

The COURIER

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VOLUME 161

MONTHLY LOCAL NEWS | JUNE 2026 | FREE

ISSUE 06

KELLY WILLIAMSON PROMOTED TO COMMODORE

By **VICKI HOGARTH**
Reporter, The Courier

Inside Canada's National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa on Monday morning, surrounded by family, senior military leadership, colleagues and friends, Kelly Williamson stood at the centre of a moment that was at once deeply personal and historic.

Williamson, whose home is in Saint Andrews, was formally promoted to the rank of commodore in the Royal Canadian Navy during a ceremony led by Chief of the Defence Staff General Jennie Carignan.

Commodore is a senior flag officer rank within the Canadian Armed Forces, equivalent to Brigadier-General in the Army and Air Force. Few officers attain the rank over the course of a military career.

After opening remarks, Gen. Carignan removed Williamson's Navy Captain insignia before Williamson's five-year-old daughter, Charlotte, stepped forward and placed the new commodore insignia on her mother's uniform. Her husband, and Charlotte's father, John Williamson, watched on after encouraging Charlotte to step up in front of a crowd of roughly 80 Canadian Armed Forces personnel and employees.

But it was not the new insignia on Williamson's naval uniform that seemed to define the ceremony most. It was a story about her father.

Speaking to guests at the ceremony, Commodore Williamson shared that



General Carignan and Kelly's husband, John, look on as their daughter, Charlotte, places the new commodore insignia on her mother's uniform. PHOTO: ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

only seven or eight years ago, her father revealed something he had carried for much of his life — that as a young Black man, he once dreamed of joining the Royal Navy himself.

"I think another part of today — Dad, I'm going to share an inside story," Williamson said. "My Dad only admitted to me about seven or eight years ago that when he was a young man, he had aspirations of joining the Royal Navy, and he wasn't permitted to at the time. So it makes a day like today that much more special for me because of what that represents for him in his story."

In that moment, the ceremony became larger than a promotion.

Williamson's rise to commodore comes after nearly three decades of military service, including deployments and leadership roles connected to Afghanistan, Haiti, Nepal and other international humanitarian operations. Officers at that level often oversee major naval formations, strategic operations and some of the military's most senior administrative and leadership portfolios.

Her career has also unfolded alongside broader cultural shifts

within the Canadian Armed Forces itself.

With her promotion, Williamson also becomes the first visible minority woman promoted to flag rank in the history of the Canadian Armed Forces — a milestone that places her among the country's most senior military leaders and marks a significant moment in an institution that has historically struggled with representation at its highest levels.

In 2018, Williamson became the first person of colour appointed Director of Public Affairs for the

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SJDA student builds massive LEGO tribute to Haida art

By **VICKI HOGARTH**
Reporter, The Courier

Grade 11 Sir James Dunn Academy student Henry Campbell used more than 15,000 LEGO bricks to recreate

a celebrated Haida artwork for CLASS 2026, a student exhibition now on display at Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre.

The 17-year-old's piece reimagines

"Skaagi – Haida Dog Salmon," a 1974 serigraph by acclaimed Haida artist Bill Reid.

Campbell said the project began after a teacher approached him with the opportunity to create a LEGO-based artwork connected to his long-term goal of one day working for LEGO.

"She knows I want to work at LEGO when I'm older," Campbell said. "So she thought it would be good for me to do something with LEGO during my time in high school."

After brainstorming ideas together, he decided to recreate one of Reid's salmon designs after being inspired

by Northwest Coast Indigenous art during visits to British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

"I really like the Northwest Indigenous art style," he said. "Especially in the airport when you arrive in British Columbia, it's just right in front of your face and it's really beautiful."

Campbell said the bold colours and stylized shapes of the Haida design translated naturally into LEGO form. Using layered bricks and protruding pieces, he created depth and texture rather than a flat mosaic.

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Henry Campbell stands with his LEGO art installation that was on display at Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre. PHOTO: VICKI HOGARTH / THE COURIER

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The COURIER

The trade name and written works within are originally published by



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Funding

A portion of this content was made possible through the Local Journalism Initiative



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Paddlefest Celebrates it's 30th Year

Adam Baldwin and The Jenny Wren perform in front of a crowd at the Paddlefest main stage. PHOTO: LUKAS KOHLER / THE COURIER

By **LUKAS KOHLER**
Reporter, The Courier

Paddlefest Music and Nature Festival has ushered in the warmer weather for its third decade, creating a point of reflection on the annual event's history.

Throughout the last thirty years, Jamie Steel, a co-founder of Paddlefest, has seen it evolve from a yearly paddle with friends into a town-wide celebration.

"It was [originally] just a get-together of people who like to be on the water ... celebrating a new season of paddling," Steel said.

He said the festival's name came naturally. These days, it features a large tent in the center of town which hosts a wide range of artists and bands throughout the May long weekend.

Artists like The Hypochondriacs, Adam Baldwin & The Jenny Wren, Loviet, Absolute Losers, and Ben Caplan played at the main stage.

The festival also featured many smaller stages scattered throughout the community with local businesses acting as venues.

Luke Macdonald, the artistic director of Paddlefest, said what makes the festival special is its feeling of community.

"Everybody feels like one big family," Macdonald said. "There's just this sense of homecoming."

Over the festival's history, that feeling has not changed, according to long-term Paddlefest fan Sara Burns.

She said the festival began in the Tidal Pool – now known as The Herring – and it has never lost the local community flavour.

"There's a lot more people that I don't know at the shows [now], but it still feels like a community," Burns said.

After the Tidal Pool, the festival

moved into the centre of town, and Luke Macdonald took over in 2012, alongside his co-chair Danielle Deonarine.

Steel said this transition in leadership was natural.

"I've been enjoying it all my life," Macdonald said.

In recent years, Paddlefest has expanded to other venues and places throughout the town.

"We're creating more community events and broadening our feel of all activities."

Macdonald said it is important that Paddlefest broaden the scope of the festival's free activities. The festival also embraces its full name, Paddlefest Music and Nature Festival, anchored in many nature-centric events.

Their non-music-centered activities included paddle with kayaks and canoes, a beach cleanup, a guided hike, a rolling bike rave, dragonboating and a wharf-to-wharf run.



Claire Blanchard

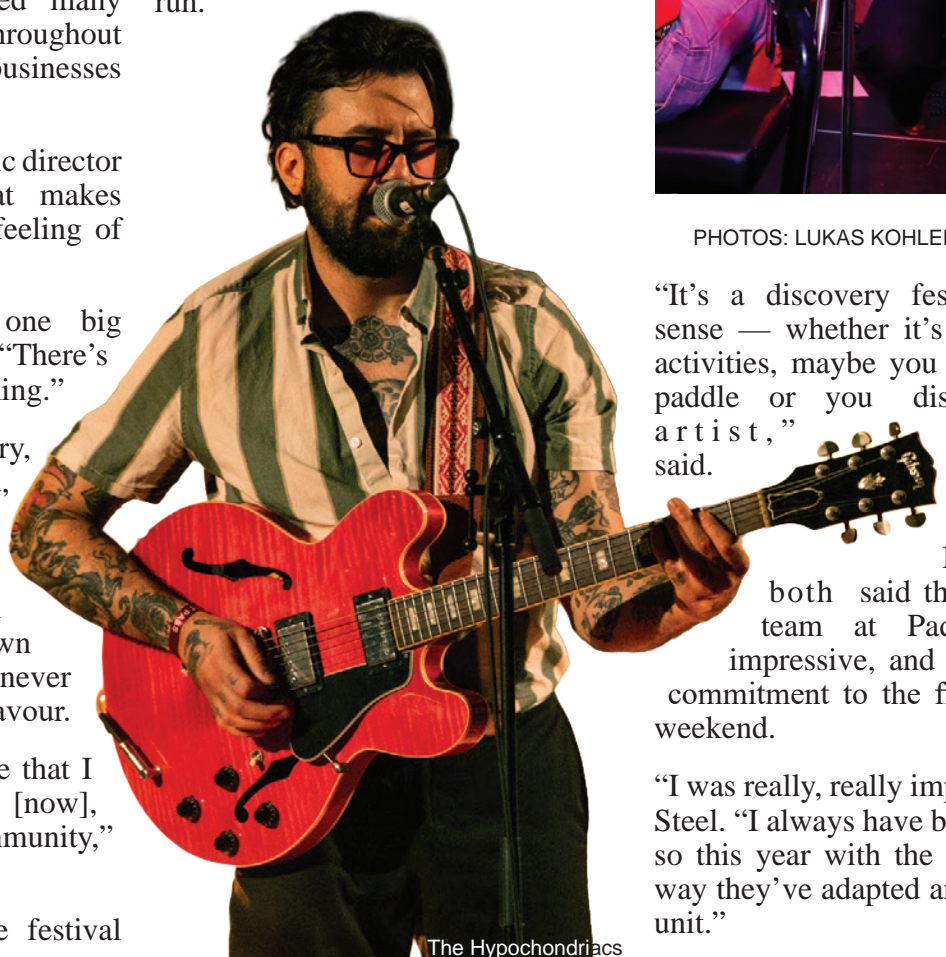


Bill Ricky Band
PHOTOS: LUKAS KOHLER / THE COURIER

"It's a discovery festival in that sense — whether it's music or its activities, maybe you learn how to paddle or you discover a new artist," MacDonald said.

Steel and Macdonald both said that this year's team at Paddlefest was impressive, and demonstrated commitment to the fluidity of the weekend.

"I was really, really impressed," said Steel. "I always have been, but more so this year with the team and the way they've adapted and gelled as a unit."



The Hypochondriacs

KELLY WILLIAMSON PROMOTED TO COMMODORE IN ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

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Royal Canadian Navy. Over the years, she has become one of the Canadian military's most prominent communications and leadership figures, named twice among Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women and invested as a Member of the Order of Military Merit in 2019.

Monday's ceremony carried the familiar traditions of military promotion: the formal reading of orders, the presentation of rank insignia, and remarks from mentors and colleagues. But beneath the

protocol was something even more significant: a sense of generational distance collapsing in real time.

A father once denied the opportunity to serve now watched his daughter ascend into the senior leadership ranks of Canada's navy.

And nearby, Williamson's young daughter watched her mother break a glass ceiling she is still far too young to fully understand.

Somewhere between those two realities sat the greater meaning of the day.



Kelly Williamson with her family. PHOTO: ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Council allows visitor information centre in courthouse

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJ1

The council in Saint Andrews has decided to allow the visitor information centre (VIC) to operate in the courthouse for this summer season amid the transfer of the building to the Saint Andrews Civic Trust (SACT).

On May 4, the council received a presentation from Ken Beaubien.

The VIC was moved from the W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex to make room for an expansion of the Wellness Centre and to rehome the Charlotte County Seniors Resource Centre.

Some residents have expressed concerns over the relocation, citing heavy traffic and congestion in a largely residential area.

"We did an extensive consultation process leading into the proposals," Beaubien said. "We took ideas from the community and assembled it into an idea, which included the visitor information centre."

Baubien said there was in-person, online and event consultations throughout a 12-month period.

"The ideas were all voted on by the community," he said. "These weren't ideas that the Civic Trust put together, these were ideas that were created by the community and then packaged by the Civic Trust."

He said the organization, which is a charity, looked at viability — including access to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) grants.

"If you start considering options and then cutting parts of it, it does impact the entirety of the vision and the business planning and the access to the grants and funds that made it a more sustainable model," he said.

Baubien said SACT believed it was at the point of negotiating the transfer agreement, so the vision was agreed upon by both parties.

In August 2025, the negotiation process was voted on by council to move forward. He said that was the point where the organization believed it would begin discussion of the transition conditions and requirements.

"But when we start discussing about reconsulting on aspects of the project that would impact the entire business model, you are risking the whole project," he said. "From the Civic Trust's point-of-view, we wouldn't be supporting more consultation."

"We would not be investing more time in consultations and depending on what the outcome of those consultations are, it does potentially change the whole business model. If it does come back and it says we don't want this there, we don't want that ... then we [have] to revisit it."

Baubien told the council changes would impact the transfer agreement and the business model.

He also said the courthouse is zoned institutional and already allows for parking. The council did not approve a tender to create a parking area on the Parr Street side of the building due to a high tender quote.

It did approve an accessibility ramp in the same area for \$2,000.

Council discussion

Council discussed the concerns of residents and the potential transfer.

Coun. Darrell Weare said regardless of what the zoning is, the council has a responsibility to the residents to keep them informed about what is happening in their area.

"I think we have to be proactive in advising them," he said.

Others also supported the idea of further consultation. Coun. Annette Harland said more information became available in the last several weeks.

She said she had the impression that more consultation would take place during the transfer process and as the vision became more specific.

"I understood that there definitely would be more consultation," she said.

Harland spoke to the criticism council has faced over the last year around transparency and accountability.

"We have talked about the fact that we have tried to ensure that we consult and there is information made available to our constituents," she said. "I also recognize, very clearly, that we are under [the] gun

in terms of the time frame.

"And while I do not want to jeopardize the transfer of the courthouse to the Civic Trust, I think that is critical."

The council has expressed concerns over costs to keep the courthouse under their ownership. It received a quote to remove lead paint on the exterior of the building for \$300,000.

In the 2026 budget, the total cost for the courthouse is \$33,213 — without the \$25,000 it was receiving from the provincial government — which was financial support that expired last year.

Those costs are expected to continue to rise in the following years.

Coun. Kurt Gumushel has said on the record several times he believes

the town assuming ownership of the courthouse was a mistake.

He said getting the VIC into the hands of Explore Saint Andrews — who he explained are better equipped to handle it — has been a decade-long process.

"I'm a bit disappointed, I guess, or a bit resentful to be in this position at this late date," he said. "I feel like people taking over the courthouse, the Civic Trust, and the neighbours, everybody had a responsibility to talk a little bit more."

Gumushel did note the 12-month consultation process undertaken by the SACT. Former president James Geneau presented to the council its 120-page plan in February 2025.

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St. Croix Branch #9 Royal Canadian Legion 100th Anniversary Open House

Join us as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Croix Branch #9 Legion and the official opening of the St. Croix Military Museum!

Friday, September 11th, 2026
An evening of music, nostalgia, and fun at the Legion with an *Era-Themed Dance*. More details to come as the date approaches.

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Open House & Museum Showcase
Explore displays highlighting our history from past to present and discover the legacy of the St. Croix Valley.

Ceremony at 1:00 PM
BBQ Fundraiser
The Parent Support Committee of 1180 St. Stephen Army Cadets will be serving burgers and hotdogs in support of their planned trip to the Halifax Tattoo 2027.

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All are welcome—we look forward to seeing you there!

43 Queen Street West, St. Stephen, NB
www.stcroixlegionbr9.ca



Campobello Island ferry to see extended season

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

Ferry service to Campobello Island will have an extended season.

The provincial government said a new contract with East Coast Ferries means crossings will be made seven days a week until Oct. 12, weather permitting.

For residents living on Campobello Island, the only link to mainland

New Brunswick in the winter is to go through Lubec, Maine, which raised concern for residents amid the ongoing trade war with the U.S.

A round trip back into New Brunswick requires those living on the island to cross the border four times, totalling about 150 kilometres in travel.

“Once again, our government is taking action and offering assistance

to help extend seasonal ferry service to Campobello Island,” Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Chuck Chiasson said in a media release. “This connection through New Brunswick is important for both the island’s residents and visitors, helping them avoid potentially costly and time-consuming travel through the United States.”

The extension of service means the ferry will operate for the Victoria

Day and Thanksgiving holiday weekends.

“We’re happy that this ferry service subsidy can be reoffered to prolong the Campobello ferry’s 2026 season,” Chiasson said. “We continue to work closely with East Coast Ferries Ltd. to ensure this crossing remains both an accessible and reliable transportation corridor within our province.”

Two Grand Manan wharves to be reconstructed

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

Two major wharves on Grand Manan Island will be receiving an infusion of cash for repairs and reconstruction.

Secretary of State for the Canadian Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions and Saint John-Rothesay MP Wayne Long announced the funding as part of a \$957.8 million in small craft harbours — noting significant investment in Ingalls Head and North Head.

Long said no specific amount has been allocated to each project, but guaranteed they would be completed.

“I do know that these projects will be completed,” he said, speaking to The Courier. “I’m telling you that with 100 per cent certainty, these projects have been prioritized out of that \$957 million.”

North Head in particular was chosen following the failure of a previous construction project that caused economic turmoil on the island.

Greenfield Construction was awarded a \$15.8 million contract — but the project was never completed. In July 2025, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Village of Grand Manan and Public Service Procurement Canada to remove the rocks that had been left and were blocking the view of the North Head wharf.

“We recognize the issue with the delays, and the rocks and everything else,” Long said. “It was a bit of a sore spot for us, so obviously, we did discuss that and we wanted to make sure we got that right, and that’s why we included that one.”

Grand Manan Fisherman’s Association president Brian Guptill said the working wharves on the island are the backbone of the community.

“For a long time now, we’ve been looking at the cracks, dealing with the



Tom Taylor, (left), Brian Guptill, Wayne Long and Melanie Sonnenberg posing for photos at the announcement in Ingalls Head. PHOTO: NATHALIE STURGEON / THE COURIER

wear and tear, and frankly worrying about whether our infrastructure was going to hold up with the demands we’ve been placing on the wharves today,” he said. “Today I’m glad to say the message finally got through.”

He said the investment means Ingalls Head and North Head will no longer be “just holding on.”

Long said the government needs to put out a request for proposals, adding no specific amount has been allocated out of the \$957 million.

“But I do know that these projects will be completed,” he said. “I’m telling you that with 100 per cent certainty these projects have been prioritized.”

Tom Taylor, with the Atlantic Canadian Fish Farmers Association, said this investment will be for generations to come.

“As you know, this infrastructure lasts a long time when it is built

well,” he said. “We look forward to the rebuilds and the repair work that is urgently needed as well.”

New Brunswick Southwest MP John Williamson said the announcement is welcome news after he said he applied pressure to the Liberal government to fix neglected wharves in the region.

“The North Head wharf is long overdue and is a project the Liberals mismanaged from the start,” he said. “The serious problem with Friday’s announcement is that it could still be another five years before the wharf work is done.”

He said this compounds the delays the project faced since 2019, calling the timeline completion unheard of and unacceptable.

“Had this project been well managed, it would have been completed by now at half the cost,” he said in a statement.

“My riding has many more wharves that need repairs as well as upgrades and I’ll continue to press the federal government to do a better job maintaining wharf infrastructure for New Brunswick’s vibrant fishing communities.”

Ingalls Head will receive advanced planning and reconstruction of the wharf — known as wharf structure 401. It is home to 53 commercial vessels, with the main fishery being lobster.

In North Head, the federal government’s funds will go toward the reconstruction of the T-wharf 401B, as well as the planning and replacement of 401A, 401C, and 402. There are 121 commercial fishing vessels that dock in North Head.

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Young siblings honoured for leadership

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

The St. Stephen IODE Heritage Chapter has presented two citizenship awards to Lydia and Gavin Stubbert — both of whom have stepped up for their community in meaningful ways.

Lydia organizes an annual community clean up — collecting trash and working together to make St. Stephen is a bit brighter. She has even presented to the council to encourage them to participate.

In April, 100 volunteers showed up to help her and together collected 60 bags of garbage.

Lydia has also received a certificate of appreciation from the Province of New Brunswick by the local MLA Kathy Bockus.

Her brother Gavin has also stepped up for several years to support the local food bank — going the extra mile to collect donations.

In December 2025, Gavin was able to collect 28 turkeys and 11 hams for families in need of a holiday meal.

IODE Heritage Chapter vice-president Bonnie Dolan said the group had been discussing donations to the food bank — and stumbled upon Gavin’s initiative.

“It’s to recognize people that are doing things to help in the community,” she said, speaking with The Courier.

Dolan said things got busy over the holiday season — and they revisited the awards this spring.

“I do know his parents, his mom, and I realized his sister actually does the town clean up,” she said. “She’s also pretty remarkable.”

She said it is amazing to see young kids step up to help their community.

“It’s wonderful, which is why we really wanted to ... honour them,” Dolan said. “You know, that might inspire other children or adults.”

Lydia said she felt the community would look and feel better with all the garbage picked up.

“It’s safer for kids so they [won’t] get injured, and animals,” she said.



Gavin and Lydia Stubbert receive citizenship awards from the St. Stephen IODE Heritage Chapter. PHOTO: NATHALIE STURGEON

“I just feel so much better that it all gets cleaned up ... and I’m happy the community comes out every year.”

Last year, Gavin was able to collect 3,315 items. He said that every year, the food bank struggles with turkey donations — and that is when he stepped up — again.

“They always have people going without turkeys,” he said.

Both Lydia and Gavin said they feel good about the community showing their appreciation.

“It’s nice to be recognized but that’s not why we do any of it; we do it just because we can,” Gavin said.

Council continues under restricted power

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

The council for the Town of Saint Andrews will continue operating with the current council following the election in May under restricted powers.

Former acting mayor Kate Akgai died in late April, leading to the cancellation of the Ward 3 — Saint Andrews — election.

The Department of Environment and Local Government (ELG) told The Courier that the first meeting of the new council should take place no later than June 15, unless a candidate has not been declared elected by that date.

A byelection is scheduled for June 22 to fill the four seats representing voters in Ward 3. This does not impact the mayoral election, constituents in all wards will still vote for mayor. Coun. Annette Harland and Coun. Darrell Weare were acclaimed.

“As Ward 3 candidates will not be declared until a by-election on June 22, council cannot meet until the new councillors are in place,” said Vicky Lutes, a spokesperson for ELG.

Section 56 of the Local Governance Act restricts the powers of council until the first meeting of the new council, outlining the five powers no longer granted.

“In the interim, the current council will continue day-to-day operations within the limits of Section 56 of the Act, ensuring continuity of governance,” Lutes said.

Section 56 also states the current council can maintain the operation of the municipality but cannot pass, amend or repeal bylaws or make long-term decisions.

The Act allows for exceptions, including when an issue is urgent and in the public interest or if it was already authorized by a bylaw prior to the election.



The Town of Saint Andrews released a statement on Tuesday saying there had been speculation about how the council would operate during that time.

With only two acclaimed members of council and a mayor, the council would not have quorum — the minimum number required to conduct votes.

“Under these provisions, the town’s day-to-day operations will continue uninterrupted,” the release said.

The town also said that, to avoid confusion for residents, only one swearing-in ceremony will take place in late June or early July.

“Due to the limited powers of council during this period, they will be considering a recommendation to cancel all upcoming regular council meetings until the first meeting of the new council, with the allowance for special council meetings as the need to complete business arises.”

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Charlotte County elects new councils

By NATHALIE STURGEON, VICKI HOGARTH, & LUKAS KOHLER

Grand Manan re-elects Bonnie Morse as mayor

Grand Manan voters have re-elected Bonnie Morse as mayor following Monday's municipal election, returning the longtime municipal leader to office after a competitive race against challenger Norah J. Davidson.

Morse secured victory by a healthy margin after a

campaign focused on stability, infrastructure planning, and protecting the strong sense of community that defines island life.

Voter turnout on the island was significantly higher than the provincial average, with 52 per cent of eligible voters casting ballots in Grand Manan compared to 37 per cent across New Brunswick.

According to unofficial results, Morse received 615 votes, defeating Davidson, who received 299 votes.

Speaking to *The Courier* shortly after the results were announced, Morse said she was feeling both excited and relieved as she celebrated the victory with family gathered around phones and computers watching the numbers come in.

"I'm really excited

about the group that we have on council and looking forward to the next four years," Morse said.

Morse said the outcome reflected public confidence in the work completed over the past five years and in the direction council has been taking.

All incumbent councillors seeking re-election were also returned to office by voters, a result Morse said reflected public recognition that council had been working hard to improve the community.

"I think it's a confirmation that the work that we've done over the last five years was recognised and that people were satisfied with how things have gone," she said. "They have confidence that the group that reoffered — because all the incumbents who reoffered on council were elected as well — that they wanted to continue the path that we've been heading down."

Morse, who has served as mayor for

the past five years following nine years on council, campaigned heavily on long-term infrastructure planning and financial management, including major projects such as the proposed runway extension and anticipated road resurfacing work.

Successful council candidates included incumbents Philman L. Green with 686 votes, Cara V. Greenlaw with 664 votes, Wayne H. Sturgeon with 637 votes, Susan Ballantyne with 574 votes, and Trish Toll with 509 votes.

Newly elected councillors included William (Bill) Anderson with 649 votes, Gary Urquhart with 622 votes, and Brady C. Ross with 563 votes.

Other candidates included Vernon Ross with 324 votes, Tam Greenley with 295 votes, Scott Freeth with 281 votes, Leta Malcolm with 276 votes, Jared Corless with 266 votes, Richelle Fitzsimmons with 247 votes, and Laura Lavers with 136 votes.

Council allows visitor information centre in courthouse

Continued from page 3

He said he couldn't vote to jeopardize the time volunteers have put in nor the transfer to the SACT.

Coun. Lee Heenan said he never thought the VIC should go to the courthouse, but said if the transfer had already taken place, the council would not be discussing the issue.

Many councillors said the VIC was always part of the SACT's plan and the organization had done extensive consultation with residents.

Outgoing Coun. Mark Bennett said he did hope that town staff and the bylaw officer would ensure that rules are being followed to mitigate concerns raised by nearby residents.

Keeping things sustainable

SACT president Barbie Smith said the plan needs to keep the cost of operating the building sustainable.

"We have different uses for all rooms and we're hoping it's for a community use, but you'll have to pay a little bit," Smith said, speaking to *The Courier*.

She said the plan is based around the businesses that will be using and enhancing the courthouse space, and she said if they're not allowed to follow through with their plan, it does not work.

As for the transfer, Smith said these things take time. She said the SACT did ask for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to allow for the new council to settle in.

"I think we both would have liked to have it happen earlier, but the fact

that we are taking the time to dot the I's and cross the T's ... and make sure that everything is as it should be before we move forward, that's not surprising," she said.

Smith said she wished the residents had brought their concerns forward to Explore Saint Andrews — noting she thinks ESA would have been able to reassure residents about the operation of the VIC.

She said she does not foresee buses parking in or around the courthouse — and said parking limits may be established.

These are all things, Smith explained, that Explore Saint Andrews will work to address. This is the first year Explore Saint Andrews will fully take over the VIC. Previously, it was operated by the Saint Andrews Chamber of Commerce. Clerk Chris MacKinnon said in response to question that Explore Saint Andrews is also not obligated to continue the VIC if it is not viable.

"If it becomes something that is not viable, it can be closed down at any time," MacKinnon said.

"We [need to] get the building used by different groups, so then we can start accessing those various grants ... we have to stabilize the building."

The Courier did reach out to Explore Saint Andrews but did not receive a response by publication.

John Craig secures mayoral term

John Craig has secured another term as mayor of Eastern Charlotte.

"The voters of Eastern Charlotte have spoken tonight, and I feel humbled and honoured at the same time."

The Courier has called the election for Craig with 1,422 votes and a 42 per cent voter turnout.

As Craig moves into his sixth term, he said he believes voters of his municipality understand how hard he works and how involved in the community he is.

Eastern Charlotte has faced issues with water quality in Blacks and Beaver Harbour, as well as childcare and housing. The council is working with an engineering firm to determine a new source of water in the community, but the project has stalled with legal hurdles.

Council has been told to commit to a new flushing schedule aimed at keeping sediment out of the water.

Craig said he will be having

council meet with a new engineering company in the upcoming days in order to move forward with the project.

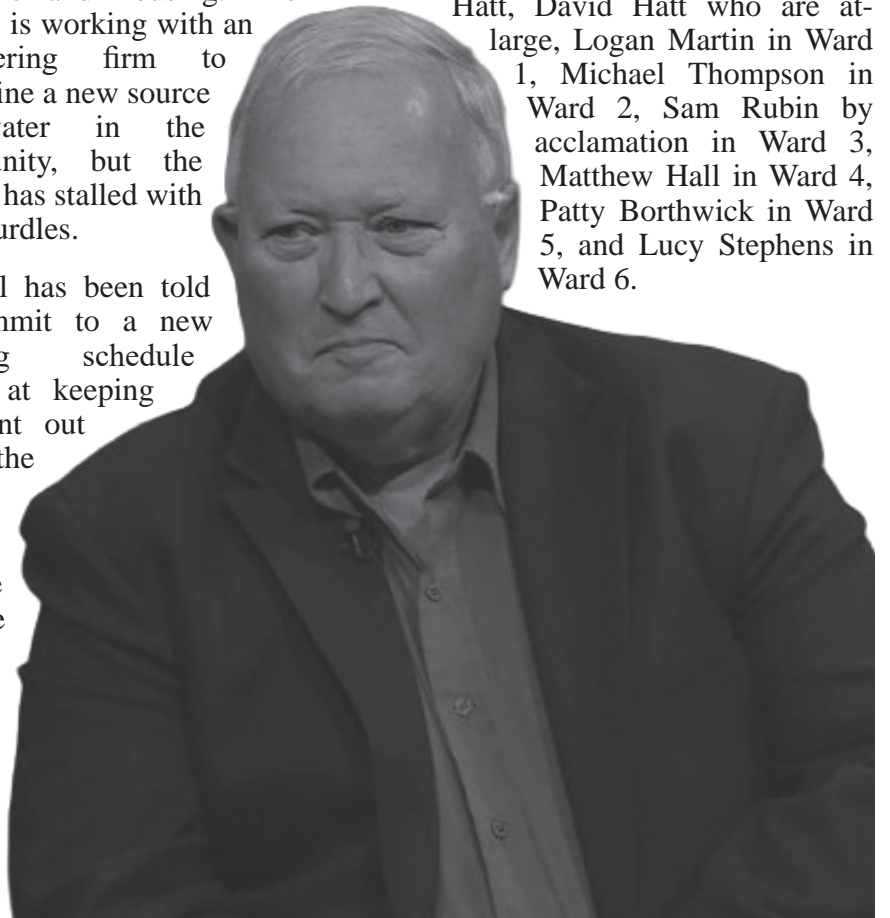
"Every area of Eastern Charlotte is important and I will continue to ensure that as the mayor, every area will be treated equally and fairly," said Craig.

He promised to continue to be working hard for everybody, and to be focused on unity for the whole area.

He also thanked Detorakis for putting her name forward.

"It's not easy to step forward into the spotlight, and I applaud her for that bravery."

The councillors will include Adam Hatt, David Hatt who are at-large, Logan Martin in Ward 1, Michael Thompson in Ward 2, Sam Rubin by acclamation in Ward 3, Matthew Hall in Ward 4, Patty Borthwick in Ward 5, and Lucy Stephens in Ward 6.



Harvey Matthews returns as Campobello mayor

Harvey Matthews will return as Campobello Island's mayor.

The Courier has called the election for Harvey with 266 votes and the municipality saw roughly 50 per cent voter turnout.

"I kind of figured that this is what the results were going to be, but I don't like counting chickens before they hatch," said Harvey.

Jordan Matthews faced off against Harvey and had 99 votes.

Recently, the Campobello Ferry has seen an extended season. Residents

cannot access mainland New Brunswick in the winter time by ferry. They must cross the border four times per trip, travelling about 150 kilometres.

Residents on the island have expressed concerns about crossing into Maine amid the ongoing trade war with the United States.

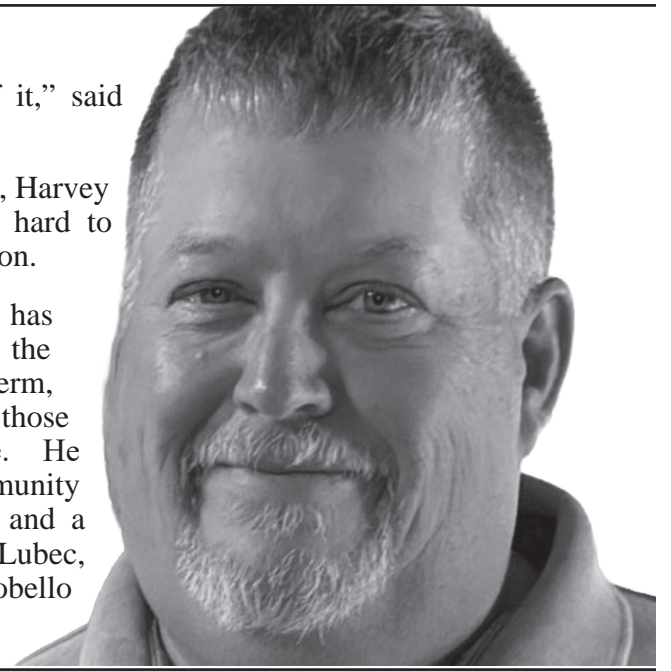
Harvey has pushed for this extended season throughout the past term. He said he thinks his work ethic is what got him re-elected.

"This job probably cost me as much

as what I've gained of it," said Harvey.

Over the next four years, Harvey said council will work hard to move in the right direction.

He said that the council has had many projects in the works over the last term, and he plans to push those over the finish line. He highlighted the community centre, senior housing, and a new bridge between Lubec, Maine and Campobello Island.

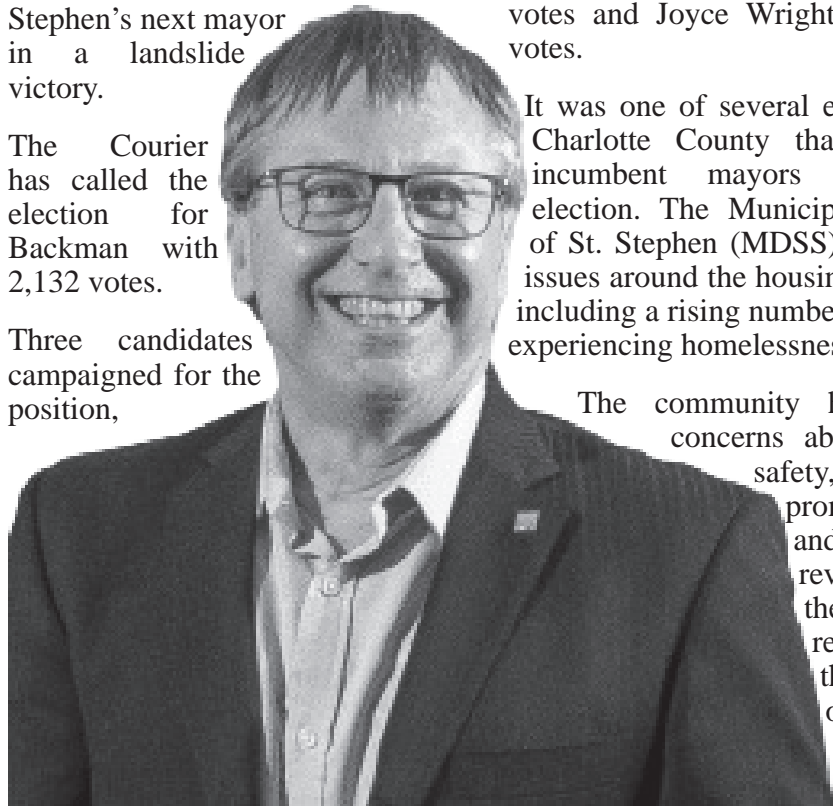


Steve Backman will become St. Stephen's next mayor in a landslide victory.

Steve Backman will become St. Stephen's next mayor in a landslide victory.

The Courier has called the election for Backman with 2,132 votes.

Three candidates campaigned for the position,



including Mark Groleau with 356 votes and Joyce Wright with 313 votes.

It was one of several elections in Charlotte County that saw no incumbent mayors seek re-election. The Municipal District of St. Stephen (MDSS) has faced issues around the housing crisis — including a rising number of people experiencing homelessness.

The community has raised concerns about public safety, which has prompted calls and a judicial review for the relocation of the shelter outside of municipal

boundaries.

Staff from MDSS have also warned about significant infrastructure issues within the municipality's water system.

"I'm feeling very excited but now, actually, a little nervous because this was an incredibly strong mandate," Backman said speaking to *The Courier*.

Backman said the next steps will require balance between the rural and urban wards, noting the changes to the zoning bylaw that have impacted the rural regions of the municipality. In the urban areas, he noted concerns about public safety and the homelessness crisis.

He said the community desired change.

"They've given us a clear mandate

to pursue that change," he said. "They want more transparency. They wanted to be more involved in the community's direction."

Backman is a former veterinarian and has served as the president of the Charlotte County Hospital Foundation, raising millions for hospital equipment, including a CT scanner.

The new council hope to hit the ground running, he explained, and is eager to get to work.

Chandra Best had 812 votes, Wade Greenlaw had 798 votes and Justin Wesselink had 632 votes, who will all represent Ward 1. Mark Howard Porter had 1,016 votes, Bernadette Cunningham had 851 votes and Steve Morgan had 634 votes, all representing Ward 2.

Steve Neil elected mayor of Saint Andrews

Saint Andrews will see Steve Neil elected mayor.

The Courier has called the election for the former councillor with 1,071 votes. Saint Andrews saw about 62 per cent voter turnout, well above the provincial turnout.

Three candidates, including Neil, campaigned for the position, Guy Groulx came in second with 213 votes and Charles Creaser, third, with 137.

Neil is a biologist and works for the Saint Andrews Biological Station. He is a volunteer with the Saint Andrews fire department.

The council has faced issues with the Market Wharf and Square project. The project has entered a new phase, with a report filed by Fundy Engineering that identified new structural issues. Neil was vocal about the previous design, which did involved infilling Market Square.

A municipal plan is also slated for approval by the council, which is due by January 2028. The community has raised concerns about density, growth, transparency and accountability.

"I'm pretty excited actually. I'm just sitting here watching the results come in and feeling pretty good," he said, speaking with *The Courier* Monday night.

He said while the

campaign was exhaustive, he enjoyed the process.

"It was really nice to get to meet a lot of people that I haven't spoken to before and see the amount of support that was actually there for me," he said.

Annette Harland and Darrell Weare were acclaimed as councillors in Chamcook and Bayside.

The remaining four seats will be elected in a by-election on June 22 following the death of acting mayor Kate Akagi. The Department of Environment and Local Government said the current council will continue under restricted powers.

Section 56(1) through 56(3) outline the five powers stripped from the council.

Neil said he is ready to hit the ground running in early July when the full council has been elected.

"It'll be business as usual for me," he said.

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Thousands of N.B. students vote in mock elections

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

Students across New Brunswick also voted in mock elections as part of an initiative to engage youth in the local election process.

In Charlotte County, schools in the Municipal District of St. Stephen, Eastern Charlotte, Saint Andrews, Grand Manan and Fundy Shores cast ballots.

Sir James Dunn Academy teacher Joseph Lee said the program, created by CIVIX, recognizes that learning doesn't always come from textbooks.

"In this case students not only participate in the voting process before they are 18 years old, but they also organize and oversee a polling station at the school, tabulate the results and submit them to Student Vote Canada," he said.

Lee was previously involved in Student Vote Canada during his time at Grand Manan Community School.

He said they often ask questions about the responsibilities of each level of government, but they also familiarize themselves with the vocabulary relating to each level.

"Students view individual platforms provided to studentvote.ca and on candidate websites. They also watch debates," he said. "In this way they can put faces to names and ideas. On some occasions I've had my students go class to class to present to the other students."

Around 170 students from SJDA in grades 6 through 12 participated in the program this year.

"There is a strong culture for learning and a desire to excel academically at SJDA," he said. "Students want to acquire knowledge and are curious about how the world around them works."



Student submitting their ballot. PHOTO: STEVEN GOETZ STORYTELLING, STUDENTVOTE.CA

Lee spoke to varying opportunities in the community including the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, CHCO-TV — the owner of The Courier — and the fire department that feed the desire to learn.

"When students share their experiences from events like the soft shell clam study (through the Huntsman and the Peskotomuhkati Nation) or Saint Andrews Food Forest (Mrs. Kathleen Clark's outdoor education class), other students are intrigued and want to participate in many aspects of their community and in public service," he said.

According to the results, Steve Neil was elected mayor by 84 votes, with Guy Groulx and Charles Creaser coming in second and third respectively.

Notably, the same results as the general election.

At Fundy Middle and High School, Haley Moulard got students involved for the hands-on experience.

"They also get an opportunity to research and discuss local issues that may impact them," she said.

"Showing an interest at a younger age will help students become active citizens when they are of age to vote."

Moulard said the most common questions are what each role on council does and how decisions are made.

According to Student Vote Canada, students elected a slightly different composition of council.

Alexa Detoarkis was elected as mayor, while David Hatt and Adam Hatt were elected at-large. Ward councillors included Logan Martin, Logan Cook, Matthew Hall, Patty Borthwick and Darrell Tidd.

In St. Stephen, around 1,580 students voted in their mock election.

Those students elected Steve Backman as mayor. However, the composition of Ward councillors had a couple of differences, composed of Chandra Best, Kris Booth, Justin Wesselink, Bernadette Cunningham, David Hyslop and Steve Morgan.

At Fundy Shores School, 27 students voted, electing Rachel Clark and Zac Kurylyk.

Over on Grand Manan Island, 698 students voted. Those individuals also voted incumbent Bonnie Morse in as mayor.

Additionally, they elected William Anderson, Susan Ballantyne, Phillman Green, Cara Greenlaw, Vernon Ross, Brady Ross, Wayne Sturgeon, Trish Toll, and Gary Urquhart — the exact composition of the incoming council.

Overall, more than 15,000 students participated in Students Vote for New Brunswick's local elections, representing 112 schools, 51 municipalities and 50,000 ballots.

SJDA STUDENT BUILDS MASSIVE LEGO TRIBUTE TO HAIDA ART

Continued from page 1

"If it was all completely flat LEGO bricks, it wouldn't look as nice," he said. "When you have all the different kinds of LEGO pieces protruding like that, I think it really makes it come together better."

The project stretched across the school year and took roughly 50 hours to complete. Campbell originally planned to dismantle it after the exhibition because the bricks were never glued together, but changed his mind after seeing the public reaction at the opening.

"There were a few people talking

about putting it at other art galleries," he said. "So I'm not going to take it apart for a while now just to see what happens with it."

Campbell, who grew up in Saint Andrews, said LEGO has been part of his life for as long as he can remember.

"My parents always got it for me for Christmas," he said. "Once I started working and had my own money to spend on it, I just kept buying LEGO."

While he enjoys official sets, Campbell said he prefers building original creations from his own imagination.

"You can build stuff up, take it apart, and build something else," he said. "I really prefer to use my own pieces and make stuff with my own brain."

Campbell's dream of working for LEGO has even led him to begin learning Danish through Duolingo so he can one day work at the company's headquarters in Denmark. He said he is currently on a learning streak of more than 900 days.

He believes LEGO continues to resonate in a digital world because it offers a hands-on creative outlet away from screens.

"If you want to wind down for a day,

you don't just have to go on your phone," he said. "You can just build a LEGO set. It's peaceful."

Campbell also shares his work online through his Instagram account, "2009_bricks," where he posts original LEGO creations and custom builds.

Editor's Note:

Permission to recreate Reid's original work was obtained through the Bill Reid Gallery, according to Campbell's artist statement accompanying the piece.

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Saint Andrews awards \$900k in capital project tenders

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

The council for the Town of Saint Andrews has approved roughly \$928,000 in capital projects – including a water main renewal and a new parking lot — amid a restriction on its power under the Local Governance Act.

A tender was awarded to MiDi Construction for roughly \$627,000 plus tax. The council budgeted \$890,000 for this project in the fall.

Neither tender the council received met the minimum score on the town’s metric sheet. Council discussed the contract in closed session before voting in favour of it.

The paving for the former Legion lot on the corner of Princess Royal and Queen streets was awarded to Galbraith Construction for about \$301,000 plus tax. In the fall budget discussion, the council decided to move ahead with this property to allow for 48-50 parking stalls in the downtown area.

Parking is considered a widespread issue for the town during the summer season, when Saint Andrews takes in about 80,000 visitors.

The town expects to fund the bill through the tourism accommodation levy (TAL) — a fee charged by local accommodation operators — alleviating the burden on local taxpayers.

Staff for the town said the tender was

much more reasonable than the cost estimates. The largest portion of the cost is going toward covering the ditches and putting in underground storm sewers.

Both projects were discussed and voted on during budget season and do not exceed the town’s allocated funding.

Restrictions for outgoing council

Council, which remains in the same composition as before the May election, is under temporary restricted power through the Local Governance Act.

Section 56(1) outlines what authority is restricted for an outgoing council that is needed to maintain the day-to-day operations of the municipality.

An outgoing council cannot make, amend or repeal a bylaw; become party to any agreement, contract instruments that exceed their annual budget; borrow or make payments; purchase or dispose of capital assets; or hire or fire any employees.

There are two exceptions to that rule under Section 56(3), including if the decision is in the public interest and is urgently needed or it is authorized by a bylaw made before the general election.

There are currently no elected council members for the Ward 3 area — the Town of Saint Andrews.

The Department of Local Government said it has issued



post-election guidance to outgoing councils emphasizing the limits outlined in Section 56 of the Local Governance Act.

“Outgoing councils are not permitted to pass new bylaws, exceed their approved budget, sell major assets, or hire/fire staff during the transition period,” Kelly Cormier, a spokesperson for the department, said. “However, they may continue routine operations, address urgent public matters, or act on matters previously authorized by bylaw.”

Other agenda items

There was one other agenda item the council was unable to act on.

The council wanted to discuss several committee appointments, including one for a new municipal plan and zoning bylaw — something the outgoing council has vowed to further consult on.

Chris “Mac” MacKinnon told council that some people have applied to sit on both the wellness committee and the community engagement committee for the municipal plan.

Staff did reach out to the Department of Local Government for guidance, MacKinnon said.

“As far as addressing the appointment of committee members or creating a new committee, this is something that would typically be addressed by a new council, not [before] a new council taking place,” he told the council. “If council did decide to move ahead with these, which are activities that may impact a future council, we [were] advised the local government assumes any risk that may be associated with these decisions.”

MacKinnon told council those actions would be considered a contravention of the Act, Section 56, and would be void and have no effect.

“They’re basically saying if you’re going to do this, be aware that it could be undone”
“They’re suggesting that we don’t do it, as far as making appointments and creating a new committee.”

Council is expected to continue in its current composition until a new council is sworn in following the June by-election.



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Position Overview
The successful candidate will live on site and be responsible for ensuring the buildings and grounds are safe, clean, and well maintained, while providing responsive service to residents and commercial tenants as well as supporting the Moncton office requests.

Key Responsibilities

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- Primary on site point of contact for tenants and liaison with the Moncton office for all building matters.
- Respond promptly and courteously to tenant concerns, problems, and complaints related to their apartments, their office space or the building and property in general.
- Perform minor repairs, basic carpentry, electrical, plumbing (replace toilet tank levers and flappers), and paint.
- General maintenance in mechanical spaces, change filters, greasing motors, reporting/repairing deficiencies.
- Maintain the security with emphasis on evenings/weekends. Monitor and maintain the security cameras.
- Carry out lawn care, minor weeding, leaf and debris patrol, and general exterior upkeep of the properties.
- Snow removal/deicing on walkways and grounds, including nights and weekends as required.
- Clean and prepare units after vacancy for new tenants, including general property cleanup.
- Fill in for janitorial or staff as needed, ensure cleaners have required supplies, and providing oversight.
- Clean storefront windows and other designated glass surfaces as required.
- Monthly inspections of fire extinguishers and emergency lights and perform annual fire extinguisher certification.
- Conduct regular cooling tower maintenance duties.
- Work with contractors, arrange access, schedule, monitor work, ensuring adherence to safety protocols.
- Purchase materials and supplies as needed to complete maintenance tasks within approved parameters.
- Collect and calculate laundry revenue on a monthly basis.
- Act as facility manager and perform any other related duties that may be required from time to time.
- Maintain valid certification on: First Aid/CPR, Fire Extinguisher Inspection.

Qualifications

- Experience in building maintenance, commercial and residential property management, or a related trade.
- Strong customer service skills and the ability to maintain positive relationships with tenants, colleagues, contractors, and vendors.
- Ability to perform basic repairs (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting) and operate maintenance tools and equipment safely.
- Good organizational & communication skills, the ability to prioritize tasks, respond to emergencies promptly.
- Able to work evenings and weekends for building security, snow removal & emergency response as required.
- Clean criminal background to qualify for Federal Clearance Certificate.

Compensation
An on site apartment at 73 Milltown will be provided in exchange for building superintendent and leasing duties, with additional compensation and/or arrangements reflective of the combined superintendent and maintenance manager responsibilities (to be discussed with shortlisted candidates).

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N.B. ready to deploy new Fire Boss aircraft

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

The province has unveiled several Fire Boss aircraft it purchased to help combat wildfires in New Brunswick.

“Amphibious aircraft were invaluable in helping us fight wildfires last summer, especially in some areas that were difficult to reach by land,” John Herron, the Natural Resources Minister, said in a release.

“As the risk of wildfires continues to grow, we must ensure our preparedness increases with it.”

A Fire Boss aircraft is a single-engine air tanker specialized in water scooping and can scoop more than 3,000 litres (800 gallons) in 15 seconds.

Fire Watch season began three weeks earlier than is typical in New Brunswick due to record-low precipitation. The Department of Natural Resources also made 74 seasonal forest ranger permanent full-time positions.

According to DNR, the aircraft are a partnership with Lincoln-based company Forest Protection Ltd.



Natural Resources Minister John Herron speaking to reporters about four new Fire Boss aircraft ready for deployment this wildfire season. PHOTO: GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK

“By integrating wheeled and amphibious Fire Boss aircraft, we strengthen support to ground crews in high-risk and hard-to-access areas,” FPL CEO Mike O’Blenis said. “Wheeled air tankers play a critical role in containing fires using retardant, foam or water, while Fire Boss aircraft help slow fire behaviour through rapid water delivery,

scooping and reloading in 20 to 30 seconds. A balanced, capable fleet is essential to ensuring we are prepared to respond effectively across the province.”

According to the Fire Watch dashboard, there have been 264 fires to date that have burned 409 hectares in total. Details about burning

conditions can also be found at the Fire Watch website.

Herron said New Brunswick will continue to assist other jurisdictions when it is necessary, noting the help the province received last year during its second largest wildfire season in the last decade was appreciated.

Town to move forward with public wharf consultation

By **NATHALIE STURGEON**
Editor in Chief, LJI

The Town of Saint Andrews will move forward with consultation on Market Wharf and Market Square following a presentation by Fundy Engineering.

The engineering firm presented a new plan to the town council before the election, which revealed more structural issues at the head of the wharf.

“Near the mud line, the piles are in very poor condition,” Gordon Mouland, with Fundy Engineering, said in March. “I didn’t expect it, and these need immediate structural repairs.”

He said this is work the council would need to undertake this year. Council agreed that work should move forward this fall — using some of the federal money already allocated to the town.

The work could begin in August, according to the town.

A previous consultation meeting was cancelled due to the death of acting mayor Kate Akagi in late April.

Chief Administrative Officer Chris Spear said the reconstruction and repairs to the approach of the wharf and Market Square would be in the second phase — or next year — noting that design takes time.

“So, in staff’s thinking it might be nice to have at least the initial public consultation ... the public should

have already had a taste because we made the Fundy Engineering report public — both on paper and online,” he said.

Spear said the most critical aspect of the consultation will be whether and how much infill is used — a point of serious contention with the previous design that would have stretched the infill one-third up the wharf.

Fundy Engineering, according to Acting Mayor Steve Neil, took the opposite approach to the previous design, where reducing the infill reduces the cost.

“At the same time, we’re talking about how much, if any, we’re going to infill Market Square to match,” Spear said. “The other component that’s changed since design drawings changed a year ago is we’re using redi-rock.

“Certainly the infill is not going out anywhere near as far ... now it is well before that,” he said. “The most extreme version is about 40 metres.”

He said the way for people to picture it would be to bring Market Square as far as the Day Adventure Centre side of the approach.

Council discussed the options, with most saying they wanted to move ahead with consulting the public.

The mid-summer consultation would also allow summer-only residents to participate, Spear told the council.

Both Spear and Neil said there was more openness on the part of the



St. Andrews Wharf. PHOTO: NATHALIE STURGEON / THE COURIER

federal government to change the scope — including not lifting the wharf or the square.

Coun. Lee Heenan said he was in favour of moving forward with consultation as soon as possible — to best prepare the incoming council who likely won’t sit until the end of July.

“I mean this is important, this is a public safety issue, I’d be in favour of getting it set up,” Heenan said.

Bayside Coun. Darrell Weare said he was also in favour of consultation, but said it would be best to include all options for the public’s perspective.

“I want to make sure we do at least have a preliminary decision as to whether the wharf is going to have a decline to it as it goes out,” he said. “My recollection is that received some negative feedback the last time.”

Coun. Marc Blanchard also said he wanted to make sure all options were

available to the public.

“If we’re going to public consultation, I feel like we should be going with a clear idea of what the designs would actually look like.”

Blanchard said the key element is whether the wharf and square will be lifted or not — and all options should be available. He said he would rather have full confirmation from the federal government that lifting the wharf is not needed.

“It confuses things,” he said. “I would rather know whether [the lifting] falls within the scope and then present designs based on that.”

Fundy Engineering, in partnership with the Town of Saint Andrews, is expected to bring forth some renderings and information to the public in the coming weeks.



Exhibitions

May 22 - June 27 Michel Beaucage & Anne Hill - *New Brunswick Vernacular*

May 22 - June 27 Monique Martin - *Slow Emergencies*

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July 10 - August 15 Emerging Local Artists

July 10 - August 15 Dan Xu & Raina Spalding - *Among Other Places*

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June 27 Hand's On - Bees Wax Food Wrap Workshop

June 28 Life Drawing

Courses

June 6 & 7 Colour Narratives - Oil Painting Workshop with Theresa MacKnight

June 7, 14 & 21 How it Started...How it's Going - Writing Workshop with Jonathan Sapers

June 13 & 14 Abstraction in the Natural World with Jay Isaac - Nature/Painting Workshop

June 19, 20 & 21 Self-Portrait Workshop with Stephen Hutchings

July 8, 15 & 22 Drawing 101 with Sophie McIlwaine

July 13 - 17 Artistic Growth Studio with Theresa MacKnight



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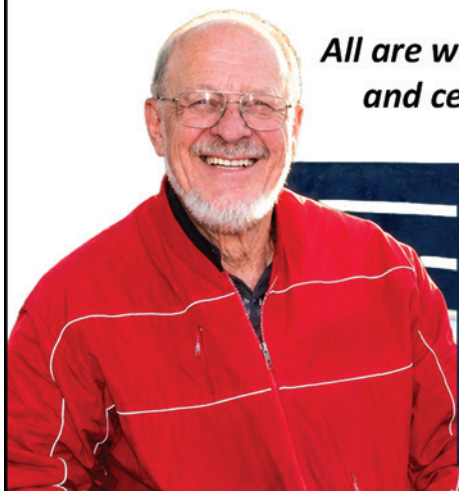
Bill Kulcher had been happily planning his 100th birthday party. With his usual humour, he admitted we should probably have it early, "just in case" he didn't make it.

He knew exactly what he wanted: a big backyard barbecue for all ages. Neighbours, children, friends from near and far, family, and everyone in the community whose lives he and his family had touched in so many ways since 1977.

Bill did not reach that milestone, but his family and friends will gather to celebrate his remarkable life. We will share memories, tell our favourite Bill stories, recognize the lasting impact he had on all of us and on our community, and enjoy a hot dog and hamburger BBQ with all the trimmings.

There will be chips, nuts, nibbles, plenty of ice-cold drinks, conversation, laughter, and picnic tables set up in the parking area, just like the summer parties hosted years ago.

All are welcome to come, remember Bill, and celebrate a life truly well lived.



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"Making life a little easier for those in need of assistance"

Living Here: Notes on everyday life in Charlotte County

By **BRITTANY LOCKING**
Community Contributor

There's something about June evenings in Charlotte County that makes it harder to go back inside.

Maybe it's the way the light lingers longer across the water, or how the day seems to soften once supper dishes are cleared away. People move differently this time of year. Walks happen later. Conversations stretch longer. Kids stay outside until the last traces of daylight disappear, and no one seems particularly eager to call them in.

After a long winter and a slow spring, June feels like a reward.

You begin to notice the small signs everywhere. Campfire smoke drifting through open windows. The sound of lawnmowers and screen doors somewhere in the distance. Neighbours pausing halfway through an evening walk to talk a little longer than they intended. The simple understanding that there's still plenty of daylight left, so there's no need to rush.

There's a softness to summer evenings here that feels difficult to explain until you've experienced it yourself. Time stretches differently. People linger longer. And for a few short months, life feels just a little less hurried than it does the rest of the year.

Maybe that's why so many people wait all year for June in Charlotte County.

Not because life suddenly slows down completely, but because people finally allow themselves to slow down with it.



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Letters to the Editor

A message for Kate

Thank you so much for the excellent coverage of Kate's funeral.

The recognition reported from many areas demonstrated the reach that Kate had on Charlotte County and beyond.

As a volunteer driver with Dial-a-Ride, and a resident of Saint Andrews, I have the opportunity to drive members from the community to their appointments. In the 2 weeks after Kate's passing, I was overwhelmed daily by the members who seemed to feel an urgency in sharing their experiences with Kate. What was not surprising was all the acts of kindness they shared. There were many examples of small and large expressions of the kindness she showed daily to others. It was no surprise that tears were shed. Dial-a-Ride is feeling the impact.

I want to share one particular memory coming from a young pre-schooler named Olivia. Out of nowhere, Olivia

announced, "Kate is sleeping now; Kate is having a long sleep." I said, yes, she was very tired and needed a sleep. Olivia said, "I miss Kate's cookies. They were so good".

Out of the mouth of babes!

Rest easy Kate and don't worry. I gave Gickles and Sweetcheeks carrots in your name on Monday night.

Patricia McNeil
Saint Andrews, NB



A message from the Akagi family

The Akagi family would like to extend a sincere thank you for all those who have helped and supported us through this incredibly difficult

time on the painful and unexpected death of our dear sister Kate Akagi.

We are grateful to the members of the Peskotomuhkati family, and to Charlie Nicholas of the Toique First Nation and to Constance Sewell of the Pabineau First Nation who shared with us their memories of our sister and led us in the smudging ceremony at Indian Point prior to the funeral.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in the service and made it a meaningful remembrance.

Thank you also to everyone from All Saints Church, St. Andrews Catholic Church, and Wesley United Church for all their combined help at the funeral and the reception that followed.

We are truly grateful to the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal dignitaries, and the first responders, for their presence and support at the funeral.

Finally, our thank you to Mehan's and CHCO for making the service accessible to people outside of our town.

Our sister gave so much of her life to make our town a better place, it was genuinely heartwarming to see the town turn out to say goodbye, and to say thank you. We are grateful. May she rest in peace.

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OP-ED How to unblock American tourism in Southwest NB

By JOSEPH GOUGH
Friars Bay Development Assoc.

A nearly-completed project in southwest New Brunswick could help solve the province's biggest tourism problem: the shortage of American visitors.

Tourists are practically overrunning neighboring Maine. Just by itself, Acadia National Park gets 4 million visitors – more than all New Brunswick attracts from everywhere outside the province.

Visitors flock to Maine's coastal areas, and that beautiful geography continues along our Fundy coast. But the tourist migration mostly stalls at the Canadian border. Why?

It's not distance. Our province gets many more visitors from far-off Ontario than from tourist-rich Maine next door to us.

So what's discouraging the Americans? Let's take a closer look at the border.

From the U.S. eastern seaboard, Canada's closest entry port is Campobello Island – nearer to Bar Harbor/Acadia National Park than Moncton is to Fredericton.

In fact, the Roosevelt Campobello International Park already attracts more than 260,000 visitors – mostly American. That's a big number, second only to Fundy National Park and Hopewell Rocks, mostly Canadian.

The Campobello visitors from the U.S. could bring millions more

dollars to our mainland. But those potential spenders mostly cross right back over the border bridge and disappear into Maine. You can imagine what's on their minds if you picture the map.

From Campobello, to get back to scenic salt water at St. Andrews, N.B., they'd need to circle Passamaquoddy Bay for an hour and a half, too often through drab woods, while going through Customs twice.

Instead, most treat Campobello as a dead end, and head back into expensive and often overcrowded Maine. The island and the province lose potential revenue.

Looking again at our mental map, we see that Campobello Island reaches partway across the mouth of Passamaquoddy Bay. Now let's imagine a good-sized car ferry running from the island to the N.B. mainland.

Thousands more Americans could linger longer on Campobello and then take a scenic car-ferry sail, past whale-rippled waters and famed Head Harbour lighthouse, to St. Andrews, Black's Harbour, or another mainland port. From there they'd fan out to shops, restaurants, and galleries in St. Stephen and Saint John, or maybe the delights of blueberry pie at Pennfield. We have good things all over.

The water shortcut would shrink distances. Campobello to St. Andrews is about 73 miles by road, but only 14 by boat. To Blacks Harbour, it's 12-13 by boat compared



Stars and stripes welcome American tourists. PHOTO: CINDY KOHLER

with roughly 90 by car.

A mainland ferry could multiply tourist spending. And Campobello islanders would gain a secure connection to their own country, rather than having to drive 50 miles through the U.S. to reach St. Stephen and another 50 going back, while clearing Customs four times.

That's the vehicle picture. What about boats and vessels?

Maine makes fortunes from marine tourism. That's obvious when you visit towns like Camden, Rockland, and Bar Harbor. And there's a big new cruise-ship destination – Eastport, Maine, just a nautical mile across from Campobello.

Down East visits are spiking because of the natural appeal, the overcrowding at other Maine destinations including Bar Harbor,

and the growing popularity of small-ship adventure tourism supplementing the big-vessel trade.

In this case, Southwest New Brunswick is almost ready to cash in.

That's because a volunteer organization on Campobello has nearly completed a project – Welshpool Landing – that can make the island a destination and a gateway for cruise-ship, windjammer, and private-boat tourism. It just needs the finishing push.

A decade back, the local Friars Bay Development Association saw the regional possibilities for marine tourism. What was needed was a welcoming port right on the border. And lo and behold, the basic infrastructure already existed on Campobello. So did the tourist appeal.

Reading Between the Listings

Why One Home Sells Quickly, While Another Takes Time



Brittany Locking

If you've followed the local real estate market long enough, you've probably seen it happen.

Two homes hit the market around the same time. Both are well cared for. Both are priced within a reasonable range. Yet one seems to sell almost immediately, while the other lingers quietly for weeks or even months.

From the outside, it can feel difficult to understand.

Naturally, people begin comparing. Was one priced better? More updated? Better marketed?

Sometimes, yes. But in Charlotte County, the answer is often more nuanced than that.

Unlike larger markets where buyers may focus primarily on square footage or commute times, many people purchasing in our area are searching for something more personal. Lifestyle plays a significant role in how buyers make decisions here, especially during the spring and summer months when more visitors begin exploring our communities.

For some buyers, it's about finding a property near the water. For others, it's about walkability, privacy, a seasonal cottage, or simply a slower pace of life. Two homes that may appear similar on paper can attract very different levels of interest depending on who happens to be looking at that moment.

And timing matters more than most people realize.

A property that feels quiet in early spring may suddenly gain momentum

once summer visitors arrive and begin seriously considering a move. In many cases, buyers spend weeks — sometimes months — watching listings before making a decision. They revisit properties online, follow price changes, and wait until something feels right.

That's why a home sitting on the market isn't always telling the story people assume it is.

In Charlotte County, real estate often moves at the pace of lifestyle decisions rather than urgency. A buyer relocating from another province, planning for retirement, or searching for a seasonal property typically approaches the process very differently than someone navigating a fast-paced urban market.

For sellers, this can be both reassuring and important to understand.

A quicker sale doesn't automatically mean one home is "better" than another. Sometimes it simply means the right buyer arrived at the right time. Likewise, a longer time on market doesn't necessarily signal failure, particularly in a region shaped by tourism, seasonal movement, and highly specific buyer preferences.

As summer activity continues to build across Charlotte County, more buyers will begin turning their attention toward the area. Some homes will move quickly. Others may simply need a little more time for the right connection to happen.

And in a market like ours, that connection often matters more than speed.

Because sometimes, reading between the listings means recognizing that real estate isn't always about finding any buyer — it's about finding the right one.

Brittany Locking is a licensed REALTOR® with Fundy Bay Real Estate Group Inc.



Do tougher sentences improve outcomes for elder abuse victims?



Heather Campbell Pope

Thirteen years ago, the federal government amended the Criminal Code to impose a statutory duty on judges aimed at ensuring sentences for crimes against older adults reflect the significant impact these offences have on their lives.

"Our government has a responsibility to protect elderly Canadians and to ensure that crimes against them are punished appropriately," the justice minister said at the time. "This legislation will help ensure tough sentences for those who take advantage of vulnerable members of our society."

When weighing aggravating factors at sentencing, which are circumstances that can justify a more severe sentence, the provision requires courts to consider evidence that the offence had a significant impact on the victim due to their age and other personal circumstances, including their health and financial situation.

Before the amendment, courts already considered a victim's advanced age and vulnerabilities like dementia as aggravating circumstances. Given that, critics suggested that formally codifying age and related personal circumstances was less about driving real change in sentencing and more about government wanting to be seen doing something about elder abuse. As one opposition MP said during parliamentary debate, "Bill C-36, the Protecting Canada's Seniors Act, sounds good and has a great title but delivers very little."

Over a decade later, what impact has this provision had in practice?

A recent case offers one example of how it is being applied.

In March, a Newfoundland and Labrador judge imposed a four-

year conditional sentence on a "grandparent scam" offender who had been facing a global sentence of 24 years in prison for his crimes against 16 victims aged 70 to 88. Allowing the sentence to be served in the community, the court also gave offender, who was in his 20s and had no prior criminal record, four years to repay about \$70,000 to the victims.

The judge considered a number of aggravating factors, including that the offence had a significant impact on the victims given their age, health, and financial situation. "Fraud schemes perpetrated against the elderly are despicable criminal actions and amount to an abuse of seniors," the judge said, noting that fraud is the number one crime against older Canadians. "Given this context and the social value in preventing frauds targeting seniors, the principles of denunciation and deterrence take especial importance in the present sentencing exercise."

Yet the outcome also turned on a number of mitigating factors that pulled in the opposite direction, resulting in a more lenient sentence.

If the offender had been incarcerated, he would have been unable to work, delaying the start of restitution. Given his financial circumstances, a community-based sentence was viewed as the most viable way for him to repay the victims.

As World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 approaches, the case invites reflection on whether harsher sentences necessarily produce better outcomes for victims, particularly when restitution depends on an offender's ability to earn income. The instinct to favour lengthy imprisonment may not always serve older victims of crime, nor allow offenders, particularly young people with no prior criminal record, an opportunity to make amends.

Heather Campbell Pope is founder of Dementia Justice Canada and writes on legal issues affecting older adults.

Pennfield Ridge Air Station: The school that never existed

By **CHRISTIAN LARSEN**

Guest Contributor

The period between May 18, 1942 and August 31, 1942 was a complex and confusing time for the Pennfield Ridge Air Station (PRAS) – No. 2 Air Navigation School (ANS) ceased operations May 30th; No. 34 Operational Training Unit (OTU) moved here on a “temporary” basis from Yarmouth, NS between May 18th and May 27th and No. 2 Operational Training Unit was to commence formation effective July 6th. Personnel began arriving in Pennfield Ridge as early as June 22nd – but No. 2 OTU never came to fruition. A phone call was received on July 18th “...advising suspension of the formation of No. 2 OTU...” owing to the unexpected delays in the delivery of aircraft.

No. 34 OTU was expected to return to Yarmouth in September 1942 so until then No. 2 OTU’s personnel were not to exceed 50 officers, 100 Senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCO’s) and 700 Other Ranks (OR).

By June 30th the strength of the unit stood at 236 and when the first Daily Routine Orders (DROs) were published on July 7th, the numbers “...increased by the addition of 5 officers, 2 nursing sisters and 128 airmen, all Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) who had been attached to No. 34 OTU upon the disbanding of No. 2 Air Navigation School.” By July 19th, one day after the suspension of the formation of No. 2 OTU, the strength had reached 905.

As the cooks and security guards were the only airmen for whom employment could be found, it was necessary to plan and carry out a programme of daily drilling, route marches, games, etc., to keep the airmen occupied. Also, it was necessary to accommodate over 400 airmen in the Drill Hall; as well, additional sanitary buildings were constructed east of the Drill Hall.

Posting out of airmen commenced on July 29th and concluded on August 19th. The delay in postings caused an “...adverse effect on interest and morale caused by the continued unemployment”. Additionally, the “...posting of eleven airmen was delayed for a few days owing to their lack of funds to provide transportation for the wives and families brought with them on posting”.

A few of those airmen:

1. Sgt. William John Anderson DUNNING (R/65243) (Armourer) – posted 11 August 1942 to RCAF Station, Sydney, NS where he was subsequently killed 15 February 1945 (age 29) in an explosion in No. 4 Hanger at 0910 hours.

2. Sgt. Edward John BALLINGER, Mentioned In Despatches (MiD)* (R/78308) (Cook) who left us in May 2009 (age 95).

*”MiD” – a military honour awarded to subordinate personnel for gallant



Royal Canadian Air Force Station Pennfield. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

or meritorious service in action.

A baker before the war, Ballinger enlisted as a cook, serving at No. 8 Service Flying Training Schools (SFTS), Moncton 15 January 1941 to 08 May 1942, promoted Corporal, 03 June 1942; then to No. 2 OTU, Pennfield Ridge 25 June to 25 July 1942, No. 1 OTU, Bagotville 26 July to 01 September 1942 and then posted overseas, arriving in Britain on 09 October 1942. Posted to No. 425 Squadron, 26 October 1942.

Posted to Station Dunsfold, 12 January 1943; attended RAF School of Cookery, 27 January 1943; then to No 129 Airfield, 10 July 1943 (reclassified as chef, 01 July 1943); to France, 25 June 1944; to No.406 Air Stores Park, 28 July 1944 to 19 December 1945; embarked from Ostend, 20 December 1945 for UK; repatriated to Canada, 15 February 1946; released 5 March 1946.

His MiD “for gallant or meritorious service in action” was effective 01 January 1946 as per the London Gazette of that date. Sadly, there was no citation cited for this award.

3. Cpl. George Robert EBBS (R/67132) (Instrument Maker) – one of the 134 airmen posted to Bagotville, QC 21 July 1942 where he succumbed to spinal meningitis 12 September 1942.

4. Sgt. Peter Edward GALGAN (R/128183) (Armourer) – posted to Mont Joli, QC; Uplands, ON; Mountain View, ON; and finally Dafoe, SK 03 February 1943. Killed as a result of an aircraft accident 26 November 1943, 8 miles north of Leroy, SK, on a routine training flight.

5. Theodore Michael (Ted) HATTY (Leading Aircraftman) (LAC) (R/126282) who left us 18 February 2014, just two days after his 94th birthday.

6. John Bruce McGOVERN (Warrant Officer) (W/O) (R/105460) (Standard Duty Guard) enlisted in the RCAF 03 June 1941. Posted to No. 2 ANS, Pennfield Ridge 22 July 1941 to 27 May 1942; No. 34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge 28 May 1942 to 06 July 1942; and No. 2 OTU, Pennfield Ridge 07 July 1942 to 20 July 1942;

No. 34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge 20 July 194 to 07 November 1942.

Remustered to Air Crew and trained as an Air Gunner (AG) at Mont Joli, PQ where he was awarded his AG Badge 05 February 1943. Then posted to No. 34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge 20 February 1943 15 May 1943 as part of Course No. 8 (AG). On 22 March 1943 was moved to Course No.9 (AG). Eventually posted to 196 Royal Air Force (RAF) Squadron.

Killed 21 February 1945 when Stirling LK 126* was shot down by a Ju88* over Shepherd’s Grove, UK.

*The Stirling was the first four-engined bomber operated by the RAF in World War II.

*The Junkers Ju 88 was a twin-engined multirole combat aircraft designed and produced by the German aircraft manufacturer Junkers Aircraft and Motor Works.

7. S/L Herbert John Campbell RUSSELL (C/9370) (Flight Engineer) who took his final flight 30 September 2011.

Educated in St. John’s and in England, following university graduation as

an aeronautical engineer, Mr. Russell joined the Royal Air Force at the beginning of World War II. A proud Canadian, he subsequently returned home to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. Following his distinguished wartime service, Mr. Russell joined the Industrial Development Bank and retired as a senior executive officer from its successor, the Federal Business Development Bank.

So “The School That Never Existed” remains as a footnote in the history books of the Pennfield Ridge Air Station and a fleeting memory in the minds of those who served here.

postscript: An example of another airman who trained at PRAS was Flight Lieutenant (F/L) Jack Mills ANGUISH (J/8435), MiD who became a Flying Control Officer (FCO) after being grounded from aircrew for medical reasons. His citation reads, “While not robust physically, this officer has never spared himself and has been outstanding in his devotion to duty. Flight Lieutenant Anguish has done especially good work over the past year in training new control officers and in helping other ranks in Flying

Continued on Page 19

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POLLY MORIN

It is with broken hearts, the family of Polly Morin announce her unexpected passing on Sunday April 26, 2026.

Polly is survived by her two children; Dr. Jason Morin (Theresa) and daughter; Sherry Morin-Duffie, step-granddaughters; Emma, Abby and Ella, two sisters; Nancy Peters of Rochester, NY and Judith McKernan of Waterville, Maine, several nieces, nephews and other extended family.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband; Joe and her brother; Steve Files.

In keeping with Polly's wishes, there will be no visitation. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



BRIAN HAYNES

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Brian Haynes on May 20, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Brian is lovingly remembered by his partner, Charlotte Chamberlain; his children Kelly (Robert), Vernon (Natiana), Beth Ann (Ben), BJ "Brian Jr." (Cassandra), and Chris; his cherished grandchildren Charlie, Rylee, Summer, Skylar, Anthony, Chandler, Salem, and Eric; and his loyal dog Hercules, who will miss him greatly.

He is also survived by his nephews Adam and Arnie Jr.; his sister and brother-in-law Ann and Jeff LaFrance; Jean and Chris Urquhart; and Darlene Garnett, along with many extended family members and friends whose lives he touched over the years.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no funeral service or visitation held.



HARRY LEE JR.

It is with deep sadness that the family of Harry Lee Jr. announce his sudden passing at the Charlotte County Hospital, St. Stephen, N.B. after a brief stay.

Harry is lovingly remembered by his daughter, Jodi (Matt), who he was so proud of, along with his grandchildren, Kora, Eden, Rhiley, Haven and Shelbi, sisters, Jeannie (Steve), Janice (Bob) and Joan and sister-in-law, Jeanne. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and lifelong friend, Francis Bertin.

He was predeceased by his father, Harry Sr., mother, Barbara, brother, Kenneth, brothers-in-law, Hazen, Donald and Ally, nephew, Jesse.

There will be no funeral service or visitation held. Interment will take place at St. Stephen Rural Cemetery at a later date.



MARINA M. CLEGHORN

It is with great sadness that the family announce the passing of Marina M. Cleghorn on Sunday May 3, 2026, at the Charlotte County Hospital St. Stephen, NB, with her family by her side.

She is survived by her children; Lynn (Linda) Cleghorn, Debra (Andy) Scullin, Robbie Cleghorn and Gail (Peter) Boucher, grandchildren; Justin (Casey), Eric, Elaina, Joseph, Cody (Kelsey) and Mitchell (Rebecca), great-grandchildren; Madsen, Harper, Keyan, Kamryn and Riley, sister-in-law; Connie Cleghorn, several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to her parents, Marina was predeceased by her loving husband of 69 years; Gerald Cleghorn and her first born son; Dale Cleghorn.

Funeral Service and visitation were held May 6, 2026



GUY E. NASON

The family are saddened to announce the peaceful passing of Guy E. Nason on Saturday May 9, 2026, at the Dr Everett Chambers Regional Hospital Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Survived by his children; Glen (Heather Thompson) and Donna Nason (Pat Goodine), grandchildren; Sherri (Orlando Coronado) their children; Mateo and Noah, Lori Nason (Edward Gillard), their son; Luke, Julie (Alen), their daughters; Sophia and Amelia, Heidi (Wade), their children; Hazel, Kenneth, his children; Ryan and Megan, Toby and his children; Dane, Alexa and Mila, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside service will be at the Rockland Cemetery McAdam, NB, time and date will be announced.



WANDA D. HUBER

It is with great sadness that the family announce the passing of Wanda D. Huber (Cline) on Saturday May 9, 2026, at home in St Stephen NB, with her family by her side.

She is survived by her children; Randy (Kim), Cody (Colleen) and Wade (Tina), her grandchildren; Paige (Derek) Patles, Shane, Shannon, Ryan, Jerad (Alyssa) and Katie, great-grandchildren; Ashlynn, Eleanor and Ivy, nieces and nephews; Shirley, Cathy, Bobby Dale, Cora, Scotty, Marie, Carla, Nicky, Mary, Clayton, Tony, Denise and Christina, cousins and friends.

Funeral service and visitation were held on May 30.

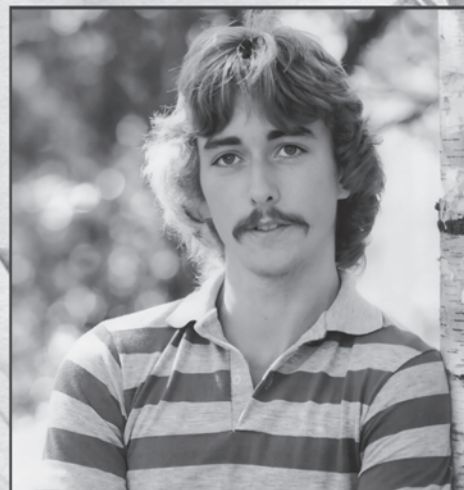


BETTY J. ARSENEAU

Peacefully at Lincourt Manor on Thursday, May 7, 2026, Betty J. Arseneau, wife of the late Orville J. Arseneau, passed away with her family by her side. Born in Calais, Me., she was the daughter of the late Arthur Lawrence and Gertrude (White) Barnard.

She is survived by one daughter, Catherine Hogge (Randall), grandchildren, Olivia, Daniel and Bayleigh, sister, Sharon Doten, of Calais, Me., brother, Gary Barnard, of Little Ridge, NB, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A graveside service was held on May 12, 2026.



DONALD R. LISTER

It is with heavy hearts, the family announce the unexpected passing of Donald "Borf" "Donnie" R. Lister on Monday May 11, 2026, at the Charlotte County Hospital St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

Born in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, 1967, son of Gary and Betty Lister.

In addition to his parents, Borf is survived by his son; Dillon Lister (Abigail Munn), brother; Robert Lister (Vanessa Estabrooks), sister; Debbie Smearer (Lonie), nephew; Conner, niece; Grace, a very special friend; Peter Vanstone, fur babies; Nightshade, Ivy and Ace.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no service or visitation.



SUSAN FLEMING

It is with profound sadness that the family of Susan Fleming (MacMillan), announces her peaceful passing on Tuesday April 28, 2026, at the age of 73, at the Charlotte County Hospital, St Stephen, New Brunswick.

Susan is lovingly remembered and deeply missed by her devoted husband of 53 years; Mark Fleming, her sons; Sean (Melinda), Corey (Jennifer) and Jamie (Dayle) and her cherished grandchildren; Claire, Maxwell, Quinn, Luna, Bryson and Matthew, who brought endless joy to her life. She is also mourned by her siblings; James MacMillan, Nancy MacLeod, Neil MacMillan, David MacMillan (Terry) and Gerald MacMillan; as well as her many brothers- and sisters-in-law; Ronald Fleming, James Fleming (Judy), Douglas Fleming (Peggy), Danny Fleming (Carley), Robert Fleming, Kenneth Fleming (Nancy), Margaret Howlett (Douglas), Colleen Bussey (Dave) and Tony Fleming (Lydia).

She was predeceased by her parents; James "Bud" and Eleanor MacMillan and her in-laws; Jack and Mary Fleming.

Funeral Mass was celebrated May 6, 2026.



ERIC A. BOON

The world became a little less bright on Monday May 25, 2026, with the passing of Eric A. Boon, McAdam, New Brunswick.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years; Marlene, children; Daniel (Tammy), Dale and Tammy (Calvin). His legacy also lives on through his beloved grandchildren; Natasha (Ryan), Dawson (Laura), Breena (Mitchel), Justin, Jared (Chantal), Janelle, Jewel and Jennifer (Neil), great-grandchildren; Isabella, Theo and Emery, his brother; Raye (Marilyn), along with many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held May 28, 2026.



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Patrick (Pat) George Mann
1949 - 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Patrick "Pat" George Mann on May 7, 2026, in Saint Andrews, NB

Born on August 5, 1949, in Montreal, Pat lived a life centered around family, community, friendship, and service. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 42 years, Elizabeth Anne Ireland Mann, with whom he shared a deep love of the sea and the life they built together in Saint Andrews-by-the-Sea. The two were often seen riding together in their motorcycle sidecar during local parades, bringing smiles wherever they went.

Pat was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Rosemary (Kidd) Mann.

He will be lovingly remembered by his sons, Paul Ireland (Shanna) and Paddy Ireland; his siblings Katherine "Muffin" (Chris), Keren (late Alan), and Craig (Nancy); as well as many nieces and nephews and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

A true fixture in the Town of Mount Royal community, Pat devoted countless hours to coaching, refereeing, supervising sports programs, and volunteering. He also worked as the Recreation Director of Montreal West, where he made a lasting impact on generations of families and young athletes.

Pat had many passions throughout his life, including motorcycles, trains, photography, and time spent with friends. After moving east with Lizzie, following their shared love of the ocean, he continued his commitment to community service as a town councilor in Saint Andrews-by-the-Sea. He quickly formed many close friendships and became well known for his regular coffee outings and welcoming nature.

Pat will be remembered for his kindness, humour, captivating storytelling, generosity, and unwavering dedication to the people and communities he loved. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

In keeping with Patrick's wishes there will be no visiting or funeral service.



Brenda Jane Harrison
Dec 27, 1952 - Mar 16, 2026

Brenda died peacefully on April 2, 2026, from complications of breast cancer. Given the fit of the last seven years with her loved ones, she constantly praised the medical staff at the BC Cancer Centre (Vancouver) and at Vancouver General Hospital.

Born to Muriel "Betty" and Keith Thompson, Brenda was raised in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, largely by two great-aunts, Aggie and Win. Brenda later settled in Vancouver, B.C.

Brenda is survived by her partner Paul, children Julia (Toby) and Teddy (Maria), sister Bev (Roy), brothers Russ and Dan; grandchildren Sebastian, Sophie, Amelia, Nikanor and Percival; nieces and nephews, maternal aunts and uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of Brenda's life is planned for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 10:00 am, at St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church, 1490 Nanton Ave, Vancouver, B.C.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Brenda's memory to the BC Cancer Foundation (www.bccancerfoundation.com) or Médecins sans Frontières Canada (www.action.msf.ca).

**PENNFIELD RIDGE AIR STATION:
THE SCHOOL THAT NEVER EXISTED**

Continued from Page 17

Control in their studies to attain higher groupings in their trade. Altogether an outstanding officer and man."

There were 73 airmen who passed through PRAS who were awarded the MiD – 60 Canadians, 12 British and 1 Australian. One was awarded it twice and another three times. This further attests to the high calibre of Canadians in service at Pennfield Ridge.

The senior Canadian officer involved in active operations may recommend that subordinate individuals receive public recognition for valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service by formally mentioning them in dispatches. If approved, public recognition is granted by the award of a MiD insignia and the publication of appropriate details in the Canada Gazette. A recipient of a mention in a dispatch is entitled to wear an emblem in the form of an oak leaf on the ribbon of the relevant campaign medal. They are also issued with an official certificate from the Ministry of Defence.

Christian Larsen currently serves as President of Pennfield Parish Military Historical Society. He has been actively involved in researching the genealogical & military history of Pennfield Parish for nearly four decades. From 2009 until 2017 he hosted the annual Pennfield Ridge War Memorial Services. Recognized at the provincial & federal levels for his work with Veterans having been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012); Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (2023); Minister of Veteran Affairs Commendation (2024) & King Charles III's Coronation Medal (2025).

He can be reached at:
ppmhsociety@gmail.com

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EDITORIAL: Then & Now

The role of the Board of Directors for CHCO-TV/The Courier



Behind the scenes at the CHCO-TV studio. PHOTO: JEFF LIVELY, CHCO-TV

When the prospect of a community television channel was taking shape in Saint Andrews in the early 1990s, a decision was made to canvass town citizens as to their interest in adding local television to the community. The response was overwhelmingly yes. A group of about a dozen people from this informal survey were asked if they would be willing to help out in any way to get the ball rolling. Every person signed on immediately. In a way, this group became an unofficial board of directors, each having areas of expertise, and for some, the willingness to roll up their sleeves for the work projects that soon got underway.

In those early days with the help of Bill Stanley's Fundy Cable, the newly incorporated St Andrews Community Channel, Cable 4 and later Cable 10, embarked on a journey that has led to where we stand today – a licensed broadcast television station and a revived Saint Croix Courier, now combined as CHCO-TV/The Courier.

The NB Provincial Museum in Saint John contacted our staff to offer their support in storing any archived Courier newspapers in their climate controlled vaults. This led to a transfer of a truckload (literally) of papers to the museum storage facilities.

While a lot of the attention on the progress made over the last many

years is often given to those “in front of the camera” or in more recent times “in the newspaper”, and in many instances to the work of volunteers, it can be easy not to recognize the work that goes on behind the scenes – the dedication of a board of directors, quietly holding regular meetings to discuss the best ways forward for the organization, and today that means taking all of southwestern New Brunswick into consideration.

The official board listed with the CRTC at the time of licence application in 2005 was comprised of these people:

William Joseph Cooney, Brian Robert Dickson, Mary Lee Dowling (née Saulnier), Brenda Joan MacLean (née Fulford), Christopher Brooks Gordon, Anne Edwina Luken (née Kennington), Gail Karen McLaughlin, Johannes Hendrinus Plomp (“Rinie”), David Bradford Welch

Chris Gordon had the distinction of being the board chair, followed by a number of others over the years. One of the “hands on” chairs was Moe Cross who lent his talent (and workshop) in building a variety of items for our studios, while another chair, Chris Flemming, a former mayor of St Andrews and co-founder of St Andrews Community Channel, brought his computer expertise and

penchant for well-run meetings to the fore.

Suffice it to say that the success of CHCO-TV/The Courier is due to the hard work of everyone involved, but the directional force behind it all comes from the good guidance of a well placed Board. There have been several boards over the years. Our present one consists of these members:

Ken MacTavish (chair), Phyl Breuer, Jay Remer, Douglas Noddin, James Steel, Carolan Lesaux, Marianne Clift, Brian Dickson (Member at-large)

They not only look after the television component, but also over the last two years this board went out on a limb to rescue our local paper and put it back in the hands of our communities. The board thanks all our advertisers, the Local Journalism Initiative fund (LJI), staff and volunteers who together keep the ball rolling at a time when the 30+ local community television stations in the province have been reduced to only a few, and local newspapers across Canada, and everywhere, are disappearing all too frequently.

Brian Dickson, Co-Founder of St Andrews Community Channel

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The Etiquette Guy AT LARGE

Civility in the workplace



Jay Remer

Respectful behavior at work is crucial for many reasons, impacting both individuals and the organization's overall success. Here are some main reasons why maintaining a civil workplace is important.

Boosts Productivity and Performance

Enhances Collaboration: Civil behavior creates a cooperative environment where employees feel comfortable sharing ideas and working together, leading to increased creativity and improved problem-solving.

Decreases conflicts: A civil workplace reduces interpersonal conflicts, which can otherwise drain time and energy and distract employees from their tasks.

Raises Employee Morale and Job Satisfaction

Positive Work Environment: Civility promotes a respectful and encouraging workplace, increasing employee morale and job satisfaction. When employees feel respected, they are more likely to stay engaged and committed to their work.

Lower Stress Levels: A respectful workplace helps decrease stress and anxiety, promoting better mental health and overall well-being for employees.

Reduces Turnover and Absenteeism

Employee Retention: Employees are more likely to stay with an organization where they feel respected and appreciated. High civility levels can reduce turnover, saving the organization significant costs associated with hiring and training new staff.

Attendance: A respectful and supportive work environment can also reduce absenteeism, as employees are less likely to take time off due to stress-related issues.

Enhances Reputation and Attracts Talent

Employer Branding: Organizations recognized for their respectful and inclusive work environment are more appealing to potential employees. This positive reputation helps attract top talent.

Customer Relations: Being polite at



work usually involves interactions with clients and customers, which boosts customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Promotes Ethical Behavior and Compliance

Ethical Standards: A respectful workplace promotes adherence to ethical standards and reduces the chance of misconduct. Employees in such environments are more likely to act with integrity.

Legal Compliance: Civility can also help organizations prevent legal issues related to harassment, discrimination, and other workplace misconduct.

Promotes Innovation and Flexibility

Open Communication: Civil workplaces foster open and respectful communication, which is essential for innovation. Employees are more likely to share new ideas and constructive feedback when they feel their contributions are appreciated.

Adaptability: In a professional environment, employees are more willing to embrace change and face new challenges, confident they will receive support and respect throughout the process.

Conclusion

Civility in the workplace is crucial for building a successful, productive, and positive organizational culture. It improves collaboration, reduces conflicts, boosts morale, helps retain talent, and encourages ethical behavior, ultimately supporting the organization's overall success and long-term sustainability.

Jay Remer was raised in the United States and emigrated to Canada roughly 30 years ago. Since then, I have been involved in the writers' community and the hospitality industry. I live in Saint Andrews, NB, and look forward to the day when healthy, civil debates bear more compassionate outcomes.

Please feel free to send your questions: jayremer@chco.tv

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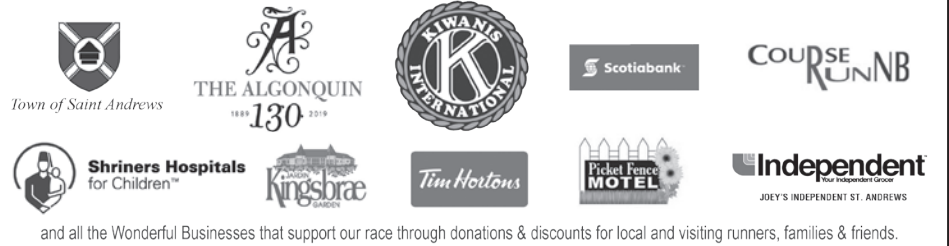
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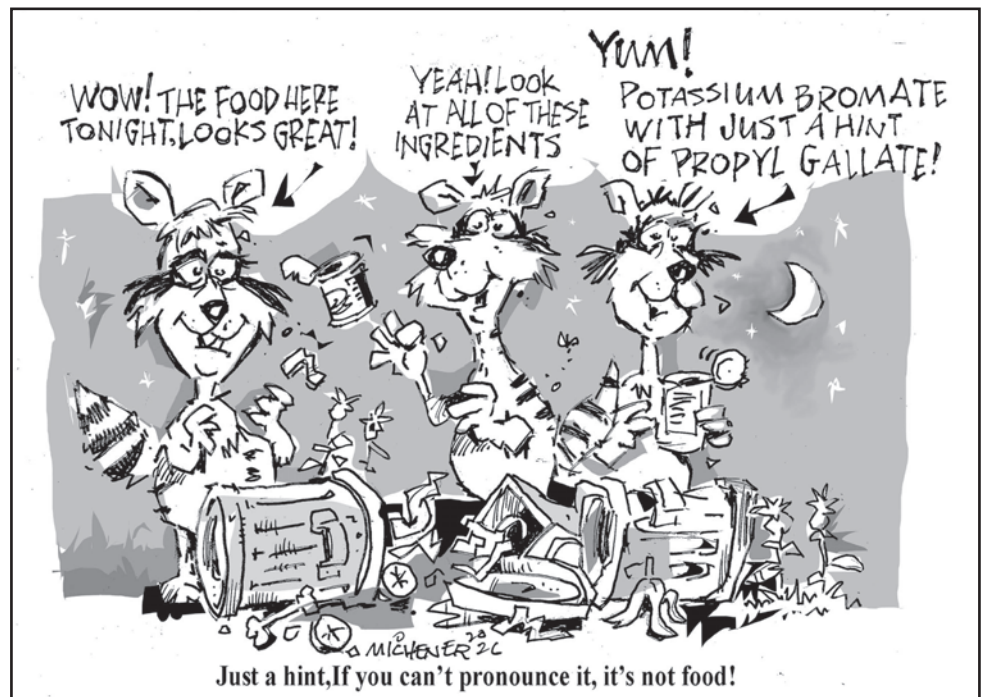


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For the Love of Maud

The 6 Frisbee Philosophy

By **VICKI HOGARTH**
Reporter, The Courier

When Maud was young, she possessed the sort of energy usually reserved for toddlers after birthday cake or people who insist they “don’t drink coffee” while downing Red Bull like life support.

Every morning she woke up fully charged while my husband Patrick and I were still negotiating consciousness and wondering whether adulthood was supposed to feel this relentlessly early.

I love walking. I’m one of those people with a daily step goal on my iPhone that I proudly show friends like it’s the equivalent of a clean bill of health — proof that I’m thriving.

10,000 steps? Easy. For young Maud, however, that was merely the warmup before the actual Olympic event.

Walks with her were less peaceful stroll and more like an out-of-control dog sled team. At the sight of a squirrel, she’d lunge with such excitement that I was routinely dragged into ditches, across strangers’ lawns, and once, I believe, into a family barbecue that hadn’t been planned for additional guests.

No matter how far we walked, Maud still radiated the pent-up energy of someone who had recently tunneled out of prison using only determination and a spoon. I wasn’t sure if she needed more exercise or an exorcism.

So I decided we’d try fetch.

I had seen other dog owners enjoying wholesome park experiences with obedient retrievers. The dogs would chase the ball, return the ball, and sit patiently awaiting the next throw. How civilized.

So we began with a tennis ball. Maud understood the assignment

immediately and then chose to reinterpret it.

“I’m only a half golden retriever,” her expression seemed to say. “The poodle side has concerns.”

To her credit, she retrieved the ball beautifully. She soared through the air like Simone Biles. That’s when fetch transformed into a post-heist police chase.

She’d stand 20 feet away staring at me with the detached confidence of a seasoned criminal.

You want this back? Interesting. Let’s discuss terms.

The tennis ball itself became secondary to the larger event, which was apparently called Watch Your Middle-Aged Parents Publicly Display Their Lack of Authority While Pulling a Hamstring.

When I finally gave up from exhaustion, she’d collapse into the grass and slowly dismantle the tennis ball with the concentration of a surgeon and the emotional detachment of a mob enforcer. First the yellow fuzz. Then the seams. Then the tiny rubber organs inside.

So we got her a frisbee.

Not just any frisbee — an indestructible frisbee recommended by Gail Smith at the Crocker Hill Store in Saint Andrews. It couldn’t be shredded. More importantly, it was large enough to theoretically pull from her mouth.

At last, I thought, I’d outsmarted her.

Maud took to the frisbee instantly. I threw it with everything I had. She hurled herself through the air with shocking skill and terrifying commitment, twisting midair like she was the Rob Gronkowski to my Tom Brady.

The only issue was she still refused to give it back.



By the next day, I had talked myself into believing that two frisbees might succeed where human reasoning had not.

“With a second frisbee,” I told Patrick, “she’ll have to drop one to get the other.”

I threw Frisbee Number One. Perfect catch. Then I dramatically launched Frisbee Number Two across the yard.

Maud instantly responded, sprinting toward it with the first frisbee still in her mouth. Instead of dropping Frisbee One, she waited for Frisbee Two to land on the ground. Then she placed Frisbee One directly on top of it like she was stacking serving platters at a banquet hall, and picked up both.

Rather than accepting defeat, I escalated. Back to Crocker Hill I went. Then back again. Soon we were up to five frisbees, which appeared to represent the upper limits of canine mouth engineering.

“She can’t possibly carry six,” I told Patrick.

At this point, the situation no longer resembled pet ownership so much as a deeply personal competition I was losing to someone who still occasionally chased her own tail.

So naturally, I added one more.

Maud struggled briefly with the geometry of it all, using her paws to compress the stack with the concentration of someone trying to close an overstuffed suitcase at the airport.

And then, somehow, she got her mouth around all six.

She couldn’t exactly run with them. She shuffled forward with the solemn determination of a pack mule crossing a mountain range. But the effort itself became strangely moving.

I could have easily taken the frisbees from her then. Instead, I found myself rooting for her the way people cheer for Joey Chestnut breaking a world record. Once someone commits that completely to an objectively ridiculous task, it somehow circles back around to being impressive.

Eventually Maud marched triumphantly into the house and deposited the frisbees beside her water bowl as if to say, touchdown.

Then she drank water while keeping one eye fixed suspiciously on her trophies just in case I attempted a theft.

But I didn’t want to anymore. Clearly, this was how the game — our game — was meant to be played.

This is still her ritual.

Actually, it’s our ritual.

We don’t play as many rounds now because middle age finally caught up with all of us. But her inner puppy remains permanently available for recreation. And over the years, we’ve become surprisingly good at frisbee together.

Her frisbees remain her favourite possessions. Sometimes she sleeps beside them protectively, using the neatly stacked pile as a pillow. And honestly, I think she loves them because frisbee represents something adults quietly abandon without noticing: pointless fun.

Before Maud, I could barely throw a frisbee. Now I can hit a target across the yard with disturbing accuracy — a random skill acquired solely because a wild and tireless puppy drafted me into recreational athletics.

But somewhere along the way, I realized Maud was right.

Adults spend their lives trying to optimize themselves into joylessness. We count steps, monitor sleep, track hydration, and turn our lives into ongoing administrative projects. Meanwhile, my dog hurls herself through the air every evening for no reason other than delight.

And maybe that’s the embarrassing truth dogs expose about the rest of us: not that they are simpler than humans, but that they remain fully committed to things we slowly train ourselves to outgrow.

Joy. Play. Obsession. Running simply because it feels good to run.

Maud has never once concerned herself with step counts or fitness goals. She gets all the exercise she needs as a side effect of throwing herself wholeheartedly into things she enjoys.

Somehow the dog who still occasionally chases her own tail arrived at that understanding long before I did.






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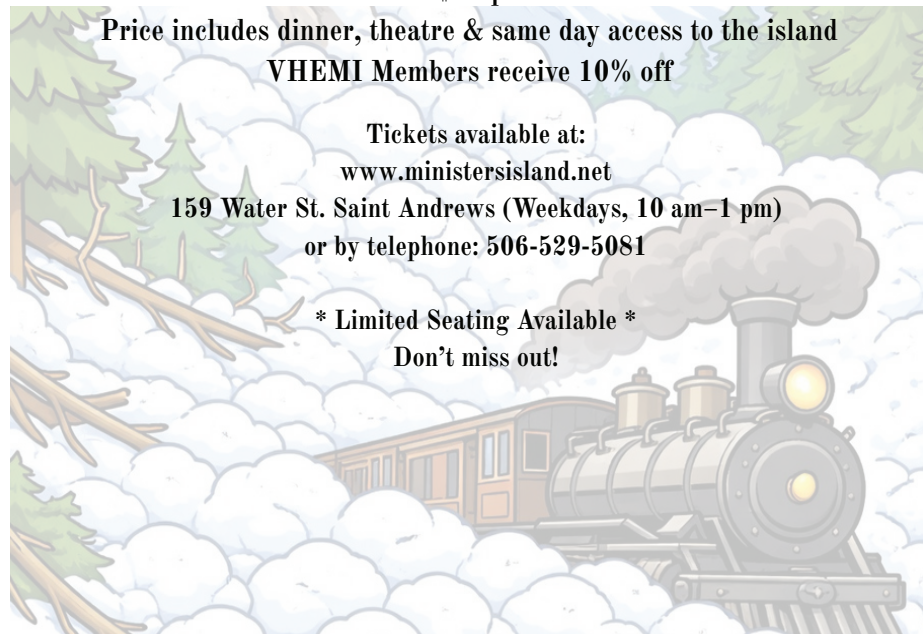
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