



Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

June 2006

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

From the Corporal's Desk

"This is a police oriented community paper therefore, I would like to return to the strict police sense for just this issue."

I am fully sure I do not know where the time goes. I can't believe that it is newsletter time again but it is.

I have for months now used topics of some opinion and points of view and quite frankly I am in the mood to deliver a different message this month.

This is a police oriented community paper therefore, I would like to return to the strict police sense for just this issue.

Now before you turn the page expecting a lecture in law the following is not like that. In fact it is a little prose in the area of police work. I have seen both of these many times in my career and maybe you have run across them as well. But because of Police Week this past month I thought this would be a change.

I will be back with a slight bit of thought producing material next month.

When God made Peace Officers...

When the Lord was creating peace officers, he was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the spec on this order? A peace officer has to be able to run five miles through alleys in the dark, scale walls, enter homes the health inspector wouldn't touch, and not wrinkle his uniform.

"He has to be able to sit in an undercover car all day on a stakeout, cover a homicide scene that night, canvas the neighborhood for witnesses, and testify in court the next day.

"He has to be in top physical condition at all times, running on black

coffee and half-eaten meals. And he has to have six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands... no way."
"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord, "it's the three pairs of eyes an officer has to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. The Lord nodded.

One pair that sees through a bulge in a pocket before he asks, "May I see what's in there, sir?" (When he already knows and wishes he'd taken that accounting job.)

"Another pair here in the side of his head for his partners' safety.

And another pair of eyes here in front that can look reassuringly at a bleeding victim and say, "you'll be all right ma'am, when he knows it isn't so."

(continued next page..)

(From the Corporal's Desk continued...)

"Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve, "rest and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord, "I already have a model that can talk a 250 pound drunk into a patrol car without incident and feed a family of five on a civil service paycheck."

The angel circled the model of the peace officer very slowly, "Can it think?" she asked. "You bet," said the Lord. "It can tell you the elements of a hundred crimes; recite Police Warnings in its sleep; detain, investigate, search, and arrest a gang member on the street in less time than it takes five learned judges to debate the legality of the stop... and still it keeps its sense of humor.

This officer also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with crime scenes painted in hell, coax a confession from a child abuser, comfort a murder victim's family, and then read in the daily paper how law enforcement isn't sensitive to the rights of criminal suspects."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the peace officer.

"There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the lord, "it's a tear."
"What's the tear for?" asked the

angel.

"It's for bottled-up emotions, for fallen comrades, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the Canadian flag, for justice."

"You're a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there." (Anonymous)

And here is another.... POLICEMAN'S PRAYER

The policeman stood and faced his God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining.
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, Policeman.
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To my Church have you been true?"

The policeman squared his shoulders and said,
"No, Lord I guess I ain't,
Because those of us who carry badges
Can't always be a Saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my work was rough,
and sometimes I've been violent,
Because the streets are awfully tough.

But I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep,

I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills just got too steep.
And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place
among the people here.
They never wanted me around
Except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here,
Lord
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."

There was silence all around the Throne
Where the Saints had often trod.
As the policeman waited quietly,
For the judgement of his God.

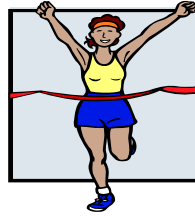
"Step forward now, policeman,
You've borne your burdens well.
Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

Unknown

Please play safe and talk to your kids!

**Boyd Merrill and the Bell
Island team of RCMP**

Special Olympics Events



On Friday the 26th of May some 200 Bell Islanders rose to the challenge again by walking the Island roads in an action of awareness and support for the upcoming Special Olympics in St. John's/ Mount Pearl on July 1st (Canada Day weekend).

After accepting a challenge from school staff some very exuberant youth walked, biked, jogged and wheeled along side our Bell Island Special Olympic athletes from the High School along a specific course ending at the Police Station. Parents, friends and family joined in as well. The weather was sunny, clear and just right for the event. We have already great plans for next year.

The kids at the High School pooled their change raising \$157.00 dollars towards the SO effort. Sponsors also assisted walkers in the amount of another \$ 330.00 plus dollars at the time of printing. An excellent effort to say the least. These funds in addition to the funds from T-shirt sales will be forwarded to the Special Olympics organization in town in aid of the upcoming games on July 1st.

In relation to our own **Bell Island Special Olympic Committee - Adopt an Athlete**

program, we are without a doubt the most successful fund raising effort in Newfoundland and Labrador. Per capita - I will go on record to say - we have raised more money to support our own than any other community in our province. Those who were thinking of adopting an athlete but have for whatever reason haven't forwarded your support please feel free to do so to:

Bell Island Special Olympic Committee @
Box 1179, Bell Island, NL, A0A-4H0
(Attn: Corporal Merrill)
Your donation is tax deductible.

Feel free to contact me if you need more info at 488-3312 or at:

boyd.merrill@rcmp-grc.gc.ca .

Thanks to all the Adopting parents/ business', the sponsors, the donators, the walkers, the people who cheered, the wavers and the parents of all the kids who made our recent walk a success.

By the time the next newsletter rolls around our team of athletes will be supporting the medals around the necks I suspect! Go get 'em!!!!!!

This community is amazing!

Summer Jobs For Students.....

A reminder to university students and high school level 3 students that they can submit applications for summer student job placements to the Town Of Wabana.

There are a number of jobs available. Don't miss your opportunity to gain some work experience and make some cash!!!!

For details contact the Town Office: 488-2990

Bell Island Torch Run 2006

On Friday May 26th, 2006 over 200 Bell Islanders from all ages and abilities walked, ran, skated, biked, wheeled and stumbled over the prescribed route ending at the local RCMP detachment. Cpl. Boyd Merrill claimed this was one of the earlier walks in aid of the Special Olympics for 2006. The local High School students combined with local ambulance officials, parents, friends and family were all excited to spend a very nice day raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics. Bell Island area has 16 athletes that will compete in the July 1st competition. All athletes are fine-tuned and ready to compete!



IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT

On June 3rd, 2006 the official opening of the BLACK & WHITE LOUNGE, located at 24 Fourth Street, took place with Beacon Point providing the entertainment. For two individuals this is a dream come true.

Now under new owners and management, the Black & White Lounge has a long history. The first owner/operator was Wayne Flight, who operated a grocery store in the early 80's and later transformed it into a pub in 1994. Wayne then sold it to Mike Maloney in 1997 who held ownership until 2003 at which time the 4th Street Pub, became JB's Pub under new owner John Brown. On April 6th, 2006 JB's Pub was purchased by Carla Ash and Joan Snow and the "birth" of the BLACK & WHITE LOUNGE is reality.

Carla left Bell Island in 1998 and Joan in 1980. For them both, returning to Bell Island was a given. Their life long dream was to one day own and operate their own business.

Carla has always been involved in the sports community, Boys and Girls Club and well known in many other facets of the community. She jokes today, that she raised 80% of the children on Bell Island through her work at the Wabana Boys & Girls Club. Joan was also well known within the community. She worked at the Dr. Walter Templeman Hospital in the early 70's and was an associate member of the Royal Canadian Legion and other volunteer circles.

Like other nightly entertainment establishments, standards are set and followed by establishment operators. So, too, the Black & White Lounge will follow these standards and implement them fully.

Out of concern for the surrounding neighbors, there have been some major changes to the design of the building. The entrance is now on the east side and parking is available at the rear and along the side. We are hoping that patrons will respect the parking change and not park on the road side.

We have worked very hard to make our dream become a reality. A lot of "blood, sweat and tears", so-to-speak has gone into our venture and we do believe it will be well received by the community.

Firearms News Release

GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION TO ELIMINATE THE COSTLY AND INEFFECTIVE LONG-GUN REGISTRY

The Government is moving ahead today with the implementation of the following measures:

- * transferring responsibility for the Firearms Act and regulations to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), taking over from the former Canada Firearms Centre;
- * reducing the annual operating budget for the program by \$10 million;
- * implementing licence renewal fee waivers and refunds;
- * eliminating physical verification of non-restricted firearms; and
- * introducing a one-year amnesty to protect previously-licensed owners of non-restricted firearms from prosecution and to encourage them to comply with the law as it currently stands.

As well, the government will table legislation to repeal the requirement to register non-restricted firearms.

Any legislative and regulatory changes will continue to require the safe storage of firearms, safety training, a licensing program including police background checks, a handgun registry (as has been the case since 1934) and a ban on those classes of firearms currently identified as prohibited.

For more information, please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions or visit the Canada Firearms Centre website at www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca.
Fact Sheet

The Long-Gun Registry: Costs and Crime Statistics Costs.

In 1995, the previous government told Parliament that the firearms program, most specifically the long-gun registry, would involve a net cost of just \$2 million (Auditor General's Report 2002, Chapter 10).

. In May 2000, the previous government admitted that the costs had actually ballooned to at least \$327 million (Auditor General's Report 2002, Chapter 10).

. By March 2005 the net cost of the firearms program was \$946 million. Today they exceed \$1 billion. The Auditor General states that Parliament was misinformed about many of these costs. (Auditor General's Report 2006, Chapter 4).

. Neither the costs incurred by provincial and territorial agencies in enforcing the legislation, nor the costs borne by Firearms owners and businesses to comply with the legislation have been calculated. (Auditor General's Report 2002, Chapter 10).

Two Library of Parliament studies estimate that the enforcement and compliance costs are substantial, running into hundreds of millions of dollars. (Compliance Costs of Firearms Registration, 10 October 2003; and, Estimates of Some of the Costs of Enforcing the Firearms Act, 20 March 2003).

Crime Statistics.

There are nearly 7 million registered long-guns in Canada. Yet of 549 murders recorded in Canada in 2003, only 2 were committed with long-guns known to be registered (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics).

The Vancouver police report that 97 percent of firearms seized in 2003 were illegal guns smuggled in from the United States, usually by organized crime (Vancouver Police, Strategic Plan 2004-08).

The Government's Commitment to Effective Gun Control

Canada's new Government is committed to effective firearms control that targets criminals, while maintaining the highest standards of public safety.

Firearms owners will still be subject to measures that are designed to help ensure public safety, even during the amnesty period.

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(Firearms continued..)**Thorough Background and Safety Checks:**

When you apply for a license, background safety checks will continue to be administered to screen for certain criminal convictions and incidents of violent behaviour.

The Government is determined to strengthen measures to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and individuals who have been prohibited from possessing them.

Safety Training:

The Canadian Firearms Program strives to reduce firearm-related deaths and injuries by requiring that applicants for a Possession and Acquisition License (or PAL) or for a Minor's License to have an adequate knowledge of firearm laws and safe-handling practices.

For this reason, all applicants for a PAL or Minor's License must meet specific safety training standards in order to be eligible. This safety training will continue.

Safe Storage Requirements

All firearms owners will continue to be required to store their firearms safely so as to protect public safety.

Safe storage laws help to prevent accidents and possible access to firearms by persons

unauthorized to possess them.

Licensing Requirements:

The Government intends to move toward a simpler and more cost-effective lifetime licensing system that eliminates waste and avoids unnecessary burdens on firearm owners.

Under this system, the police will still be able to know and verify who is authorized to own legal firearms and who is not.

**Frequently Asked Questions/
Changes to the Firearms
Program****AMNESTY:****Q1. What is an amnesty and who is protected?**

A1. The amnesty protects individuals from prosecution for possessing a non-restricted rifle or shotgun without a valid licence or registration certificate if:

- a) they were licensed to possess that class of firearm in the past but their licence has expired since January 1, 2004; or
- b) they currently hold, or have held, a firearms licence but have not yet registered the firearm.

Q2. Why is there an amnesty?

A2. The current system is broken. The confidence of

many Canadians in our firearms control system has been shattered. Tens of thousands of licences are not being renewed even though individuals continue to possess firearms. We want to do everything we can to encourage law-abiding Canadians to come back into the legal system.

It will take time to make some of the legislative changes that are necessary to reform the Firearms Act. In the meantime, the amnesty gives owners of non-restricted rifles and shotguns time to comply with current licensing and registration requirements without fear of prosecution.

Q3. Why do I still need a licence to possess non-restricted rifles and shotguns if the Government is planning to abolish the long-gun registry?

A3. The Government is committed to continued firearms licences to control the criminal or unsafe use of firearms. For example, persons acquiring licences for the first time must meet safety-training requirements to help to ensure public safety. Background checks help to screen out criminals and others who are likely to be a danger to public safety.

Q4. I received a notice from the Registrar that my registration certificates were revoked because my licence had expired. Am I still required to take action to obtain a licence or dispose of my firearms?

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(Firearms continued..)**

A4. Until Parliament changes the law, current requirements remain in force. However, the amnesty gives you until May 17, 2007 to meet the requirements of the law.

Q5. I have never held a firearms licence; would the amnesty protect me if I apply now?

A5. Although the amnesty does not specifically protect people who have never had a licence, the Government does not intend to penalize those who are trying to bring themselves into compliance with the law unless particular circumstances warrant it.

Every effort will be made to help people comply. If you have firearms and do not have a licence, we urge you to submit an application for a license as soon as possible.

Q6. How long does the amnesty last?

A6. The amnesty deadline is May 17, 2007. This should give affected firearm owners plenty of time to meet the safety training requirements and obtain a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL).

Q7. During the amnesty, do I still need a licence to buy ammunition for my non-restricted rifles and shotguns?

A7. Yes.

FEE WAIVER AND REFUNDS

Q8. If I apply for a licence now, will I have to pay a fee?

A8. You will have to pay a fee if this is your first licence under the Firearms Act, or if you had a minor's licence but are now applying for a PAL. The fee for a PAL is \$60 for non-restricted firearms only, or \$80 for any combination of non-restricted and restricted firearms. The fee for a minor's licence is \$10 for up to one year, \$20 for up to two years, or \$30 for more than two years.

You will not have to pay a fee to renew an existing licence, replace an expired licence or change your licence privileges - for example, by upgrading from a Possession Only Licence (POL) to a PAL or adding privileges for restricted firearms.

Q9. I have already paid to renew my licence/upgrade my licence privileges; will I get a refund?

A9. You will get a refund if your licence was issued. You will not get a refund if your application was refused.

Q10. How long will it take to get a refund?

A10. It will likely take a few months to determine who is eligible for a refund and to issue a cheque. The refund will be mailed to the address indicated in our records. If your address has changed, it is important to let us know. Address changes can be made online through the Canada Firearms Centre's website at: www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca or by calling 1 800 731-4000.

Q11. Do I still have to pay to replace a lost, stolen or damaged licence, and if so, why?

A11. There is still a fee of \$25 to replace a lost or stolen licence. The fee waiver for licence renewals and upgrades was intended to make compliance as easy as possible for firearm owners and users. Once they have their licence, individuals have a responsibility to protect it from loss, theft or damage.

Q12. Why would I have to pay a fee if my application to renew or upgrade a licence is refused?

A12. The licence fee is a processing fee. Applications that are refused generally require more investigation, and consequently, incur more costs.

VERIFICATION

Q13. How will telephone verification affect the quality of data in the registration database?

A13. There will be little or no effect. When firearm owners call a Verifier, they will need to provide a detailed description of the firearm. The information provided will be compared to information in the Firearms Reference Table of known firearms. If there are any problems confirming the existence, identity or classification of the firearm, a physical examination by a professional verifier,

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(Firearms continued ..)**

such as a firearms officer, may be requested.

Restricted and prohibited firearms will still have to be verified physically by a trained, professional verifier.

Until Parliament changes the law, current requirements remain in force. However, the amnesty gives you until May 17, 2007 to meet the requirements of the law.

Q14. Can police, firearms businesses or shooting clubs still verify firearms for individuals?

A14. Yes, if they have an approved verifier on staff, they can choose to provide this service, and they can examine the firearms physically.

TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FIREARMS ACT TO THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP)

Q15. Why is responsibility for the Firearms Act and regulations being transferred to the RCMP?

A15. The transfer of responsibility for the Firearms Act and regulations, including the firearms registry, to the RCMP will provide a cost-effective firearms program that will meet the Government's commitment to accountability. The transfer will also make it easier for Canadian police authorities to co-ordinate gun control activities with other crime control

measures.

Q16. Will the transfer of responsibility to the RCMP increase the risk of prosecution for people who let their licence expire?

A16. The transfer to the RCMP will not impact on the current consequences of allowing a firearms licence to expire. As stated earlier, the amnesty protects individuals from prosecution for possessing a non-restricted rifle or shotgun without a valid licence or registration certificate if:

- they were licensed to possess that class of firearm in the past but their licence has expired since January 1, 2004; or
- they currently hold, or have held, a firearms licence but have not registered the firearm.

Q17. Is the gun registry information useful for police officers to know whether a firearm is at a particular location?

A17. The fact an individual has a firearms licence will still be known to the police. They will know whether a legal firearm is at a particular location by virtue of the fact that an individual has a licence. The abolition of the long-gun registry doesn't affect that. Even so, it is the illegal firearms that police are usually the most concerned about.

Q18. How can you say that

the gun registry is a useless criminal

justice tool when the police use it 6,500 times per day?

A18. The "6,500 hits" figure for the Canadian Firearms Registry On-Line (CFRO) is misleading. Whenever police officers access the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) for any reason, such as for a simple address check, an automatic hit is generated with CFRO whether the information is desired or not. This is the case, for example, with the Toronto Police Service (5,000 officers), the Vancouver Police (1,400 officers), and the BC RCMP (5,000 officers).

NEXT STEPS

Q19. What are the next steps the Government is looking at?

A19. The Government will draft legislation which will eliminate the long-gun registry and will be consulting with provinces to set-up effective firearms control.

The foregoing information is as new to the RCMP as it is to you so please don't expect that we will have all the answers to the numerous questions arising from this action but we will find out the answers as soon as we can.

This information is being provided so that you stay as current as we are.

**Thanks
Boyd Merrill**

Bell Island Ferry Users Committee

June Report - Prepared by Ed Kent

1. Hopes for construction of new replacement ferry “fading”

To the best of our knowledge design has yet to start on new Provincial ferries. There are rumours that the long awaited Provincial replacement swing ferry has been dropped down on the priority list. If accurate it would mean that Bell Island would continue to have to rely on the Nonia as a replacement ferry for 6 months a year for the foreseeable future. The Committee has been seeking a 28 car new ferry for the provincial fleet to serve as a back up and refit replacement ferry.

2. No action on Committee request for charter replacements

The Committee has proposed an option of chartering replacement ferries as a stopgap measure to ensure that each ferry-connected town has access to adequate replacements during refits and breakdowns while we wait 3 years for new vessels to be built. However little action appears to be directed to this charter option leaving ferry connected towns in a bind if the old replacement

ferries break down, as they are prone to do.

3. Stakeholder input into Ferry Study is still denied

As advised previously, the Committee has written the Minister objecting to the ferry strategy study being carried out without user stakeholder involvement. Stakeholder input from users is a must. A commitment for hearings and input and a public forum on Bell Island to allow input into the Study has been and is still sought.

Government appears to be implementing parts of the Study even though it has not been released. The Marine Services Division apparently is being redesigned to separate it from the Highways Division with a separate Executive Division in the Transportation Department. It would appear that a crown corporation model and or contracting out of services options would not be adopted.

We have yet to dispel a rumour that the Government may be considering a possible Study option of acquiring one large ferry for the Bell Island service. The Committee has already filed significant objections to any consideration to such a move



4. Dock safety improvements-Phase 1 has started

A contract for \$2,000,000 has commenced in Portugal Cove to renovate one dock this year. A further \$2,000,000 is committed for 2007 to complete the renovations of the second dock in the Cove. In the interim many dock fenders are missing and damaged and as a consequence the ferry is landing in unsafe conditions. The vessels are being damaged and the passengers are being put at risk due to rough landings. Senior marine officers have identified 63 fenders either damaged or missing. Maintenance is needed now and we have again made that plea. (During the current wharf contract heavy trucks have been requested to park in the Fishermen's wharf area.

5. Municipalities Advisory Committee update- First meeting on June 13

Following a 2 year frustrating wait, a meeting has been set for June 13 for the Minister of Transportation's Ferry Advisory Committee.

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There has been frustration to get the Municipalities Federation meeting with the Transportation Minister to hear the voice of the municipalities in ferry-connected towns. Mayor Gosine will represent the Town of Wabana on this Committee

6. Vessels for the summer- Main vessels now back

The Flanders is now returned to service joining the Beaumont Hamel that has been just refitted. The Nonia has left for an expected 2-month refit and will likely not be back until the dock work is finished in the Cove, as the Nonia cannot dock in the main docks.

7. Strike free services: (Legislation sought to protect ferry users)

The Committee is still waiting for promised action for measures to avoid a potential damaging strike in the next round of ferry

workers talks. We have asked for binding arbitration process via an amendment to the Labour Relations Act just like BC Ferries and Marine Atlantic Workers have

8. IMPORTANT: Commuter tax credit: Buy advanced ticket package or lose tax credit.

Commuters are reminded that effective July 1, one must purchase the advance ticket booklet in order to qualify for the new Federal tax credit.

9. Road Improvements in the Cove terminal area –Details being discussed

Details have been scarce on the Budget 2006 Roads allocation to improve line –up safety. Funding has been announced to extend the inadequate ferry line-up lane to meet peak traffic conditions and improve road safety and parking in the Cove. Currently the line-up lane is endangering public safety as vehicles lined up for the ferry have to park on the main highway. Details on the scope of work planned are now being discussed with the Committee and tenders

hopefully will be called soon.

10. Requested Meeting with Minister Taylor now set for June 14

The Committee has been advised that the Minister has agreed to meet on June 14 to discuss a variety of ferry related issues. The Committee has written the Minister in early April seeking to meet on pressing matters. Stay tuned for hoped for a positive outcome.

Happy sailing this summer!

Wabana Town Council News

Wabana Town Council News

Sports Fields

Over the winter there has been a lot of vandalism on the local ball fields. The dugouts and fences have been severely damaged and will cost the town many dollars for repairs. We have asked the RCMP to patrol the fields and to charge anyone causing damage. These fields are very important for the Summer Programs for the Wabana Boys' and Girls' Club and the Men's and Women Slow-pitch Softball Leagues. These fields should be used for sports programs and not for loitering.

House Numbers

We would like for all residents to make sure that all houses are properly numbered with numbers that can be seen from the street. Although most residents know where other residents live, the numbering of houses is very important for emergency personnel. There are presently discussions on extending the 911 service to Bell Island and this would make the use of numbers more essential. If you are

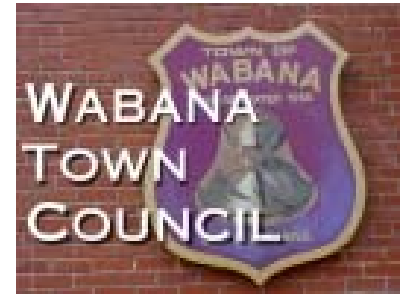
not sure what number should go on your house, please call the Town at 488-2990. In the near future the Town will be replacing and repairing street signs.

Facilities/Recreation Director

Although the Arena is closed, the Town Council had decided to employ Mr. Todd Gillingham for the summer months. He will be carrying out much needed repairs and maintenance on the arena for a while and then will be involved in other town recreation facilities. Mr. Gillingham is presently working on several bookings for the Arena during the summer. We are hoping to put some recreational equipment on the play ground for the younger children and Mr. Gillingham will be checking on the use of the equipment during the summer.

North East Avalon Joint Council

The monthly meeting of the NEAJC for May was hosted by the Town of Wabana on May 17. Much of the meeting was dedicated to the Town Hall Forum which will be held in St. John's on May 25. The purpose of the Town Hall Forum is for members of the NEAJC to meet with local MHAs and MPs to discuss



municipal concerns. One of the biggest concerns facing the North East Avalon is waste management. Many towns are currently trucking their garbage to Robin Hood Bay because of new environmental rules. We will be watching this issue to see how the Town of Wabana will be affected. We will also be bringing up the issue of a more efficient ferry service.

Clean Up

We would like to thank all the residents who co-operated in the town clean up. We would like to thank the Council workers who did such a good job of cleaning up the town in such an efficient manner. The town looks much better but we would like to encourage residents to continue to keep their property clean. When visitors come home this summer let them experience a clean and wholesome community.

**Submitted by:
Councilor Patrick Craig**

Bell Island Food Bank

"Bell Island Kitchen Party 2006" in aid of the Bell Island Food bank

Over the past week I have heard a few comments regarding the abuse of the Food Bank, such as people who are not in need receiving food, food obtained and being sold or the most despicable act of throwing unwanted fare away.

I can personally tell you that the Committee is doing everything in its power to curb abuses and ensure that the food distributed is to worthy recipients. They are doing their best and it is going well in spite of a few negative occurrences. This dilemma is not exclusive to Bell Island, as I have also seen it happen in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Nonetheless, the majority of recipients on this island are in dire need of this service.

We can sit back and develop all the excuses we want for not helping out with our food bank, but the point is that there are neighbors of yours and mine who need assistance. For every person that misuses the Food Bank, there are twenty more who may not be able to survive without it. Desperate hunger is usually not known to most of us, but for those who know what that feels like you will never forget it.

Some years ago, when I was away from home, I

found myself in a strange city not knowing anyone. I spent four days without anything to eat and on the fifth day I swallowed my pride and walked into a Salvation Army Food Bank. The season had drastically depleted their provisions, but I was given a few cans of spaghetti, a bag of rice, and a package of hot dogs. I had no way to opening the cans or cook the rice, but I ate the wieners raw while I walked down the street.

I have never forgotten that feeling. We all know of our Food bank but few realize the hard work and organization that goes into keeping it open. Quite frankly I think we all need to be less critical and more appreciative of a service that costs one nothing to use and is run by persons who volunteer their time. The ones who appreciate the service never say anything. The few who may never be satisfied are always the ones who spread falsehoods in the community....but we are all bigger than that.

Communities are not built by negative comments they are built by the positive actions of those who care so here we go. I have met with the Bell Island Food Bank executive board and **we have decided to host the "Bell Island Kitchen Party 2006". It will be held at the Monsignor Bartlett Arena on August 12, 2006 @ 2 p.m.**

We have to begin early in the afternoon due to the large entertainment line-up expected. Even though



planning is in the preliminary stages, we anticipate at least 30 entertainers from St. John's and Bell Island to perform. **Tickets will cost \$8.00 advance and \$10.00 at the door.**

We will disseminate the details as plans progress. As planning continues there will be an update in each newsletter prior to the event. Most of us have daily concerns, least of which being what we will have for dinner.

If you would like to help in the organization or planning please contact me.

Hopefully, you will buy a ticket, donate a couple of dollars, or volunteer your time, and pray to God that you or your family will never have to avail of these services. For those of you who have already volunteered your services, you have my heartfelt gratitude.

I look forward to seeing you at the show to help make this a successful event that we can all be proud of.

**Slainte,
Holly O'Neill**

THIS IS KIWANIS



Important Dates for Kiwanis:

**On June 17, 2006
Kiwaniis Governor's Ball
Dinner and Dance to
commence at 7:00 p.m.**

Gary Gosine, this year's Lt. Governor for Newfoundland and Labrador is hosting his Governor, Hazel Brandon who is from Suriname, South America.

**Tickets are on sale:
\$15.00 (single)
Deadline to purchase is:
June 10, 2006
For tickets or more
information call:
488-3168**

M.C. for this event will be Merle Vokey and local Bell Island

artists will supply music free of charge

I would also like to thank the residents of Bell Island for making our Bell Island Janeway Children's Miracle Day such a success.

Special thanks to:
Bucky Hunt for his support as well as
Shaun Tipple,
Boyd Merrill, and
Derek Rayner for their effective use of "Road Blocks" to aid in the sales of hot dogs.

Normally we raise \$500.00 and we far surpassed that amount this year by bringing in \$900.00.

Thank you everyone for your generous community support!

June 10, 2006 (Saturday)
RCMP/Kiwaniis Bike Rodeo will be held at the Monsignor Bartlett Arena at 1:00 p.m.
Children from ages kindergarten to grade 6 are invited to participate.

**For further information contact:
Lt. Governor
Gary Gosine
488-3168**

The Lions Club



Minutes of the regular meeting of the PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIPS LIONS CLUB

Date*May 9, 2006
Meeting called to order by KL Randy @ 7:40 PM Lions invocation was said by all.
Attendance: Bert, Daphne, Dorothy, Fred, Gladys, Jerry, Josephine, Mary, Nancy, Olive, Randy, Sharon, Bradley, Boyd. (8)

MINUTES: Minutes of April 25 were read. Motion by L/Olive & L/Bert to accept, carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS: VOCCM Bingo: L/Bert gave his yearend report for bingo from Jan to May. See attached Motion by L/Bert &

L/Fred to donate \$400.00 to the Bell Island Food Bank. Carried

Motion by L/Gladys & L/Josephine to pay L/ Bert's expenses of \$500.00 Carried

Membership: Membership drive using mail out will be started in the fall. Bert's Pennies: L/Bert turned over \$40.00

CORRESPONDENCE: Eastern Chapter Autism Society CNIB
NEW BUSINESS: Motion by L/Bert & L/Nancy to support two person attending the Autism camp at the Lion Max Simms Memorial Camp at a cost of \$105.00 each (\$210.00) Carried

L/Fred reported on the Facility training he attended in Toronto.
Visitations: L/Olive has a visit set for Pouch Cove on May 17, 7PM Also St. John's on May 11, 6:30PM

Everyone was reminded of the card party on May 29. Tickets were given out to members to sell. Also prizes are required for spins.

Lions Cavalcade will be on June 11, 12PM starting at the parking lot of the Health Science. Motion by L/olive & L/Josephine to donate \$500.00 to the Diabetes Cavalcade. Carried.

Items to include in our next agenda: Request report on inter club fundraisers, IE. Spins, suppers
Agenda for last meeting/
Membership for L/Jerry & Daphne

Meeting adj. 9:20



R.C.M.P Community Concerns – Submitted by Constable Rayner

Well, I think it is safe to say that we have finally made it through winter, and are now enjoying much nicer weather.

This month's contribution has to do with **tinted windows**. Many people here on the island have modified their standard windows by tinting them. I can only assume this is to reduce the amount of sunlight entering their vehicle and thus reducing the amount of heat created inside the vehicle in the summertime. Alternatively I assume, they are trying to hide something. Tinting of windows beyond the standard manufactured level is allowed only on rear windows, those behind the front seats. This means that the front driver side and front passenger side windows can not be modified beyond the existing standard manufactured glass, nor can the front windshield. Windows, which come from the dealer or manufacturer, are already tinted to the allowable levels, thus no further tinting is allowed on the forward windows.

This summer we will be stopping and issuing fines to those individuals who continue to keep their front windows tinted. Warnings have been given to many of these individuals as they passed through our checkpoints this past winter and spring, but the warnings are no more, you will be fined accordingly.

I have included below a couple of associated sections dealing with window obstruction, and obstruction of the driver, from the Highway Traffic Act. There are more than you might think.

On a side note, I would like to again remind you of the importance of not only wearing a helmet when operating an all terrain vehicle or motorcycle but also the importance of not drinking and driving when operating any motorized vehicle. You are not only dealing with your life but the lives of the people you meet on your way. You are smarter than that...walk or call a taxi.

Related Sections from The Highway Traffic Act:

Window obstruction

Section 155. A person shall not drive a motor vehicle on a highway where

- (a) there is in or upon the windshield, sidewings, side or rear windows or the openings for any of them a sign, poster or other nontransparent material other than a certificate, sticker or other device required by this Act or the regulations to be displayed on it or approved by the minister;
- (b) there is on the exterior or in the interior of the vehicle an ornament, decoration, novelty or other thing so located that it may obstruct the vision or distract the attention of the driver;
- (c) the windshield, sidewings, side or rear windows are so covered, either completely or partially, by snow, ice, mist, dirt or other matter that the vision of the driver is obscured or obstructed; or
- (d) the glass of the windshield, sidewings, side or rear windows or any of them or where the rear-view mirror is cracked, starred, crazed, discoloured or otherwise affected so as to reduce its transparency or impair the driver's view in any direction or under any conditions including the view by means of a rear-view mirror.



*(R.C.M.P Community Concerns
(continued from page 15....)*

Obstruction of driver

Section 156. (1) A person shall not move a vehicle on a highway where

- (a) the driver's view to the front, sides or rear of the vehicle; or
 - (b) the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle,
- is obstructed or interfered with because of the load or the number of persons in the front seat.

(2) A passenger in a vehicle shall not occupy a position which interferes with

- (a) the driver's view to the front or to the side of the vehicle; or
- (b) the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(3) The driver of a vehicle shall not permit a passenger in the vehicle to occupy a position which interferes with

- (a) the driver's view to the front or to the side of the vehicle; or
- (b) the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

1988 c33 s155; 1990 c43 s13

Licensing and Equipment Regulations under the Highway Traffic Act,

Window glazing

Section 38. (1) A person shall not place or install in a motor vehicle non-transparent, translucent or opaque material on or in place of the

- (a) windshield glazing; or
- (b) side window glazing that is beside or forward of the driver on the right and left hand side of the motor vehicle in a manner or to an extent that the motor vehicle no longer conforms with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada) CMVSS 205 Glazing Materials, as amended.

(2) Subsection (1) does not

- (a) apply to the equivalent replacement of the glazing installed by the manufacturer of the motor vehicle;
- (b) prohibit the use of clear untinted frost shields; or
- (c) prohibit the use of window stickers as long as they do not impair the operator's field of vision or otherwise impair the safe operation of the motor vehicle and are used in accordance with conditions prescribed by the Act.

(3) The owner of a motor vehicle shall ensure that the view through a frost shield on the motor vehicle is not impaired by discoloration, scratches or other damages.

(4) A person shall not place or install a material on or in place of a window glazing that by reason of sunlight or the headlights of other vehicles casts a glare at other vehicles on the highway.

(5) A person shall not operate on a highway a motor vehicle that contains material that is prohibited by this section.



The Lions Club

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Portugal Cove - St. Philip's Lions Club 25 April 2006

Present: Josephine, Olive, Gladys, Frank, Roxanne, Mary, Bradley, Fred, Bert.
Absent: Dot, Sharon, Daphne, Boyd (at large), Nancy, Randy

Meeting called to order at 7:30
Lions invocation said by all
Minutes of the last meeting were read by Lion Bradley
Motion Lion Bert / 2nd Lion Olive that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising from minutes.
Lion Bradley to contact Lion Loretta Ryan regarding the roster for 100% Life Membership in the Lions Foundation of Canada. Lion Roxanne to be made a 100% Life Member. All members of the Club are now Life Members. Financial Reports given and accepted.

Committees: VOXM Bingo: \$6435 submitted by Lion Bert. Permission was granted to Lion Mary to write a cheque to cover our obligations to VOXM prior to the next meeting and a motion will be passed at the next meeting in this regard.

Lion Bert's Pennies: Lion Bert presented the club with \$40 from his penny cans.

Membership: Lion Bradley tendered a sample letter to be included with the brochures for

mail-out. Lion Fred will contact International regarding additional brochures. The Club now has 1000 or so of these.

Correspondence: VDG Sam Parsons is offering space in his Directory.
Letter of thanks from Brittany Churchill for supporting her trip to Ottawa.
Letter from Lion Claudette Coombs regarding the Diabetes Cavalcade, which begins on June 11 at noon in St. John's. The Club should also consider naming a Diabetes contact for next year.
Letter from VOXM Cares regarding certificates of appreciation for store owners participating in VOXM bingo sales.
The Annual Report of the Max Simms Camp was made available for review.

New Business Our \$100 donation will be used to purchase a Life Membership in the Lions Foundation of Canada for Lion Roxanne. Motion by Lion Fred and seconded that Lion Roxanne become a Life Member.

The ticket sale on artwork has been cancelled in favour of a card party on 29th of May. Tickets \$2.00 each with a total of 250 to be sold. Lion Roxanne to look after producing tickets.

There will also be a cold plate sale this fall. President and Secretary supplies have arrived for 2006-2007. Lion Bert had made a donation of \$100 to the

Garden of Hope at the HSC. Members approved by phone. Motion Lion Bert, 2nd Lion Fred we pay the \$100. Carried.

Lion Fred learned that for our \$1000 donation to the Camp we can make a \$750 donation to the Camp and name one member to the Lion Max Simms Camp Foundation for the other \$250. Lion Fred recommended we e-mail Lion Gerald Hutchings and let him know we want the foundation award for \$250 * member to be named later.

Lion Fred reported on the DGO @ Gander. \$32,000 raised for the Camp. New VDG and DG Parsons will be taking office in July. Most of the State of Maine will be breaking away from the District. Lion Fred motioned / 2nd by Lion Roxanne that members who attended the DGO be reimbursed \$75 each. Carried.

An Election of Officers took place for 2006-2007, results as follows: President: Lion Frank Libbey Secretary: Lion Bradley Moss Treasurer: Lion Mary Thorne Membership Chair: Lion Bradley Moss

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Contact Us:

If you have any comments, concerns, or questions about the newsletter please contact us:

Cpl. Boyd Merrill at:
boyd.merrill@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

We can also be reached at the RCMP Detachment at 116 Memorial Street.
(709) 488-3312.

The newsletter is also available on the internet at website: www.bellisland.net

Police Announcement:

As most of the residents of Bell Island are aware we have lost the fine work skills of Dale Fitzgerald after 30 years of service to this Island and to the R.C.M.P.

Dale has worked with a lot of different police personnel during this time and has always been a professional. Her dedication to her work was her standard, which was set high. I have known Dale for only the past three years but in some ways they have been her best.

Dale has overcome what most of us wouldn't have the fortitude to face but she did. She raised a family, helped build a community and lord only knows how many lives she has touched, helped and made whole again.

I was once on the main street in Washington DC with a friend of mine. We were about 20 years old. We were sitting watching this great American City as it worked. Staring at the House of Congress and the White House one would think everyone in this town was "centered" but they weren't. In fact only a very few were. One like I am about to tell you about.

We watched this unique looking man in approach from about a hundred feet away so we decided to play a game. We took an American dollar bill and folded it so it stood up and placed it on the sidewalk in plain view. The man we were watching came along, looked at the money and walked on leaving it there. We sung out to him and told him he dropped the bill. Here is something like he said: "Boys that isn't my money. I don't have any money and I don't really like money. I used to have a lot of money and I wasn't happy. All I need in life I get from the "Mission" and from helping others". I can't help but think he was related to Dale in this or some other life.....

Retirement from one job means entering another. It could be a paid job or not. I don't know what job Dale will pick but I bet someone other than her will benefit from it. That is the way she "works".
Good Luck Buddy!

P.S. Thanks for the pile of stuff we have no idea how to do and no one yet to do it and for leaving us with no one to answer the phone and for making the office seem so empty and taking away the jokes and sharing the stories about the past and