

The Surveyor

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HOLLAND COLLEGE

Free

Summerside striker hopeful for permanent job

AMBER SHEA
Surveyor staff

After the public sector strike is over, a Summerside woman is hoping she will be working for more than three months.

Although Charlene Ramsay has been working in the public sector for four years, she is still considered a temporary employee, having no job security.

Starting Oct. 12, she hoped to solve this problem by joining her fellow workers on the picket line to express her disappointment and frustration with the government, after a year of failing to reach a new contract.

For Ramsay, who was just married and has recently bought a home, the lack of job security has already caused her great stress.

"It makes it really hard to plan for the future," Ramsay said.

"The closing day for my house fell on the last day of my contract and I was like, oh my god, I'm buying a house and I might be going on E.I."

During each contract, Ramsay said she is constantly wondering whether she should apply for other jobs because she is unsure if there will be work after her term finishes.

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Amber Shea

From the left, Charlene Ramsay, Joy McInnis and John Wartman tough out a second day of rain and cold in Summerside during the public sector strike, which started Oct. 12 and is happening across Canada.

Things get ugly along University Avenue

DANIEL MURPHY
Surveyor Staff

Last summer University Avenue was named in a CBC Radio program as one of the ugliest places in Canada by Islanders.

When Richardson's Round-up put out a call to its listeners to nominate the ugliest places in Canada, Islanders called in to nominate and re-nominate one of the busiest entryways into Charlottetown.

Everyone it seems has an opinion on University Avenue.

"People have been talking about University Avenue for years in the fact that we need to beautify it, we need to widen it, we need to do all these things," said city councillor Kim Devine.

However, it seems unlikely that will happen anytime in the near future.

Some business owners say when you do attempt to beautify your property, it's a lost cause.

"You're so alone when you do something to cheer it up," said

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Seedling cutbacks could produce higher quality forest type

BILL BREWER
Surveyor staff

Island forestry professionals may get to see a landscape that hasn't been around for a while courtesy of cuts to the private land tree planting program.

The cutback means about 1.1 million fewer seedlings will take root in P.E.I. soil next year. But the potential for natural regeneration of the Acadian style forest improved, said Kate MacQuarrie, P.E.I.'s forestry director with the provincial government.

Allowing the land to grow back naturally does take longer in most cases, but the benefits can be greater than the quick return from single-species plantations, she said.

"Where you have a good site, you can get a tremendous diversity of species, which is good economically because you've got a variety of products to choose from."

The Acadian forest, which at one time blanketed the Island and the rest of the Maritimes, is made up

primarily of yellow birch, sugar maple, red oak, eastern hemlock, red spruce and other species that grow well in the shade.

Some people may believe the days of this forest type are over, but the more landowners allow their sites to regenerate naturally, the better chance they have of bringing back the Acadian landscape, MacQuarrie said.

"I don't think many Islanders can picture the high-quality trees we once had and that I really think we could have again," she said.

"I've been on some sites this summer that had beautiful yellow birch regen(eration)."

MacQuarrie said she's seen examples of high-quality Acadian style trees across the province coming back, which creates more options for individual landowners.

Given the choice between planting or not planting, Gary Schneider, the project manager for the MacPhail woods ecological forestry project, said the Island was made for natural tree growth.

"There's this incredible diversity, and I could never figure out what we're doing, planting one species of conifer when we've already got this sugar maple, red maple, all this tons of stuff ready to pop up," he said.

Single species plantations, in most cases, limit woodlots to producing either pulpwood or sawlogs, but Acadian forest types are known for producing veneer, hardwood sawlogs used in flooring, boles and mantles and high quality firewood, MacQuarrie said.

"That's really multiplying the value from each cord of wood that's harvested."

Natural regeneration also enhances the biological aspect of a landowner's woodlot by creating better wildlife habitat with berry-bearing species such as mountain ash and elders.

"In a real forest you see ferns and wildflowers and small shrubs," Schneider said.

"In a plantation, the forest floor almost looks like it's been swept clean."

But many factors are involved in regenerating the forest, including the type of species available to begin with, the harvesting method and the tree species that grow back after the cut.

And since about 90 per cent of the province is privately owned, the decision to plant or grow the site is up to the landowner.

"You could have a site that would have good quality natural regeneration, but the landowner might want to plant it, and you could have the other situation as well, a site that won't have great quality regen, but the landowner doesn't want it planted," she said.

Some people are very open to the idea of more natural species coming back, as was the owner of one woodlot MacQuarrie visited this summer. The owner had about a two-acre spruce plantation and he had one white birch come back on its own. Since the land had been re-planted, the owner has given that tree more attention than any other.

"He's been looking after that tree and pruning it and says when

he harvests that tree, he'll get more money from that single white birch than he will from all the softwood in that plantation," she said. But if landowners decide to re-forest their woodlots to fit the Acadian forest, they shouldn't expect that to happen overnight or by letting the land re-forest on its own.

"It's not that we clear-cut a forest and are trying to bring it back," Schneider said.

"We clear-cut a forest 200 years ago and then farmed it for 150 years, so it's really difficult to find seed sources."

To bring back these sources, a woodlot owner's best bet would be to try a third option besides choosing whether or not to plant trees.

"See what's coming in and then add some of the things that are missing," MacQuarrie said. Part of the MacPhail project in Orwell, P.E.I., is planting small patches of yellow birch, white ash or sugar maple in open spots among the trees that grow back naturally on a woodlot.

Employers are protecting profits from the flu

TAMMYLEE MACKENNA
Surveyor staff

It spreads like a virus through the workplace and every year the flu can be a significant factor in employee absenteeism.

Companies would like to pay for work days, not sick days and this drives many employers to find preventative measures to battle against the winter flu.

We Care Home Health Services offers such a service, providing influenza immunization clinics for companies or organizations across the Island.

Franchise director Roxanne MacLeod said their major program is the fall influenza season, going into businesses to help protect employees from the flu.

Between October and April sick days due to the flu cost Canadian companies approximately \$12 billion each year, about 2 per cent of the payroll of the companies.

Businesses use the flu shot as an effective way to protect the bottom line.

"We can immunize 20 employees for less than it costs to compensate just one employee who misses five days of work because of the flu," MacLeod said.



Tammylee MacKenna

At a flu clinic in Charlottetown, Lila Craswell gives Billy MacKenna a shot to help fight against influenza.

We Care tries to make it easy and convenient for employees to participate and on average 50 per cent will, she said.

The firm worked with over 35 businesses last year on vaccinations.

"The businesses that we have surveyed that we have provided (immunization) for, are definitely seeing a decrease in absenteeism, which saves the employer top dollar."

A yearly vaccination prevents the flu in about 75 per cent of the people who receive it. In the other 25 per cent it can lessen the severity of the illness, the amount

of time off work and the chances of passing it to others.

MacLeod said employees pay \$15 for the shot, \$5 more than it costs at a doctor's office.

"Private businesses still have to pay to buy the flu vaccine," She said.

Dr. Lamont Sweet, the chief health officer for the health department, said the Island health care system does not consider companies a high-risk group.

Sweet said the province only provides the vaccine to doctor's offices and clinics for their own patients. Private companies buy the vaccine directly from manu-

facturing companies and administer it themselves.

MacLeod, a registered nurse, said people spend most of their time at work, therefore, being healthy at work is extremely important.

We Care provides immunization clinics to large companies like the Irving group and to small businesses such as Prince Edward Aqua Farms Inc

MacLeod said the flu is spread through the air or direct contact. The virus lives for several minutes once outside the body, so a sneeze can infect anyone in the vicinity.

Influenza and the common cold are not the same thing, the flu can cause fever, headache, and muscle aches. It lasts 5 -10 days.

Sweet said the flu can spread through a business very quickly. He said the influenza virus can be contagious up to 72 hours and the person may not even be that ill. "They don't know they are sick, so they can spread it before they even know they have it."

He said people can pick it up and not develop any flu-like symptoms.

"The most contagious people are those just coming down with it, or even before they have symp-

toms." How many people on the Island get sick from the flu it varies annually.

Sweet said a major outbreak will make about 40 per cent of people ill, but generally only 15-25 per cent of Islanders develop the flu.

He said last year 30,000 people were immunized by a doctor and the health department is prepared for an increase in that number this year.

The flu vaccine causes the body's immune system to produce antibodies against influenza strains one might encounter throughout the year.

A new vaccine is manufactured each year to battle the new strains which emerge annually.

This year, because of a severe flu vaccine shortage in the United States, many Americans are travelling to New Brunswick to receive the shot.

Valerie MacDonald, a pharmacist in charge of booking clients for the vaccine in St Stephen, N.B., said in a story on CBC online more Americans than Canadians want the immunization.

She said she booked about 30 Americans and about 20 more are waiting, while only six Canadians have signed up.

Islanders walk to make dreams come true

COURTNEY SCHMIDT

Surveyor staff

Islanders walked for wishes on Oct 16.

The Children's Wish Foundation held its annual Wishmaker Parade across Canada.

In Charlottetown, hundreds of people walked in support of children ages 3 to 18 with life-threatening illness.

"This is the 12th year of the Wishmaker parade," said Lee Gauthier, organizer of this year's parade.

"Last year, Islanders brought in over \$90,000 and were hoping for the same numbers this year," said Gauthier.

Money raised from this event will go towards granting Island children their wishes.

"We really have no idea how many people we'll get to come out, and we can't predict how much

money we are going to raise because many of the participants don't register until the day of the parade."

Gauthier said when children are granted their wishes, everything is paid for, including any expenses their families have.

"This year we were able to send a young lady to attend a live taping of American Idol, and she was actually seen on the show," he said. "She also got to meet Clay Aitken and Kelly Clarkson."

Parade participants gathered in front of Piazza Joe's to start the parade off, then walked down Prince street to Water street and back around to Kent street.

The Legal Secretarial Services class from Holland College participated. Fifteen students joined their learning manager, Sandra Livingstone, on the Walk for Wishes. Students raised money for the walk by paying \$1 to wear

casual clothes on Fridays.

"We feel that it's a very worthy cause to raise money for an organization making a difference in the lives of P.E.I.'s children and families," said Livingstone.

Livingstone said not only was the walk a way to raise money for the Children's Wish Foundation, but it was also a good way to come together as a class.

"It's a great team building exercise for the students in the program," said Livingstone.

"They work together to come up with an idea for a banner; they decorate it together.

"They make plans to meet on the weekend for the parade; and they spend the time together doing something profitable to help others."

Staff from Montgomery Hall also contributed their casual day funds from October to the Children's Wish Foundation.



Courtney Schmidt

Sandra Livingstone, a learning manager with Holland College, poses with her Legal Secretarial Services class as they prepare to participate in the Children's Wish Foundation's Walk for Wishes.

Summerside striker hopeful agreement can be reached

(continued from page 1)

Now, employers usually give a month notice if there is other work available, but there were times when new contracts were signed 15 minutes before the previous one ran out, she said.

Over the last four years Ramsay has worked in three different offices on P.E.I., often having to travel.

It's hard because each job requires new training and getting to know co-workers all over again, Ramsay said.

"Even if I went back to some of the previous jobs I've had before, I probably couldn't just walk in and do the job because procedures are constantly changing."

Continuously having new employees also affects the public, Ramsay said.

"If they would put (workers) in their places and just leave them there, then they would be gaining more experience," she said.

"If you constantly have someone new every six months, there is that learning curve and the service isn't particularly good for the clients."

John Wartman, spokesperson for the Summerside strikers, said substituting people with machines is also causing poor service.

A lot of people are uneasy when using the computers for things like, filing for employment insurance because they don't want to make a mistake and prolong getting their income.

"The general public shouldn't be forced to go on the systems if they are not comfortable with it, there should be staff there for that one on one option," Wartman said.

Although the strikers are pressing for more staff and permanent positions, Wartman said they would go back to work if the government agreed to give them a 1.75 per cent wage increase.

The other problems can be ironed out when everyone is back to work, he added.

An agreement was expected to be reached Oct. 12, but negotiations were still taking place between the government and the Public Service Association of Canada (PSAC).

Regional representative for PSAC Mary McNeil said the money has been agreed on at 9.65

per cent over the next four years, but there are a few other issues that need to be ironed out.

McNeil added since the tax centres were able to reach a deal on permanent positions on Oct. 13, it gives the public sector a better chance of securing their jobs.

Strikers should be hearing about an agreement before the next two weeks, McNeil said. Despite the delay the strikers also remain optimistic.

It's a positive sign both parties are already at the table trying to reach a deal. The bad side is, they have been trying to agree on a new contract for the past year, Wartman said.

But everyone remains positive that negotiations won't be taking place much longer and everyone will be back to work soon.

Although Ramsay is also hopeful, she said she wouldn't be able to go back to work immediately if the deal included a permanent position for her.

"I think I would have to take a day off I'd be so excited, I wouldn't be able to work," she said laughing.

University Avenue

(continued from page 1)

Sheila (Mable) MacEachern of Midtown Laundromat & Café. "You try to make the building inviting and kids steal whatever you put out or you have drunks hanging around your door."

Beautification is not the only topic of discussion when it comes to University Avenue. "There's been a call from the business community, from various members to widen University Avenue because they see it as being difficult to get into and out of and they want it widened, so that's the impetus for this," said Devine.

Not everyone is in favor of this action, saying "The Avenue" would turn into a speedway.

"I'd have to shut down my business," said Kathy Tweel of Kathy's Beauty Salon and Tanning Centre. "You remove all the frontage, who can stop? Nobody can stop, which isn't good. We have something very special and unique here."

A June 3 presentation entitled Toward a Smart Street: An Urban Design Approach to University Avenue was held featured Shiban Raina, national manager of urban design with Public Works Canada. He participated in the planning of the revitalization of Great George Street.

He said without a chief architect for the city, it is hard to decide on

the aesthetics of a building. Design by committee must be avoided and it should be left in the hands of architects, and urban designers, he added.

Raina stressed how each block has its own urban design and its own character and, in some sense, needs its own physical planning. Downtowns must consider pedestrians who are so vital to well-being and to commercial and civic activity, he said.

However, Raina did not offer any specific solutions to University Avenue, saying the street would have to be viewed from four or six angles and any solutions would have to be tested in a virtual environment.

Still, some on University Avenue feel they do have solutions.

"We could do with some park benches and flowers," said Tweel. "I grew up here all my life and I certainly don't want to see it a four-lane, that would be terrible." MacEachern refers to the avenue as "dreary" and says she hopes for change on the avenue, but for that to happen everyone needs to work together.

Whatever the solutions discussed, city hall offers one assurance.

"I just want to stress, there is no plan in place, or there's no move on the part of city council, there's been no vote taken or no dollars allocated to do anything about University Avenue," said Devine.

The staff of The Surveyor thanks Transcontinental P.E.I., Borden, for printing our newspaper, and the Guardian for its ongoing support.

Pay and Display machines replace coin parking meters

CHRISTINA SCHELLEN
Surveyor staff

The dingy coin parking metres lining Charlottetown streets could be a thing of the past if people in the downtown area like the new Pay and Display machines.

Public works manager Paul Johnston says the machines are on an eight-month trial period. If the reviews at the end of the trial period is deemed a success, Charlottetown will buy the machines, he said.

The units will cost \$10,000 each.

Johnston said some people oppose change, but the city officials are taking all the suggestions into consideration.

"During this trial process we're getting both positive and negative comments," he said.

Pay and Display machines are centrally located to serve more than one parking space at a time. The rates and time limits remain the same, the only difference is how the public pays.

The machines accept quarters,



Christina Schellen

Barbara Hammond from Meadowbank is testing out the new Pay and Display machine in downtown Charlottetown.

loonies, toonies, MasterCard and Visa credit cards.

They're located near street corners, generally there are two per block.

To use one, a user can pay for the parking time, take the paper permit and display it on the dashboard of the vehicle.

Areas being tested include from

Richmond to Euston streets, Grafton to Kent and Queen to Prince.

Johnston said the advantages include offering a receipt for tax purposes, accepting credit cards and proving more centralized units for the company to collect the money.

Also, motorists can move to another parking space using any unexpired time on their printed permit.

But if a machine breaks down, the user must find another one, which could be a couple of blocks away.

Barbara Hammond from Meadowbank said she prefers to use the Pay and Display machines because they're quick, easy and efficient.

If the motorists doesn't have change, they can use their credit card.

Hammond said it's a solution to having parking metres destroyed by vandals.

"Something had to be done," she said. "It's the way to go."

Scholarships and bursaries available from Holland College

COURTNEY SCHMIDT
Surveyor staff

Students looking for extra money to further their education at Holland College can apply for scholarships and bursaries the college offers every academic year. Last year \$86,755 in awards were distributed to 101 students at student awards night, and \$56,350 in awards were given out to over 200 students during the academic year. "Students who wish to apply can visit the Holland College website and click on the icon that says bursaries and scholarships," said Velma Higginbotham, administrative assistant for the Holland College Foundation. "From there they can take a look at all the awards that they qualify for."

Students must meet the criteria for each award. They must complete an application for that award, and provide any other documents required. Applications must be forwarded to the registrar's office by the deadline of the award. From there the awards selection committee, appointed by the registrar, decide which students will receive which award.

"Students will be made aware they have won an award before they head off for Christmas break," said Higginbotham.

Funding for these awards come from sponsors that approach the college. Presentations of most of the awards are on student awards night held at the Tourism and Culinary Centre in January.

"It's not a formal event, it's just a chance for students to bring their parents for an evening out to celebrate their child's accomplishments," said Higginbotham. "Most of the sponsors that donate the awards are usually there to present them."

Holland College students are very enthusiastic about their awards. Holland College student Vicki Cheverie, recipient of the Charlie Cook Bursary, said she was relieved to know she had some extra money around.

"Winning the award was great knowing I have a few extra dollars that I could use if need be," she said.

The Holland College Foundation was established in 1982 and has been giving out awards to students since 1983.

Jesus Christ Superstar never loses its importance, says actor

CAITLIN MCINTYRE
Surveyor staff

Jesus Christ Superstar is a "timeless" story that even today can influence and inspire many people, says an actor who will play Jesus in an upcoming Charlottetown production of the play.

Jeremy Hickey, 24, will play Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar, which is coming to the city from ACT, a community theatre.

The play will run at the Confederation Centre from Nov. 4-6.

Jesus Christ Superstar is the perfect play to bring to Prince Edward Island audiences because Jesus never loses his relevance or importance, Hickey said.

"Whether or not you believe in his divinity, as far as the story goes, it's a character from whom you can learn a great deal," he said. "I think it's pretty amazing that someone who never overthrew anyone politically or anything like that still influenced in so many ways. That's what makes it current today."

Hickey began acting in high school in plays such as My Fair Lady and The Secret Garden.

The Charlottetown native went to Colonel Gray High School. There, his passion for music transferred well to musicals.

One day, the director of his high

school plays asked him if he planned to pursue musical theatre more seriously. That's when his professional acting career really started to take shape, Hickey said.

"I was getting a ride home from Allie McCrady, who directed me in both (My Fair Lady and the Secret Garden) and he asked me what I was doing in university. I hadn't really decided, I was thinking maybe biology or something dull like that. He asked me if I thought of doing music," he said.

"I've been a musician since junior high, I'm a self-taught guitar player and I screamed my head off in a grunge band. Allie asked me if I thought about music at all and if I was considering doing musical theatre, that I should get some vocal background."

Hickey took his director's advice. Shortly after graduating high school, he started taking lessons from a vocal coach and applied for

"I think it's most important to show that he's human and he has a great deal of human emotion and all kinds of inner turmoil, but he still brings himself to make the ultimate sacrifice in the end."

—Jeremy Hickey

the music program at the University of Prince Edward Island.

In 2003, Hickey graduated as a voice major.

When he heard ACT was planning a production of Jesus Christ Superstar and McCrady would be directing it, Hickey was ecstatic.

"When I was introduced to this musical a couple years ago, it became one of my favourite rock albums and I always thought it'd be a great thing to do," he said.

"So when I found out that ACT was doing it, that Allie McCrady was directing it, I was really excited."

When Hickey auditioned he nailed the part, said Rob Thomas, a publicist who has been with ACT since its birth 10 years ago.

Thomas said no one is better suited for the part than Hickey.

"I watched him in rehearsal and I see two things that stand out. One

is a wonderfully mellow tenor voice. It's a beautiful voice to listen to. The other is that he just exudes Jesusness. His demeanor, his eyes, his body mannerisms, he's got down perfectly this person with an inner vibrancy that comes out in peacefulness," Thomas said. The most challenging part about playing Jesus is determining how to portray him, Hickey said.

"He's so many things throughout the play. That's kind of where the difficulty lies in playing him," he said.

"How do I look at him? Do I look at him like I believe I'm the Son of God, or do I just play him as a man who's got all this hoopla around him and it's all getting out of control?"

More than anything, Jesus has a human side and that needs to come out, Hickey said.

"I think it's most important to show that he's human and he has a great deal of human emotion and all kinds of inner turmoil, but he still brings himself to make the ultimate sacrifice in the end," he said. No matter what, Hickey said he wants the audience to have gained something from the play. "I hope they get something positive out of it. If they're not entertained, I hope they at least get a good message from it. If they don't get the message, I hope they're entertained," he said.

Local resident boiling water for two years

TAMMYLEE MACKENNA
Surveyor staff

Teresa Potter of Stratford has had to boil her water for the past two years even after disinfecting the well and getting a zero count, she hasn't drank from her tap since.

Even her budgie now drinks bottled water.

Potter had the water tested after neighboring water was found to be contaminated and a pet bird died.

She was told the water had a bacteria count, but it wasn't dangerously high.

"We weren't supposed to brush our teeth with it or drink it or anything, you had to boil it first. But we were allowed to shower in it."

She said she isn't sure it was the water that made the animals sick, but it was enough to scared her.

"We felt like we killed it. So, our birds have never had tap water since."

Potter said she won't allow anyone who enters the house to drink the water.

And she will not drink the tap water from anywhere except in the city where it has been chlorinated. She is even skeptical about bottled water.

"I do buy the bottled water. I

have a little more faith in that than I do my own to be truthful."

Potter is an example of a larger problem on P.E.I.

Rosalyn Sellick, a student health officer at Health and Social Services, said while other provinces, like Nova Scotia, rely on lakes and rivers for drinking water, the Island is completely dependent on ground water.

Anything happening on and in the ground affects ground water, and may leave the water vulnerable to contaminants, such as bacteria.

"But we are very lucky on P.E.I. to have such a good source, and as long as you do your testing regularly and you know what's going on with your water, then it's fine," said Sellick.

Testing water can prevent a larger problem.

Sellick said total bacteria is used as an indicator because it is not as dangerous as E. coli or fecal coliform.

Total coliform has never been shown to cause illness even in high numbers but could be the first sign of trouble if found in water.

"Any counts of E. coli is very dangerous, it's a very dangerous bacteria. And if it's not looked at and treated properly, as we know from the whole Walkerton Case, it can result in death."

In 2000 in Walkerton, Ontario,

Well Disinfection

Needed: A gallon of household laundry bleach (Javex).

1. Mix one litre of Javex with approximately 45.5 litres (10 gallons) of water. Pour the solution into the well between the drop pipes and the outer casing. This may be done by pouring or siphoning through the air vent, or by removing the well seal or cap.
2. Go to each faucet in the house (hot and cold) one at a time and run the water just long enough to smell the chlorine at the tap, then turn the faucet off. Go to the next faucet and repeat the process.
3. Repeat step #1, but this time do not open the taps and run the water. Replace the well cap or seal and let the system sit idle for eight to 12 hours, preferably overnight. Minimize water use during this period.
4. After the chlorinated water has been sitting in the system for a minimum of eight to 12 hours, the water should be run to flush the chlorine out of the system. It is recommended that water be run off from a hose on an outside tap to avoid overloading the septic system. When there is no longer a chlorine odour at the outside tap, run all inside faucets until the chlorine odour has disappeared.
5. Wait 48 hours after the disinfection procedure is completed before resampling the well. It is recommended that two consecutive samples with no bacteria present be obtained before using the water for human consumption.

- Environment and Energy, Water Management Division

hundreds of people in a town of 5,000 received medical attention during the largest E. coli outbreak in Canadian history.

The bacteria spread was in the town's drinking water supply. Bacteria can get enter water in many ways.

Sellick said insects, like ear-

wigs, can get into the well causing bacteria counts to go up, as can runoffs from the rain.

She said for drinking water a count of zero is ideal. A boil order is issued when a count of coliform over 10 is found. With a count under 10 "we try to work with the person to get the count down to

zero."

Sellick said residents can take steps to prevent contamination such as taking care of the well, ensure the septic system is working properly and be aware of any thing happening on or around the property.

Disinfecting the well properly when a count is found is important, and two clear samples of zero count are required before the boil order is removed.

Bottles for the test can be picked up at any Access site on P.E.I., or at the Department of Environment water testing lab. Sellick said a bacteria sample is \$26.75 and includes the two retests after disinfection.

A chemistry test cost \$53.50, said Sellick. It tests for chemicals in the ground and is recommended for those living near an area where chemicals are used and could be absorbed into the ground.

Sellick said residents in a rural area should test the water once or twice a year for bacteria. People with seasonal homes should test once a season.

Potter said it has been a long time since she has the water tested, and is "almost thinking about having it tested for my own peace of mind."

But she said she still will give her family and the budgie bottled water.

Running club stampedes Holland College

COURTNEY SCHMIDT
surveyor staff

Faster than a speeding bullet, the Holland College Running Club has been sprinting into action since September.

A small, but dedicated group of Holland College staff and students have gotten together every Tuesday and Thursday to run along the Confederation Trail.

"We've started out with a small group of people, but we're always open to more people," said Tara Costello, coach of the Running Club.

Costello said she has registered the club in various running events around the community.

This weekend the club ran 10 km as part of the Island Marathon.

In April, were hoping to get the club back up and running again and go to Mount Allison to compete against the running team they have there," said Costello.

With winter approaching fast, the club will continue to meet until the end of October, then will break until spring.

Costello hopes to continue the program next year for new

students and returning students. Students are enjoying the social aspect of the club.

"I'm new here, so it was a great way to meet new people," said Mitchell Crossman, a first year student in the paramedicine program.

"I do have a running background, so this club was great to join," he said.

"It's fun and interesting, and keeps me active."

Anyone interesting in joining the club should see Costello in room 160 E, the new fitness centre.



Courtney Schmidt

From left to right are Anthony MacLean, coach Tara Costello and Mitchell Crossman.



Same sex marriages must be legal, it's a human rights issue

JOCELYNE CORMIER
Surveyorstaff

Why shouldn't the definition of marriage be changed to include same-sex marriages?

Manitoba, Yukon, Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec seem to think so. The year 2004 is the perfect time to broaden the ancient definition. Why not?

Homosexuals are part of society and have been since the dawn of humanity and it is time they were treated as human beings, not outsiders. Love and marriage aren't defined by the labels society makes, but by the quality of the marriage.

No one said marriage had to conform to the values of the majority or a definition found in a book written two thousand years ago. Defining marriage is not about what society expects.

Society doesn't understand marriage nor can it get married, it cannot define what is right or wrong

about a same-sex marriage. The church is in no position to dictate love to two human beings when it can't love nor begin to understand love.

With this said, neither the Church nor society is in a position to dictate whether or not a same-sex marriage is right or wrong. Same-sex marriage just is. Marriage isn't defined by the sex of the couple.

Holding onto a two-thousand-year-old definition will accomplish what? There always were and always will be homosexuals on the planet. Isn't it time to treat them as human beings and not as a label?

Nobody said the biblical definition of marriage is the true meaning of marriage. Broadening the definition of marriage is elaborating a valued tradition to include all human beings.

Even with a broadened definition, people will still want to love and be loved. The need to have children will always exist no matter how marriage is defined.



Redefining marriage is not a threat, but an evolution no one can escape. It can be delayed but never stopped, no matter the opposition.

The current definition has been accepted for so long no one ever dared to challenge it until now. Marriage, as it stands now, is a pillar of society. It is time to make it better by making sure marriage includes every member of society.

It is time for those opposing same-sex marriages to come out of the Dark Ages and into the 21st century.

Bar dating: only the brave survive

CAITLIN MCINTYRE
Surveyor staff

Put on your raspberry-red lipstick, squeeze into that halter top and fix your knee-high leather boots. You're a 20-something single girl about to enter the fierce, dangerous jungle we call dating.

I've been single for the past six months. On Oct. 1, I turned 21. And last Saturday, I went to Myrons with several friends.

There's one thing I've learned since my birthday, I'm tragically ill prepared for single life in my 20s.

When young, single women head to the bars they put on their war gear. Eye-catching lipsticks, mini skirts, high heels and the like are all meant to lure men within a 100 km radius.

These young women get on the dance floor to shake what their mama gave them. They jiggle, wiggle and booty-shake til the men are left helpless. In three minutes, by the time that Kanye West song is over, the women at Myrons had taken over.

And then there's me.

When I walked into the bar, I was dressed solely for comfort. Jeans, my California state T-shirt, and some lipgloss. I felt anything but comfortable that night.

While looking at the women, immediately I felt overdressed. But I don't really have any bar clothes and I don't plan on getting any either.

I left my mini skirt at home because I preferred not to attract unwanted attention.

I didn't go to the bar to pick up. Instead, if a guy decided he wanted to get to know me, I hoped it'd be for who I am-not what I was wearing.

And yet, being the only girl dressed casually at the bar, I felt about as vulnerable as Michael Moore at the Republican convention. What was I doing there?



What made me think I could handle that scene?

At the noisy bar, with hip hop music blasting, it was all about getting attention with your body.

Two women stepped on the dance floor to rub suggestively against each other. Meanwhile, they glanced over and giggled at the pool of drool at the men's feet.

One woman dancing by herself was just waiting to put the moves on an attractive male. She turned around, raised her eyebrow and pouted her lips at the man next to her. From an observing point, it seemed a little ridiculous, but it worked. He was hers for as long as she wanted him.

Next to pouty, a couple had sex on the dance floor- kind of. They had their clothes on, but just by watching the pair, I knew it wouldn't stay that way for long. She wiggled against him and he threw his hands in the air, and he waved them like he just didn't care.

The dance floor at Myrons was about sex, and so, I wasn't welcome.

I'd rather talk about politics, sports and the last book I read than heat up the dance floor in sexy clothes and suggestive dancing.

I guess I'm a failure in the bizarre world of bar dating. I don't speak the language of these sexed up, sweaty hip hop dancers.

So I left the bar and went home to listen to some Billie Holiday and sit in my pyjamas. That night I learned the dance floor battle ground isn't for me.

The Surveyor

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A New Crop For P.E.I.

Eleven Island farmers now growing 450 acres of Flax

MARY AFFLECK
Surveyor staff

By Christmas, Island farmers will know if flax seed can be used as an annual crop and a new source of cash.

Last spring, 11 Island farmers grew a total of 450 acres of flax between Albany and Souris testing its compatibility and filling a contract with an Ontario-based-company - Natunola Health.

Peter Boswall, a science officer, with the provincial agriculture department, said the Island climate favors the flax crop over Canada's largest producing province, Saskatchewan.

"P.E.I. has an advantage over Saskatchewan because we have a better rain fall pattern so we should have a better yield and seed size."

In western Canada alone, one million acres are grown, he said.

"Canada is one of the top four flax producers in the world and may be the largest exporter in the world."

Boswall said so far there isn't a local market for the flax, but the Island stands to benefit.

"On P.E.I., the market is the company that contracted for it," said Boswall.

"If the parameters don't meet Canada No.1 standards, we're

looking to utilize it at the livestock feed industry."

Flax seed can be planted in place of the crop that was grown in the previous year replenishing nutrients in the soil, fitting into the potato crop rotation that Island farmers were looking for.

Natunola will locate a processing company and this will create jobs for Islanders.

The crop started being harvested mid-September and will be done some time in October.

Late in December the seed will be evaluated at the Natunola de-hulling plant in Windsor and a draft of their business plan will be ready.



Mary Affleck

A local farmer holds a handful of flax seeds.

Children's choir singing to defeat sorrow

AMBER SHEA
Surveyor staff

Without the help of medicines to dull his parent's pain, a five-year-old Ugandan boy helplessly watched his mom and dad die of AIDS.

After two years, Frank Muwaya's grandmother was unable to take care of him and he was taken in by his aunt, who promised to take him to school and provide a good life. She broke her promise.

Muwaya was treated like a slave, eating only when there were scraps left over from his cousin's and aunt's meals. He never saw a school and was often abused verbally and physically.

When Muwaya questioned his aunt as to why she didn't keep her original promise, he was kicked out at the age of 10 and was left to fend for himself on the streets of Uganda.

But compared to about 800,000 children who are orphans in Uganda, Muwaya was lucky. Muwaya's aunt's home was close to a Watoto village, a Christian child care organization that takes in orphan children of Uganda.

Watoto workers gave Muwaya a home and now he is traveling the world performing and telling his story with other Ugandan children.

On Nov. 17, Muwaya will be visiting P.E.I., where he and the rest of the Ugandan choir will display their culture through song and dance at the Calvary Temple in Charlottetown, then again in Summerside at the Centre Belle Alliance Nov. 18.

After the performance, they will take donations to help build more houses in the Watoto villages, so Ugandan children will have something other than a sidewalk to call their home.

Last year the organization raised \$15,000 in the Maritimes alone.

This doesn't include donated materials and volunteer labour provided by Maritimers to build houses for Watoto villages, said Mark Wright, tour coordinator for Watoto's Canadian offices.

Team leader and Watoto supervisor, Timothy Mwogeza, said the tour not only raises money for homes, but it also helps children overcome their trauma.

"With all the travel, we get to meet so many people who build up the children's confidence," Mwogeza said.

"The children are so used to hearing things like 'you are no good for nothing, you can't do anything right', now people are coming up to them after the concerts and saying, 'you did such a

wonderful job and your so well behaved."

If a person was to visit a Watoto village they could tell which children have been on tour, because they are the ones who will introduce themselves and give that person a hug, he said.

"The children are so used to hearing things like 'you are no good for nothing, you can't do anything right', now people are coming up to them after the concerts and saying, 'you did such a wonderful job and your so well behaved.'"

Timothy Mwogeza

So far, the choir has been on tour for five weeks and Mwogeza said he has already seen a huge difference in Muwaya since he

first came to Watoto.

When Muwaya first arrived, he was malnourished to the point where you could count his ribs and was very shy, often walking with his head hung low, Mwogeza said.

"Now you see him and his walking upright, with a smile on his face," he said.

He is even starting to have dreams. He wants to be a pilot. For Mwogeza, who hears stories far worse than Muwaya's, seeing the children achieve happiness and the ability to smile again means a lot.

"When you see them healing, it gives you the strength to go on. I feel like a proud parent seeing such progress," Mwogeza said.

"There's no amount of explaining that can elicit to the joy you feel when you are helping these kids."

By exposing the children to different cultures and increasing their confidence and education, the goals of the organization are also being accomplished, Mwogeza said.

"What we're really trying to do is raise the next generation of Ugandan leaders," he said.

Watoto, Swahili for "the children", has been helping orphans for 10 years and is currently fostering 666 children, three of which have AIDS.

There are four Watoto villages in Uganda, where there are houses built for each foster family. There are schools in a couple of villages and one is soon getting a high school.

In each home there are eight children and poor women are given shelter and are responsible for looking after them.

"So we really provide two things; we're providing for the children and the mothers who have no income," Wright said.

There are also men who join the organization who act as big brothers to the children.

Each year 18 children are picked to be in the choir and tour the world to raise money for the foundation. Before they leave, they spend five months learning how to sing, dance, and speak english.

And despite the financial support the tours provide, Watoto still must constantly turn away kids due to insufficient space.

Children's pastor for the Calvary Temple, Leanne Young, is encouraging all Islanders to attend the show and contribute financially.

"We need to do our part to support the children in Africa," Young said, "and without this organization many children wouldn't be alive today."

Children like Muwaya.

Calling for help: Will someone answer?

AMBER SHEA
 Surveyor staff

After two years of verbal, sexual and physical abuse the West Prince woman decided to pick up the phone and call for help.

As the phone rang, her eyes darted around the room expecting to find her husband listening in, but Linda knew she had to stay on the phone for the sake of her kids and her own life.

After the phone rang a couple of times someone picked up and Linda's voice started to shake as she finally asked for help.

Linda is a real woman, but she is afraid to reveal her name because she still lives in terror of her husband.

Many social workers across the Island consider Linda lucky.

Many woman and children on P.E.I. often don't get the attention they deserve right away as abuse centres across the Island are constantly suffering budget cuts.

These cuts limit size of the staff and force workers to cover large areas, especially in rural P.E.I., often making them unavailable to the people who need them.

On Oct. 1, social workers across the Island held a news conference at the Charlottetown Delta Hotel to talk about what they say are dwindling resources.

Among them was the worker who took Linda's call, Valerie Smallman, the family violence prevention coordinator for West Prince.

For Smallman, walking into work and turning on the answering machine, only to hear people hang up is not unusual, but it is often hard to deal with.

Although she wishes she could be there to help more people, a heavy workload often has her on the road.

Sometimes while going to bed at night it's hard not to think about all the abused women and children who might have been helped if someone was there to take their call, Smallman said.

"All I can do is hope that they call back."

Smallman is responsible for covering all the cases from Ellerslie to North Cape. She is also in charge of all the paper work, running support groups, traveling to victims' houses, getting to meetings and occasionally accompanying clients to court in Summerside.

"I'm one person doing four different jobs," Smallman said. "I feel like I'm not able to give (clients) 100 per cent."



Amber Shea

Valerie Smallman, family prevention coordinator for West Prince, counsels one of her many clients suffering from spousal abuse. Smallman is one of the many social workers who are asking the government for money in order to do their jobs more efficiently.

"I'm just a Band-Aide approach when I could be doing so much more."

In 2003, Smallman worked with 346 women, but said she easily received over 200 calls a month. She does have one accountant to help her, but that person's salary comes out of her total income, which she says is \$37,500, which is \$50,000 less than what she said she needs.

"I'm getting less now than I was when I started 14 years ago," she said.

The lack of funds often has Smallman trying to raise money, which takes away from time spent with clients and hours in the community reaching out to women in need.

With all this stress Smallman, like many other social workers on P.E.I., often worries about burning out.

"There are lots of evenings when I go home and don't want to do anything because I'm exhausted," Smallman said.

Although Smallman loves her job, she said listening to horror stories all day can sometimes be hard on

the psyche and can cause her to have to take time off work.

"You just get so frustrated sometimes. You think, if only I could fix the problem right away and make everything OK for them," she said. "And if I get teary eyed, then I know it's time to take a couple days off of work."

Smallman said if she was able hire one extra person, she could reach out to more women and children and spend more time with clients, helping them get out of bad situations faster.

Linda said if Smallman was able to spend more time with her she and her children might have spent less than six years, in what she refers to as "hell."

As Linda described her nightmare she would often laugh off most things, but other times her chin would drift down to her hand and she would look to the window as water slowly filled her eyes, illustrating the pain the subject still caused her.

Things started going bad for Linda shortly after she was married to someone she thought would be a good father and loving husband.

She was wrong.

Following the move into their house, Linda's husband started abusing her verbally and eventually in front of her friends.

"If something wasn't done right, he'd have something to say no matter who was around," she said. Gradually, friends and family stopped coming over and calling. There were only a few friends who stuck around through the ordeal, Linda said.

Over the months, the mental attacks got worse.

"I wasn't allowed to eat or talk unless I was told," she said. "Sometimes I wouldn't even know my name if you asked me."

"You just get so used to asking them (her husband) that you have trouble coming up with the answers yourself."

Soon the physiological violence turned into physical abuse.

Linda said her husband would often become violent if she didn't do things his way.

He would take arguments out on their son who was only a toddler, waking him up at night so Linda would have to stay up with him.

As a result, finding a babysitter for her son was impossible.

Linda said he would constantly wake up at night with nightmares. When she left, he would hide under tables and scream until she returned.

By the time their second child was born, Linda was dealing with sexual abuse as well.

If the kids needed to go to the doctor or started to cry, Linda's husband would force her to have sex with him before she could take care of them.

"My son had a fever of 103 and he still wouldn't let me take him to the hospital," she said, looking to the floor.

But Linda was running out of options. She felt she could no longer tell her friends and relatives what was going on.

"He started threatening to kill my family if I told them anything," she said.

Linda became depressed and fearful for her family, so she began to lock the doors of her home, turn out the lights and pretend she wasn't home when they came around. It was the love of her children that made Linda act.

Not knowing where to call or even if she was experiencing abuse, Linda called the transition house, which then referred her to Smallman.

After a year and a half of secretive counselling Linda, her family and

Smallman snuck the woman and her children out of her home and moved them to a safe house while her husband was working.

Linda did go back once, but only for a year. Once her husband started abusing her again, she was gone.

Today, Linda lives in a house with her sons and although it's been 10 years, she still needs Smallman's help at times, but she said overall she is content.

Linda said she hopes the members of government will help other abused families by making it a higher priority to take care of people in their communities, no matter what the cost.

Health Minister Chester Gillan was unavailable to comment, but in an interview with the Guardian Oct. 2 he said the province can't provide more than the \$450,000 it's already spending, due to the Island's current deficit.

But earlier this year, the province announced it would spend \$250,000 to have a fourth provincial court judge take care of domestic violence cases, money social workers say would be better spent on violence prevention.

Linda knows now how important the help she received was.

"I used to be pretty well off, I had fancy rings and a nice car," she said, "But now I know something so much better - peace," she said. "If it wasn't for Valerie picking up the phone when I called, I might be dead today."

"Nobody should have to go through what I did - nobody."

"You just get so frustrated sometimes. You think, if only I could fix the problem right away and make everything OK for them. And if I get teary eyed, then I know it's time to take a couple days off of work."

-Valerie Smallman

Liver transplant: a stranger's gift of life

JOCELYNE CORMIER
Surveyor Staff

Brian Landry's Christmas present came two weeks early in 1999, a new liver.

"I got the call about two in the morning, so you have about six hours to be at the hospital and ready to go," said Landry, the branch manager at the Scotiabank in Charlottetown, P.E.I. "We left about three in the morning."

Landry and his family drove to the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Halifax, N.S. where Landry had the life-saving operation.

A liver transplant usually takes nine hours and the hospital stay is two to three weeks, he said. Once the recipient is out of the hospital, he still has visits to the hospital as an outpatient for another week or two.

"Mine went really really well," Landry said.

"I was out in seven days and then three days as an out-patient."

Landry's journey to a new liver started in 1994 when a routine check-up revealed his cholesterol levels were higher than they should have been.

Through routine blood tests, his doctor also discovered his liver functions were higher than normal.

In 1996, after months of visits to specialists, Landry finally knew what was wrong with his liver. He had autoimmune hepatitis, a disease where Landry's own immune system was attacking his liver. Doctors don't know what causes the disease and there is no cure.

"I knew at some point I would need a liver."

Landry said the only symptom he had was fatigue. Up to the operation, he was doing two things: work and sleep. Weekends were spent resting and getting his energy levels up since he didn't have the energy to do anything else.

In the final few months, he was getting jaundice because his body couldn't get rid of the bile, Landry said.

He also lost some weight.

Landry spent the next three years visiting his doctor so his condition could be closely monitored. A healthy person's bile levels are between 10 and 20. His levels hit 100.

By 1999, he was referred to the transplant unit at the QEII in Halifax to see a specialist. The visit would determine if Landry was a good candidate for a liver



Jocelyne Cormier

Brian Landry received a liver transplant five years ago and he is alive because a family decided to donate a family member's organ.

transplant or not.

When he was told he needed a new liver, Landry didn't know what to expect.

"There was certainly a bit of shock and fear at the time. At first, it takes you quite a back."

The fear of the unknown was what he felt when doctors told him he would have to undergo a liver transplant, he said. He didn't know a whole lot about transplants, what was involved and the survival rate.

Landry did some research on the Internet about the procedure. He talked to a couple of recipients who were doing reasonably well and a lot of specialists. The more information he got, the more reassured he felt.

"On Dec. 7, 1999, they put me on the transplant list. So I got my beeper. They told me the average wait is six months."

A few days later, the beeper went off while he was at work. Landry made the call to the hospital and

was told it was only a test. The coordinator told him they would see him in six months. It was Wednesday.

On Sunday, six days after being put on the transplant list, a call in the middle of the night changed his life.

"I got the call about two in the morning, so you have about six hours to be at the hospital and ready to go."

One hour later, Landry was on his way to Halifax and a new liver.

"I decided to take six months off after the surgery. I probably could have gone back to work earlier if I wanted to."

One of the drugs he took after the transplant was prednisone, which is a steroid.

Once he started to use the drug, his appetite and his energy increased.

"I'd lost 50 pounds but I probably put on approximately 70 pounds in two or three months without any difficulty."

The challenge after all that weight gain was to lose some so he could fit into his suits again, Landry said.

During his stay in Halifax, he was given a new anti-rejection drug, which is less toxic than the older drugs.

An anti-rejection drug suppresses the body's immune system so it won't reject the new organ.

"Long term, I don't have to worry about other health issues and they don't interact."

Organ donations are important because they save lives, Landry said. Without the donated liver, he never would have had a chance to survive.

"The first thing to do when you decide to become a donor is to talk to your family, so they'll respect your wishes.

"A lot of people fill a donor card, but they don't tell their families and often the families don't understand the reasons. Your loss can be someone else's gain."

The organs aren't going to benefit the deceased, Landry said. The most important thing a potential donor should do is to tell their family and explain why they're doing it.

Landry said there were many instances when a deceased signed their donor card, but the family refused.

If the family had understood the reasons behind the decision, the outcome would have been very different.

Organ donation will always remain a personal decision.

"We donate money to charity to help people who are worst off," Landry said.

"We do a lot as a community to help others.

"This is just another way and it's the most important gift. There's no monetary attached to it, but it's the gift of life. Your decision will save somebody's life."

His transplant has given him a new lease on life and a new outlook.

"It means everything. It means I can spend more time with my family. My doctor said I should live a long healthy life.

"It's meant I can continue with my life. I've been able to live because of somebody else's loss."

In Landry's case, five people are alive today because one person's organs were donated. Two women in the ward received the kidneys,

another person got the pancreas, the heart went to Toronto and he got the liver.

Changing the school system

MARY AFFLECK
Surveyor staff

Children are not ready for Grade 1 if they are not six years old by Aug. 31, says the Department of Education.

This school year, children entering Grade 1 must be born before Nov 30, 1998, as opposed to the usual Jan. 31 cut off date.

Bob Gray, district principal for instructional support for the Eastern School Board, said it will be good for all people involved.

"There has been a widespread consultation with the Department of Education after consulting with parents, kindergartens and schools," said Gray.

He said some children born later in the year are not ready to begin school and parents were noticing problems.

"Kids do a lot better in school if they're ready, and we were having too many issues of readiness," he said.

"Parents recognized this and were holding their kids back."

Over the next three years the cut off date will be pushed back a month, catching P.E.I. up with the rest of Canada.

"Most provinces, the cut off date is September, so it's more of us getting in line."

Susan Andrews, a mother of four, is unhappy with the change that will affect her son who was born Sept. 10, 2004.

"He'll be seven in Grade 1 and all the kids he plays soccer and hockey with will be in Grade 2," Andrews said.

"All the extracurricular activities cut off date is Dec. 31."

Andrews said she hasn't had a problem involving readiness with her other three children and she unsuccessfully planned to be induced for the birth of her son Crosby so he could start school a year early.

"He'll be 18 in Grade 12 twelve, that's old enough to vote and join the military."

Andrews is hopeful the system might create a loophole over the next six years.

"We're hoping when Crosby hits kindergarten there'll be an assessment procedure and he'll be able to start."



Daniel Murphy

A child's smile may be priceless but changes to the Children's Dental Care Program may help in putting a price tag on that smile.

Children's dental care program to change

DANIEL MURPHY
Surveyor staff

Parents may pay more attention to the amount of candy their children receive on Halloween this year since the new changes to the Children's Dental Care Program take place on Nov. 1

The program, which has been around for the past 33 years providing free dental care to Island children aged three to 16, could not have kept going on its current path, says health and social services communications coordinator Sara Underwood.

The program will remain the same in providing preventive dental care to all Island children for free, such as yearly examinations, cleanings and fluoride treatments. However, changes will only affect families with a combined net income at or above \$30,000 per year, they will have to pay 20 per cent of the treatment cost, such as fillings and extractions, in addition to the registration fee of \$15 per child or \$35 per family.

"We have to draw the line somewhere, and they think that people with an income of \$30,000 or over would have access to private insurance," said Underwood.

Julie Ready, president of the P.E.I. Dental Association, says they are trying to get away from people using the program when they have private insurance.

Julie Campbell, a local mother of five will be affected by the changes and agrees with the idea

of not using the program when you already have insurance.

"I'm fine with the proposed changes," said Campbell. "It's mostly cleanings and check-ups they go in for anyway."

The average child needs less than one filling a year, said Underwood.

"The children most likely to have more cavities are in the lower income bracket and the systems has remained in place to protect those children," said Underwood.

In a release, Health Minister Chester Gillian said "With this in mind, dentists have agreed to provide an exemption to the 20 per cent for those who apply and provide proof to government of an annual net family income of less than \$30,000."

The program is still accessible to everyone, it's not a two-tier system with the 20 per cent going to the dentists, not the government.

"The program in its current form just isn't sustainable. The dentists have not received any increase in rates from the dental care program in quite some years and the registration fee hasn't gone up in 20 years," said Underwood.

"It was just a matter of costs were increasing, but the prices hadn't risen."

Campbell sees the changes as have minimal impact on her finances when what her children access will still be offered free.

"Of all the different programs across the country by far ours is still one of the best, or the best actually," said Underwood.

GRAHAM WELSH
Surveyor staff

There are few things in this world that have maintained their popularity like a nice warm cup of tea.

Tea has been popular since the Chinese emperor Shen Nung discovered it way back in 2737 BC. Over the centuries it has spread its influence far and wide – so wide in fact even that even the formidable double-double is taking a back seat to boiling water and tree leaves.

Even Tim Horton's has joined the race for that perfect cup.

The beloved dispenser of hot coffee has recently changed the way it makes its tea. It has gone from familiar bags to a metal steeping machine, all in the name of a more tasty – and convenient drink, said Megan Lewandowski at Tim's corporate communications office.

"We're making it from loose tea leaves, it's more traditional. The benefit is there's no messy tea bag you don't know whether or not to leave in your cup. Now the tea is just steeped into the cup," she said.

"There are a lot of tea drinkers out there, we're just tapping into that market." Lewandowski said tea is one of the major drinks Tim's sells, and they sell most of it in the Maritimes.

Maritimers drink so much tea, they chose to test their new product here.

A quick walk through downtown Charlottetown confirms people

love their tea. There are no less than four Asian-style tea rooms in the city, and all have set up in a relatively short time.

Chien-Ming Yeh opened the Formosa Teahouse in 2001. He only opened the place because he couldn't find a job, so instead he brought Taiwanese tradition to a brew-thirsty public.

"The first year I came here nobody wanted to hire me. We had a teahouse in Taiwan and there was no teahouse in Charlottetown. My friend told me that Charlottetown was not good for a teahouse."

It appears his friend was wrong.

"When we first opened three years ago we offered juice, coffee and tea. In all that time we only ever had, maybe, three orders for juice, but orders for tea just kept rising. People don't come in for juice. They look at me, they see my face, and they say 'You are from Asia, you make good tea.'"

There are many, many kinds of tea. Green tea alone has 500 different varieties.

All the various teas of the world, the blacks, greens, and even whites, are selected by a process called fermentation, said Yeh. It's not fermenting like making vodka, but more like grinding coffee beans.

The finer the ferment, the blacker and stronger the tea gets. One hundred per cent fermented is familiar black tea, while 75 per cent is a type of green tea called Tie-Quan Yin, and 25 per cent is like Jasmin tea.

Generally, the blacker the tea,

the stronger the flavor, said Yeh. Tea is little more than leaves in hot water, and it takes a lot more than that to maintain its staying power. Tea's secret is tradition. Teasism, the rituals surrounding the drinking of tea, goes back thousands of years and is characterized by rituals like the Japanese tea ceremony or English teatime.

"We didn't want to change things. We do everything just like it's done in Taiwan," said Yeh, "It's very important to keep it traditional. You have to keep your ways even if some people say it isn't good."



Graham Walsh

Andrea Macdonald pours a mug of tea at Beanz Espresso Bar. Tea has been a popular beverage for centuries being made with leaves, bags, or even powders.

Will people get their flu shots this this year?

MATT VENO
The Surveyor

Even though the provincial government is footing the bill for flu vaccines this fall, Health Board officials aren't sure if more people will actually get the shot.

The provincial government decided to buy the vaccine recently, estimating a bill of \$350,000. But those who get the shot will still have to pay their doctor a fee for the process.

"I don't know," said Sara Underwood, Health communications co-ordinator.

"People in the high risk category will probably get it, but as for the general public I don't know what we'll see."

Underwood said the aim of the project is to give people the opportunity to

get the shot if they want to, rather than an attempt to get more people to have the procedure done.

The rate charged by the doctors will be suggested by the medical society. The money will stay with the doctors, not be cycled back to the government.

Several deaths were caused by the flu at a nursing home in Crapaud in January, bringing the flu virus into the spotlight for Islanders.

The health board recommends people over 65, children 6-27 months, residents of long term care facilities and those with chronic illness get a flu shot.

The flu shot is actually a strain of the virus that is treated so it is dead. Once injected into the body, the vaccine stimulates the body's immune system and prepares it in case it comes in con-

tact with a living flu virus.

Robert Strang of the Capital District Health Authority in Halifax, said the shot is 90 per cent effective in preventing the flu in those in the low risk category, but is only 30-40 per cent effective for those at high risk.

Although it is 80 per cent effective in preventing other illnesses in the high risk category, such as pneumonia.

Strang said the increased public awareness is a positive step in fighting the virus, and getting the shot helps more people than just the person who gets it.

"Businesses have been hiring private agencies to come in and vaccinate their staff. That's a benefit as an employer because with less absent workers, they have increased productivity."

Becoming an organ donor is a family affair

JOCELYNE CORMIER
Surveyor staff

An organ donation is the gift of life and without it, he never would have had a chance to survive, says a man alive today because he received a new liver.

Brian Landry, branch manager at the Scotiabank in Charlottetown, received a new liver in December, 1999 after being diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis. With this disease, his body's immune system was attacking his liver.

Organ donation is the gift of life and the most important gift to give, he said.

"We donate money to charities to help people who are worst off," Landry said. "We do a lot as a community to help others. Your decision will save someone else's life."

Becoming an organ donor starts before a family is faced with the dilemma with the death of a loved one.

"The first thing to do when you decide to become a donor is to talk to your family so they'll respect your wishes," Landry said.

"A lot of people fill a donor card but don't tell their families and often the families don't understand the reasons.

"Your loss can be someone else's gain."

Signing a donor and talking to your family about your decision is a message Joe McCabe, fundraising co-ordinator for the Kidney Foundation, wants every Islanders to think about.

In P.E.I., a heart is engraved on a person's driver's license to

indicate the person's willingness to become an organ donor.

But the heart is meaningless once the person dies, McCabe said.

"Even if you sign your donor card, it's not legislation in Prince Edward Island," he said.

"It means I can spend more time with my family, I've been able to live off somebody else's loss."

Brian Landry
transplant recipient

"Unless the legislation comes, that's what we're up against. There are a number of people who die each year on the waiting list because the kidney or the heart doesn't come up."

McCabe said most people believe in the concept of donating organs, but when the time comes to make the decision, it is often put aside.

"When it comes to that critical point of someone passing away because of a severe or sudden death, the pain and the anguish the family goes through doesn't translate to organ donation," McCabe said.

Once the donor card is signed, a family discussion is needed so the wishes of the donor will be respected, he said.

The discussion is needed because, in the event of death, the family has the final word on whether or not the donation goes or not.

When a donor card is signed and the family agrees, it means Canadians waiting for a transplant can get a new lease on life.

Geoff Wilson, the senior advisor of corporate communications for Capital Health in Halifax, said in an e-mail it's not enough to have a transplant team, trained experts and resources because a successful transplant program depends on the availability of organs.

"Simply having a transplant program does not necessarily guarantee that you will have organs to transplant," Wilson said in a telephone interview.

"It's a decision you can't make lightly," he said. "You're making a donation at the end of your life."

One way to get more organ donations is awareness, Wilson said.

Being an organ donor is a way for the deceased to keep on giving even when they're dead.

Getting a liver transplant gave him a new perspective on life.

"You realize there's more to life than work," Landry said. "You certainly appreciate your family more. You know life can go at anytime."

"It means I can spend more time with my family," Landry said. "I've been able to live off somebody else's loss."

Travel uncertainties cause passport delays

MELISSA BROUSSEAU
Surveyor staff

Doran Gilbert graduated from UPEI in May with his bachelor of arts. Unable to find steady work on the Island, he decided to accept a position teaching English in Bussan, South Korea.

But there is a problem. He is waiting for his passport to come in the mail so he can leave of the country to work. His contract begins Nov. 10. If he had his passport, he could begin sooner.

Gilbert may not even be able to begin Nov. 10, however, if the strike involving federal government workers continues.

While negotiations continue, 125,000 federal government employees hit the picket lines across Canada on Oct. 12. The strike will result in disruption in federal government services.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for processing passports applied for by Canadian citizens. This service stopped at midnight Monday.

Passports in the mail will also be affected because Canada Post, the country's government run postal service, will also be affected by the strike.

In order for a person to get travel documents their reasons for needing them must be classified as urgent.

Corrine Reid in MP Shawn Murphy's office in Charlottetown says this may cause problems.

"That will be difficult because the government will need proof as to why it is urgent," she said.

But Reid said as long as proof is provided, going overseas to work should qualify as urgent.



Melissa Brousseau

Doran Gilbert is ready to go to South Korea, but he's having problems getting a passport.

Gilbert said he hopes his circumstances qualify as urgent, especially when the government considers the wage he will be making in South Korea versus what he can make on Prince Edward Island right now.

"I hope this strike is short because I need my passport to pay the government back their money," he said.

Gilbert will receive \$2,400 a month for teaching and his only out-of-pocket expenses are food and electricity. He also owes the government money for his education.

"My student loan payments are \$600 a month and I have to start paying them in November," he said.

Transit system heading in the right direction

CHRISTINA SCHELLEN
Suveyor staff

The plans for a transit system in Charlottetown are headed in the right direction, says the deputy mayor.

Deputy mayor Stu MacFadyen said city councillors are waiting to meet with Cornwall and Stratford to regionalize the transit system and work with Trius Tours of Charlottetown to consider the cost for buses and day-to-day operations.

MacFadyen said they have to

send a written proposal to receive funds from federal and provincial government.

He said the environment is a big reason why there should be a transit system in Charlottetown.

"There's no need for green house gases being put into the atmosphere," MacFadyen said. "It's a step in the right direction. It will be a big favour to the environment."

He said the system will allow all residents the chance to move from place to place without searching for parking spaces.

If a bus transported people to and from work, it would cut down on the amount of parking spaces to those who only need a parking space for an hour, he said.

"We need to provide a public transit system."

Kim Devine

He said he wants the system to transport people anywhere in Charlottetown.

There is no cost or place for

the bus station as of yet. It's important to have the 'i's' dotted and the 't's' crossed, he said.

They want to find an affordable, workable system that suits everybody.

He said the transit system is the answer to the problem of gas price increasing.

"We are looking at all angles, but it's not something we will rush into," MacFadyen said.

He said Islanders must be educated on the transit system because there not used to how it works. They will make it easy for students

travelling to UPEI and Holland College. The system is a blessing for those who can't afford cars. He said the system will come, but people must be patient.

"We are looking at all parts that would make this come true," MacFadyen said.

City councillor Kim Devine said most cities across Canada have a transit system, so it would improve the environment and many people living downtown.

"It's an efficient way of living," Devine said. "We need to provide a public transit system."

Holland College Welcomes Teachers and Students from China

COURTNEY SCHMIDT
The Surveyor

Holland College students in the Early Childhood Education Program have a chance to experience their on the job training in China.

A five-year partnership between Holland College, the Sichuan provincial department of education, Chengdu Electricalmechanical College and Malaspina University College in British Columbia, allows students from Canada to travel to China to visit rural schools. And allows students in China to come to Canada to learn how Western schools are run.

The project is called the Enhance Rural Teacher Training Project (ERTT).

“Students in the Early Childhood Education Program can go to China for their OJT through this partnership,” said Jolene Chen, one of the founders of the project. “When they get to China, they have an opportunity to teach children there activities they have come up with.”

Each year, there will be a delegation of 10 administrators and trainees travelling from China to Canada for training from professional teachers in Canada. As

well, Canadian delegations will travel to China to offer training and develop relationships with teachers in the Sichuan province.

The goal is to increase student success in rural and remote ethnic minority populations of the Sichuan province. The project is designed to enhance the learning environment in the early years of schooling through training and support for kindergarten and primary school teachers.

“When students from China come to B.C. and P.E.I. they can see for themselves how schools in the Western World are run,” said Chen. “They can learn from the students and staff here.”

Chen said when students travel to China, they get a real glimpse into the lives of students and staff.

“A lot of the schools that our students are going to go are fairly poor,” said Chen. “The schools are located 2,000 metres above sea level, so that means access to resources and professional support aren’t always there.”

When students from China visit Holland College, they are in for very busy days.

“We have activities planned for their visit,” said Chen. “We take them to different schools around the Island, and we give them tours of the Holland College cam-

pus.”

Last year, two students from the Holland College Early Childhood Education program ventured over to China for five weeks as a part of their OJT experience.

Lauren MacKay, a former Holland College student enjoyed her trip so much she decided to stay in China and teach English. She kept a diary of her travels. In it she explains how her work in China paid off.

“Today, we taught a grade four class of ECE students. It went very well. The students were very interested and we had lots of fun. It is quite exhausting coming from a class with so much excitement, but you know you did a good job and that everyone had fun. After our class one of the students taught us how to make Chinese chains.”

She also mentioned the children were happy to have them in their classroom.

“The children were very happy to see us and whenever we took out our cameras they came running to get in the picture.”

Chen said she hopes the project will continue to run after the five-year project is over with.

The next Chinese delegation will be arriving in P.E.I. on Oct 25 and staying until Nov 24.

Fire chiefs want changes to 911 system

CHRISTINA SCHELLEN
The Surveyor

P.E.I. fire chiefs would like changes made to the current 911 system, such as a central fire dispatch system in rural areas, says the provincial fire marshal.

David Blacquiere said fire chiefs brought up the need for change at a meeting with Community Affairs Minister Elmer MacFadyen recently.

One thing they want is a centralized dispatch service taking calls in rural areas.

Blacquiere said the system would save time when responding to an emergency because there would be only one person dispatching.

What they want is when a person calls the dispatch system, the dispatcher asks the nature of the emergency, confirms the information, then pages the service needed.

He said the fire chiefs’ concern about the current system is that information is handed off to

another person.

This creates the risk of information being garbled.

The present 911 system is a call transfer system, meaning anyone who calls 911 stating an emergency will identify to the person answering the call the nature of the emergency, such as a vehicle accident or a fire, he said.

That person will then transfer the person to the agency that dispatches, such as ambulance or fire department.

He said the 911 call taker could come from any of the three public answering service points: Charlottetown police, Charlottetown RCMP or Summerside police. If the line is busy, the call will automatically transfer the person to another line.

He said the whole concept of 911 is it is quick, with an easy phone number to remember and there are professionals on the other end.

“It’s fulfilling the needs of the province,” he said. “With any sys-

tem, there’s room for improvements.”

Wellington fire chief Leon Perry said his concerns are with possible miscommunication and human error where the information isn’t being delivered correctly.

He said the government and MacFadyen are weighing the issues and will come to a decision soon.

“We all understand that money is a big issue with the centralizing of the 911 dispatch centre,” he said. “It’s a big issue and they’re talking big dollars. We realize it’s not going to happen overnight.”

“It’s fulfilling the needs of the province. With any system, there’s room for improvements.”

- David Blacquiere



Tammylee Mackenna

Amanda Ford gives Jonathon Gallant a massage at the Amanda Ford Message Therapy clinic in Charlottetown.

In need of a helping hand

DANIEL MURPHY
The Surveyor

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind offers seven specific services to their client base, other than helping people with their general living.

At present with only three staff members serving over 980 clients in P.E.I. and Cumberland County in Nova Scotia, they are feeling the effect of a limited volunteer base.

The direct service program, such as the vision re-hab center where volunteers have direct contact with clients is one area suffering with retaining volunteers, says CNIB provincial manager Margaret McGee.

“It’s very difficult when you need someone, we have to do recruiting, screening, police checks, reference checks, all of those have to be done because they are working with the public,” said McGee.

“The next problem is keeping them busy enough in small areas. It’s very difficult to keep trained volunteers busy enough.”

The CNIB is not alone in this struggle.

Just over one half of non-profit and voluntary organizations have reported problems achieving their goals due to the decrease in their volunteer base, says a recent report by Statistics Canada.

The decreasing numbers of Canadians volunteering for such organizations as AIDS P.E.I. and The Canadian National Institute for the Blind have made it difficult for the future.

More volunteers have always been identified as a need for AIDS P.E.I., and with the new money from Health Canada dedicated to

the strategy on HIV, they hope to look more closely at doing something to increase the numbers of volunteers.

“There has been quite a fall off of volunteers,” said Angela MacKinnon, a spokesperson for AIDS P.E.I. “Part of it is the lack of a dedicated person in charge of volunteers here. There is only two of us in the office.”

Although AIDS P.E.I. has a number of event volunteers, such as those in the AIDS Walk, what they lack are those who could go in and do administration work, photocopies or re-stacking shelves, says MacKinnon.

“There is a lot of work that can be done,” said MacKinnon. “There is the AIDS Walk, being a buddy, home visits, taking clients out to do groceries, or coming in to do program, clerical or secretarial work.”

Even dedicating an hour a month is a service is welcomed by many volunteer organizations.

“If someone came into CNIB and said I want to volunteer about one hour a month, we’d see what we could get you to do in that hour that was the most beneficial to everyone,” said McGee.

“There is always something that someone can do in a hour, if you look at an hour a month, that’s 12 a year.”

The majority of those volunteers for these organization are friends, family or clients because they have a vested interest.

Once people start to do volunteer work, they will feel some pride and benefit from it, says McGee.

McGee identifies volunteers as one of the most important things we are challenged with in this day and age.

Student debt continues to rise across Canada

JASON FOLLETT
Surveyor staff

Quentin Coish graduated from Memorial University with a degree in archaeology and since then, he has been dealing with debt in excess of \$25,000 as a result of numerous student loans.

"I've been perpetually on interest relief since I graduated," Coish said.

"I haven't been able to use my degree to find a job that would let me sustain a household and pay back my student loans at the same time."

In recent years the cost of tuition has almost tripled, with the average undergrad paying out \$4,172 a year.

When combined with other living expenses such as rent, food, and books, the cost of living can easily exceed \$18,000.

Students are having to seek more and more funds to support themselves during their education. In most cases their only option is a student loan.

Reasons for getting a loan vary, but need often tops the list.

"I was not particularly well off," Coish said. "For me it was the only option. I didn't have a lot of savings and I needed to pay for school, so getting loans was the road I chose."

There aren't too many options available to students who have to deal with the costs of school.

"With the escalating cost of university and housing and travel and food and all of that they have some choices," said Frank Morrison, coordinator of student services at Holland College.

"But the way it is, we haven't

done much to decrease the costs and while we have improved the student loan program, it hasn't closed the gap."

Most of the problems students encounter with their loans are in the application process.

"Really take your time filling it out, and check with someone else that has filled it out previously, hand-deliver it to the student loan people if possible," Morrison said.

"When they're submitted without sufficient information, that's when they get sidetracked.

"Most frequently it's when the student loan system doesn't work for them," Morrison said. "And most of the time it's the lack of proper information provided to the student."

According to Statistics Canada the average student with a government loan leaves school owing in the area of \$19,500. One in seven students owe more than \$25,000.

This level of debt can lead to financial problems.

There is a lot of advice to be heard before getting a student loan.

"Have as much money as possible of their own," Morrison said.

"Have their own source of money, regardless of how they get it, assuming it's legal, whether it's their own, a parents, scholarships, those sort of things," Coish agrees.

"Save money before you get loans, and stay away from large loans if you can, because those will be your downfall.

"And don't go into a long program unless you know exactly what you want to do, because if you don't it will just be a waste of money."

UPEI professor says not to worry about minority government

GRAHAM WELSH
Surveyor Staff

Minority governments often have a reputation for instability, but it may not be deserved.

Despite worries that Canada's current parliament may be a volatile one there is nothing to worry about says Peter McKenna, associate professor at U.P.E.I.'s political studies department.

The Liberals still have the most seats at 135. The Conservatives have 99, the Bloc Quebecois have 54, and the NDP make up the other 19. Out of 308 seats there is only one independent.

"Canadians have basically said to the Liberal government, 'You're on probation.' The other parties realize that.

"They are going to have to make this work," he said.

"Nobody has the money to fight an election campaign right now."

People get a bad impression of minority governments from countries like Italy and Israel. The Italian government is plagued by its inability to stay together.

It is common for a government to fall in a matter of months.

"I think the horror story is Italian governments since 1945. You've had governments last from a few months to 18 months.

"It seems there was this constant flux where you had 40 or 50 gov-

ernments since 1945,' McKenna said.

"You had a crazy amount of governments and that's sort of what people think of minority governments as unstable."

"Canadians have basically said to the Liberal government, 'You're on probation.' The other parties realize that. They are going to have to make this work."

Peter McKenna
professor

Canadian minority governments have lasted at least two years each because politicians here have learned to compromise – and that is key.

"Israel has many far right and far left parties. It's difficult to get a consensus there, it's difficult to hold that coalition together.

"Ideological differences here in

Canada aren't that significant," McKenna said.

In fact, minority government can be a boon to many – including the provinces, because the prime minister's power has been decreased he can no longer afford to simply walk away from provincial demands, he said.

"It doesn't mean that the premiers can pull out their guns and the prime minister is going to put up his hands and say 'All right, whatever you want you can have.' I think you can only carry the blackmail scenario to a certain extent."

The provincial government sees no reason to blackmail anyone. In fact, they don't plan to adjust their strategies in dealing with the new parliament.

"We haven't been actively planning scenarios on hypothetical situations," said Christie MacKinnon of P.E.I.'s intergovernmental affairs department.

"We're going to role with the punches. We're going to deal with the minority that comes along."

The provincial government is ready to deal with whatever the new parliament will throw at them, and as such are taking greater interest in the platforms of the other parties.

"Other parties have platforms that are of interest. Now probably we'll pay attention them more."

Healthy homes – happy seniors

AMBER SHEA
Surveyor staff

It looks like another busy year for the provincial government as they continue to help seniors stay in their homes.

The Seniors Emergency Home Repair Program (SEHRP) has been helping low to moderate income people keep their homes longer by assisting them finan-

cially with major house expenses.

Last year the program helped 186 people stay in their homes and Ron Coles, special projects officer for the social policy division, said 132 clients have already been approved for assistance this year.

"During the first year, the \$200,000 that was allotted to the program was fully utilized and it looks like the money budgeted for this year is going to be fully uti-

lized again," Coles said.

The SEHRP helps cover major structural problems such as bad wiring, leaky roofs and new furnaces that would cause health risks to seniors.

Those experiencing these problems must own the house in order to receive funding, which covers half the cost or up to \$1,500.

In the rare situations where seniors can't afford to pay the other

half, they can take the \$1,500 the provincial government provides and try to get a federal grant, which can be up to \$10,000, Cole said.

So far help has been offered to every senior who falls under this category, he said.

By doing this, the provincial government has helped free up spaces in seniors' homes and has given people the chance to stay in the

houses they love, Cole said.

In a release issued earlier this summer Health Minister Chester Gillan said, "Many Island seniors want to remain in their homes. They want to be close to their families and friends and feel most comfortable in their home communities. This helps low to moderate income seniors with specific emergency repairs to ensure the homes they live in are safe."

Island musicians are getting a voice

CHRISTINA SCHELLEN
Surveyor staff

Island musicians can get not only their voice heard, but they can do it inexpensively with Sandbar Music and Sunza Horse Productions.

Artist manager and record label owner Lloyd Doyle said he has teamed up with Sunza for potential musicians to receive grants and personal funds.

Doyle said he had to do something to move things along in his business.

"I hope it will lead to more recordings in the future," he said.

Sandbar Music handles the administration, decides on the applications that come in and provides assistance to the musicians.

He said after the mixing and recording, the new artist will have a shiny new CD.

Anybody can be a musician, but they have to start by practising at house parties or at bars. This leads to somebody saying they like the band's talent and should record an album, he said.

Doyle said the musician can record in a studio at home or get a professional demo made.

The cost to get started varies with the amount of money the musicians has to record a demo CD and to promote it later.

Doyle said he can record a CD from \$500 to \$10,000. It depends on how much time is put into the recording, mixing and mastering.

He said if a band does it on their computer at home, it's cheaper than having a six-piece band.

They must get their record manufactured and design the album cover, he said. The musicians must decide how much money they want to spend on making the CD sound good so they can sell them to make a profit.

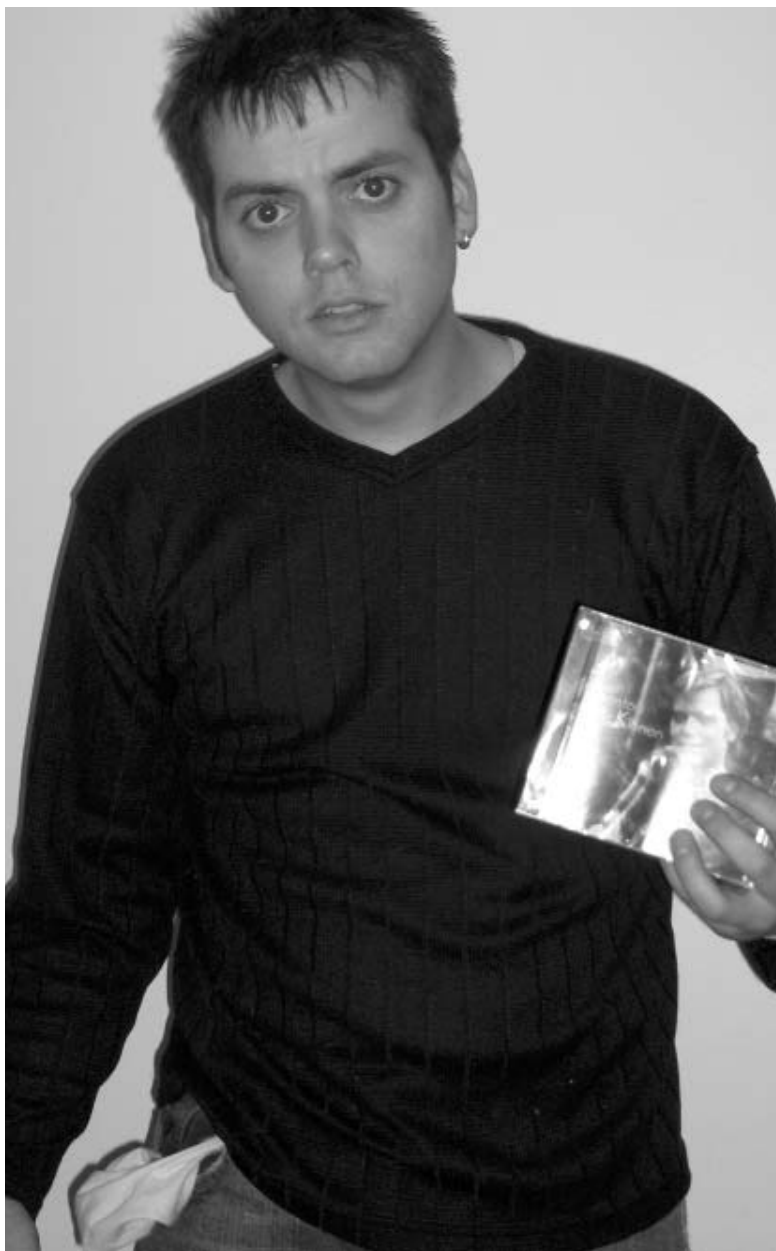
Doyle said some people don't realize once the CD is recorded, they must spend time promoting and marketing it.

"They haven't mastered the knack of getting strangers to buy their record," he said.

Doyle said they can promote their record by Internet, the P.E.I. entertainment magazine *The Buzz* and in local newspapers.

"The more places you play, the more CDs you will sell," Doyle said. "The best way for an artist to promote their CD is to play."

He said people must keep doing



Amber Shea

Trenton McKinnon of Summerside just released his self-titled alternative album in Halifax

what they're doing and do more of it.

"It's not a sprint. It's a marathon."

Trenton McKinnon from Summerside is doing just that with his self-titled alternative album in Halifax.

McKinnon said he started playing at Maritime dinner theatres for five years.

He has always been into music, but he stopped for a couple of years until he received a grant from the P.E.I. Council of the Arts.

"I always wanted to do music, ever since I was in Three Oaks [High School]," he said. "I started recording, then realized the expense so I applied for a grant."

McKinnon received over \$1,000.

He made his record at home on his computer with a rented microphone. It cost him over \$3,000 to master a full length CD of his own songs.

After he recorded the album he sent it to MMS Direct in Toronto for extra mastering. They made 500 copies.

The project took a year and four months because he stopped part way through when it got expensive.

He said it wouldn't have happened without the support and encouragement from everybody who helped him on his album.

"People helped me, so I would be willing to help any Islander."

Political potty mouths not welcome in legislature, says Island clerk

CLARK THOMPSON
Surveyor staff

The use of expletives has been around for a long time and as Prime Minister Paul Martin can attest, it's still not a good thing to curse in front of your elders.

Martin's Aunt Claire recently told him he should wash out his mouth with soap after he blurted out the words "Jesus Christ!" during the first minister's conference on health.

Martin's aunt wasn't the only one upset.

"As a literate person being in this kind of profession, he should be able to conduct himself in a more appropriate manner," said Samer Daouk, a 34-year-old islander originally from Beirut.

In the Arabic language, the worst form of swearing deals with the defilement of one's god, Daouk explained.

"In Lebanon, this kind of comment could get people to want to kill you," he said.

While Martin's comment wasn't seen in quite that way, it's not acceptable for politicians in Province House in P.E.I.

"Swearing in the House certainly isn't permitted," said Charles MacKay, clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

The fact that Martin's remarks weren't made during a session of parliament left the door open for such comments, said MacKay.

However, members of the House must follow strict guidelines.

"Language must be temperate and worthy of the place in which it was spoken," he said.

A member of the P.E.I. Legislature would not get off as easily as a talk from Aunt Claire.

"Some members have used phrases that have offended other members. It's up to the speaker to decide if it's appropriate," said MacKay.

An article in the University of Guelph student paper, *The Ontario*, says swearing is accepted more in today's culture than in the past.

A swear word that could earn you the status of unintelligent or ignorant today, could possibly cause your death in the 14th century, author Sean Ewington said.

Back then, swearing in public could result in severe physical punishment. Swearing then

revolved around religion and taking the Lord's name in vain was a serious crime, he said.

Swearing was blasphemy and people were punished for it. Early pottymouths created euphemisms like "gosh" and "darn" to avoid punishment dealt out by a higher power.

In a February, 2004, online edition of *The Guardian* newspaper in London, England, the importance of discretion in media was explored.

The question of what is and isn't fit for public ears is one that has no real answer as people's opinions constantly shift with time, wrote Mike Lawon.

"The problem for both broadcasters and moral lobbyists is that, rather like the gap between the rich and the poor, the gulf between liberals and puritans increases annually." "A [typical] radio or television audience will now include some people who are more tolerant than has ever been the case, and some people more sensitive than society has ever contained," he wrote.

Cursing is even a subject of academic study.

Author Geoffrey Hughes has written *Swearing: A social history of Foul Language, Oaths and Profanity in English*.

Hughes is a professor of the English language at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The publisher, Penguin Books, says Hughes traces "the history of this intriguing cultural phenomenon from its Anglo-Saxon traditions and those of the Middle Ages, through Shakespeare, the Enlightenment, and the Victorian Era to the Lady Chatterleys Lover trial and various current trends."

"Language must be temperate and worthy of the place in which it was spoken."

-Charles MacKay

Communities in bloom bringing pride to communities

BILL BREWER
Surveyor staff

The recent 2004 Communities in Bloom National Awards in Charlottetown saw more enthusiastic cries that most Oscar's ceremonies.

The program celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Delta Prince Edward with more than 500 there for the formal affair.

Communities in Bloom chairman Raymond Carrière, who has served as president and chairman since 1994, said one of his greatest pleasures at each year's ceremonies is seeing some of the smaller communities get recognized in front of some of the larger cities on a national stage.

But even those who don't get to take a prize home should still be considered winners.

"The ones that win are very enthusiastic about it, but even everyone who participates feels a winner and that's always been the way we designed the program," Carrière said.

Mayor Clifford Lee, one of the guest speakers at the awards gala, agreed.

"The fact that your community is represented in Communities in Bloom makes you a winner," Lee told the crowd.

But it was the winners who cried out from their tables as their communities were announced.

Included in those winners was the town of Wingham, Ont. which won the 2,001 - 3,000 population category.

This was the third year Wingham has entered Communities in Bloom.

"We've been working very hard ever since to achieve this great award.

"So we're very proud for our town," said Elaine Rintoul, Wingham's chairperson for Communities in Bloom.

In the small Ontario community, the committee has planted over 1,000 trees and started historical tours of heritage homes and the downtown area, she said.

And in the past year, the community has also opened the Alice Munro Gardens named for the author born in the town.

Last year, the town went home with the Scotts Best Community of Gardeners Award and this year, the excitement will be even greater, said Verna Steffler, another Wingham delegate.

"The whole community gets involved in it and the whole community likes to know how well we did," Steffler said.

A few phone calls home to the local newspaper and radio station after they left the stage should make spreading the good news around a little faster, she said.

Other national winners at the awards ceremony included Binscarth, Man., Bala, Ont., Taylor, B.C., Mount Forest, Ont., Dauphin, Man., Fort St. John, B.C., Langley, B.C., Kamloops, B.C., and Vaughan, Ont.

Both Summerside and Stratford were finalists in their categories but lost out to Fort St. John and Dauphin respectively.

Charlottetown which won its category in 2001, wasn't eligible for the third year in a row. Communities are ineligible for awards for two years after they win and host cities aren't eligible either.

But next year Lee said he expects the capital city to be back in the thick of things.

"The information sharing between all the municipalities that are here has been really fantastic and I know our staff have picked up new ideas and new projects that they might want to try here," he said.

"I think the benefits are going to last for many years to come." CIB president Carrière agreed, "It's just so nice, tidy and clean and I can understand why (Charlottetown) won a few years ago."

Next year the event will be hosted in Saskatoon, Sask. It won't return to Atlantic Canada until 2007 when the annual gathering is in Moncton, N.B.



Tammylee MacKenna

A runner heads for the finish line on Sunday Oct. 17 during the P.E.I. marathon.

Debate over marriage: who's right?

JOCELYNE CORMIER
Surveyor staff

Using God to oppose homosexuality is a weak excuse, say a local couple.

Les Jay and his wife Gail Carter-Jay say whenever there is a change coming, people resist it, and that is what is happening with same-sex marriages. Les is a minister in the United Church.

Their comments follow a recent Manitoba decision to broaden the definition of marriage to include gay couples.

Manitoba isn't the only province or territory in Canada to rule for a change in the definition of marriage. Yukon, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia did the same.

No one can pretend to know what God is thinking, Les said.

"Who are we to say what God approves?" he said. "It will change. It's not an issue with the younger generation. The younger generation has less of a problem with it than the previous generation."

The reality is there are homosexuals in society - about 10 to 15 per cent of the population, Gail said. Gays and lesbians should have the same rights as everyone else. They know people who are gay and they love them dearly.

Same-sex marriages don't affect heterosexual marriages, Les said.

"I don't see how it diminishes a heterosexual relationship."

Gays and lesbians should be accepted for who they are, he said.

"They are loving people just

like us," Gail said. "We should make it a fair place. We are to be loved as we are."

Les recalls speaking at a memorial service for an openly gay man who committed suicide. Some who attended were surprised to hear a member of the church speak of acceptance.

"He is still a child of God," he said. "It doesn't mean God turned his back."

Those who oppose same-sex marriages misquote the Bible and use those quotes out of context, the Jays agree. Quoting the Bible is looking at the big picture and not at individual passages.

But the debate over the definition of marriage is not going away, Les said.

"The greatest way to change our minds is through our hearts," Gail said.

Not everybody supports same-sex marriages.

Focus on the Family, a Christian organization, is opposed. In a booklet entitled Marriage and Homosexuality, the organization said the reason to oppose these unions is found in the Bible.

"But the Bible is far from silent about homosexuality itself. Passages in Leviticus (18:22), Romans (1:24-28), 1 Corinthians (6:9-11), 1 Timothy (1:8-11) and Jude make the clear point that homosexuality is in violation of God's plan for humanity."

The booklet suggests there is only one model to follow.

"A mom and a dad, a husband and a wife- it is the natural model that civilization has always gravitated to."

In an e-mail response to an interview request, Anna Marie White, director of family policy for Focus on the Family in Canada, quoted James Dobson's views on homosexuality and same-sex marriages. Dobson is founder of Focus on the Family.

In opposition to those clergymen who give their blessings to same-sex marriages, White said Dobson's opposition is clear.

"They just believe something we don't," she quoted him as saying. "Either they discount the authority of Scripture or adopt interpretive methods that allow them the latitude to ignore or distort the obvious meaning of its words."

Father John Lacey of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cornwall explained why the Catholic Church is officially opposed to same-sex marriages.

"I think fundamentally the Church's official teaching is based in the beginning that God made them male and female," he said.

"It goes back to the reading of Genesis. The Church's official teaching on that is that only a man and a woman reflect that scriptural story."

Lacey said one of the elements is that integral to marriage for the Catholic Church that is that the couple is able to have children.

Lacey said broadening the definition of marriage would have negative effects.

"It would take away the exclusivity that now exists," he said "All cultures see marriage as between marriage a man and a women."



Amber Shea

Five-year-old Grace Blacquiere, from Summerside, searches through the pumpkins at Compton's Vegetable Stand for the perfect one to carve out for Halloween.

Tropical storms force bridge closure

COURTNEY SCHMIDT
Surveyor staff

It's that time of year again. Atlantic Canadians, get your umbrellas out.

Every year, Atlantic Canadians are forced to deal with strong winds and heavy rain as the remnants from tropical storms that pound the region.

It's all a matter of geography as to why the Atlantic Provinces deal with this kind of weather.

"Atlantic Canada receives the trail ends of tropical storms coming from the Bermuda area," said Bob Robichaud, a weather prepartness meteorologist with Environment Canada in Halifax.

"Because the Atlantic Provinces are close

to the ocean, we tend to stick out more, and when ridges of high pressure strike places like Bermuda, the current steers the storm towards us, and usually we get the aftermath of huge storms coming from tropical areas," he said.

Remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole blew through Prince Edward Island and parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on Oct 11. Gusts of wind hit the 90kmph mark, forcing the Confederation Bridge to close to high-sided vehicles from 3:30 p.m. on Oct 11 until 3:30 a.m Tuesday morning.

"When wind speeds hit 90 kmph, we have to shut down the bridge to high-sided vehicles because its dangerous for drivers to be on the bridge when the winds are that high," said Keith Sigsworth, the toll traffic supervisor at the Confederation Bridge.

Frito Lay Canada raises money for physical education in schools with walk-a-thon

TAMMYLEE MACKENNA
Surveyor staff

Frito Lay Canada took 10 million steps across Canada recently to help elementary children.

Frito Lay Canada employees participated in a walk-a-thon Sept. 18 which raised \$165,000 for physical educational programs in schools across the nation.

On that day, 19 fundraising walks were held throughout Canada and more than 4,000 employees and their families were invited to voluntarily participate in the national "chip in" day.

Erron Sherry, a Frito Lay sales representative for Charlottetown, was one of 3,500 people who walked in the five-kilometre walk. He travelled to Moncton where 100 employees from the Island and Moncton walked, raising \$4,500 for the two provinces.

Sherry said many people walk to raise money for other causes like the fight against cancer, but he joined others in Moncton for this walk-a-thon because it interested him.

"I thought it was a pretty good cause. This here comes along and I said, 'Yeah, I think I could do that.'"

As part of the fundraiser, Frito Lay employees donated money and gathered pledges to add to total.

"Each employee that goes into it was asked to donate \$25, and then the company will match that. Plus guys who couldn't go, they also donated too," Sherry said.

Money donated by employees and the amount contributed by the company was forwarded with the pledges to the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for the Chip in School Community Fund administered by the association.

The association is a nationally recognized and registered charity focused on getting kids active in local ele-



Tammylee Mackenna

Frito Lay donated money raised during a recent fundraiser to physical education programs for students.

mentary schools. It was selected by Frito Lay as a charitable partner.

Association spokesperson Andrea Grantham said they developed a program focused on developing a healthy lifestyle at an early age called Energy Balancing.

"Energy Balance is a resource that is being developed for students from k-6 to teach them the importance of balancing good nutrition and exercise; so all about moderation and healthy eating, healthy active living."

The program was developed by a panel of physical and health educators, dietitians, public health officials and individuals in the schools who developed the resources.

Grantham said the program is reviewed by a broader group including system health educators in the schools, registered dietitians, physical health education consultants and supervisors, education professionals,

public health promotions officials, registered dietitians, certified fitness and lifestyle consultants, and an exercise physiologist.

"They are all reviewing it to ensure it's quality information, that it is appropriate and accurate."

The association uses the money raised to develop resources to be distributed free to schools in Canada.

Grantham said any money raised within the community returns to that community with the primary goal of helping the elementary schools most in need.

A set of criteria for schools in need of additional help will be used to decide which schools receive the kits.

Before the walk-a-thon, Grantham said the association expected to raise over \$100,000 nationally.

"Which is just fabulous for an organization like us who is devoted to developing quality resources, this is going to be very helpful."