



# Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

August 2006

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

## From the Corporal's Desk

*".....the car landed on him, snuffing out his life like a discarded cigarette. He was killed instantly. He was the lucky one."*

This article was brought in by a member of our community who felt that what is written is thought provoking enough that it deserves to be shared through our newsletter. In agreement with those sentiments it appears on the pages before you.

The intention of the writer is quite simple: *"all I want is to avert tragedies like the one I'm about to share."*

By the time you are done reading this story, you will realize the importance of this goal.

### **"The Cop Down the Street"**

This is Cst. Dale Martel of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I'm replying to some of the questions you ask me daily, and I'm not just one police officer, I represent every officer in every city and town in Canada.

You may know me as the cop who gave you the ticket last summer, but I'm also the guy who lives down the street from you. I'm the parent of two children, and I share with you the same hopes, ambitions, and dreams you have for *your* children.

I face the same problems you do. I share those moments of agony and ecstasy. I share with you the feelings of shame, guilt and disappointment when my boy or girl gets into trouble. I'm angry and sick at heart, trying to do my job and being tagged the bad guy, when all I want is to avert tragedies like the one I'm about to share.

The scene was a long stretch of highway with a sharp curve at one end. It had been raining and the roads were slick. A car traveling in excess of 130 km/h missed the curve and plowed into an embankment, where it became airborne and struck a tree. At this point, two young passengers were hurled from the vehicle; one into a tree, the other onto the roadway-

where the car landed on him, snuffing out his life like a discarded cigarette. He was killed instantly. He was the lucky one.

The girl thrown into the tree had her neck broken, and though she'd been voted queen of the senior prom, and most likely to succeed, she'll spend the rest of her days in a wheelchair.

By the time I arrived, the car had come to rest on its top. Its wheels, broken, had stopped spinning. Smoke and steam poured from the engine, ripped from its mountings.

An eerie calm had fallen over the scene, and it appeared deserted- except for one lonely traveler who had called it in. He was sick to his stomach, and leaning against his car for support.

**(continued on next page..)**

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

*" I felt a pang of guilt, and recognized him as a boy I'd let off with a warning the other night, for having an open container of alcohol in his car. Maybe if I'd charged him, he would still be alive. Who knows?"*

The driver was conscious, but in shock, and unable to free himself from beneath a bent and twisted steering column. His face will be forever scarred, from deep cuts inflicted by broken glass and jagged metal.

Those cuts may heal but the ones inside cannot be touched by the surgeon's scalpel.

A third youth had almost finished bleeding. The seat and his clothing were covered in blood, from an artery, cut by a broken bone-end protruding from his forearm. He gasped, trying desperately to suck air past his blood filled airway. He was unable to speak. His eyes bulged and fixed on me pleadingly, the only communication that he was terrified and wanted help. I felt a pang of guilt, and recognized him as a boy I'd let off with a warning the other night, for having an open container of alcohol in his car. Maybe if I'd charged him, he would still be alive. Who knows?

He died soundlessly in my arms his pale blue eyes staring vacantly, as if trying to see into the future he would never have. I remembered watching him play basketball, and wondered what would happen to the scholarship he would never use.

My mind was drawn to loud screams, which I identified as a girl who had been thrown from the vehicle. I raced to

her with a blanket but as afraid to move her. Her head was tilted at an exaggerated angle. She seemed unaware of my presence and whimpered, like a child, for her mother.

In the distance I heard the mournful wail of the ambulance, winding its way through the rain. I was filled with incredible grief at the waste of so valuable a resource, our youth.

The ambulance crew began the job of scraping up and removing the dead and injured. I stood by, watching, tears mingling with the rain and dripping from my cheeks.

You ask me why this happened? It happened because a young person, stoned out of his mind, thought he could handle two tons of hurtling death at 130 km/h. It happened because an adult, trying to be a good guy, bought for, or sold to some minor, a case of beer.

It happened because parents aren't concerned enough for their children to know where they are, or what they're doing. They're unconcerned about minors and alcohol abuse, and would rather blame me for harassing them- when I was only trying to prevent this kind of tragedy.

It happened because, as people say- you believe this sort of thing only happens to someone else.

I become sick with anger and frustration, when I think of parents and leaders who

believe a little alcohol won't hurt anything. I am filled with contempt for people who propose lowering the drinking age because kids will get alcohol anyway. I'm frustrated with laws, court rulings, and other legal maneuvers that restrict my ability to prevent this kind of tragedy.

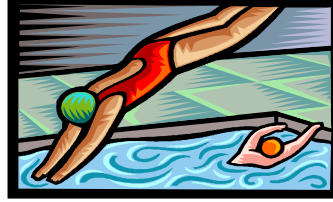
I'd give anything to know who furnished these young people with the alcohol. I spent hours on reports, and now will take months trying to erase from memory the details of that night. I will not be alone. The driver will recover and spend the rest of his life trying to forget.

Yes- I *am* angry. I pray to God I never have to face another parent in the middle of the night, to say your daughter, Susan, or your son, Bill, has been killed in a car accident.

For your sake, I hope it doesn't happen, but if you continue to regard alcohol abuse as part of growing up, then keep your porch light on. Some cold, rainy night you'll find me at your doorstep, staring at my feet with a message of death for *you*.

**Story Submitted by:  
Dave Fitzgerald**

## Bell Islander Fundraises for a Community Swimming Pool



Bell Island resident, Deanne Hiscock, substitute teacher, volleyball instructor and athlete has met with a number of local and provincial dignitaries in preparation for making plans for a community swimming pool. She has received permission to begin fundraising for this worthwhile venture and will kickoff the fundraising campaign in early September.

Her first major effort will be a salt water swim from Little Bell Island to Lance Cove beach. For this swim she will be getting sponsors and pledges from all those interested in seeing this dream reach its fulfillment.

More information will be posted on the Bell Island Website, [www.bellisland.net](http://www.bellisland.net) as it becomes available. If you would like to make a pledge to Deanne or gather sponsors on her behalf, please email her at [bellisland\\_swimmingpool@hotmail.com](mailto:bellisland_swimmingpool@hotmail.com).

Donations can be made out to Bell Island Swimming Pool Account and can be mailed to either **Deanne Hiscock @ P.O Box 864, Bell Island, NL, A0A 4H0**, or to **OTown of Wabana, Bell Island, NL, A0A 4H0**.

This is Deanne's first major salt water swim and she can be spotted training regularly either running or swimming near Lance Cove Beach. We hope everyone will get behind her and help make this first effort a tremendous success.

It may take two or three years to raise the necessary funds but with true community involvement this dream will become a reality and Bell Island will finally have a much needed public swimming pool for people of all ages to enjoy.

**Way to Go Deanne! Best of Luck!**

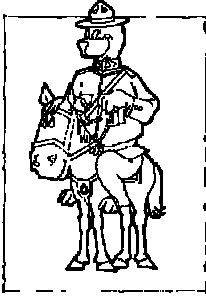
I would like to thank... all of those who helped with the search of my dog Buddy.



A special thank you goes to Mildred Mercer who located Buddy so I could go get him.

The effort that everyone put into the search is deeply appreciated and because of you Buddy is now safe at home.

Sincerely,  
Marg.



## 2006 RCMP Children's Drawing Contest



The RCMP actively contributes to safe homes and sustainable communities by not only enabling and supporting safety and security, but by meeting the collective needs of citizens and enhancing their overall quality of life.

Like the RCMP, you contribute every day to sustainable development in your community. Recycling, composting, walking and cycling, choosing alternatives to pesticides, purchasing locally, volunteering, and becoming

a leader in your community are all part of a sustainable lifestyle.

Last year, we invited students from early grades to produce a drawing to illustrate their commitments and support toward the environment.

This time around, we would like to invite your children to draw a picture of the sustainable actions you and your family take to protect and preserve your local community.

A 2007 calendar will be published to showcase the winning submissions.

Please also include with your child's entry, written permission allowing the RCMP to publish your

child's name, age and location.

Please submit all entries to the address below by August 30, 2006.

Attn : 2006 RCMP Children's Drawing Contest  
440 Coventry Rd, 2nd Floor  
Ottawa , Ontario  
K1J 7T2

For Further Information:  
Carla MacQuarrie  
(902) 426-0312  
[Carla.MacQuarrie@rcmp-qrc.gc.ca](mailto:Carla.MacQuarrie@rcmp-qrc.gc.ca)



**KITCHEN PARTY 2006**  
**IN AID OF THE BELL ISLAND FOOD BANK**  
BELL ISLAND ARENA ON AUGUST 12 @ 2 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY:

DERMOT O'REILLY

&

FERGUS O'BYRNE

THE GOVERNMENT RAMS

(A.K.A. SHANNEYGANOCK)

GEORGE JACKMAN

BART & MARION MCCARTHY

KEVIN GEORGE

&

BILL BURSEY

MAY FRENCH

JEREMY HARNUM

NATE HAMMOND

JIMMY SHEA

JASON SIMMS

SAMMY DEAN

JEROME WARREN

PADDY MORAN

BILLY PETERS

&

DOUG CUMMINGS

& MANY MORE

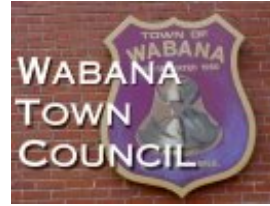
COST: \$8.00 ADVANCE, \$10.00 AT THE DOOR

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE FOOD BANK OR BY CONTACTING HOLLY O'NEILL @  
488-2580 OR BOYD MERRILL @ THE RCMP STATION

PLENTY OF DOOR PRIZES AND FUN FOR ALL

(Proceeds: 80% - Bell Island Food Bank - 20% - Archbishop's Appeal)

## Wabana Town Council News



### **Welcome Visitors**

We would like to welcome all our visitors, especially former residents who have come "home" for a holiday. We certainly hope you enjoy your stay and take advantage of the many entertainments and tourist attractions. We wish you a safe and enjoyable visit with family and friends.

### **Partial Water Ban**

Certain parts of the town are experiencing water shortages due to the increased demands on the system at this time of year. Council has decided to implement a partial water ban in the hope of alleviating the shortage. We are asking all residents to cease using water for washing cars, watering lawns and filling swimming pools from **6 a.m. to 6 p.m.** daily. We ask for your cooperation in this very serious matter. If you see people using water for outside purposes during these hours please remind them of the ban. If this strategy does not work, we will have to consider a total ban.

We also ask residents to conserve water as much as possible in household uses. Make sure that there are no dripping taps and that flush boxes are working efficiently. If anyone knows of leaks in any of the town water system please contact the town office so proper repairs can be made. Let's all do what we can to conserve water.

### **No Dumping**

We are proud of how property owners have developed and maintained such clean and tidy areas around town. BUT, we have also noticed that some people are dumping parts of bicycles and other refuse in some areas which were used as dumping sites during the clean up. Please be advised that the Town Dump is the only place to legally dump garbage. We ask all residents to respect our community and the environment.

### **Aliant**

The Town of Wabana recently asked Aliant to discontinue the "extended local calling charges" which were implemented

on Bell Island in 1989 to replace long distance charges to St. John's and area. The company stated that the charge was approved by the CRTC and must remain if we are to continue in the St. John's and Portugal Cove exchanges. The alternative would lead to a reinstatement of long distance charges to St. John's. Council will be following up on this issue with the CRTC.

### **Fill**

We would like to remind all residents that any excavation within the town for the purpose of digging for top soil, shale or mine tailings is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Wabana. If anyone wants to get any large amounts of fill, please get a permit and permission from the town office. Anyone excavating on weekends and after business hours without proper permits will be liable to charges.

**Submitted by:**  
**Councilor Pat Craig**



## Wabana Boys & Girls Club "A Good Place to Be"

We are into the last few weeks of our summer programs and we would like to thank the students for an outstanding job with this year's program.

This year we had to change some of our age groups to co-ed because of the low numbers in that age group.

The R.C.M.P. and the Boys & Girls club held a Helmet Safety program for the summer months. We started this program hoping that it would encourage the children of our community to wear their helmets when riding bikes, skate boards, & rollerblading. It has been a great success and we give out instant, weekly, and end of the summer prizes. I would like to thank the members of the R.C.M.P., especially Cst. Derek Rayner for helping with this program.

**The club is still selling tickets for the \$1000.00 draw that will be taken place on the Labor Day weekend.** We are somewhat disappointed in the support that we have received so far. We appreciate it very much if you can drop in and purchase a ticket or take a few to sell. Your help is greatly needed.

We have some shirts that are being sold with our old logo on them. All shirts will be going at a discount price. If interested, drop in a check them out.

The club has started our Thursday night bingo again and they are at 8:15. We are asking you to support this fundraising project for the club. We are hoping, with the interest of the people in the

community to be able to continue the bingo nights during the remainder of the year. We apologize to the disappointed bingo players for having to call our bingos off until the summer. It just wasn't worth our efforts to continue, because we were going in the hole every week. We have made changes to our bingo hoping to make it affordable for the people to attend. We are also planning a jackpot bingo for the fall of the year, if our numbers increase.

For the last four and a half years, Wabana Boys and Girls Club in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Newfoundland and Labrador have been able to offer a Life Skills Program to members between the ages of 5 and 12 years of age. This program teaches and reinforces the skills children learn at home and assists them in making good choices for themselves when their parents and other responsible adults aren't around to help them.

The program includes skills such as how to deal with Bullying, Fighting, Teasing, Peer Pressure and many other skills to numerous to mention. On September 11, 2006, we will be offering the tenth and last cycle of this program. There are still a couple of spaces left for the 9-12 group. The "Just for Kids" group is from ages 5-8 and is held on Monday and Wednesday of every week.

The "Skills and Thrills" group is from ages 9-12 and is held every Tuesday and Thursday. If your child is in hockey or figure skating, every effort will be made to ensure that they can still participate in the Life Skills Program without it impacting on their other activities.

If you are interested in having your child participate in this program, please contact, Leona Ezekiel, Joe Somerton, Krista Clark, or Mary Murphy at 488-3801 or 488-2288. **Remember, transportation is provided for the participants to and from the club on the days in which they attend the program.**

The club will be having a **Flea Market on August 31<sup>st</sup>**. Anyone interested in putting a table in this sale can call the club. There will be a \$15.00 fee to have a table in the sale. Anyone who has some items that you would like to donate to this sale, call the club or drop the items off.

From July 24<sup>th</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>, the club took 13 of our members for swimming lessons to the Aqua Arena. This program was 100% sponsored by Canadian Tire Jump Start Program. This was the second year that they have been sponsoring this program.

**Submitted by:  
Joe Somerton**

*"This program teaches and reinforces the skills children learn at home and assists them in making good choices for themselves when their parents and other responsible adults aren't around to help them."*



## 2006 Bell Island Bike Rodeo

The 2006 Bell Island Bike Rodeo was a success once again. This event gets better and bigger every year.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, kids from the island participated in the long awaited Bike Rodeo and tested their riding skills on various obstacle courses. New riders were taught bicycle safety and older ones were reminded the rules and regulations to enjoy safe cycling.

We estimated 160 kids who attended the event. All were rewarded treats and drinks for their hard work.

12 new bicycles, 48 helmets and several bicycle accessories were awarded.

The bicycle winners were;

- **Bailey Hawco,**
- **Emily Foley,**
- **Chelsea Howardson,**
- **Cody Besso,**
- **Keisha Noseworthy,**
- **Gerald Byrne,**
- **McKayla Delaney,**
- **Galen Cummings,**
- **Brooklyn Slade,**
- **Thomas Bartlett,**
- **Sean Carroll,**
- **Morgan Mitchell.**

The Bell Island RCMP would like to acknowledge our sponsors for their past, present and future contributions which makes this Bike Rodeo a tremendous success.

- ❖ Kiwanis Club
- ❖ VOCCM Care Foundation
- Fitzgerald's Taxi

- ❖ Knights of Columbus
- ❖ Pendergast Funeral Home
- ❖ The staff of St. Augustine School
- ❖ Kitchen's Store
- ❖ Linda's Grill
- ❖ Foodland
- ❖ Clarke & Clarke Home Hardware
- ❖ Elaine Dalton
- ❖ Dr. Alexa Laurie and Mike Laurie
- ❖ Jerome Warren
- ❖ Urban Flooring
- ❖ Seaview Lounge
- ❖ Ken-Mar Contractors
- ❖ Brad's Convenience
- ❖ Bennett's Refrigeration
- ❖ Tina's Unisex
- ❖ Island Manufacturing
- ❖ Jim Yick
- ❖ Gord Metcalfe
- ❖ Shirley's Hair Salon
- ❖ Ed Metcalfe
- ❖ Anne Marie and Bern Metcalfe
- ❖ Bell Island Heritage Society Inc.
- ❖ St-Michael's Church
- ❖ Dave Foley Inspection Ltd.
- ❖ Baker Brothers
- ❖ Dr. Walter Tucker
- ❖ Royal Canadian Legion #18
- ❖ Family Drug Mart
- ❖ Hammond's Construction
- ❖ Crafts and Décor
- ❖ Hunt's Distributing
- ❖ Martin Hurley
- ❖ Henry Crane
- ❖ Princess Pub
- ❖ Judy Burt
- ❖ Sadie Bickford
- ❖ Personal Touch
- ❖ Rychrist Inn
- ❖ Curling Club
- ❖ West Mines Sport Bar
- ❖ Father Dohey
- ❖ Tremblett's Ambulance
- ❖ Slade's B&E
- ❖ Black & White Lounge
- ❖ Co-op Insurance (Keith Kent)
- ❖ Fred Noseworthy
- ❖ Canadian Tire: Kenmount Rd, Elizabeth Ave, Mount Pearl
- ❖ Costco
- ❖ Dominion Stores
- ❖ Sobey's
- ❖ Walmart
- ❖ Zellers
- ❖ Dennis Morgan
- ❖ Lori Hahn
- ❖ Dale Fitzgerald
- ❖ Bonnie Spracklin
- ❖ Edgar Pynn
- ❖ Town of Wabana

And a special thank to Tom Spracklin for his countless hours and trips to town which makes this Rodeo a success.

Thanks to everyone.

**Cst Stephane Remillard**  
**Bell Island RCMP**  
**stephane.remillard@rcmp-grc.gc.ca**



# Bell Island Ferry Users Committee

August 2006 Report  
Prepared by Ed Kent



## 1. Wow! - Over 30,000 passengers travel to Bell Island in July 2006

Bell Island is alive and well this summer as the Island continues to attract incredible numbers of visitors each summer. Over 30,000 passengers came to Bell Island in July with an equivalent number travelling back to the mainland. (1000 PASSENGERS ON AVERAGE PER DAY)

On an average fall or winter month one would expect 18,000 round trip passengers (mostly local residents). Passenger traffic rose to over 20,000 passengers in May 2006, to over 23,000 round trip passengers in June 2006 and over 30,000 round trip passengers for July 2006

Bell Island is again on its way to attracting over 45,000 non-resident visitors in 2006, which would be approximately 20% of the estimated 225,000 who travel the Bell Island ferry service per year on a round trip basis. Great news for the Island's tourism based businesses and the Island's economy.

## 2. Another new Minister responsible for Provincial Ferries- (3 Ministers) in 9 months

Looks like the Users Committee will have to start all over again in presenting Bell Island's ferry issues to the Minister of Transportation. Having reported in July 2006 that the Committee had just had an in-depth meeting with Minister Taylor, (who had

replaced Minister Rideout in the Fall of 2005) Committee representatives now face the task of re-presenting issues on our radar screen to the new minister, John Hickey.

## 3. Two (2)-ferry vessels to be designed- 28-car replacement for Ham. Sound excluded

The new Minister of Transportation John Hickey has announced a tender call for expression of interest from naval architects to design 2 new ferries (a 10 car and a 20 car ferry for the Newfoundland ferry services). Once designed there would have to be another tender call for construction and a then it would take 2 years to build. (2008 earliest completion) Government has announced it will not disclose where the new ferries when built will be assigned.

The previously committed 28-car Provincial swing ferry to serve Bell Island (when the Flanders and Beaumont Hamel are on refit) has to our disappointment obviously been moved down the priority list. The Committee does not consider the proposed new 20-car ferry anywhere near large enough to reasonably serve the Bell Island service in a back-up capacity.

## 4. a. Provincial Ferry Headquarters moving to Lewisporte-

## b. Uncertainty over fate of regional eastern office to serve Bell Island service- ??

Deputy Premier Rideout announced in late July that the Provincial Government was moving its Provincial Marine headquarters from the Confederation Building to Lewisporte.

While this move in itself will have significant implications there is tremendous uncertainty as of July 30 (the date of this article) as to what impact this will have on the fate of the regional ferry office that oversees the Bell Island operation.

Any downgrading in the regional eastern office administered by Manager Ben Hammett would meet with stiff opposition from Bell Islanders and would be impractical and illogical to even be considered. Stay tuned.

## 5. 2005 ferry fleet study still under lock and key

It continues to be extremely disappointing that the 2005 commissioned ferry fleet study not only was shut out by Government from allowing public stakeholder input into its completion but even worse it was not released for public consideration prior to Government adopting its recommendations.

Stakeholder input from users is a must and the recent flurry of ferry related policy announcements make it clear that the Government is not very interested in public input from ferry stakeholders in the over 40 communities serviced by the Provincial ferry service.  
*(continued next page...)*

(Ferry Users continued.....)

**6. Improved car deck safety being addressed-cooperation sought.**

Ferry captains and crews have been recently directed to ensure that car deck safety is emphasized. Vehicle occupants are being encouraged to not remain in their vehicles while the ferry is at sea and under no circumstances to smoke in their cars or on the car deck. Where necessary in order to accommodate the maximum number of cars in a safest possible manner occupants of vehicles in centre lanes will be required to vacate their cars if remaining in their cars would obstruct them from opening their doors if the need arose in an emergency.

All users are encouraged to practice good safety and to follow the directions of the crew and comply with safety signs and directions in a cooperative manner.

**7. Other ferry matters**

**a. Dock improvements progressing favourably**

Work appears to be progressing favourably on the \$2,000,000 dock rehabilitation project being completed by Mariner Construction on one of the Cove docking berths. A further \$2,000,000 is promised for 2007 to complete the renovations of the second dock in the Cove.

Replacement fenders for improved safety in the other docks while promised to be addressed is still moving very slowly

**b. Strike free services: (Legislation change to be reviewed)- Waiting for action plan**

Minister Taylor agreed to have his officials research measures and consider an action plan of measures to avoid a potential damaging strike in the next round of ferry workers talks. A binding arbitration process via an amendment to the Labour Relations Act just like BC Ferries and Marine Atlantic Workers has been suggested.

**c. Stalled? -Cove terminal road and terminal parking improvement project**

It is now August and the construction season is passing us by and we still have not seen a tender call for the 2006 Budget commitment for improvements to roads and terminal area parking etc in the Cove

There is a distinct likelihood that these funds will not be spent in 2006 and will lapse and have to be budgeted again from the 2007 road allocation for the district with obvious implications for a fair share of provincial funds for the district in 2007.

Needless to say these delays are disappointing and widening the rock cut, installing curb and gutter and sidewalk, realignment of ticket booths and improved parking continue to be needed. A tender call is overdue.

**d. Provincial ferry rate equity study -Public input invitation awaited;**

The equity review of Provincial ferry rates is ongoing and we are hopeful Government will soon seek stakeholder input before completing their review. The Committee remains committed to

the principle already announced (but not yet implemented by Government as a policy initiative) of having ferry rates based on the equivalent cost of road travel with commuter worker incentives retained.

**e. Advance ticket purchase -reminder:**

Federal tax credits for commuters who buy the advance ticket package are recommended. Single ticket purchases are not eligible for the tax credit

**f. Summer tourism-student program underway:**

*Our 6 students are busy in the Cove promoting Bell Island to prospective tourists and the mine tour and other tourism-based businesses hopefully will benefit from this initiative.*

**g. Ferry maintenance issues:**

Some painting of the waiting room etc has been completed and we are hopeful more maintenance will be carried out. Our many requests for safety road line painting in the terminals has not yielded any action.

**I. Appreciation to captains and crews**

With the support of Manager Hammett the captains and crews have gone the extra mile this summer to accommodate the travelling public with speedy turnarounds, extra trips and provided a user-friendly service etc. Thanks.

**HAVE AN ENJOYABLE SUMMER:**

# The Bell Island RCMP "Newsletter" Rocks!

## **WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING FOLKS...**

### "THE PINK RIBBON LINKAGE OF COMMUNITIES WALKING FOR A CURE"



**Last month, I shared with "Newsletter" readers my dream of having the women of Bell Island challenge 49 other communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador to join us in a symbolic pink ribbon linkage of "Communities Walking for a Cure". I asked if people here would join a Committee to help see the Bell Island Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend (and our part of the linkage) become a reality. I'm delighted to report that the response was great and we now have formed a Committee which will meet for the first time on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members are:**

Tracey Merrill, Donna Kubik, Angie Cobb, Deanne Hiscock, Dale Fitzgerald, Gail Sweeney, Karen Seward and Kay Coxworthy

Thanks girls, it will indeed be an honor to work with you. Bell Island's Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend will take place on **September 15 and 16th** with a full schedule of events which we'll report in the next issue of the "Newsletter". The highlight of the weekend will be our Ecumenical Service and Candlelight Walk to

remember all in our community who have lost their battle with breast cancer, all who are going through treatment at this time, and all survivors. Watch this space for full details of an exciting weekend which will be a fundraiser and a weekend of awareness of this dread disease.

I can report that our linkage is going well, and that our good buddy Boyd Merrill has offered to contact all RCMP detachments to find us contacts in their communities, and I'm sure the RCMP will walk with us and with those communities in which they serve. Thanks so much, Boyd, and all you great guys and gals across the island, who contribute so much to communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I'll repeat the words of my great friend Brenda who shares my dream and who'll be here with us on our special weekend:

*"There are few families that have not been touched by breast cancer in any community in this province, and the Foundation is delighted to support this unique fundraising idea that was born on Bell Island and that will join 50 communities throughout Newfoundland & Labrador. Through this pink ribbon linkage we will see strong women*

*fighting back. I applaud the women of Bell Island and I'll be there supporting you when you walk for the cure on the Iron Isle this summer"*

*Brenda Beitenman*

*Provincial Community Development Coordinator*

*Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation – Atlantic Chapter*

Several communities have agreed to be part of our pink ribbon linkage, and I know with the support of the RCMP and other community service groups, we'll realize our hope of linking 50 communities in a pink ribbon walk for a cure for breast cancer and each will be acknowledged during "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in October.

Hopefully cancer survivors or women in our community still fighting their own battles with the disease, as well as those who have loved ones touched by breast cancer will be able to join our walk. Walkathon pledge sheets are now available from any member of our Committee and I urge you to take a sheet and help us raise money and awareness of this disease. We need **YOU** to help make this a memorable **(continued next page..)**

*(Pink Ribbon Continued..)*

tribute to all who have ever been touched by breast cancer in our community.

Across the length and breadth of this province, this nation and the world, in communities large and small, young or old, rich or poor, breast cancer strikes when we least expect it. It strikes our families, our friends, our neighbors, and

our co-workers. This is our chance to be among 50 communities in Newfoundland and Labrador fighting back.

We envisage that the symbolic pink ribbon will start here on Bell Island and eventually encircle all 50 communities. I'm asking YOU to join us in being part of something really special which will support research and treatment programs for breast cancer.

Let's start the pink ribbon rolling out from Bell Island to encircle communities throughout the province. **LET'S FIGHT BACK!!!**

**Kay Coxworthy**

**Chair**

**Pink Ribbon Linkage for Breast Cancer**

**Bell Island**

In Memory of  
 Barbara Stoyles  
 April 8, 1947 - July 7, 2005

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.

Gone from our lives but in our hearts forever  
 Lovingly remembered,  
 Nick, Paul, Cindy, and families

## R.C.M.P Community Concerns



RCMP warns cabin and business owners to protect themselves from thieves!

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's strategic goal is to work toward safe homes and safe communities. Break and Enters into homes, businesses and cottages throughout Newfoundland and Labrador have been identified as an area where we are strategically focusing our resources and attention.

Thieves target businesses every month of the year and cabins during summer months when people keep them stocked with food, alcohol and new equipment like generators and ATVs.

The RCMP is asking business owners to protect themselves

from thieves by taking some precautions.

**Fences and gates:** The entire perimeter of your property should be well fenced. Gates, alarms, closed-circuit TV, two-way communications all assist in the detection and identification of intruders.

**Company property** which must be stored outside should be protected from vandalism and theft. Stop burglars from getting access to your roof by securing ladders, pallets, boxes and crates away from the building.

**Other openings:** Skylights, ventilation shafts, air conditioning and heating ducts, crawl holes are all potential entry points for burglars.

Permanently secure these openings by installing metal grilles or grates.

Cabin owners can protect their property by taking a few extra precautions . . .

**Supplies:** Don't leave alcohol or beer in your cabins, if you do make sure it is hidden



from view. Take all empty liquor and beer containers with you when you leave.

**Window test:** Do the window test before you lock up the cabin. Stand outside and look in through the windows. Can you see items that a thief would find attractive? If so, hide them and make sure you close your curtains and blinds before you leave.

**Property identification:** Keep a complete list of the serial numbers of all company equipment.

**Solving crime takes a community! The public is encouraged to call the RCMP at 1-800-709-RCMP (7267) to report suspicious activity or call Crime Stopper to give an anonymous tip at 1-800-222-TIPS( 8477).**

## NEWS FROM THE BELL ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY AND OCEAN QUEST ADVENTURE RESORT

### **HISTORIC DIVE MADE** **'BELOW THE BELL'**

Conception Bay South, Newfoundland, Canada: History was made on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2006 in a flooded iron ore mine in Canada's easternmost province. At the invitation of Bell Island Heritage Society (BIHS), a team of four divers made an exploratory dive into the Number 2 Iron Ore mine.

The divers - Rick & Debbie Stanley of Ocean Quest Adventure Resort, Steve Lewis of Technical Diving International, USA and Erik Van Dorn, an experienced technical diver from New York State – started their dive 650 feet into the main shaft and penetrating a further 400 feet underwater into an area no-one has ventured since the mine's closure several decades ago.

"A year of detailed planning, training and negotiation with various Government departments resulted in an event which we hope will pave the way for a much larger exploration project and, eventually, a mine tour with a very big difference," explained Rick Stanley immediately after the dive.

The team, all certified cave divers and supported by several other OQ diving professionals and staff from the BIHS, had an incident-free dive and recorded information in writing and with photographic equipment which will be used to compile a report on the condition, safety and feasibility of the Bell Island Mines for a further, more detailed, underwater study. The report will also provide important information on artifacts discarded when the mine was closed in the 1940s.

Although a little silty at the start of the dive, mainly due to mud and gravel at the water's edge, the

visibility soon cleared and the team, equipped with high intensity underwater lights, enjoyed the first view of the mine beyond level 23 (the limit of the surface tour) for half a century. Emerging from the dark, 6°C / 42°F fresh water to the sound of applause from the support team, Deb Stanley summed up the divers' feelings with a very audible "*Woo, Woo, Woo, Unbelievable!!*"

The reason behind making the dive is closely linked with the story of the Bell Island Shipwrecks in Lance Cove, sunk by German U-Boats in 1942. These four Allied iron ore carriers are some of the World's best preserved WWII shipwrecks and attract SCUBA divers from around the globe. Their cargo, excavated from the massive submarine mine complex in nearby Wabana, was an important commodity for the Allies in the war against Germany.

*(continued next page...)*

***(B.I. Heritage Society continued..)***

The Battle for the Atlantic was at its height when Captains Rolf Rugeberg and Friedrich Wissmann entered Conception Bay in September and November of 1942 and sent the SS Saganaga, SS Lord Strathcona, SS Rose Castle and PLM 27 to the seabed, claiming 69 lives.

Their story is very interesting and one which had a huge impact on the lives of Bell Islanders at the time. It is not only part of local folklore, but an event which captures the imagination of divers from many countries, drawing them to the area on underwater excursions to visit these amazing snapshots of history. Many visitors to the wrecks are also cave divers and when taking the excellent No.2 Mine Tour, operated by the BIHS, which goes as far as the water's edge, often ask if it's possible to dive there and complete – from their

aquatic viewpoint - the story of the island's important role in WWII.

The project, which has been on the drawing board since 1997, had not been much more than wishful thinking until actual planning began in 2005 but now, in the words of Steve Lewis who led the dive, "the opportunities for exploration are endless."

Lewis, a diving professional and member of the exclusive Explorer's Club, explained: "The unique layout of No.2 mine, coupled with its vast size carry enormous promise for further development of Bell Island as a premier diving destination. The fact that there are four world-class wrecks in the bay 'downstream' of the mine simply adds to that promise."

Ocean Quest and the BIHS are actively involved in promoting the preservation of the wrecks and the concept of establishing a full time diving operation in the mines and have generated enormous interest in their story from journalists and TV

companies worldwide. Gordon Skanes of the BIHS referred to the dive as "a big day and a new beginning" for the mines, abandoned long ago as a profitable source of iron ore but which now have the prospect of a new lease of life in the adventure tourism and sports industry in addition to the existing surface tour.

SCUBA diving is one of the World's fastest growing sports and Conception Bay is becoming one of the 'hottest' destinations in diving tourism. The focus of diving in the area is the wrecks in Lance Cove but exploration into the flooded mines offers exciting new opportunities for the future of the sport. Working closely with the BIHS and TDI, Ocean Quest hope to develop a combination of diving the wrecks and the mines into the ultimate SCUBA package in time for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U-Boat attacks in 2007.

Regardless of the demanding, intensive training required, cave diving is becoming ever more popular with experienced SCUBA ***(continued next page...)***

*(B.I. Heritage Society continued..)*  
 divers and is carried out in many countries. Rick Stanley, who certified as a cave diver in Florida, along with wife Debbie and OQ Technical Diving Instructor Joe Earles, posed the question “Why not here?” The Bell Island Mines are effectively man-made caves and, according to Rick and the team, are ideal for development of the sport locally and for attracting valuable tourism revenues to the area. When asked about the dangers of the activity, Rick admitted he’d been called ‘crazy’ for starting the project on more than one occasion! However, he maintains that adhering to the techniques learned during the thorough, first-rate cave training available, along with detailed planning, use of correct equipment and diving only within individual limitations, greatly reduces any risk factor to one comparable to

regular SCUBA diving. “If we thought it was too dangerous, Deb and myself would never have gone in there together!” he said.

After the enormous success of the initial dive, the Bell Island Heritage Society, Ocean Quest and Technical Diving International will now work together on a proposal for the next series of exploratory dives, planned to take divers thousands of feet into the mine on a journey of discovery which is expected to put Bell Island at the forefront of World Diving.

Contacts and links for further information:

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## Run Through The Rain

A little boy had been shopping with his Mom in Pathmark. He must have been about 6 years old, a beautiful brown haired, smiling image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, in such a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. Everyone stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the store.

We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day.

I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I get lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

The little boy's voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in "Mom, let's run through the rain," he said.

"What?" Mom asked.

"Let's run through the rain!" he repeated.

"No, sweetie. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom replied.

The child waited about another minute and repeated: "Mom, let's run through the rain,"

"We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said.

"No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young boy said as he tugged at his Mom's arm.

"This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?"

"Don't you remember? When you were talking to Grandma about her cancer, you said, 'God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'"

The entire crowd became silent. It was the type of silence were you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes.

The mother paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Some would laugh it off and scold the little boy for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said, but this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

"Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD let's us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing," Mom said.

Then off they ran. Everyone stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.

Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.

I HOPE YOU STILL TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.

**Submitted by: Kay Coxworthy**

Contact Us:

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

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

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The newsletter is also available on the internet at website:  
**[www.bellisland.net](http://www.bellisland.net)**



**Congratulations to  
Constable Tipple and  
family on your newest  
addition!!!!**