



# Bell Island Community Policing Newsletter

May 2006

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

*“The ability to think comes from having nothing to do. That means the old saying “I am bored” is spoken to which a parent used to say “Go out doors and don’t bring the cops to the door. I don’t want to see you again until supper!”*”

## From the Corporal’s Desk

This is an actual email I recently sent within my work environment:

**I had an issue which needed fixing so I sent an email to a person who forwarded the email to the person who could help. That was about a month ago.**

**I sent another email asking the middle person to send another email reminding the third person we had a problem needing a fix.**

**Nothing was heard so I sent an email directly to the third person asking for help and waited a week and heard nothing. Then it dawned on me....before we had email we actually used to talk to people.**

**So I ridded myself of any fear of speaking and called the third person and explained what I needed. He fixed it immediately.**

**Email is great but it is taking the human side out of our jobs. We rely on the human interaction skills to survive so each time we think about plugging someone’s email full of something that can be fixed with a simple call....we should do it. In reality most emails are unnecessary and ineffective.**

It was just over a week ago that I was talking to a very wise individual about similar issues with technology and how it is affecting our society in general. The main concern during this discussion

was that some issues with young people today also stem from technology such as computers and television. The premise of the discussion was that not only do kids not have to think...they really don’t know how to because of the way they are being raised.

From early in infancy/childhood we rely on the TV to baby-sit our kids. The TV tells the child how to read, make sounds, color, make friends and other useful information. As the child gets older the child learns how to develop further more complex relationships with others including those outside the family unit. The TV becomes attached to X Boxes and Nintendos (do these still exist) and then the now teenage child learns (via the

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

television and videogames) how to spend free time, how to rid demons, how to drive a car, motorbike and skateboard. In fact except for eating and sleeping some kids don't have to go outdoors.....unless we count school.

What we are doing by supporting this is making a society of persons who do not have life skills but rather TV monitoring skills.

I often hears stories about building cabins, climbing cliffs, making go carts, fishing off wharves, swimming across the Tickle and other outdoor events that were done by generations past....not any more.....because there is no video game for it. Now I am not saying that every kid is housebound but I have heard parents saying that their child spends hours playing these games. Is that good?

The ability to think comes from having nothing to do. That means the old saying "I am bored" is spoken to which a parent used to say "Go out doors and don't bring the cops to the door. I don't want to see you again until supper!" That is what I remember then; even still Mom had to come looking for us. We were usually at the outdoor rink....winter or summer. (We played ball in the summer.)

We made our own fun and had to think continually about what we were going to do next. These challenges led to our personal development. We had decisions to make and followed what we knew was right. The TV or Sega had no part in it. Not even counting the exercise benefits there was a lot to be said about the sun shining on you and the wind blowing 'round your ears. Learning to skateboard from a video does not allow you to feel

a scraped knee!

If we are going to make responsible citizens out of our kids we have to make them think. We have to develop them into good decision-makers for themselves. We have to watch their activities so that the wrong messages are not obtained from videos and games and the right messages are obtained from interrelating with nature and the outdoors. Any kid that has never spent at least once a year on his back looking at clouds and discussing the shapes has never been a kid as far as I know.

We have to be able to say that once the power goes off, our kids will still be able to function and be able to relate to each other. They will make the right decisions and will be able to say they can think for themselves. Sometimes we have to "pull the plug" and say lets talk.

Cpl. Boyd Merrill  
Bell Island RCMP

*"If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."*

*Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis:*

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in"*

*Rachel Carson:*



It's great to see all the snow gone, the sun shining, and the evenings getting longer. Before you know it, school will be out and our summer programs will start. If you know of any children who will be visiting the island for the summer and are interested in taking part in our summer programs, registration will start the first week of June.

Sunday **May 28<sup>th</sup> @2:00pm** we will be having our **Annual Awards Day**. These awards will be for the 2005 programs. This is a very important day for our members and we would like to invite you to attend and support our members for their accomplishments. To see the expressions on the faces of these young children when their names are called to receive their awards makes our staff feel very proud about working with the children of Bell Island. There will be 300 awards presented on this day. If anyone is interested in donating the cost of a set of medals (\$20.00), please contact Joe at the club (488-3801). So once again remember the date and please show the children you care, come and show your support.

We would like to congratulate the Boy & Girl of the months for February (Raymond Barnes & Morgan Seward) and March (Shane Lahey & Amanda Curnew). These individuals have participated in the many programs at the Boys & Girls Club.

We would like to thank the Cambridge Hockey Team for donating \$500.00 to the Boys & Girls Club when they were home for the Easter hockey tournament. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and hope you enjoyed your holiday home with your family and friends.

On May 17, 18, 19, & 20, there will be a group of former Bell Islander coming home to participate in an annual dart tournament in aid of the Boys & Girls Club. Each night we will visit different clubs to play darts and mingle with friends we haven't seen in some time. This is the third year

for this tournament and we encourage others to get involved. To enter a team for the tournament, call Joe at the Boys & Girls Club.

We are limited to the amount of teams that can take part so please register soon. The registration fee is \$100.00 and a minimum of 8 players per team is required. There will be prizes awarded to the top two teams. Any questions on this tournament feel free to call and ask.

The annual Volunteer Firemen's Floor Hockey Tournament was held the weekend of April 21, 22, & 23. The name of this tournament was changed this year to The Walt Filler Memorial Floor Hockey Tournament.

Walt was a long time Fire Fighter and big supporter of the Boys & Girls Club. So both the Firemen and The Boys & Girls Club felt that it would very appropriate to rename this tournament in memory of Walt. We are hoping to be able to have a new trophy designed next year for this tournament. Walt was a big part in organizing this event over 20 years ago.

This year we had 7 teams participate in the tournament and winning team was The B'ys who beat The Ridge in a very exciting game that went double overtime. We would like to congratulate the members of the winning team: Ches Mitchell, Kevin Power, Mike Power, Ryan Rogers, Kenneth Gosse, Gordie Drover, Bill Ashford Sr., Wayne Young, and David Drover. We also gave out Sportsmanship awards to each team and they were: **Pistons:** Eddie Meadus, **Devils:** Ricky Neary, **The Ridge:** Colin Hussey, The B'ys: Gordie Drover, **Dick's:** Jonathan Bragg, **West Mines Sports Bar:** Donnie Earle, and **Firemen:** Chris Rees. We hope to see you all again next year.

April 23-29 was Volunteer Week. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors, Ladies Auxiliary, and the many

*(Boys and Girls Club continued from pg. 3...)*

other organizations and people who volunteer at the Boys & Girls club and anywhere else on the island. Without our volunteers we would not be able to offer the many programs that we do at the club.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, can drop in to the club and let us know. If you have a skill or talent and a few free hours we would love to have you at the club. You can make a difference in the lives of the children of our community.

In May and June we will be having many different tournaments offered in the club. We ask the members to drop in for information on times and dates.

We have made a very important upgrade to our gym in April. We have installed sockets into the floor so we can offer a better program in Volleyball & Badminton. We would like to thank Mr. Blaine McGrath who made all the post for these two sports. Your expertise is complimented and very much appreciated.

Over the Easter week we had many of our members attend Minor Hockey Tournaments on and off the island. We would like to congratulate these young men and women on their efforts and thanks to the many volunteers to take the time out to assist these children.

Our club Lotto will be starting up again on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The previous two prizes were over \$700.00 each. This is a good fund raiser for the club and we continue to look for more support for this lotto. Anyone interested in taking part in this fund raising project can call the club. To enter into this lotto you need to pick 6 numbers from 1 to 49 and it costs \$10.00 to play. The first person to get their 6 numbers called will win half of what we take in. We usually have one every 5 or 6 weeks.

We would like to thank the many supporters of the club and we ask that you remember our Annual Awards Day.

**Submitted by  
Joe Somerton**

## **Tuesday, May 16, 2006 is Census Day!**

Every five years Statistics Canada conducts a census. The next Census of Canada will take place on Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

### **Why is the census important?**

The census provides a statistical portrait of our country and its people. A vast majority of all countries regularly carry out a census to collect important information about the social and economic situation of the people living in its various regions.

In Canada, the census is the only reliable source of detailed data for small groups (such as lone-parent families, ethnic groups, industrial and occupational categories, immigrants) and for areas as small as a city neighbourhood or as large as the country itself. Because the Canadian census is collected every five years and the questions are similar, it is possible to compare changes that have occurred in the demographics of Canada's population over time.

### **Who is included in the census?**

The census includes every man, woman and child living in Canada on Census Day, as well as Canadians who are abroad, either on a military base, attached to a diplomatic mission, or at sea or in port aboard Canadian-registered merchant vessels. Persons in Canada including those holding a temporary resident permit, study permit or work permit, and their dependents, are also part of the census.

**For more information check out the Statistics Canada Website at:**

[http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr\\_r000\\_e.htm](http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr_r000_e.htm)

## Police Tidbits

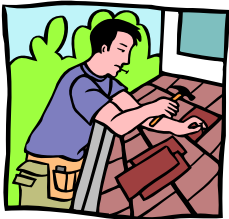
The following are a few tidbits of information that police have concern over. The topics are only going to be introduced and discussed briefly as other stories in this newsletter may have more detail:



**Police will be strictly enforcing with tickets**, no warnings, those that still refrain from putting children in car seats and booster seats. Numerous complaints have been made about certain taxis and individuals who have children riding on their laps etc while the vehicles are in motions. The drivers of these vehicles are going to be fined with no exceptions. Thanks to those who are concerned enough about children to phone. Please don't make a "missile" of your child.



**Junk Cars enforcement will begin June 1st.** The town has submitted an excellent deal for those who want to get rid of junked cars. I believe their price is 25.00 dollars to remove a vehicle in May. Our fine is 1000.00 dollars for each car left in June!!! There will be no warnings. Keeping this Island clean is everyone's responsibility. The RCMP would like to extend a huge thanks to all that have been making this Island beautiful! We are all seeing a huge difference.



**Seniors who are in need of laborers or contractors** for work around the house **should be getting background checks done** before hiring. We have heard of complaints to the Better Business Bureau about some complaints. Even though police do not deal in civil matters, we routinely get calls about this type of thing. Be smart and check out the person you have in and around your home. Also it is imperative that you **do not pay anyone in full until the job is complete!** These are just good common sense rules.

Cpl. Boyd Merrill  
Bell Island RCMP

## BELL ISLAND BRIGHTER FUTURES FAMILYRESOURCE CENTRE



I would like to THANK YOU the residents of the Island for your support during our Coalition **ticket sale** on a framed picture.

The prize winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Taylor Follett,**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Delahunty,**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mackenzie Zimmermann,**
- 4<sup>th</sup> G. Gulliver and**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Parker Dooley.**

The Coalition is currently holding its annual **chocolate bar fundraiser**, which will be on-going for the next several weeks. Your support is appreciated if approached by one of our sellers.

Participants are also in the process of holding a **rummage sale** at the Centre on June 1<sup>st</sup>; therefore, I ask if you have any **previously loved items you would like to donate** please call the Centre for arrangements to pickup or drop off for your items. All funds go towards special events and

enhancing current events at Brighter Futures.

Brighter Futures offers many things to many people, it is a place for families to come and enjoy each others company, learn new things or enhance existing skills, develop lasting friendships for children and adults, just to name a few. It is a place for families ran by families helping to enhance the life of everyone that participates.

Drop by and enjoy our core program **Parents & Tots** between 12:15pm and 2:15pm on Wednesday and 12:00pm and 2:00pm on Friday afternoons. Become part of our Brighter Futures family!

You can participate as often as you want and

when you want. If you require transportation to attend programs please call and arrangements can be made for you to attend. Our children are tomorrow's adults, therefore, allow them to grow, develop and be the best they can possible be.

**From all the children, parents, and staff of Brighter Futures I would like to once again thank you for your support**

Hollie Neary  
Program/Fundraising  
Coordinator  
488-2699

## Important Drug Awareness Information – Your Child’s Life Could Depend on It!!!

### Methamphetamine FAQ’s

**Q: What is Methamphetamine?**

A: Methamphetamine is a powerful central nervous system stimulant.

The drug works directly on the brain and spinal cord by interfering with normal neurotransmission. Neurotransmitters are chemical substances naturally produced within nerve cells used to communicate with each other and send messages to influence and regulate our thinking and all other systems throughout the body.

The main neurotransmitter affected by methamphetamine is dopamine. Dopamine is involved with our natural reward system. For example, feeling good about a job well done, getting pleasure from our family or social interactions, feeling content and that our lives are meaningful and count for something, all rely on dopamine transmission.<sup>1</sup>

A synthetic drug, methamphetamine has a high potential for abuse and dependence. It is illegally produced and sold in pill form, capsules, powder and chunks. Methamphetamine was developed early in this century from its parent drug amphetamine and was originally used in nasal decongestants, bronchial inhalers, and in the treatment of narcolepsy and obesity.

**Q: What are the street names for methamphetamine?**

A: The drug is referred to by many names including "meth," "speed .. crank," "chalk," "go-fast," "zip," and "cristy." Pure

methamphetamine hydrochloride, the smokeable form of the drug, is called " L.A. " or - because of its clear, chunky crystals which resemble frozen water - "ice," "crystal," "64glass," or "quartz." Since the 1980s, ice has been smuggled from Taiwan and South Korea into Hawaii , where use became widespread by 1988. By 1990, distribution of ice had spread to the U.S. mainland. The distribution of methamphetamine is now spreading across Canada from west to east at an alarming rate.

**Q: Where is meth manufactured and distributed?**

A: Methamphetamine is both domestically produced and imported into Canada in already processed form. Once dominated by motorcycle gangs the market now includes both local producers and Mexican sources providing finished product to local distributors.

**Q: How is meth made?**

A: The processing required to make methamphetamine from precursor substances is easier and more accessible than ever. There are literally thousands of recipes and information about making meth on the Internet. An investment of a few hundred dollars in over-the-counter medications and chemicals can produce thousands of dollars worth of methamphetamine. The drug can be made in a makeshift "lab" that can fit into a suit case. The average meth "cook" annually teaches ten other people how to make the drug.

**Q: Where are these labs found?**

A. Clandestine labs known as "mom and pop" labs are found in rural, city and suburban residences; barns, garages and other outbuildings; back rooms of businesses; apartments; hotel and motel rooms; storage facilities; vacant buildings; and vehicles.

**Q: What ingredients are used to make meth?**

A. Over-the-counter cold and asthma medications containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, red phosphorous, hydrochloric acid, drain cleaner, battery acid, lye, lantern fuel, lithium batteries, and antifreeze are among the ingredients most commonly used.

**Q: What are precursor substances?**

A: Precursors are substances that, in nature, might be inactive. However, when combined with another chemical the result is a new product. Methamphetamine starts with an inactive or marginally-inactive compound (ephedrine or pseudoephedrine) and other chemicals are added to produce the drug.

**Q: Who is using methamphetamine?**

A: There are two basic profiles of users reported by law enforcement and treatment providers: students, both high school and college age; and white, blue-collar workers and unemployed persons in their 20s and 30s.

Use is widely prevalent in both urban and rural areas and equally divided among males and females. Women are more likely to use methamphetamine than cocaine

**Q: Why should I talk to my child about meth?**

A: Teens whose parents talk to them about drugs are half as likely to use drugs as those whose parents do not speak to them on this topic. Parents are the biggest influence on a child's life choices.

**Q: Why do people start using methamphetamine?**

A: Athletes and students sometimes begin using meth because of the initial heightened physical and mental performance the drug produces. Blue collar and service workers may use the drug to work extra shifts, while young women often begin using meth to lose weight. Others use meth recreationally to stay energized at "rave" parties or other social activities. In addition, meth is less expensive and more accessible than cocaine and users often have the misconception that methamphetamine is not really a drug.

**Q: Is meth used in combination with other drugs?**

A: Methamphetamine users are likely also to be users of alcohol, marijuana and cocaine rather than users of drugs like heroin.

**Q: How is methamphetamine administered?**

A: It can be smoked, taken intranasally (snorted), injected intravenously or ingested orally. The practice of "eating" meth by putting it on paper or food and chewing it also has been reported.

**Q: What happens immediately after a person takes methamphetamine?**

A: The drug alters mood in different ways, depending on how it is taken. Immediately after smoking or intravenous injection, the user experiences an intense "rush" or "flash" that lasts only a few minutes and is described as extremely pleasurable. Smoking or injecting produces effects fastest, within five to ten seconds. Snorting or ingesting orally produces euphoria - a high but not an intense rush. Snorting produces effects within three to five minutes, and ingesting orally produces effects within 15 to 20 minutes.

**Q: How does the drug effect users overall?**

A: In all forms, the drug stimulates the central nervous system, with effects lasting anywhere from four to 24 hours. Methamphetamine use can not only modify behavior in an acute state, but after taking it for a long time, the drug literally changes the brain in fundamental and long-lasting ways. It kills by causing heart failure (myocardial infarction), brain damage, and stroke and it induces extreme, acute psychiatric and psychological

symptoms that may lead to suicide or murder.

**Q: What are the short-term effects?**

A: Central Nervous System Side Effects  
Even small amounts of methamphetamine can produce euphoria, increased alertness, paranoia, decreased appetite and increased physical activity. Other central nervous system effects include athetosis (writhing jerky, or flailing movements), irritability, extreme nervousness, insomnia, confusion, tremors, anxiety, aggression, incessant talking, hyperthermia, and convulsions. Hyperthermia (extreme rise in body temperature as high as 108 degrees) and convulsions sometimes can result in death.

Cardiovascular Side Effects  
Use can produce chest pain and hypertension which can result in cardiovascular collapse and death. In addition, methamphetamine causes accelerated heartbeat, elevated blood pressure and can cause irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain.

Other Physical Effects  
Pupil dilation, respiratory disorders, dizziness, tooth grinding, impaired speech, dry or itchy skin, loss of appetite, acne, sores, numbness, and sweating.

Psychological Effects  
Symptoms of prolonged meth abuse can resemble those of schizophrenia and are characterized by anger, panic, paranoia, auditory and visual

hallucinations, repetitive behavior patterns, and formication (delusions of parasites or insects on the skin).

Methamphetamine-induced paranoia can result in homicidal or suicidal thoughts.

**Q: What other long-term effects can result?**

A: Fatal kidney and lung disorders, brain damage, liver damage, blood clots, chronic depression, hallucinations, violent and aggressive behavior, malnutrition, disturbed personality development, deficient immune system, and methamphetamine psychosis, a mental disorder that may be paranoid psychosis or may mimic schizophrenia.

**Q: How much of the drug can cause an overdose?**

A: Metabolic rates vary from person to person, and the strength of the illegal form of the drug varies from batch to batch, so there is no way of stating a "safe" level of use. In overdose, high fever, convulsions and cardiovascular collapse may precede death. Because stimulants effect the body's cardiovascular and temperature-regulating systems, physical exertion increases the hazards of meth use.

**Q: What effect does methamphetamine use have on pregnancy?**

A: Babies can be born methamphetamine addicted and suffer birth defects, low birth weight, tremors, excessive crying, attention

deficit disorder, and behavior disorders. There is also an increased risk of child abuse (including "shaken baby syndrome") and neglect of children born to parents who use methamphetamine.

**Q: What are some signs that a person may be using the drug?**

A: The person may exhibit anxiousness; nervousness; incessant talking; extreme moodiness and irritability; purposeless, repetitive behavior, such as picking at skin or pulling out hair; sleep disturbances; false sense of confidence and power; aggressive or violent behavior; disinterest in previously enjoyed activities; and severe depression.

**Q: Why is methamphetamine addictive?**

A: All addictive drugs have two things in common: they produce an initial pleasurable effect, followed by a rebound unpleasant effect. Methamphetamine, through its stimulant effects, produces a positive feeling, but later leaves a person feeling depressed. This is because it suppresses the normal production of dopamine, creating a chemical imbalance. The user physically demands more of the drug to return to normal. This pleasure/tension cycle leads to loss of control over the drug and addiction.

**Q: How does methamphetamine take over one's life?**

A: Methamphetamine short-circuits a person's

survival system by artificially stimulating the reward center, or pleasure areas in the brain. This leads to increased confidence in meth and less confidence in the normal rewards of life. This happens on a physical level at first, then it affects the user psychologically. The result is decreased interest in other aspects of life while reliance and interest in meth increases. In one study, laboratory animals pressed levers to release methamphetamine into their blood stream rather than eat, mate, or satisfy other natural drives. The animals died of starvation while giving themselves methamphetamine even though food was available.

**Q: Is there methamphetamine withdrawal?**

A: Yes. The severity and length of symptoms vary with the amount of damage done to the normal reward system through methamphetamine use. The most common symptoms are: drug craving, extreme irritability, loss of energy, depression, fearfulness, excessive drowsiness or difficulty in sleeping, shaking, nausea, palpitations, sweating, hyperventilation, and increased appetite.

**Q: Is methamphetamine addiction difficult to treat?**

A: Several treatment providers describe methamphetamine abusers as "the hardest to treat" of all drug users. They are often overly excitable and

"extremely resistant to any form of intervention once the acute effects of meth use have gone away." Meth addicts get over the acute effects of withdrawal fairly quickly. However, the "wall" period lasts 6-8 months for casual users and 2-3 years for regular users. (Some people never recover and remain unsatisfied with life due to permanent brain damage.) This is a period of prolonged abstinence during which the brain recovers from the changes resulting from meth use. During this period, recovering addicts feel depressed, fuzzyheaded, and think life isn't as pleasurable without the drug. Because prolonged use causes changes in the brain, willpower alone will not cure meth addicts.

**Q: Is relapse common?**

A: Yes. Because there are psychiatric, social, and biological components to meth dependence, there is a high likelihood of relapse. Key relapse issues are similar to that of cocaine use and include other substance abuse and being around drug-using friends.

**Q: What prompts methamphetamine users to enter treatment?**

A: Methamphetamine causes a variety of mental, physical, and social problems which may prompt entry into treatment. Though not as expensive as heroin and cocaine, its cost might also produce financial problems for users and prompt them to seek help. However, the most

commonly reported reason why methamphetamine users enter treatment is trouble with the law. These legal problems include aggressive or bizarre behaviors which prompt others to call police. Other reasons for entry include mental or emotional problems and problems at work or at school.

**Q: How does the cost of treating meth users compare to incarceration?**

A: Treatment is a highly cost-effective alternative; it is about one-tenth of the cost to treat a person rather than putting him or her in jail.

**Q: What other problems does methamphetamine pose to society?**

A: Automobile accidents; explosions and fires triggered by the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine; environmental contamination; increased criminal activity, including domestic violence; emergency room and other medical costs; spread of infectious disease, including HIV, AIDS and hepatitis; and lost worker productivity. Economic costs also fall on governments, which must allocate additional resources for social services and law enforcement.

**Q: How is the production of meth more dangerous than other drugs?**

A: Meth trafficking and production are different than other drugs because they are dangerous from start to finish. The reckless practices of the untrained people who manufacture it in clandestine

labs result in explosions and fires that injure or kill not only the people and families involved, but also law enforcement or fireman who respond. Any number of solvents, precursors and hazardous agents are found in unmarked containers at these sites. These potent chemicals can enter the central nervous system and cause neural damage, effect the liver and kidneys, and burn or irritate the skin, eyes and nose. Environmental damage is another consequence of these reckless actions, and violence is often a part of the process as well.

**Q: What are the most serious environmental consequences of meth labs?**

A: Each pound of meth produced leaves behind five or six pounds of toxic waste. Meth cooks often pour leftover chemicals and byproduct sludge down drains in nearby plumbing, storm drains, or directly onto the ground. Chlorinated solvents and other toxic byproducts used to make meth pose long-term hazards because they can persist in soil and groundwater for years. Clean-up costs are exorbitant because solvent contaminated soil usually must be incinerated.

**Q: What do you do if you suspect a meth lab in a residence.**

A: Do not enter the residence. Contact the Clandestine Lab Co-ordinator in your area and pass on all the details you have on the residence.

## Ferry Users Committee Seeks Meeting with Transportation Minister

April 11, 2006

To: Honourable Trevor Taylor  
Minister of Transportation and Works

Dear Minister:

Topic: Request for meeting with Users Committee

As a result of a recent meeting of our Committee and a second meeting with our MHA Minister Whalen there is a consensus that there were a number of significant issues on the radar screen that were deserving of an early meeting with you.

Minister Whalen has agreed to the need for such a meeting and will be speaking to you personally to encourage an early date be set to discuss and hopefully move towards a resolution of a number of issues.

Attached for your benefit is an overview of the topics that need to be aired, information exchanged and resolutions identified.

In particular the poor state of the old fleet that leaves ferry-connected towns with a grossly inadequate swing replacement fleet begs to be addressed. We have just survived 5 months of disrupted and poor service from the Nonia.

Moving down the road of a vessel strategy whilst denying valuable input from user stakeholders is in reality and from a perception perspective flawed and shows no consideration for accountability and the views of those most affected

We are very concerned with the slow track announced for new vessel construction and rumours revolving around future trade-offs of a larger new vessel for Bell Island in return for an unimaginable agreement to establish a 1 vessel service that would be unworkable, illogical and destroy Bell Island's economy

We would be pleased with your considerate review and approval of our request and look forward to an early meeting.

Yours sincerely

David Brazil.

Cc. Minister Whalen

Attachment



### Bell Island Ferry Users Committee

#### Agenda issues for meeting with Minister Taylor

**1. New ferry vessel construction delays, fast tracking design and interim charters**

***No construction funding in 2006 for new swing ferries a major concern***

The Committee has significant concerns that Budget 2006 did not provide any construction funding for new vessels, especially funds for a new vessels to replace the swing fleet vessels that are stationed on Bell Island for 4-6 months each year as replacements. The loss of the Hamilton Sound and the poor performance of the Nonia have significantly disrupted travel to Bell Island in 2006. New swing vessels are desperately needed

***Fast tracking new design***

The Committee is of the view that new vessels construction can and should be started in 2006 and that the design process should be fast tracked. The Committee would urge that the 2003 SNC design for a 28 car ferry be dusted off

**(Ferry Committee****continued from pg. 10.....)**

and with few modifications can be ready for tender in a few months

**Charter replacements pursued as urgent interim measure**

The state of the fleet is such that the lack of spare vessels is causing chaos and poor ferry service Province wide. Short-term additions need to be secured to the fleet to ensure that each ferry-connected town have access to adequate replacements during refits and breakdowns while we wait 3 years for new vessels to be built

**2. Stakeholder input crucial to credible report**

**No stakeholder input equals zero credibility**

The Committee has already written objecting to the BMT Fleet ferry strategy study being carried out without user stakeholder involvement and concluding the Report would have no credibility without such.

Stakeholder input from users must be arranged

**Study hearings sought for Bell Island**

We reconfirm our position and seek a commitment for hearings and input and a public forum on Bell Island to allow input into the Study

**3. Two-vessel service**

**versus road to resettlement**

*A rumour has surfaced on an option of 1 large versus 2 existing vessels*

A scenario had been circulating "Why not build one larger 50-55 car ferry to replace the 2 vessel 70 car capacity service being supplied by the Flanders (38 cars) and Beaumont Hamel" (32 cars). A (1) one boat service if it were to see the light of day and we have to revert to the one vessel service, Bell Island would be on the road to resettlement.

*Committee response. NOT AN OPTION:*

a. There would be no service for the 30 mornings a year when the one vessel has to go on emergency overnight calls. Transport Canada and crews are enforcing the 6-hour rule strictly these days. Commuters would not get to work on those mornings.

b. There would be no service for 2.5 hours noon time-crew lunch.

c. There would no spare vessel and thus no service on days when the 1 vessel breaks down and on days of preventative maintenance.

d. The larger ferry at 52 cars would have 25% less capacity than the 2 existing vessels that have 70.

e. There would be longer waits, as frequency of trips would be 1.5 hours instead of 45 minutes.

f. The consequences would be devastating for tourism with 25 % less capacity

g. Peak period traffic waits would be nightmares with 25% less capacity.

h. Commuter users, which now reach 550 per year, would again fall back to less than 300 per year.

i. One vessel translates into a road to resettlement with an economic collapse certain. Housing values would collapse as well and out migration would be tremendous.

*The Committee concluded that the 2-vessel system was Bell Island's economic lifeline and that we were 100% opposed to any trade-offs to a larger one-vessel system*

**3. Unsafe ferry docks – Bell Island /Portugal Cove**

**Planned dock rehabilitation work slowed????**

The Committee is seeking an update as to the specifics of a new contract to carry our dock rehabilitation, what impact the presence of the Nonia is having on stalling the work, why it is taking so long for work to start and the timeline for the work to be finished

**Missing fenders (63) present safety concerns**

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.

*(Ferry Committee continued from pg. 11.....)*

A safety action plan to install/fix fenders is needed.

## **5. Municipalities Advisory Committee on ferry matters – Stalled**

### ***Committee encourages another voice on ferry matters***

There has been a 2-year frustration to get the Municipalities Federation meeting with the Transportation Minister to hear the voice of the municipalities in ferry-connected towns. A promised advisory group has not been formed

Continuing support is needed for the municipalities and their Federation to get on board and support the efforts of other User Groups to have Government pay more attention to serious concerns in the ferry operations in the Province.

The Committee welcomes renewed efforts to secure another voice but emphasizes that the Advisory Body would not be speaking for the Bell Island Ferry Users Committee and that Mayor Gosine would be representing the Town's view and not that of the ferry users group on such a Committee if it ever gets activated.

*The Ministerial Advisory Federation Group speaks for municipal Councils and are not spokespersons for users groups*

## **6. Freeze of rates and honouring of commitments sought**

### ***Rising rates a big concern***

The Committee is asking the Minister of Transportation to freeze ferry rates and commence implementation of the promise in blue book 2003 to roll rates back to the equivalent cost of road travel over a 4-year period

Increasing rates are a disincentive to travel and are harming employment and economic prospects.

## **7. Vessel deployment schedule**

### ***Orderly vessel assignment schedule sought***

Given the refits and rehabilitation needed on the Nonia and Beaumont Hamel and other shortages of vessels in the Provincial fleet, the Committee is seeking a copy of their vessel deployment plan for 2006.

The state and lack of vessels is of significant concern and the upcoming tourism season success depends on the deployment and availability of the Flanders and the Beaumont Hamel as does any hope to have the dock work completed

## **8. Strike free services:**

***No response yet on 3 year old request for strike free service***

A commitment continues to be sought from Government to implement in its ferry services a no- strike provision to ensure that ferry services are never again allowed to be withdrawn as they were in the 2004 NAPE strike. These are essential services and these marine corridors are highways and the foundation to the economies of many communities.

The Committee feels that Government cannot continue to demand that Marine Atlantic maintain its no strike status and allow strike status on its own services. The marine unions should be offered the option of arbitration and legislation should be prepared to that end.

As BC Govt has done, a legislative amendment is needed to labour legislation to avoid a shutdown of ferry-connected towns in the ext round of labour talks

## **9. Commuter ticket issues:**

### ***Multi use ticket needs to be mandatory:***

The Committee continues to urge Government to re-introduce the multi use ticket for commuters replacing the single daily purchase. The lack of a multi use ticket is creating inefficiencies as upwards of 25 minutes is being wasted at peak travel times selling tickets and thus delaying ferry turnaround times. Also the single use ticket is hard to

(Ferry Committee continued from pg. 12.....) control and revenues are not being maximized. The Committee is of the view that the multi use ticket is no different than the systems used by many transportation companies such as Metro Bus who offer a lower discount rate by bulk purchase. Sale of single use discount tickets should be terminated.

10. Improvements to line-up lane in Portugal Cove etc

Details sought on Budget 2006 Roads allocation to improve line-up safety etc???

Funding appears to be

forthcoming to extend the inadequate ferry line-up lane to meet peak traffic conditions. Currently the line-up lane is endangering public safety as vehicles lined up for the ferry have to park on the main highway lane. Further details on work planned are sought.

11. Ferry stats:

Commitment sought for better effort on stats

Unavailability of stats was affecting business and other groups who need the info to support projects and ventures they were involved with and that lack of information was a

deterrent to economic development.

Preliminary stats in 2005 point to a record travel year with an estimated 260,000 round trip passengers and 135,000 vehicles round trip including 40,000 non resident visitor trips to Bell Island

As of April 2006, we were well on our way to reaching the record year of 2005 when over 550 Bell Island commuter passes were issued. This demonstrates the use and importance of the ferry service to Bell Island's economy.

Submitted by: Ed Kent Ferry Users Committee

THANKS TO FERRY CREWS

The Bell Island Ferry Users Committee would like to thank the ferry crews for success of recent hockey tournaments.

The Users Committee wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the ferry crews for their very supportive efforts in running extra trips and for their co-operation in support of the junior, recreational and minor hockey tournaments as well as other special events this past winter on Bell Island.

Transportation management was also supportive in agreeing to run essential extra trips etc

Users Committee



## Tax Savings for Ferry Users Who Purchase Passes:

### (Federal Govt to provide tax credits to those who purchase multi use ferry passes:)

A typical year round commuter (student and worker) pays over \$600.00 per year for ferry access on the Bell Island service either by purchasing a 12 use pass for \$30.00 every few weeks or buying single tickets at \$2.50.

Effective July 1, 2006, there is a major incentive for eligible commuters to buy the commuter pass, as those who purchase the multi use pass will receive a tax credit of 15.25 % on their 2006 tax return or close to \$90.00 a year savings for the typical commuter. Co-incidentally, this saving will help offset the 25% fare increases the Provincial Government has or is implementing over the 4-year period that started in 2003 to 2007. (The commuter rate is scheduled to go to \$2.75 next year or \$33.00 for a 12 use pass.)

**THERE IS NOW ANOTHER STRONG REASON TO BUY MULTI USE PASSES TO GET THE SAVINGS FROM THE CREDIT.** Multi use passes also save time loading the ferry as tickets do not have to be sold daily to commuters, thus speeding up ferry turnaround and also saving gas by not having your car idling for 20/25 minutes in the Cove line-up edging to the ticket office.

The tax credit apparently

will not be available to people who just use the single daily purchase system or where a multi use pass is not offered. Presently our Government does not offer for sale a multi use /frequent user pass for seniors and other non-student/worker commuting users. Thus it would appear that this credit would not be available to other ferry users at this time. **TIME IS NOW TO START BUYING YOUR MULTI USE PASS AND SAVE**

### FEDERAL BUDGET 2006 EXTRACT -FERRY PASS TAX CREDIT:

This Government wants to encourage individuals to use public transit. Increasing public transit use will ease traffic congestion in our urban areas and improve the environment.

Budget 2006 proposes a tax credit on the purchase cost of monthly public transit passes, or passes of a longer duration, effective July 1, 2006. This measure will encourage public transit use by providing \$150 million in 2006-07 and \$220 million in 2007-08 in benefits to approximately 2 million Canadians who make a sustained commitment to use this environmentally friendly mode of transportation. (As an example), an individual who purchases passes costing \$80 per month throughout the year will receive up to about \$150 in federal tax relief for the year. All transit users, including commuters, students and seniors, (who are eligible to purchase and purchase multi use passes) will qualify. The effectiveness of this measure will

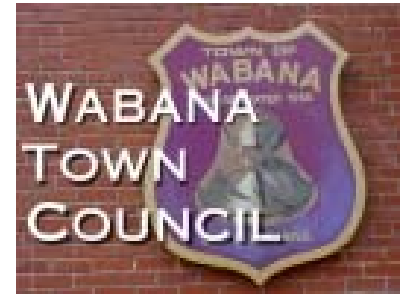
depend on transit authorities continuing to work to boost ridership through quality service

Budget 2006 proposes to allow individuals to claim a non-refundable tax credit for the cost of monthly public transit passes or those pass of a longer duration (e.g., annual passes). Public transit will include transit by local bus, streetcar, subway, commuter train, commuter bus and **local ferry**. The credit for a taxation year will be calculated by reference to the lowest personal income tax rate for the taxation year (i.e. 15.25 per cent for 2006 and 15.5 per cent for the 2007 and subsequent taxation years). It will be claimable by the individual or the individual's spouse or common-law partner in respect of eligible transit costs of the individual, the individual's spouse or common-law partner, and the individual's dependent children that are under 19 years of age. Individuals making claims will be required to retain their receipts or passes for verification purposes. Consultations will take place with transit authorities to develop appropriate receipting practices. This measure will apply in respect of that portion of the cost of public transit passes that is in respect of transit on or after **July 1, 2006**.

**Submitted by:**

**Ed Kent**

## Wabana Town Council News



**Clean up Week:** It is that time of year again, time to clean up our community. **Clean up Week** is set to begin on May 15. We are asking residents to clean up your property and place all items at the edge of your property. Council will also remove car wrecks at a cost of \$25 for the first wreck. It will cost \$75 for a second wreck and \$100 for subsequent wrecks. Since the RCMP will be doing their enforcement for wrecked cars in May/ June, it would be cost effective to have wrecks collected by the Town. For example, the penalty under the Environment Act is over \$1000 per wreck.

**We would like to advise residents that the Council Dump will now be open on Saturdays (Starting May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006) until the beginning of next winter.**

**Newfoundland Power:** The Town Council contacted Newfoundland Power in the hope that they might provide a means for Bell Island residents to pay bills at some retail outlet on the Island. We were informed that such payment centres could only be established where in-house cash services already existed. The company agreed to provide more information to Bell Island customers regarding payment options.

**North East Avalon Joint Council:** The next meeting of the NEAJC will be hosted by the Town of Wabana at the council chambers on May 17. The NEAJC includes some 19 municipalities on the North East Avalon. The council meets on a monthly basis to discuss common concerns and to act as a lobby group with the Provincial Government. The council has arranged a **Town Hall Meeting** at St. John's City Hall on May 25 to discuss issues with the MHAs and MPs in the region. The Town of Wabana representatives on the NEAJC are Councillors Pat Craig and Brian Kent.

**Going Green:** We have invited officials from MMSB to attend the next council meeting. We would like to get residents to help in a process of better waste management. We are hoping that residents of the Island will get involved in composting. "Organic waste makes up as much as 30% of all the waste generated in Newfoundland and Labrador. Composting is an efficient and effective way to reduce the amount of waste sent to our landfills. Composting is important, it's easy, and the rewards are simply beautiful.

MMSB has a new backyard composting program for Newfoundland and Labrador. They have agreed to provide our town with a number of backyard compost bins for **\$19.95** (plus HST). All residents who are interested can contact the town

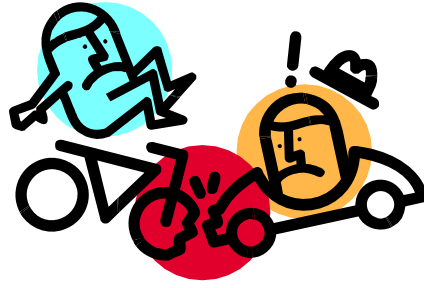
and we will order the amount needed. We will waive the HST for all orders received by May 20.

**Old Town Hall:** Two residents of the Island attended the last council meeting seeking support in renovating the old Town Hall. The building is now being used by *A Touch of Class* which runs a program for the developmentally delayed. The building was provided by the Town rent free. Ms. Tracey Merrill and Ms. Lois Vokey are attempting to form a new concerned citizen's committee which could raise some funds to improve the environment of the workers and clients in the building. Success of this venture will depend on corporate and community support.

**School Concerns:** Council invites the general public to meet with Dr. Darin King on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Town Council Office at 1:00 p.m. He is the Eastern School Board CEO and will be here to discuss any schooling issues the general public may have.

**Submitted by Councillor Patrick Craig**

## MY VIEW



I was born and grew up on Bell Island, and have chosen to make my home here. I love this place, the memories of my youth, and the friends of a lifetime. Although my children have had to move away to find work, my wife and I know this lovely spot as “home”.

If there is one thing about the island that really upsets me, it's the kids and adults who show absolutely no concern for drivers. I have many times thought that Bell Island must surely be one of the worst places to drive in the province!

Everyone who drives must share my experiences. People walk the streets here with no regard for vehicles. School children block the streets as they walk around the island, or make their way on skateboards, roller blades and bicycles. There does not seem to be any rules of the road that apply to them!

A driver is doing the speed limit, and suddenly someone walks out in front of his vehicle. Is

what happens the fault of the driver, the child or the parents?. Are we not teaching our kids the rules of the road, which they ignore at their peril, or like almost everything else today, do kids think they own the road? They certainly act and sound that way if you happen to ask them to get off the road before there is an accident.

I am almost afraid to drive here at night – and this time it is the adults who are on the road wearing dark clothes, almost daring the driver to hit them! More than once I've encountered people in dark clothes on the wrong side of the road as I came around a turn and almost hit them. It takes only a second to change the rest of your life, and maybe to end your life!

All the insurance coverage in the world won't matter if a driver should hit a child or an adult walking in the road – especially at night or in the fog. Lives are destroyed in those few

seconds. You think it can't happen to you or your children, think again! Take a few minutes to talk to your children when you read this, it could save their lives. And if you're out at night, wear something that can be seen in that second when a driver comes around a turn to find you on the wrong side of the road.

We all share the road; let's share it responsibly! Keep Bell Island safe and accident free.

**Submitted by  
A Concerned Driver.**



## Who's watching your house while you're on vacation?

Research into break and enters across the province by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shows that home owners are targeted by thieves during April to July. These are vacation times when homes are left unattended.

Before you leave on vacation consider the following . . .

Visibility factors: Can you look inside your window and see expensive items? If so, chances are a burglar could too, giving them more of a reason to try your house. Keep valuables out of view and keep blinds and drapes closed when you're not home.

Keep valuables safe: Keep valuable belongings (jewellery, papers, certificates, etc.) out of sight. If possible, keep them in a safety deposit box away from home. Other valuables like TVs and radios should be engraved with your name and phone number which will help police identify your property.

Get to know your neighbour: Form a neighbourhood watch committee. Take note of any suspicious people or vehicles in your neighbourhood. If you're going on vacation, ask a trusted neighbour to watch your house.

The public can help reduce the number of break and enters in the province. The RCMP is an intelligence lead organization! Intelligence enables our activities to be guided by reliable, critical and timely information. We can't be everywhere at once, so you'll have to be our eyes and ears! Call the RCMP at 1-800-709-RCMP (7267) to report any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood or call Crime Stopper to give an anonymous tip at 1-800-222-TIPS(8477).

**Helen Cleary - Escott**  
**Senior Communications**  
**Strategist**  
**RCMP "B" Division**  
**Newfoundland & Labrador**

### New RCMP officers deployed

Government's recently announced 2006 Budget includes a \$10 million investment aimed at improving police presence throughout the province and equipping both police forces with the right tools to properly enforce the law. Included in this investment is an allocation for new RCMP officers and after consultation with the RCMP; Justice Minister Tom Marshall today announced the locations of these **new deployments**.

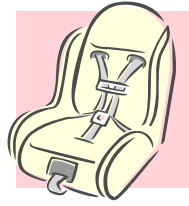
"Government has a responsibility to ensure people feel safe and secure in their communities and the law and order investments announced in Budget 2006 indicate just how seriously we take that responsibility," said Minister Marshall. **"We have listened to the concerns of communities, worked with the RCMP to identify priority areas and are confident these deployments will significantly improve policing in regions throughout the province, especially in our more rural areas."**

Deer Lake, Port aux Basques, and Gander will receive two officers each, while Harbour Grace, Grand Falls-Windsor, Holyrood, Corner Brook, Placentia, Clarenville, **Bell Island**, Stephenville and Roddickton will each receive one officer. The minister noted that these officers are in addition to deployments to Harbour Grace, Grand Falls-Windsor, Nain and Deer Lake previously announced on budget day. Also announced were public service positions in Forteau and Mary's Harbour and positions in the Operation Communications Centre in St. John's.

Minister Marshall said both police forces have struggled due to financial constraints imposed over the past decade and providing the forces with enhanced resources has been a top priority for the Williams Government. "We committed to providing a high level of public protection and we have worked diligently over the past two and a half years to provide both the RNC and RCMP with the human and operational resources required to ensure the people of this province feel safe and sound in their communities," said Minister Marshall. "Not only have we increased public protection, we have also boosted morale within both forces."

"Government will continue to ensure public safety by making sound investments in policing throughout the province," concluded Minister Marshall. (Source: <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2006/just/0428n08.htm>)

## Buckle up Basics



The Canada Safety Council reports the correct use of a child restraint on every trip can prevent 70 per cent of crash related deaths and serious injuries to child passengers. It seems motorists in our community are becoming increasingly non compliant with the regulations around the use of car seats.

Car seats are to be used **each and every time** a child is in the car, whether on a small stretch of road on Bell Island or the Trans Canada Highway. It has become more common to see people drive, here on the island, with small children in their lap while driving or standing up on the passenger seat. How negligent !!!!

Up until a child is old enough to be properly protected by a seat belt, children must be in a car seat.

According to the Canada Safety Council, an infant, from birth to 22 lb. (10 kg) must be secured in a rear facing infant seat. “ An infant-only seat offers the best fit for very young children. When the child is over the height or weight limit of the infant-only seat, you can use an infant/child seat in the rear facing position.” A forward facing child seat can be used when a child weighs 22 – 40 lb (10-18kg). A booster seat should be used when a child is 40 lb. (18kg) or over. A booster seat that uses a lap/shoulder belt provides the best protection for a child.

A child can begin using a regular seat belt once they have reached 4 ft. 9 in., or 80 lb.(36 kg), or 8 years of age.

We, as adults, have an obligation, to protect our children. Please do not provide transportation for a child, yours or someone else’s, unless a properly installed, age appropriate, car seat is going to be used. Drivers are liable.

The local RCMP detachment will be very vigilant in ensuring children are properly restrained while in cars and will be issuing tickets to those who refuse to comply with the regulations and endanger the lives of children.

### All are Welcomed.....

This upcoming May 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 is National Police week. On Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting an open house at the detachment and all are welcome to come and have a tour. There will be cake, coffee and tea on hand for all to enjoy. A special invitation goes out to our seniors and youth to drop in for a visit.

Also during the course of the week we will be having friendly sporting challenges be it in basketball, volleyball or floor hockey or any other suggested event. Suggestions are welcomed and we hope to see you at the events, which will be held at the Wabana Boys and Girls Club. Dates and times of events are yet to be determined but can be confirmed by checking at the start of the week with the detachment at 488-3312 or the Wabana Boys and Girls Club at 488-3801.

**Hope to see you there,  
Cst. Rayner**

## Bell Island Food Bank

Easter holidays are over and I am sure everyone is back on their regular schedule. We hope everyone had a good Easter!

As of April 18th the Food Sharing Association of St. John's has notified us of some changes in their distribution. One of these changes is we will only be receiving food twice monthly. This is a reduction from four times monthly. This will make a big difference in our distribution to our clients.

Canned foods will be eliminated other than when there is a food drive. Reclamation food (damaged boxes and cans) as it is called, was given to Community Food Sharing from the stores, has now been redirected to another place and food sharing is not receiving it anymore. This of course will limit us to the amount of food we can distribute and possibly how often we can serve.

We ask you to please use this food bank when it is absolutely necessary in order for us to give you the service that you need.



Those changes are beyond our control and we look forward to your cooperation in this matter. We will also keep you informed of any other changes if and when they occur.

**We would like to wish Eileen Power a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY on April 24th.**

Bell Island Food Bank

### Brain Teasers Anyone???

(See the Answers on Page 21)

1. This riddle must be done **IN YOUR HEAD** and **NOT** using paper and a pen. Try it!  
Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000.  
Now add 30. And another 1000.  
Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10.  
What is the total?
2. A 16-year-old boy was driving a moped down a one-way street in the wrong direction. A policeman stopped him and gave him a ticket. The policeman paid the ticket himself. What is a logical explanation for this?
3. You're driving a bus that is leaving on a trip from Pennsylvania and ending in New York. To start off with, there were 32 passengers on the bus. At the next bus stop, 11 people get off and 9 people get on. At the next bus stop, 2 people get off and 2 people get on. At the next bus stop, 12 people get on and 16 people get off. At the next bus stop, 5 people get on and 3 people get off. Question: What color are the bus driver's eyes?
4. What is so fragile that when you say its name you break it?
5. Forward I am heavy, backward I am not.  
What am I?
6. I have five letters. If you take the first and last, I will still be the same.  
Even if you take the middle letter, I will be the same as before. What am I?

## THIS IS KIWANIS



### Important Dates for Kiwanis:

**On June 17, 2006** – Division 21 of New Kiwanis Club of which Gary Gosine is Lt. Governor, will be hosting a dinner and dance. **All proceeds will be going to the St Augustine's Elementary School Lunch Program.** We will give an update of the location in the next newsletter. I am currently looking for volunteers to help with this upcoming dance.

I am also pleased to announce that the Kiwanis Club of Bell Island is currently responsible for providing transportation for the upcoming District Convention of Kiwanis in St. John's that will be taking place from the **3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.** We are looking for volunteers to help us with the transportation and would appreciate your assistance.

**June 3, 2006 (Saturday)**  
Janeway Childrens Miracle Day at Foodland

**June 10, 2006 (Saturday)**  
RCMP/Kiwanis Bike Rodeo at the Monsignor Bartlett Arena (Time to be announced in the next newsletter)

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

### Answers for Brain Teasers:

1. Did you get 5000? Well most of us did. Way to go! But you know what... we're all wrong. The correct answer is 4100. Go ahead check it with a calculator. The brain sure is tricky!
2. The boy was a policeman's son.
3. YOU are driving the bus, so the colour is of course the colour of your own eyes.
4. Silence.
5. TON (forward it's heavy, backwards it's NOT)
6. The answer is empty. You can remove the first letter, the last letter and the middle letter and you would have MT, which when pronounced is empty.



## R.C.M.P Community Concerns



This month's issue has to do with mopeds, scooters, motorbikes, minibikes and pocket rockets. And yes this includes those skateboard styled scooters with handle bars, a throttle, a brake and a motor on the back which a few stores have been selling as of late. I contacted the Motor Registration Division and was advised that they all must be registered, licensed and insured to be used on a roadway, just like any other motorized vehicle.

If you are operating a scooter or moped you must also be tested as if you were getting your motorcycle license. Once successful you get a different class of license, associated with a scooter or moped. You must always wear a helmet and should wear the appropriate protective clothing and equipment as well.

In short, if it has a motor or any kind, it is considered a motor vehicle and must be registered, licensed and insured as such.

The following are the applicable regulations out of the **Highway Traffic Act**:

### **Operation of motor cycle**

2. 152. (1) A person who is operating a motor cycle

(a) shall not ride other than upon or astride a regular seat attached to the motor cycle;

(b) shall keep both hands on the handlebars of the motor cycle, except when making a signal in accordance with this Act; and

(c) shall keep both feet on the pedals or footrests of the motor cycle.

(2) A person, other than the operator, shall not ride on a motor cycle unless

(a) it is designed and equipped by the manufacturer of the motor cycle to carry more than 1 person;

(b) the person, other than the operator, rides on a seat attached to the motor cycle and designed to carry a passenger; and

(c) the motor cycle has separate handgrips and a separate set of standard footrests

for the use of the passenger riding on that seat.

(3) A person who is operating a motor cycle shall not permit another person to ride on it in violation of subsection (2).

1988 c33 s151

### **Motor cycle on highway**

153. Except when overtaking and passing another motor cycle, a person operating a motor cycle on a highway shall not drive it alongside another motor cycle travelling in the same direction but shall drive it behind or in front of the other motor cycle.

1988 c33 s152

### **Motor cycle equipment**

154. (1) A person shall not operate or ride on a motor cycle upon a highway unless

(a) that person is wearing a helmet that complies with the regulations and that is properly fastened; and

(b) where the motor cycle is not equipped with a windshield that is of a height to give adequate protection to the eyes, that person is wearing a face shield, safety glasses, or goggles in the proper manner.

(2) A passenger on a motor cycle that is being operated upon a highway shall wear a helmet that complies with the regulations and shall insure that the helmet is properly fastened.

1988 c33 s153

Here are a few definitions out of the **Highway Traffic Act**:

(jj) "**licence**" means a licence which has been issued under this Act and which has not expired or been suspended or cancelled;

(mm) "**moped**" means a vehicle that

2. (i) has steering handle bars completely constrained from rotating in relation to the axle of 1 wheel in contact with the ground,

(ii) is designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground,

(iii) has a maximum attainable speed on level ground, unassisted by operating the pedal

**(continued on next page)**



## The Lions Club



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

11 April 2006

Present: Nancy, Josephine, Olive, Gladys, Frank, Roxanne, Mary, Randy, Bradley, Fred, Bert.

Absent: Dot, Sharon, Daphne, Boyd (at large), Roxanne

Dinner Served at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:45

Lions invocation said by all

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Lion Bradley Motion Lion Fred / 2nd Lion Bert that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising from minutes.

Lion Daphne is in Australia and will return next month. Lion Fred met with Terra Nova Motors. GM Canada would most likely not participate in our attempt to get a new truck for the Max Simms Camp. Terra Nova can sell us a truck new or used at cost. The camp may be better off purchasing the truck because it is a registered charitable entity. A discussion ensued on the issue. Lion Fred will continue to collect information on a truck for the Camp and Lions are asked to give thought to projects we could run in support.

Financial Reports given and accepted.

Committees:

VOCM Bingo: Lion Bert presented the club with \$6500. Bingo is going well with only two weeks left. Lion Bert asks Lions to consider helping him or at least learning how to run our Bingo operations.

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

Membership: Cable 9 ads are running on a continuous basis. A discussion was held on what to do with the brochures. It was agreed Lion Bradley would draft a letter for possible inclusion with the brochures when they are mailed out this summer.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from the LFC regarding our List of Life Members. It appears there are several missing. Lion Bradley to see to this.

A letter was received from Lion Claudette Coombs thanking us for our \$100 donation to the Lions Diabetes campaign.

The 41er is available for review.

New Business

Lion Fred has the additions for our road signs and will attach these. Lion Fred also has information regarding the Multiple District Convention at St. John's in May of 2007. Lion Fred got an e-mail from the District Governor regarding training at Markham ON and he will be attending in May 2006. Lion Randy suggested selling tickets on a painting / portrait at the Health Sciences Centre. The Club could make money on a painting if ticket sales go well. Lion Randy to call the HSC, Lion Olive to contact Costco, Lion Fred to obtain license. Motion by Lion Fred, 2nd by Lion Nancy to go ahead with the ticket sale if we can secure high traffic areas. \$45 raised through our pot luck supper tonight.

Bills for Payment

Bill for Lion Randy's fruit basket \* paid on motion by Lion Fred, 2nd by Lion Gladys.

Go Around & Adjournment. Motion by Lion Bert, 2nd by Lion Nancy that the meeting be adjourned. The club would like to invite all for membership at any time by contacting any member.

*Remember....*

*Sunday  
May 14 is  
Mother's Day!!!*

### 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](mailto:boyd.merrill@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

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)

Why are you crying, a young boy asked his Mom?  
"Because I'm a woman," she told him.  
"I don't understand," he said.  
His Mom just hugged him and said,  
"And you never will, but that's O.K." .....

Later the little boy asked his father,  
"Why does Mom seem to cry for no reason?"  
"All women cry for no reason," was all his Dad could say.....

The little boy grew up and became a man,  
still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God and when God got back to him, he asked "God, why do women cry so easily?"

GOD answered.....

"When I made woman,  
I decided she had to be special.  
I made her shoulders  
strong enough to carry  
the weight of the world, yet,  
made her arms gentle enough to give comfort...  
I gave her the inner strength  
to endure childbirth  
and the rejection  
that many times will come  
even from her own children.  
I gave her a hardness  
that allows her  
to keep going and take care  
of her family and friends,

even when everyone else gives up, through sickness and fatigue without complaining....

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances. Even when her child has hurt her badly....

She has the very special power to make a child's boo-boo feel better and to quell a teenager's anxieties and fears....

I gave her strength to care for her husband, despite faults and I fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart....

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unflinchingly....

For all of this hard work,  
I also gave her a tear to shed.

It is hers to use  
whenever needed and !  
it is her only weakness....

When you see her cry,  
tell her how much you love her, and all she does for everyone, and even though she may still cry, you will have made her heart feel good.

She is special!

Please read this to women you know, and those with mothers, sisters, and special women in their lives.

But, also read this to men so they will understand about what a wonderful thing a woman is.

Each day is a mountain that must be climbed; with courage each step gets easier.

Love your Mother Always  
and keep her Smiling