

# Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

September 2005

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Avalon East District – Bell Island  
Executive Editor: Donna Kubik

## From the Corporal's Desk

*“Sometimes you see the odd car get stuck and need a little push. That is what the food bank does. It isn't responsible for getting people around but if they are stuck it offers them a little help to get going again.”*

This may be one of the most important subjects ever written about in this newsletter to date. It concerns an important entity of this community that I am sure is misunderstood, under used and in need of input and support from all residents of Bell Island. I am referring to our Food Bank, which is located in the rear of the Wabana Boys and Girls Club building.

Just 60 days ago I was in the same boat as most Bell islanders in that I didn't have a clue what the Food Bank did or what they were responsible for. I have no idea where their funding came from nor what kind of financial shape they were in. I didn't know where the food came from nor where it went but like all Bell islanders that never checked it out....I heard rumours. So what did I do? I joined the Food Bank board and as of about a month ago I became the Chairman of the Food Bank. The first mandate I chose was to educate the public about what we do, how we do it and what we need to do in the future.

I first want to point out the valuable and dedicated group of volunteers that work for free at the Food Bank and with the board. At present we have 5 volunteers who work many long hours each week. In addition we have 13 board members from every section of the community. We also have a community member under a one-year contract to fundraise and support activities of the organization. We are lucky to have such a group! An important point I want to make at this time is each participant has the right and responsibility to voice their opinion about how the Food Bank operates and **SO DO YOU!** I personally visited this service many times in the past few weeks trying to get a sense of what we do and here is some of what I found.

**A) Since the opening of the FB in 1998 they have served approx. 320 people each month.**

Each person served may be feeding one, two or more making the 320 number possibly more than 400 plus. We want to serve more! The FB allows them to pick up enough supplies to get them through a few days

until their normal funding allows for them to get their own groceries. It sort of reminds me of watching cars drive around in the snow. Sometimes you see the odd car get stuck and need a little push. That is what the food bank does. It isn't responsible for getting people around but if they are stuck it offers them a little help to get going again.

**B) This service is not a government organization or program.** In fact it is not a government-funded initiative. It is a self-funded program. Again it is a self-funded program. The responsibility lies on each FB to raise their own funds needed to make the service run within a framework of donated food from the Food Sharing Association in St. John's. (The Food Sharing Association support over 50 FB's in Newfoundland, as I understand it.)

**C) The FB is opened daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. but the service is not opened to the public all week long.** These hours allow the volunteer staff to sort, compile and get ready for the "service days" which occur on the Friday or Monday nearest the 15<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of the month. These "service

days” are when the clients can come and pick up the “boost” (food) they need to get them through. There are no “service days” until 7-10 days after the government cheques are out. Why? Because each of us are responsible to use our own funding we have to feed ourselves before we go to an outside service. It just makes sense! The normal amount of assistance given to each client is enough supplies for at least a couple of days until the clients would then have some funding coming their way to get their own supplies. Again that makes sense.

**D) The FB proudly supplies the School Lunch Program, Boys and Girls Club, Seniors Complex, Touch of Class, Youth Sporting Events/ groups and some persons who are not regular clients of the FB but find special circumstances that requires assistance.** I bet you didn't know that (because I didn't) and I had no idea of the extent of the support given. Cases and cases and cases of food reaches the School Lunch program and the Boys and Girls Club. **The FB feeds the children of Bell Island.** If you learned nothing else from this piece remember that.

**E) There are many Bell Islanders who do not use the service and could do so.** They may wrongly feel this service is just for a certain few. It isn't. It is for all the community. It is for

anyone who finds money tight. It is for those who at the end of the day find there isn't enough grub to go around until funds are available again. It is for those who know their children need that extra food in order to grow (that is expensive at times) and the money just isn't there. Remember this service has a mandate to children!!!!!!

**F) Anyone from the community is entitled to use the FB.** (I am abbreviating the name from here on to FB) The service has a mandate primarily to the children of this community and their families but families without children and single community members are able to use this service.

**G) There is an application process that one must enter into in able to make use of the service.** The application process is simple. It involves stating who you are and why you need some help. (We all need help!) The application process is confidential and involves no degrading or indignity. Every volunteer at this service understands and follows strict confidentiality rules or they will/ would not remain at the FB. Using a FB should be a positive process not a negative one!

**H) The Bell Island FB has a great amount of community support but needs more.** We did well on Bell Island Day. We thank everyone for this! In fact we appreciate each

and every dollar donated to this service. I personally reviewed the balance sheets of the FB, audited yearly by qualified personnel and I was amazed by the amount of work done for less then the cost of keeping the “Flanders” in fuel for less than a week. Yes if you had a company and you operated as cheaply as the FB you would be well off as far as expenses were concerned. Do you know that volunteers from our community use their own vehicles to go to town for some supplies for the FB for less than the actual cost of gas they burn getting there and back. Believe it, as it is true.

**I) The Bell Island FB wants positive criticism and suggestions from the community.** Yes we do! Positive Criticism is not complaining just to hear your lips flap it is a process where you point out how something works presently and how it could be better. (Anyone who wants to yell and scream can go watch a ball game.) Many volunteers at the FB have already pointed out ideas to me that we could try. Early in September we will meet as a board and I hope that I have numerous ideas from the community on how to make operations better. Please forward all ideas to me in writing or call me or any volunteer of this service and state your idea. We will discuss each one. You don't even need to say who you are if you wish. We just want the ideas. Our goal as a

service is to better serve you. Please call and/ or write.

## Conclusion:

The FB works essentially like this. It obtains food then it distributes it to those who need it! It does so within a framework/ funding that can be raised within our community to make it operate. No funding no operation! As we head into the fall the need for food will rise with the opening of school again. We need the community's support, donations and input... pure and simple.

No one on Bell Island needs feel hungry if we all work together. Bell Island is changing and growing for the better. The next ten to twenty years are exciting ones. Thanks for listening and we want to hear from you soon. On behalf of all FB volunteers.....Thanks!

**Cpl. Boyd Merrill  
Chairman**

## Come Home Year a Success



The "Still Alive in 2005" Come Home Year celebrations have been deemed a major success by all involved. This year's event saw the celebration of both the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since our Centennial of 1995 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wabana Boys and Girls Club.

While originally this was to be just a celebration of the Boys and Girls Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was quickly decided that with the support of the Town Council and Town staff, we could expand the celebration to all the segments of Bell Island's heritage and history.

This seemed fitting as those who were around for the Centennial

celebration of 1995 can remember many of the former residents believing that our Centennial would be the last time Bell Island would have the ability to celebrate anything. As many felt Bell Island would be a ghost town in ten years. That hasn't happened and this year's celebration is a testament to that. With over 40 events taking place and an additional 15 thousand visitors, this summer has definitely exemplified the fact that Bell Island is still alive and continuing to be a vibrant and prosperous community.

I could not talk about the success of the Come Home Year without acknowledging the staff of the Town Council, the Boys and Girls Club 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary Committee, the many organizations and business owners who worked to make this a success. Thank you to all.

My final thank you is on behalf of all involved and is a sincere thank you to the management and crew of the Bell Island transportation system. The support for additional trips, the load-and-go policy and the 18-hour days worked by the captains and crew played a major role in making this year's celebration a success.

I am confident we will have much more to celebrate in future years.

**David Brazil**

**Come Home Year  
Committee**

## **St. Michael's School Presents the Vera Perlin Society 'Perlin Players' Thursday, September 22, 2005, 7:30 p.m.**

The Perlin Players are an extra-ordinary group of young people who have not let their developmental disability stop them in any way from being productive members of their community. These performers are students of the Vera Perlin Centre in St. John's, owned and operated by the Vera Perlin Society. Its mission is to secure and/or provide quality services and programs for individuals with a developmental disability.

For the past 15 years, the Players popular performance at the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre has sold out within the hour. The show, hosted by Paul Raynes of VOCI, began as a school concert 18 years ago. These performers are masters of musical mime. The group has performed all across Newfoundland as far as Corner Brook and in 1995 they travelled to Toronto to perform on

national t.v. for the Special Olympics Sports Celebrity Festival. The show will feature a variety of music from Irish to Country to good old Rock and Roll. Elvis will definitely be in the building when the Perlin Players take the stage at St. Michael's High School on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Joan Whalen at 488-2182 for more information.



## DARE TO D.A.R.E!

For more information go to <http://www.dare.com>

**D.A.R.E. Essay By:  
Chelsea Tobin  
First Place Essay Winner  
for Mrs. L. Yetman's  
Grade Five Class**

*Hi my name is Chelsea Tobin. Over the past few months, I have been learning about the consequences and dangers of taking Drugs and alcohol through the D.A.R.E ( Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. I have also learned that smoking can cause serious long term damages to the human body such as...lung cancer, bad breath, yellow teeth and heart attacks. One smoke takes away one day of your life. It's like your paying someone to kill you, if you are deciding to smoke. I think that smoking is a waste of money and it can be seriously risky! There is a chance that one morning you could wake up, and the next not!*

*I learned about ways to say no, such as; changing the*

*subject, saying no, and the cold shoulder to drugs. When someone asks you to try drugs, you should do one of three things. You should never feel pressured to say yes just because you think it's cool or because your friends do. You should think about how you would feel after, how mad and disappointed your parents would be if they found out, and how mad the R.C.M.P. would be. Just imagine going to jail for taking marijuana or another harmful and illegal drug! There are different kinds of drugs that I have learned about. Some are marijuana, tobacco, alcohol, cocaine, prescription and non- prescription pills. Remember: Marijuana can cause loss of interest in families and friends. Cocaine can cause heart problems and addiction. Chewing tobacco causes cancer, gum disease and tooth decay. Alcohol can cause poor memory and slow reflexes.*

*We also learned about bullying. For instance, if a*

*bully attacks you or threatens you, you should talk to your friends, teachers, policeman, or your school guidance counselor. If the bullying continues, you should walk home with a friend just to be safe. It takes a lot of guts to say no and walk away, but you can do it! A Bully's self-esteem is very low and that's why they pick on other people.*

*The following are a list of "RIGHTS" that every person has:*

*I have a right to be happy and to be treated with care and understanding. This means that I am able to express my ideas and no one should laugh at me or hurt my feelings.*

*I have a right to be respected as a person. I am special and unique. This means that I should be treated fairly.*

*I have a right to be safe. This means that no person should hurt me physically, or*

*with words in ways that would make me feel uncomfortable.*

*I have a right to say no. This means that I am able to say no to another person.*

*I have a right to learn. This means that I should be proud of the things I learn and work hard to improve myself.*

*In closing I would like to say how much I enjoyed this program. I feel that with our generation more children around my age need to learn about and understand the damages of drug and alcohol abuse.*

*Maybe if kids (and adults too) had the knowledge that I (and the other students involved in this educational program) have, they might have indeed chose to say NO to drugs!*

**D.A.R.E. Essay By:  
Donovan Taplin  
First Place essay Winner  
for Mrs. R.M. O'Keefe's  
Grade Five Class**

*When this program first began I didn't really know much about drugs. As the program progressed I started to learn many things. I learned things like, how easy it is to get addicted. I learned how drugs can hurt your body and even kill you.*

*I learned that there are many types of drugs. But I didn't just learn about drugs, I also learned how to handle peer pressure and that there are many different types of peer pressure. There is a heavy peer pressure, friendly peer pressure, indirect peer pressure, teasing peer pressure, family peer pressure and that there is even media peer pressure. I learned*

*how to resolve things without violence, that there is strength in numbers, that there is two paths in life, and that sometime we're going to have to choose which path, the right one or the wrong one. Something that made the D.A.R.E. program easier was the teacher, Constable Bennett. He was very easy going and easy to get along with. I also enjoyed the role playing and I think it is an easier and more fun way to learn*

*how to resist drugs. Something else I liked was the movies and how they showed us what it looks like in jail, what can happen to you if you do drugs and how it will destroy your future. I really enjoyed the D.A.R.E. program and I think that next years grade fives will too.*

## Greetings from St. Michael's Parish:

### Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The summer days are concluding and the annual schedule of school, meetings etc. are fast approaching. It truly was a great summer and "hats are off" to the many individuals and organizations who done a superb job in hosting the Home Coming celebrations. It has given our town a spirit of hope and a reason to appreciate our culture, faith and great traditions. As one leader of our local church, I invite parishioners to renew their commitment to be part of our faith community at our regular weekend masses:

**Saturday at 5:00 and Sunday at 10:30.**

This is the time of year when we begin our Home Religious Education

Program, which takes place at church, and in the family home. I invite parents to be faithful in bringing their children up in the ways of the faith for this is the promise you made for your child in baptism. Therefore, registration for children for the sacraments and other religious formation is taking place during the coming weeks.

Children: Ages 5 & 6 are asked to register for the year 1 program.

Children : Ages 7 & older : First Eucharist Program

Children :Ages 8 & Older: First Penance Program

Children or youth who are of age 7 and older may register for the sacrament of confirmation. The sacrament of confirmation may be celebrated at age 7 and older and not limited to

the traditional time of grade 8.

This is a new program and completed as a Home Religion Program. For more information: call Karen Seward(coordinator) 488 2566 or the parish office 488 2525. The registration fee is \$10.00 per child and this helps in a small way to purchase the books and materials for the program.

Please complete registration for your child during the month of September and no later since we will begin the programs in early October.

Thank you for your continued support and every blessing of our Lord be with you and your family.

**Sincerely  
Father Wayne Dohey**

*"I invite parents to be faithful in bringing their children up in the ways of the faith for this is the promise you made for your child in baptism."*

### Barbara Stoyles April 8, 1947 - July 7, 2005

The family of the late Barbara Stoyles would like to extend our sincere thank-you for all of those who gave us comfort, support and condolences during our time of sorrow. We gratefully acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy through cards, flowers, donations, gifts of food and visitations. Although it is impossible to thank everyone individually please be assured that your thoughtfulness, comfort and support will always be remembered.

God bless you.  
Nick, Paul, Cindy and Families

#### *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard His call.  
I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found the peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joys,  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
O yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
My life's been full, I savoured much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee.  
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

## A Reason To Be Proud

Each year, between June and September, the story of our tiny community is told to thousands of visitors. They arrive from all over the world - every country, every nationality, speaking every language - so many differences. Yet, they will all leave here with a common bond - a sense of amazement and enchantment after having one of the most unforgettable experiences they will ever have - a tour of our underground mine. Our tour is unique. **Most mine tours are simulated. On Bell Island, however, we don't do things half way. Ours is the real deal.**

As you make your way down the main slope of Number 2 Mine, you can almost sense the hustle and bustle of all the activity. It is organized chaos. You can almost feel your body quiver from the vibrations of the drills. Your nasal passages are assaulted with the stench of smoke lingering in the air after the dynamite is blasted. The minute grains of dust are coarsely abrading your skin as it slowly settles to the ground. You can hear the chatter of the men straining to have their voices heard over the clanging, as they work together, ensuring that their jobs are done properly so as not to endanger the others. The hole has to be drilled precisely in order for the blaster to pack it properly. If the blasting is not done correctly, then the face cleaners are at risk of injury or even death.

**These men must trust each other. Each knows the strength of the other. They are a tight-knit group. They share camaraderie, a brotherhood.** The pride our miners took in their work is something to strive for. Each piece of ore was taken out perfectly. Such was the mentality back then. You had a job. You were grateful to have a job and you did it to the best of your ability. The quality of your work was a

reflection of your self. It was that simple. Our miners were a special breed - men of great strength and character. They had to be in order to survive working in such adverse conditions.

There would be times during the year when they would go to work in the dark and return in the dark. They would not see the light of day for months on end. I can picture the wives in their kitchens, scurrying about their daily tasks, children underfoot, cooking and cleaning, anxiously awaiting their husband's return home from work. There would be unmistakable relief when the men would walk through the door, covered in the red dust that gave this town its prosperity. These men were extraordinary beings. These men were our fathers, grandfathers, brothers and uncles.

**The sheer difficulty of the work performed by these men affords them a certain level of dignity and respect.**

This is where our Community Museum and Mine Tour enter the picture. Bell Island is historically wealthy. We are fortunate in that we have a first class facility with our Museum. Our heritage is being preserved and presented in a manner befitting an operation of such high caliber. Our staff takes great pride in sharing the history of our hometown with others. This is our story. It is why we are who we are.

**Visitors leave our town with the knowledge that Bell Island is still strong and vibrant and we still have so much to offer.**

People are taking away a renewed sense of respect for this town. Just this past week, while on an outing to St. John's with my daughters, I was approached by people in three separate locations. Each of these people recognized me from the mine tour. What a privilege it is to play a small role in the promotion of our home!!

Last month, we received what I think, is the ultimate compliment from a man living in the United States. After completing our tour, his comment was, **"Last week, I didn't know Bell Island existed. After today, I'll never forget it." And that, my friends, is our goal.**



## “Every Kid Has Potential”

### - Wabana Boys & Girls Club

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*We thank our summer staff for their outstanding work with the children, you did a great job.’*



As most of you already know, this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wabana Boys & Girls Club. From July 22 – 31 we had a number of events to help celebrate our 50 years of service for the children of Bell Island. We would like to thank a group of former members who formed a committee to put off 10 days of events. The members of this committee put their own personal chores aside to organize these events. It would have been a lot more difficult without your dedication. Also we would like to thank the summer students who put many extra hours of work to assist with these events. **Some days might have been hectic but once the day was over everything was a success.**

As part of our anniversary celebration we held a Gala at St. Michael’s School. At this Gala, past and present staff received awards for their outstanding service while working at the club. There were also a number of businesses and organizations that were recognized for their continuous support towards the Boys & Girls Club. We thank these groups and look forward to your support for another 50 years.

On Sunday September 4th we will have our Summer Bonanza Draw at the Bell Island Curling

Club. We would like to thank anyone who purchased or helped sell any of these tickets. Winners will be posted in the next newsletter.

The Board of Directors, Staff, and Members would like to thank the people who made donations to the club in memory of the late Hilda Somerton. We would also like to thank the family of Hilda for always keeping the children of Bell Island in their hearts during times such as this. Anyone still wishing to donate in memory of Hilda can still do so by contacting the club @ 488-3801/2288.

The days are closing in and the children are getting ready to return to school. This means that our summer programs are finished and we are now getting ready for the Fall Programs at the club. We thank our summer staff for their outstanding work with the children, you did a great job.

On Tuesday Sept.6, the club will return to their regular hours of operation and the club will open to the members at 2:30. We would like to have the parents encourage their children to take part in our programs. Programs are very hard to run when we have children sign up and then drop out. A list of programs will be posted in the middle of September.

During the summer months we had two close

friends of the Boys & Girls Club, (Const. Danny Bennett and Const. Steve Burke), transferred to other detachments. These two officers took part in many programs at the club during their stay on Bell Island. They will be missed on Thursday night for the volleyball nights. We wish both officers and their families all the best in the future. You have been not just great policeman on the island but good friends to the children of the Boys & Girls Club.

I would now like to welcome Const. Sean Tipple and his family to our island, we look forward to having you involved at the club. We wish you all the best and hope that you enjoy your stay on the ROCK.

From August 15-26 we offered 13 members of our club 10 days of swimming lessons at the Aquarena in St. John’s. These members received lessons and moved up in levels once they become comfortable with different skills. This program was named the Jump Start Program and it was sponsored by Canadian Tire. We thank Canadian Tire for giving the members of our club the opportunity to learn the proper way of swimming and water safety.

We would like to congratulate Boys and Girls of the month for July (Raymond Whalen & Tasha Brazil) and August

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*“We would also appreciate any new volunteers who are willing to help out with any of our programs.”*

*(Continued ... Wabana Boys and Girls Club)*

(Rielly Mitchell & Noella Taplin). These members took part in our summer programs and showed good sportsmanship and good attendance.

Reminder to all supporters that if the winter becomes long and boring that the Boys & Girls Club have a Bingo every Thursday Night and A monthly card game on the last Monday of every month. We would also appreciate any

new volunteers who are willing to help out with any of our programs.

The staff would like to congratulate one of our members (Korrin Fowler) on being selected for the 2005 Under 18 Newfoundland & Labrador hockey team that will competing in the Atlantic Challenge Cup in Dieppe, New Brunswick. The Atlantic Challenge Cup will be taking place from October 7-10, 2005. This competition consisted of

the most skilled young female hockey players in the Atlantic Provinces. The selection process involved the POE (Power of Excellence) four zone camps which were held in CBS, Gander, Corner Brook, and Goose Bay. Out of these camps, 48 girls were selected to attend the final camp in Gander in August. From that camp, 18 players and 2 goalies were chosen with Korrin being one of the fortunate players. Way to Go Korrin!!!

## Town of Wabana – News

### COME HOME YEAR

Council and the Come Home Year Committee are delighted to report that our Come Home Year was a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many former Bell Islanders come home and bring their families with them. We are certain they enjoyed themselves, and would love to be back on the rock for good.

### WATER PROBLEMS

We have been experiencing low water levels in several of our wells, particularly at the front of the island. We have had to ration and rotate the systems in this area during these periods of low levels. We thank everybody very, very much for their patience and ask that they continue to conserve water as much as possible. In the meantime we are actively

lobbying the provincial government to have the well on Steve Neary Blvd reactivated or a new well drilled near that area, so that our residents won't have to endure another summer with little or no water. Please know that we do understand your frustration and continue to ask for your co-operation until we can have the problem solved.

Another problem we are experiencing with water is that of discolouring. We have had several leaks in the last couple of weeks, resulting in a lot of sediment and dirt getting into the systems. We truly apologize for this and ask for your patience as we try to flush the systems as quickly as we can after a break or leak happens.

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Municipal elections are

held every four years and this year is the fourth year for our present councilors in office. **Municipal elections are being held all over the province on Sept. 27th. Polling booths for our election will be at the Wabana Complex.** Notices to this effect will be posted. We encourage people to run for office and become part of the team that makes decisions on behalf of the entire municipality.

**Nomination Day is Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2005, between the hours of 8am and 8pm. Notices will have been posted before the publication of this newsletter.**

Remember in order to be nominated or to vote you must be 18 years of age or over, and living in the community for 30 days prior to the election date.

### ARENA

With the retirement of Mr. William Ford as Arena Manager, we extend a welcome to our new Arena Manager, Mr. Todd Gillingham. We ask that you make him feel welcome and work with him for the success and continuation of our arena. Mr. Ford will be assisting Mr. Gillingham for the first month or so when the arena opens for another season.

### TAXES

As always we have to remind people to please pay their taxes. Those who do not have their taxes paid now are in arrears and will be placed with our collection agency if adequate arrangements for payment are not made immediately.

**(Town News Continued)****ROAD UPGRADING**

By the time this newsletter is circulated we are hoping to have many of our paved roads repaired with asphalt. Next year we are hoping to obtain infrastructure funding to have some resurfacing of our roads carried out.

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

Recently people have been bringing their animals to be destroyed to our impound area on weekends. THIS IS NOT PERMITTED. We do not have personnel to have these animals destroyed on weekends, and animals are left for several days unattended. We

insist that animals to be destroyed be brought to the council depot between the hours of 7:30am and 1:30pm Monday to Friday. This is a very important matter and we ask for your full co-operation. Of course we are available for emergency situations, such as an animal being hit by a car and must be put down.

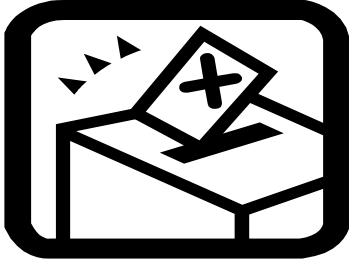
**WOODCUTTING:**

Council is very disturbed over the amount of wood being cut on the island. This practice has to stop, in order to preserve our future water supplies. We ask that cutting of wood be stopped immediately to prevent further action being taken against offenders. Thank you

**DON'T FORGET  
ELECTION DAY IS  
TUESDAY, SEPT. 27,  
2005. BETWEEN THE  
HOURS OF 8AM AND  
8PM. PLEASE COME  
OUT AND VOTE.**

There will be separate ballots for the Mayor's position, and the councilors' positions. We will elect a Mayor, and six councilors, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be asked to be Deputy Mayor, if he declines this position, we will go to the next candidate with the highest number of votes, and so on.

**Diane Butler,  
Town Clerk**



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## Newfoundland Trivia Questions

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1. What year did the Titanic crash into a iceberg off Cape Race Newfoundland and sink?
2. What date did Newfoundland enter into Confederation with Canada?
3. Who was Newfoundlands first premier?
4. Who was the premier of Newfoundland during the sprung green house fiasco?
5. What year did the Newfoundland father of Confederation die?
6. What year did The federal minister of fisheries declare the moratorium?
7. What year was the Newfoundland section of the Trans Canada Highway completed and opened?
8. What year was the first wireless message received at Signal Hill Cabot tower by Guglielmo Marconi?
9. What year was the great fire in St. Johns?
10. What year was the Newfoundland/United States Naval base Argentia decommissioned ?
11. Where was the richest Iron Ore deposit ever found in North America located?
12. What part of a house is called the 'drashel'?
13. What is the name of the Newfoundland community where archaeologists found the remains of a Viking settlement?
14. What are the names of the only two Newfoundland communities that weren't taken by the French?
15. What is the name of the princess who was captured by and fell in love with the pirate, Gilbert Pike who was under the command of Peter Easton.?

Look for Answers on Page 12

## BELL ISLAND WELCOMES SPECIAL VISITORS

Sixty-three years ago when a German torpedo sliced through the hull of the "Rosecastle" sending it to the bottom of Conception Bay, the children of its 43-year old Captain, Walter James MacDonald of Sydney, N.S., had probably never heard of Bell Island. The tragic and historic events of that dark night in November 1942 changed all of that for young Ron MacDonald and his sister Marian when their dad perished off our shores.

*For fifteen year old Ron, his little sister, 9-year old Marian, and their mother Mary who was just 39 when her husband was lost aboard the "Rosecastle" on November 2, 1942, this small island became the focus of their lives in the dark days, following the loss of their husband and father.*

*In August 2005, Ron and Marian came to visit Bell Island, and in so doing finally put their Dad to rest. A chance phone call from Gordon Shea of Island Hideaway resulted in our meeting with Ron and his wife Jean visiting from California, and , Marian and her husband Don visiting from Burlington, ON and their subsequent visit to our home. They'd been to the Bell Island Legion the evening before and were so touched by the reception they had received there – an experience that was repeated everywhere they went on the island.*

*They were hungry for memories of that fateful night – and while I wasn't able to provide first-hand knowledge,*

*I could share what I had learned from my research and my writings about these events. I was also able to connect them with Rick Stanley and Bill Flaherty of Ocean Quest Tours who bring divers from around the world to experience these wrecks. I even managed to find an extra copy of my 1996 book "Cross on the Rib" for Ron and Marian. This book contains the first-hand account of a survivor of the "Rosecastle" disaster, Gordon Hardy whom I met and interviewed when he visited Bell Island for the opening of the "Seamen's Memorial" in 1995. I even managed to find his address and telephone number and as they were next heading to Nova Scotia, they now might have an opportunity to speak to Gordon and learn more of their father and the sinking of the "Rosecastle".*

*From my good friend, the late Steve Neary, I have amassed copies of much of the correspondence relating to the sinkings, and was able to provide Ron and Marian with a copy of the crew list of the "Rosecastle" as well as some of the correspondence between the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary on Bell Island and senior government officials related to these events.*

*Ron recalled for me some of the events of that time – how a priest and a representative of the owners of the ship came to their door around suppertime with the news that their father had died in an act of war off Bell Island where the "Rosecastle" was loading ore. "He had only his 'long johns', his life jacket and his Masonic ring on when he was found" recalls Ron. "Members of the Masonic organization on Bell Island passed this information on to the District Grand Master, George Williams, and they arranged to have the body of Walter J. MacDonald transported to Nova Scotia where he was buried from the Masonic Lodge on November 10, 1942."*

*Ron, Jean, Marian and Don visited with members of the local Masonic Lodge during their stay on the island, and met others in the community who remembered details of that terrible night in November 1942 when an enemy submarine sent the "Rosecastle" and the "PLM" to the bottom resulting in the loss of 40 men, among them Walter J. MacDonald.*

*It was a real pleasure meeting Ron and Marian, and hearing their story of their Dad who, in dying, became part of the history of Bell Island. His children were amazed at the amount of knowledge still available on the island related to the sinkings in September and November of 1942 – and the reverence exhibited by the people towards those who were lost and the whole experience of that part in our history.*

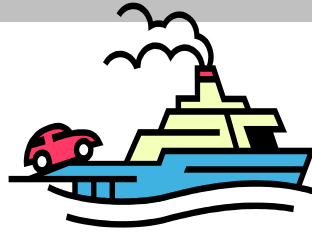
*Ron and Marian were amazed and pleased to learn of the "Tribute Dive" undertaken by divers each November 11<sup>th</sup> to the wrecks when a cross is placed on one ship to remember all 69 men who perished in these acts of war. For them to learn that the history of those events is still remembered on Bell Island provided a closure they hadn't expected to find during their visit.*

*For anyone on Bell Island who wishes to share memories of the loss of the "Rosecastle" with Ron MacDonald, I'd be pleased to pass your letters or emails on to them. Their visit to Bell Island, the Legion, the Masonic and the Mine Tour and Museum was a memorable experience – and their memories of the people of this place will, I feel certain, remain with them through a lifetime.*

**Kay Coxworthy**  
[kari@thezone.net](mailto:kari@thezone.net)

## Bell Island Ferry Users Committee

### September 2005



#### 1. Ferry vessel replacements study:

Government has called tenders for a new Provincial Ferry Vessel Strategy to determine a plan for vessel replacement. The public should join the Committee in making your views known to the consultants and our MHA-Minister Whalen of the importance of our 2 vessel service and the need to replace the aged Hamilton Sound which normally is assigned to service Bell Island as a back-up 4 months a year.

#### 2. Funding still not forthcoming for unsafe ferry dock improvements

To date and disappointedly the Committee has not been successfully in securing funding for desperately needed ferry dock improvements. It appears as though much of the small \$1,000,000 allocation for wharf repairs in 2005 was spent on wharves in other areas. The wharves at Portugal Cove and one section on Bell Island need a significant infusion of funds to allow for replacement. Many dock fenders are missing and damaged and as a consequence the ferries are landing in unsafe conditions, the vessels are being damaged and the passengers are being put at risk due to rough landings.

A stronger lobby will be needed to have these concerns addressed.

#### 3. No action on strike free ferry service request:

The Provincial Government has continued to be silent on an action plan to establish a strike free ferry service. Ferry services are essential services and these marine corridors are highways and the foundation to the economies of many communities. The marine unions should be offered the option of arbitration and legislation should be prepared to that end such that the same position that the Provincial Government is demanding of marine Atlantic on its service also will apply to the Provincial ferry services

#### 4. Approval still not forthcoming for mandatory multi use ticket

The Committee has yet to convince Government to re-introduce the mandatory requirement to purchase the multi use ticket for commuters. The lack of a multi use ticket is creating inefficiencies as upwards of 25 minutes is being wasted at peak travel times selling tickets and thus delaying ferry turnaround times. Further with gas prices so high it is a shame that drivers have to have their cars idling for 25 minutes edging their way to the ticket office to buy tickets with their cars burning expensive gas. The Committee is

seeking the mandatory requirement to be reinstated and that books of multi use tickets be made available for purchase in books of 6 for \$15.00 and books of 12 for \$30.00, which are the current rates

#### 5. Request to widen Cove area line-up lane is not funded for 2005

Funding had been sought to extend the inadequate ferry line-up lane to meet peak traffic conditions. Currently the line-up lane is endangering public safety as vehicles lined up for the ferry have to park on the main highway lane. A serious accident is waiting to happen. In 2005 an allocation was sought in the Provincial Road allocation to pave the roadside further back towards the rock cut to accommodate a longer line –up lane and to widen the rock cut to allow for an extension of the line-up lane adjoining Portugal Cove Road.

Efforts to secure funding for this safety project remains a priority and the Committee is disappointed no action has been taken.

#### 6. Commuter passes- 500 and counting

Applications are available for the Fall period commuter passes. -Sept 1 to Dec 31. Currently for 2005 over 500 commuters passes have been issued. This is a testament to the growing importance of the ferry service to Bell Island's economy and employment needs. If you have permanent status a new application will not have to be made. Copies of the commuter rules and applications can be sought from the pursers by calling the Manager

#### 7. Come Home Year a major success- 30,000 SUMMER VISITORS ESTIMATED

Traffic levels and non-resident visitor traffic to Bell Island this summer have been exceptional. In July over 31,000 people traveled to Bell Island by ferry with an estimated 13,000 estimated to be non- resident visitors. August passenger projections point to an even greater number. There were weekends this summer when the non – residents on Bell Island exceeded the local population of 3,000.

Special thanks are due to the crewmembers of the vessels who went the extra mile to ensure that as many travelers as possible could be ferried to Bell Island via extra trips during lunchtime and after normal sailing hours.

The opportunity for tourism industry growth on Bell Island is unlimited and increased efforts are needed to promote further developments, events etc for future years.

**IT IS PROJECTED THAT OVER 30,000 NON-RESIDENT PASSENGERS WILL HAVE TRAVELED TO BELL ISLAND BY FERRY FOR THE 10 WEEK PERIOD FROM LATE JUNE TO EARLY SEPTEMBER.**

### 8. Improvements to terminal maintenance not acted upon

The following concerns had been requested to be acted upon in our June meeting with Government officials but still remain not addressed:

- Replacement of damaged line-up signs
- Acquiring additional garbage containers for the line-up area
- Arranging for the street and terminal to be swept of debris
- Ensuring that line painting of roads and line-up lanes is completed
- Painting terminal waiting rooms

### 9. Summer Students Successful summer program

Committee member Donna Kubik did an excellent job supervising the 6 students hired for tourism services in the Cove this summer. They performed a valuable service and feedback on their performance was quite positive. Donna is now working on a user survey, which is in the process of being conducted.

(Rumor has it that Donna may be offering her name for a Council seat in September 2005.)

### 10. Fuelling up the ferries in the Cove-change still not implemented.

In Budget 2005 Government had agreed to implement a cost saving measure to reduce the cost of having fuel trucks travel to Bell Island for fueling. In future the Beaumont Hamel on weekdays would not make the 850 am weekday sailing to Bell Island and would fuel up in the Cove and return to Bell Island at 1120 am. The Flanders would either fuel up in the Cove during the lunchtime or else it would not sail the 920 am trip from the Cove and the Beaumont Hamel will sail in its place.

For unknown reasons, this measure, which was to save \$120,000 per year, has not been implemented.

### Feedback:

Ferry users with issues, concerns and suggestions are invited to call any member of the Committee and your MHA Minister Whalen. Also please visit the Commuter's Committee web site at [www.bellisland.net](http://www.bellisland.net)

## **TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. In **April 14, 1912** the 'unsinkable' Titanic hit an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and sank.
2. Newfoundland entered confederation with Canada on **March 31, 1949**
3. **Joseph R Smallwood** was Newfoundland's first premier
4. The premier of Newfoundland at that time was **Brian PeckFord**
5. The father of confederation, Joseph Smallwood died on **December 18, 1991**
6. The fisherman's moratorium was declared in **1992**
7. In **1965** the Newfoundland section of the Trans Canada Highway was completed and opened.
8. On **Dec 12, 1901** the first wireless message was sent from Signal Hill
9. In **1892** most of St. Johns was burned to the ground by fire
10. In **1992** the Naval base located in Argentia was shut down.
11. The richest Iron Ore deposit in North America was found in **Labrador City, Labrador**
12. The part of the house that is called the 'drashel' is the **door step**
13. **L'Anse Aux Meadows** is the name of the Newfoundland community where remains of a Viking settlement was found.
14. The names of the two Newfoundland communities that were not taken by the French was **Carbonear** and **Bonavista**
15. The princess that was captured by the pirate Gilbert Pike was **Sheila Na Geira**

## Camp Starfish 2005

For a small group of Bell Island children, Ocean Net's "Camp Starfish 2005" was an opportunity for them to participate in a fun and learning experience focused on the ocean, marine life and habitat. Operating out of the "Touch of Class" building, the camp provided four weeks of planned activities designed to teach these young campers about their marine environment. The Camp Agenda also included crafts, games, sports, the a cleanup of Lance Cove Beach, visits to the RCMP, the Fire Hall, the mine tour, the Bell Island Lighthouse as well as an outing to St. John's to visit the Ocean Sciences Center, enjoy a lunch at McDonald's, and a movie with snacks to end a perfect day. Sheri Ford and Gregory Skehans found summer jobs as Counselors with the camp, while Leanne Joy spent three weeks with us as an additional Counselor.

*The young campers found lots to keep them busy – including many activities sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. The kid's ocean alphabet, stories, posters, crafts, sports and painted rocks won them both cash and other prizes, and some will certainly find their way to the Ocean Net Website ([www.oceannet.ca](http://www.oceannet.ca)) as well as to our sponsor, the Shell Environmental Fund based in Calgary. The crafts were superb, and Lexi the colorful leatherback turtle, made by Sandy Bennett of "Bennett's Concrete Crafts" and painted by the children, now sits in the Ocean Net offices representing all endangered species in the world. Lexi will soon adorn the Ocean Net website, together with pictures of the "Kids of Camp Starfish 2005". The campers also wrote letters to MP Norman Doyle and MHA Diane Whelan sharing their concern about many aspects of ocean pollution, including oiled birds, ghost nets, and beach litter. They also took the time to participate in a "walk-a-thon" which raised \$290 which has now been presented to Bridie Pynn as a donation to the ongoing programs and activities for developmentally delayed adults on Bell Island.*

*A most sincere thank you goes out from the "Starfish kids", Ocean Net and Shell to all who helped in any way to make our 4<sup>th</sup> annual environmental day camp on Bell Island a real success. This includes Boyd Merrill of the RCMP who made a tour of Bell Island headquarters a memorable experience for these young people with gifts, lunch and even a tour of the jail – which hopefully they won't ever have to visit again! To the members of the Bell Island Volunteer Fire Department, sincere thanks for an extra special visit which included a ride on the fire truck, a chance to wear a real fireman's hat and to hear a safety message. To Dave Baker of the Canadian Coast Guard, thanks for a memorable tour "right to the top" of the Bell Island lighthouse with its spectacular view of the bay, and then allowing our young campers to eat lunch in such a gorgeous setting! Our thanks also to MHA Diane Whelan who provided a*

*pizza lunch from "My Friends Place" which was certainly enjoyed by the kids, and to Bridie Pynn who provided us with a place for the kids and counselors to "hang out and do their thing", as well as guidance when required! All have been presented with a special rock painted by the children as a memento of their visit. To parents who provided loot bags and other treats for the kids – you're super, and the treats were certainly enjoyed!*

*The final session of "Camp Starfish 2005" was held on Friday, August 19 attended by campers, parents and friends. Here each child presented me with a rose – which I didn't really deserve as Sheri, Gregory and Leanne did all the work! The gesture brought me to tears, as did the bouquet I received from the counselors and Bridie. Thank you all – it was very much appreciated. Loads of great prizes, wonderful flashing fish, and camp certificates were presented to the children from Ocean Net and the Shell Environmental Fund. The children performed their "Camp Starfish" song (which they wrote!) before cutting the camp cake to end another successful and enjoyable environmental day camp on Bell Island.*

*For Ocean Net and the Shell Environmental Fund, which operates these camps around the province, the aim has always been to provide a unique learning experience for young children in an atmosphere where they can also have fun while learning about the environment and their community. One of Ocean Net's goals is to foster positive attitudinal and lifestyle changes as the first step in stemming the tide of ocean pollution. Young people throughout the province, including graduates of the "Camp Starfish" experience, continue to incorporate these environmental messages in their daily lives, at home, in school, and in their communities. In 2005, forty-five children in three communities – Whiteway, Westport and Bell Island – were enrolled at "Camp Starfish" providing employment and a real learning experience for eight students hired through programs of the federal and provincial government. In total, 135 young people have shared the camp starfish experience over the four years of the camp.*

*"We now have 53 new 'Stewards of the Oceans' as a result of our camps this year" says Bob O'Brien, Founder/Chair of Ocean Net. "Together they have shared in a unique hands-on experience, which has given them an appreciation of the damage caused by marine litter to the ocean, the creatures of the sea and their habitat. It is our hope that they will carry this experience with them as they continue through life, for they are the future of this planet, and the future begins right now!"*

*Thanks again to the children, the counselors and all on Bell Island who supported "Camp Starfish 2005" and made it another unique experience for our young people and our community.*

**Kay Coxworthy**  
Executive Director  
Senior Director

# Community Concerns



There are some in the community, very few as they may be, but some who insist on being a nuisance or aggravating entity to others. I will not refer to them in a negative way but there was a reference made on a kids Internet site calling these types of person IDYOTS.

Well these IDYOTS are the focus of this little column. What we are asking is: Who is/ are the IDYOT(S) who:

- **threw beer bottles in the West dam swimming area** causing a young girl nine stitches? What are you thinking?????? (We also had a complaint of young men throwing beer bottles into the water at Lance Cove beach and trying to break them with rocks.....this too applies to you!)
- 
- **keeps driving by our nursing homes for the elderly at all hours of the morning on ATV's** waking up

these seniors residents? You will certainly have your bike seized by police when caught. Cameras are being installed in strategic places to stop ATV's on the road. We will be stopping by your house with your picture and a tow truck!

**- keeps putting garbage out their car windows all over our clean streets?**

Check with your parents. They taught you better!

**- insist on buying kids beer for the \$2.00 fee?** If you need money that bad come see me and I will give it to you without possibly killing a child.

**- who refuses to take responsibility for their pets?** If you can't control your pet call animal control or the SPCA. They will find a home for them or at least stop their suffering. Giving away pups or kittens to have them eventually running the streets is cruel!

**- who keep piling garbage in front of their houses?** This is illegal! Clean up days are over. Bag it up and dispose of it the same as everyone else. To the person who recently dumped garbage out behind the arena inn the wooded area....we will see you soon. The dump is open for disposal.

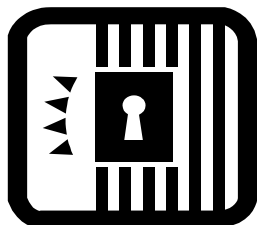
**- are still bringing old car wrecks in their yard. Or have wrecks yet to be disposed hidden away out of view.** We will be starting enforcement again in September! Note: The intention of this little column is to bring to the attention of all those things that we want to rid from our community. **If you were one of these persons mentioned above and are offended please attend the police station..... for your appearance notice for court.** Saves us some time.

Cpl. Boyd Merrill





## Charges and Convictions



On 2005-08-05, a 55 year old Wabana male was charged with Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Driving (with a B.A.C.) Over .08. The charges arose from a 2005-07-30 traffic stop. A plea date is set for 2005-09-02.

On 2005-08-10, a 19-year-old male appeared in court for sentencing on one charge of Assault from a 2005-06-17 incident at the East End residence of one of his parents. A guilty plea was entered on 2005-07-27. He received a Suspended Sentence and one-year Probation.

On 2005-08-16, a 21-year-old male from West Mines, charged with one count of Supplying Liquor to Minors, appeared in court. The charge arose from a 2005-05-13 incident at a business in the East End. The matter has been set aside until 2005-09-15.

On 2005-08-16, a 44-year-old Wabana male, in custody, appeared in court for a trial but requested to obtain a new lawyer, so the matter was postponed until 2005-10-17. He was arrested on 2005-03-27 and charged with two charges of Uttering Threats, one

charge of Assault, one charge of Assault with a Weapon, two charges of Criminal Harassment, one charge of Mischief, three charges of Intimidation and sixteen charges of Breach of Probation. The charges arise from a number of incidents over the past year.

On 2005-08-17, a 27-year-old male from St. John's, charged with Theft Under \$5000, appeared in court. The charge arose from a complaint of theft of lumber between March and April, 2005 from an East End property belonging to the father of the accused. The matter has been set aside until 2005-09-07.

On 2005-08-18, a 69 year old male from the East End, charged with Sexual Assault, Invitation to Sexual Touching, Sexual Interference and Exposure to Person Under Age of Fourteen Years, appeared in court and entered a guilty plea. Sentencing has been set for 2005-10-20. The accused still

remains in custody.

On 2005-08-19, a 58 year old male from Mount Pearl appeared in court on one charge of Impaired Driving and one charge of Driving (while B.A.C.) Over .08. The charges arose from a traffic stop at the ferry terminal on 2005-07-01. The plea has been set-aside until 2005-09-14.

On 2005-08-21, an 18-year-old Wabana male was charged with two counts of assault. The charges arose from two separate incidents on Main Street on 2005-06-24 and 2005-06-27. The plea date has been set for 2005-10-18.

On 2005-08-29, a 17 year old Wabana male charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle Without a Valid Driver's Licence, Operating a Motor Vehicle Not Registered and Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance, appeared in court for sentencing. The charges stem from a 2005-04-08 incident,

