program to encourage new members – they are the life blood of every Co-op.

Ken Kavanagh in his report

at our AGM said: “Co-ops and credit unions do a lot more than just run successful businesses, they also build communities and help people improve their lives. What is more important is that we believe in the principles of economic democracy and people having some control and ownership over their social and economic well being. I hope that, in the year ahead, we can begin working together as a community to recapture that goal and vision of this cooperative to contribute to the overall well being of the community and the people of Bell Island.” We look for your support as we begin to strive towards this critical goal.

On behalf of the volunteers who make up your Co-op Board and the staff of our Bakery, I extend best wishes to each of you and your families here and away for the coming holidays and the New Year. May it be a memorable one for each of us and our community. As my favourite quote goes: “May the New Year bring you and yours good health, good luck and plenty of

good friends to share it with!”.

Kay Coxworthy
Secretary
The Bell Island
Community Development
Co-op

Dr. Walter Templeman
Hospital News

Answer to Previous
Question:

How much money did each miner pay out of their paycheck to build the Dr. Walter Templeman Health Centre (Hospital)?

ANSWER: A payroll deduction of 50 cents/week over two years, resulting in each miner contributing \$52.00. This was a major factor in reaching financial goals.

RESEARCH STUDY:

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC), in partnership with the St. John’s Health Care Corporation and Health and Community Services St. John’s Region has started health research on Bell Island.

Who started this?

Why are we doing health needs research?

When did it start?

Who could tell me more?

Approximately every decade there has been a study concerning the health needs of Bell Island Residents. The last study was in 1995. With the changes in population demographics, it is important to know all we can about the health needs of Island residents.

In March 2002, several community leaders met to discuss the Hay Group Report. This report made recommendations concerning the Health Centre. Through much work and advocating for Island residents, the group evolved into the Bell Island Joint Committee on Health Care. This volunteer group is made up of representatives from many professions and professional groups, volunteer groups, citizens and stakeholders. After many meetings this group arranged for consultation with the Department of

Health, St. John’s Health Care Corporation and Health and Community Services St. John’s Region.

This consultative process resulted in a visit from the then sitting Minister of Health. There were many meetings with representatives from the St. John’s Health Care Corporation and Health & Community Services. This networking proved positive and the National Research Council became involved to do the research on the health needs of Island residents.

As you can see, all of the groundwork from a group of community volunteers and leaders has resulted in positive steps in identifying the present and future health needs of Island residents.

The Community Health Needs Assessment has finally started, after two years of behind the scenes work. Results and outcomes of the assessment will largely be determined by your participation so please take part in the telephone survey, town hall meetings

or focus groups. For further information please contact Ms. Valerie Ryan, RN, Community Liaison Officer with the National Research Council at 488-2194.

OTHER NEWS

We have recently installed a color TV in the Outpatient Area. At times with one physician in the clinic waiting time may be extended due to unforeseen circumstances. Hopefully, the TV will provide a distraction making your wait more tolerable. We extend much thanks to the Health Centre's Softball Team for donating this TV. Enjoy.

The Health Centre's Craft Store is up and running after a recent review process. You will not see many changes - this review was more of a process review. We are now prepared to take crafts, photography, etc. from ALL Island residents. This is an opportunity to show case your work. Please call the President of the Volunteer Group, Mrs. Myrtle Parsley at 488-2026 or phone the Centre at 488-2776.

Volunteers are important members of the team at the Dr. Walter Templeman Health Centre. These dedicated individuals give freely of their time to improve the quality of life of the patients/residents by offering the additional services that make their stay a little brighter. Whether they are working in the Craft Store or providing assistance on the Nursing Unit...these individuals have the satisfaction of knowing they make a difference.

If you are reliable, committed and willing to give 3 – 6 hours per week, why not consider volunteering at the Health Centre. For further information you may contact Sharon Dawe, Volunteer Resources Coordinator at 777-5539.

Once again Management Staff of the Health Centre are becoming alarmed with aggressive behavior displayed by some after hours patients in the Outpatient Area.

Recently, night staff had to call the RCMP to the Centre due to escalating verbal aggression displayed

by a male patient, to the point that they felt physically threatened. There is a formal and informal complaints process in place. Aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and consultation is ongoing with the RCMP and Occupational Health & Safety in an effort to protect our staff while on duty.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PHYSICIAN TIP

The weather has turned damp and cold. It is time now to wear layered clothing and consider the flu shot. Should you get the flu shot?

The top 10 reasons for getting the flu shot:

10. You have a chronic medical condition.
9. You have a weakened immune system.
8. You are a senior citizen.
7. You are between 6 – 23 months of age.
6. You are a health care provider.

- 5. You provide essential community services.
 - 4. You cannot afford time off work
 - 3. You are traveling to another country.
 - 2. You live with someone who has a chronic medical condition.
- problems/divorce
 - Domestic violence
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - Coping
 - Problem solving
 - Parenting
 - Anger management
 - Self-esteem
 - Coping with mental illness

And the #1 reason you should get the flu shot is:

- 1. You care about your own health and health of those around you.

Or any other area which is causing problems for you or someone you care about?

There is help available. Contact Ms. Paula Pittman, Mental Health/Addictions Counselor at 488-2701.

QUESTION:

Where was Dr. Walter Templeman born and raised?

MENTAL
HEALTH/ADDICTIONS
COUNSELLING
BELL ISLAND

Are you or someone you know experiencing a problem related to

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Gambling
- Stress
- Grief
- Relationship

Did you know-----The Mental Health Crisis Centre offers a 24 hour, 7 day a week mental health crisis intervention service? If you are experiencing a crisis and would like to talk to someone immediately please contact the Mental Health Crisis Centre at 737-4668.

Kiwanis Club News

The Annual Kiwanas Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday December 5th at 1:30 P.M. on Bell Island. The parade will leave the Town Hall

following a route through Wabana to the Wabana Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club will be the site for refreshments and some hot food. Santa will be in attendance and a friendly group of Kiwanians will be handing out candy along the way. Please try and get a float in this parade representing your special interest in our community! Thanks and Happy Holidays from the Bell Island Kiwanis Club!

Submitted by Boyd Merrill

Firearms Course

There is still plenty of time to sign up for a possible FAC/ Firearms Licence Course to be held in the New Year if there is enough interest on the Island. We have set up a process where you can call the RCMP office and leave your name and number or sign the sheet at the coffee shop on the waterfront. Once interest is known we can then plan to set up a course date and obtain an instructor early 2005.

It is estimated that a Firearms Licence course will run about \$50 per person which is the usual cost. This is not the hunter capability course. It is the national course which qualifies one to be able to purchase ammunition. One can obtain a Possession Only Licence or to make firearm purchases, a Possession and Acquisition Licence.

Submitted by Cpl. Boyd Merrill

ARE YOU TOO RUSHED AT CHRISTMAS? IF YOU ARE TAKE A MINUTE TO READ THIS. I DO NOT KNOW WHO THE AUTHOR IS, BUT THEY SURE MADE SENSE.

This has been adopted to the Christmas Version of 1st Corinthians Chapter 13.

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny ornaments but do not show love to my family, I'm just another

decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table cloths.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Have a very happy Christmas and joyous New Year!

SOME OF YOU MAY THINK I'M GETTING SOFT IN MY OLD AGE, WELL MAYBE I AM, YOU DON'T FACE DEATH AND BEAT IT WITHOUT BEING CHANGED IN SOME MANNER. THE CHANGE IN ME I HOPE HAS ONLY BEEN FOR THE BETTER.

Submitted by Dale

**Fitzgerald - Author
unknown**

Food for Thought

Paul Harvey Writes:

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would.

I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated.

I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.

I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.

If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one.

I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.

When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in

your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy\girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what Ivory soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.

May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.

I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Hannukah/Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you
- tough times and
disappointment, hard work
and happiness. To me, it's
the only way to appreciate
life.

St. Michael's Church

Dear Parishioners and
Friends:

The general conversation
these days is that the
Christmas season is fast
approaching. It is obvious
that we are all rushing to do
the necessary things such as
preparing christmas cards,
buying gifts and decorating
our
homes. In the midst of all
our activity, the church
reminds us to slow down
and first celebrate the
Advent Season. The first
Sunday of Advent will
begin on November 28th
and it will remind all of us
to " Prepare the way of the
Lord ". We all agree that
the Lord is important in our
lives and therefore
we hope and pray that
Christ will be the
welcomed guest during the
Christmas season and
throughout the year. I invite
you to join us for our many
liturgies during the Advent
season and together prepare

for the birth of the Lord.
The advent season is a time
of "getting ready" to
welcome Christ and I am
sure we will all do this by
our active participation in
our respective church
liturgies and by our many
acts of charity.

As a parish community we
have started our Home
Religion Program for our
children who are preparing
for the celebration of the
various sacraments in the
new year. I thank all
parents/guardians who have
registered their child and
we look forward to a time
of faith sharing.

On behalf of our Parish
Pastoral Council, I extend
to you and your family
the blessings of the Advent
season and the peace and
love of Christ at Christmas.
I thank you for your
kindness and continued
support and I pray the new
year will offer us the true
gift we all strive for: the
gift and peace and renewed
faith.

Happy Advent Season
Father Wayne Dohey

Christmas Greetings
from the Anglican

Parish of Bell Island.

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep
prayer and a Baby's low
cry! And the star rains its
fire where the Beautiful
sing, For the manger of
Bethlehem cradles a King.
(Josiah Gilbert Holland)

Dear people of Bell Island,
there is well-known
Christmas music and song
heard everywhere now; in
the stores, on our radio
and TV sets, all of it
having something to say
about this Holy Season
which we call Christmas.
A well-known song says :
"in the air there's a feeling
of Christmas." Author
W.T. Ellis once said "it is
Christmas in the heart that
puts Christmas in the air."
May the hope which the
Christ Child brings plant
Christmas in all our hearts;
so that hope for peace,
happiness, kindness,
goodness, and the healing
of all that separates and
divides may fill the air all
year through.

Some Christmas songs
speak about sadness,
anxiety, fear, hurt and
pain. Christ came to give
hope for all who are

hurting in body, mind and spirit. Christmas in the heart does not forget these things, for it opens up an awareness of the need for grace and healing in every human being. Christ came so that we may be healed and have life abundantly. May the Spirit of the Christ Child use our hearts to bring hope and happiness to those who are hurting and need a touch of goodness and kindness.

Christmas is, of course, a special time for families. Cards and parcels will be sent to express love. The telephones will be busy as people long to hear the voice of a loved one who is away. The coming of the Christ Child hallowed family life, so let us pray for family life, for family unity, love and peace. Let us pray for all those who experience Christmas as a lonely time.

Christmas is, above all else, a time to worship...to join with shepherds and angels and heavenly chorus in songs of rejoicing, and to kneel at the manger site, as it were, to worship Him who has come to save us all. Whatever your denomination, do take time

to worship this Christmas. It is an opportunity and a privilege too important to ignore or miss. It is a sure way to have the Christ Child born anew in our hearts, to have the spirit of Christmas fully alive in our hearts, and to ensure that the feeling of Christmas and the peace it brings fills the air.

Our Church Services for Christmas Eve Night, Dec. 24th.

St.Mary's.....6:00pm

St.Cyprian's.....8:00pm

Note: These times are tentative. I don't expect they will change, but should they change notice will be given of the change at church services.

Let me end by sharing some well-known words from Charles Dickens:

"I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to

think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys...and so as Tiny Tim said: 'A merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us, every one.'

So to all Bell Islanders, I take this opportunity to say: "A merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us, everyone." And a Happy New Year to everyone, too; filled with peace, happiness, love, and good health.

**Rev. Russell Osmond
Priest**

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

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

I would like to thank everyone for their donations, support and assistance to our rummage

sale, which was held on November 15th with great success. Also, through out the year if you have previously loved items you would like to donate to the centre please call and they will be stored for our next sale. Once again a BIG thank you to all.

Reminder - on December 11th from 10:00am to 12:30 p.m. pictures will be taken with Santa at a cost of \$5.00 for 1st child 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. I look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage parents or care givers of children ages 0 to 6 years to come and take part in our many programs. The programs offered are for all residents and all are very welcomed to attend. The center is a place ran by families under the

guidelines of the Brighter Futures Coalition - the more participants the more that can be offered. Start out the new year with your child/ren attending programs with Brighter Futures - remember these are drop-in programs, therefore, you come when you want and how often you want. I look forward to hearing from you.

With the holidays coming our family resource centre would like to extend to all residents a safe and wonderful holiday season. Be responsible, take care and remember it is a time of celebration. SEASONS GREETINGS

EARLY HISTORY OF BELL ISLAND - Part 3

Another family name from the Channel Islands was that of the Bennetts who intermarried with the Normores. But in the main those who came afterward were from England and Ireland, especially the latter. This is understandable in view of the fact that the fishing vessels from Poole and the other ports of the East country often put into

Waterford in Southern Ireland, and shipped on “youngsters” to help out in the fishery. Many of the Irish made their homes in the vicinity of St. John’s and along the Southern Shore while others populated the head of Conception Bay or settled on Bell Island.

The attractive combination of rich soil and good fishing grounds was an irresistible feature that commended the island to all its subsequent settlers. Nature was lavish with her bounty and they found there all the means of livelihood supplemented by the work of their strong and willing hands. The land provided abundant crops. The woods on the island teemed with rabbits and its marshes with snipe and wild ducks. Every year in early summer the caplin rolled in on the beaches, supplying them with fertilizer in plenty for their land.

The names of the early families denote their origin. Among those of English decent are to be found such names as the Skanes, Searles and Dicks of the Beach Hill area and

the Pitts, Kents, Rees, Stoyles, Hiscocks, Hammonds and Kings of Lance Cove. The Irish families were the Powers, Jackmans, Murphys, Kellys and Bowdrings of the Front; the Connors, Cummings, Fitzpatricks and Laheys of Lance Cove Road, the Dwyers of the Beach Hill and the Fitzgeralds, Delahunty's, Kavanaghs and Kehoes of the East End.

The pretty settlement of Lance Cove at the Island's western end contains the only other beach along the Front or southern side, forming a natural landing place similar to the Beach where the ferries dock. The first settler at Lance Cove is believed to have been an Englishman named Greeley, a name no longer found among present day residents, although there are a number of Greeley families at Portugal Cove. He owned a mile square and sold out to the Pitts, Rees, Stoyles, Kents and Hammonds.

The Pitts brothers were seafaring men from Devon. They owned their own vessels and also carried on extensive farming on the

sunny slopes of Lance Cove, engaging as well in the training of horses. They prospered and kept open house for all visitors, entertaining the officers of visiting warships on a lavish scale.

Lance Cove in those early days was a hive of industry for in addition to agricultural activities there was a shipyard on the beach where schooners and small boats were built. Bricks were also manufactured, using local clay.

Written records of the pioneer days are non-existent but the old cemeteries tell something of the early story in the names recorded on the stones. In Lance Cove can be found the first cemetery, now overgrown with grass and trees. Catholics and Protestants alike were buried there. The oldest headstone was that of James Pitts, who died on April 30, 1805, at the age of 70 years. Nearby is one to the memory of two Kent brothers who died in 1815, George on January 12th and James on May 27th. Both were young men. One was drowned by the upsetting of

a boat off the settlement. Another stone records the passing of Edward Cooper in 1822. That name is no longer found on the Island. Mary Hiscock, wife of George Hiscock, is also buried there. She died in 1825. Other names are those of John Pitts, April 1825, age 42; Frances his daughter, August 1826, age 14; Elizabeth, his wife, October 1826, age 40. The old cemetery also contains the name of William Kennedy, who was a skilful wharf builder. The wife of William Stoyles is also buried there. The last to be laid to rest in the old cemetery was Fanny Pitts; William Stoyles was buried in the newer (Roman Catholic) cemetery..

It is interesting to speculate on the reasons that induced people of the old Country to settle in Newfoundland..... You will find out next month - To be continued.....

More Island History....

Food Bargains - April - exact year unknown

(believed to be in 60's)

Utility Turkey - 43 cents/lb
Savoury 2 pks - 29 cents
Riblets - 45 cents/lb
Tea Bags 100's - 85 cents
Burns ½ Whole Chicken 2 lb tin - 79 cents
Carrots - 2 lbs - 25 cents
Raw Ham - 89 cents/lb
Dates - 25 cents/lb
Coconut - 39 cents
Tulip Margarine - 18 lb box - \$4.14
Liver - 49 cents/lb
Kraft Marmalade - 24 oz jar - 52 cents
E.D. Smith Catsup 11 oz - 2 for 45 cents

'Drive a Little and Save a Lot' was the slogan at Tom Lahey's Store where these prices came from.....

Trivia: Where Am I??

Read the clues and try to name the community.....

A mode of transportation PLUS half a French candy PLUS part of the anatomy? _____

Man's name, PLUS baseball equipment, PLUS part of the body? _____

Possessive of burrowing, carnivorous mammal,

PLUS landing place for ships? _____

A very Holy person, PLUS common surname, PLUS inside of? _____

Command, move toward, PLUS preposition, near, PLUS, luck? _____

Place where ships congregate, PLUS a joining together? _____

Indispensable organ, PLUS satisfy, please? _____

Not so big, PLUS source of the emotions, PLUS comfort? _____

Sweetening agent, PLUS do nothing all day? _____

A sharp rap, PLUS personal pronoun, PLUS soft feathers? _____

Submitted by Don Squires

Bell Island Ferry Users Committee

The Committee has provided in-depth reports in recent months addressing

rates, schedules, vessels, ferry service in general and Committee activities update.

Since our last report, the Committee has carried on discussions with our MHA's Minister Whalen's Office and Transportation and Works officials.

EFFORTS TO SECURE NEW FERRY VESSEL

We are actively making representation to have a new vessel constructed to replace the Hamilton Sound which serves Bell Island for 4 months a year. This winter the Hamilton Sound is currently assigned as a replacement ferry in the Southeast Bight service. Later this winter the Beaumont Hamel may be reassigned for a few weeks to allow the Fogo Island ferry to go on dry-dock. The Flanders and Beaumont Hamel had major refits completed in 2004 and likely will not have to be taken out for their refits until the Fall of 2005.

PROTECTION OF THE CURRENT SCHEDULE

No final decision has been made as to whether the current schedule will be maintained for the winter season. The Committee has advised Government that the early morning second vessel service at 720 am and 820 am needs to be maintained to support the Bell Island economy, the commuting workforce and the travelling needs of other ferry users. You should continue to let Minister Whalen know how much you appreciate and need the extra sailing hours in the morning by the Beaumont Hamel.

The Committee is also making representations to secure additional service and trips to meet the demand next summer triggered by 2005 Come Home Year visitors.

**FERRY RATES -
OPPOSED TO 2005
INCREASE**

The Committee remains opposed to any further rate increases and has asked Government to honour their election Blue Book Commitment to lower ferry rates and at the very least to reverse the 5% planned increase for April 1, 2005.

**2005 PRE-BUDGET
CONSULTATIONS-JAN
11,2005**

A brief is being prepared by the Committee to be presented at Fairmont Hotel budget meetings hosted by Minister Sullivan seeking a commitment to an affordable and accessible ferry service to support and sustain the Bell Island economy. Others may also attend and schedule their own presentations in support of Bell Island issues, including ferry service or they may email the Minister of Finance with their views email Minister Sullivan at taxpolicy@gov.nl.ca

**MINISTER OF
TOURISM INVITED TO
BELL ISLAND IN
JANUARY**

In consultation with Mayor Gosine, Minister Shelley is being invited to visit and share our vision for an improved tourism industry supported by an improved ferry service. Suggestions are welcome as to how we can improve our tourism industry.

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

SUMMIT 2

Island Advisory Services has committed to Minister Whalen to host this Fall a follow-up meeting of all interested parties on Bell Island in growing Bell Island's economy.

The Committee will continue to support these initiatives and welcomes the Minister Whalen's undertaking to host a second joint Government /Bell Island economic planning conference in the very near future. Interested parties should contact the IAS and or Mayor Gosine and become actively involved.

**OTHER FERRY
INITIATIVES**

Ongoing efforts are being put forward to secure protection for the public in the advent of labour strikes and strike free status is considered essential

Ongoing efforts are being made to secure the activation of the electronic signage, improvements to the safety of ferry docks including replacement of

damaged and lost fenders and broken deck cribbings etc and improved facilities and maintenance in the dock areas.

Commuters are reminded that approved passes are mandatory to access the discount rates and commuters are encouraged to purchase the advance pass ticket package.

PLEASE CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH YOUR ISSUES, FEEDBACK AND TO OFFER SUPPORT (Chair David Brazil, Mayor Gosine, Dr. Laurie, Officer Merrill, Keith Kent, Tony Power, Consultant Ed Kent)

Best of the Christmas season to everyone

Contributed by Ed Kent-Committee consultant.

News from the Town of Wabana

This year our town has progressed very well with the addition of 10 new building permits. It would be nice for the new year if

we have more housing starts, and we are pretty certain we will as several lots of land have been purchased which indicates to us that our town is starting to grow.

This year your town saw ten municipal roads being upgraded and paved, and also three provincial roads being upgrade and paved. Our thanks must be extended to our MHA Dianne Whalen for her support to our community in having those paving programs carried out.

We also saw the Touch of Class business moved to the Town Square area, Feet First Foot Care Ltd. opened on No. 2 Road, and Cavan's Restaurant opened on Armoury Road. We wish those businesses much success.

The future for our town looks brighter than ever before. We have a police detachment whose members are involved in many community activities. Our seniors are being well cared for. We have a hospital with greatly improved services.

The management and board have to be commended for the excellent care for our residents.

Next year we will open the new extension to the ball field on Steve Neary Blvd. We hope to get a grant to further develop the kids' playground.

We commend the Ferry Users Committee for their constant lobbying of government for improved services. Our island functions better with a great ferry schedule and service. The committee still strives for that goal.

All regular council meetings are open to the public. You can check with the council office for the times. Early in the new year we will publish a schedule of meetings for 2005.

I would like to wish our staff and our residents a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Let's be positive and get involved with your

community. It would be nice to have a couple of members from the general public serve on our Come Home Year 2005 Committee. It is being held from July 15th. to Aug. 15th. Organizations must post their dates with the town as soon as possible so there are no overlapping of activities.

For the festive season why not try to add a few extra lights to brighten up the occasion.

Mayor and councillors,
Town of Wabana

**Submitted by Mayor
Gary Gosine**

Answers: Where am I?

Carbonear
Joe Batts Arm
Badger's Quay
St. Jone's Within
Come by Chance
Port Union
Hearts Content
Little Hearts Ease
Sugar Loaf
Blow-Me-Down

***Bell Island Ferry
Service***

Commuter Passes for the

Bell Island ferry service:

There are presently several types of Commuters. Permanently employed year round and have been for years, Seasonal Commuters and then Part Timer Commuters, with a few Specials and or Medicals thrown into this mix.

Many persons have been Commuters going to their permanent year-round employment for years and are likely to continue for decades! Those persons, many of whom have already been informed, have been placed on a list of people who will only need to apply for their Commuter Pass once per year. No doubt more persons may be added to this list and as these individuals are identified, they will be added. The employment status of these persons will continue to be monitored and the Passes will change colour as the year progresses, just like it happens to the other applicants, four times per year.

It is hoped by adopting this system that some of the delays and subsequent duplication of applications

will be diminished.

Occasionally, substantial delays occur when we receive an application where the information cannot be read. Please print your information and make especially sure that all the information needed is included.

We ask that ALL persons seeking a Commuter Pass in the New Year, regardless of their employment permanency, apply. This will ensure within the measure of the possible, that the Commuter list is as up to date and correct as needed, before 'officially' launching the "permanent" list system.

You can start applying December 15th 2004. The deadline for the applications will be January 20th 2005. All persons who apply after this cut off date, will only get the rate and access once the Pass is issued and displayed or shown. Also be advised that the cut off date means that any applications received after this date will no longer place a person on the commuter list, until their

application is reviewed. All Passes and or tickets sold/purchased will begin to be monitored, without any warning.

It is hoped that the signs on top of the terminals will be operational soon. Some software glitches have taken longer than anticipated to rectify.

I would like to finish with a personal thank you to all residents of Bell Island for the kind courtesy and help that seem to be a hallmark of your Island and to wish each and all, the compliments of the season.

Ben Hammett, Manager

Lost and Found

A diamond ring was found on the morning of Wednesday, November 17, 2004. The ring was found on a dirt/grass path leading from The Green between the back of the hospital and the Senior's Home on No. 2 Road. If you think this ring may be yours please call the R.C.M.P. detachment at 488-3312.

Charges and

Convictions

On 2004-10-22, a 17 year old male from the East End was charged with Uttering Threats from an incident that same date outside the teen dance at Heritage Hall. His plea date is set for 2004-12-21.

On 2004-10-27, a 22 year old female appeared in court on charges of Assault, Uttering Threats and Breach of Probation from two separate but related incidents that occurred on the Ridge on 2004-05-07 and 2004-05-09. A guilty plea was entered 2004-07-28 and sentencing this date resulted in a Suspended Sentence and two years Probation.

On 2004-10-27, 2004-11-01 and 2004-11-18, a 24 year old East End male appeared in court from a 2004-10-04 incident at his parent's residence. He was charged with Mischief and Possession of a Controlled Substance. The matter has been set aside each time and is now set aside until 2004-12-13.

This same 24 year old male also appeared in court on a charge of Assault and a

charge of Mischief from a May 19th, 2004 incident at the medical clinic. Those charges were also set aside each time and are now set aside until 2004-12-13.

On 2004-10-28, a 19 year old female from the East End plead guilty to one charge of Assault and one charge of Uttering Threats was withdrawn. She received an Absolute Discharge. The charges arose from a 2003-10-23 incident in the East End.

On 2004-11-03, a 43 year old male from the Valley was charged with one count of Impaired Driving and one count of Failing to Provide a Breath Sample. The charges arise from an ATV accident that occurred on 2004-10-24 near the intersection of Iron Ore road and No. 2 Road. His plea date is set for 2005-01-07.

On 2004-11-03, a 21 year old male from St. John's appeared in court for one charge of Breach and Probation from a 2004-05-09 incident on The Ridge. The matter has been set aside until 2005-01-05 for a Speedy Disposition.

On 2004-11-05, a preliminary trial was held for a 43 year old male from The Green and his 23 year old son and a 21 year old friend of the son. The 23 and 21 year old male were charged with Assault Causing Bodily Harm, Breach and Enter, Mischief and Breach of Probation. The 43 year old male was charged with Assault Causing, Break and Enter, Mischief and Assault. These charges stemmed from a 2003-03-08 incident in the East End residence of the 30 year old victim. All three men are now ordered to stand trial in Supreme Court. A court date has not yet been set. Look for the date in the next newsletter.

On 2004-11-05, 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. He plead not guilty and the trial was held on 2004.11-19. This male was found guilty and received a \$200 fine and a \$25 Victim Fine Surcharge.

On 2004-11-08, 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 23rd, 2004 incident that occurred in an East End residence. The matter has been set aside until 2004-12-01.

On 2004-11-15, a 25 year old Wabana male was arrested and charged with Break and Enter into Belle's Bar that occurred that same date. The plea date is set for 2004-12-15.

On 2004-11-15, a 23 year old Wabana male was arrested on a Warrant of Arrest for breach of parole and returned to custody.

On 2004-11-17, a 41 year old Wabana female plead Not Guilty to one charge of Theft Under \$5000 and one charge of Breach of Probation from a 2003-10-18 incident at Byrne's Easy Save. The trial is set for 2005-01-05.

On 2004-11-23, a trial for a 48 year old male from the East End was postponed until 2005-06-16. He was charged with Supplying Liquor to Minors on 2003-09-26 at his residence.

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

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 Noble at colleen.noble@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. We can also be reached at the RCMP Detachment at 116 Memorial Street. or (709) 488-3312

