

# The Surveyor

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Holland College, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

FREE

## 'Here's your daughter'

*Charlottetown couple adopts a twin from long-time friends*

By Cheryl-Lynn Murray

Carol and Bryce Allen got their wish, no, miracle on June 29, 2003, when their friends, Melvin and Jennifer Ford, gave birth to fraternal twin girls.

And let them adopt one.

The couples had been friends for years and became closer over time.

Because the Fords already had two children of their own and the Allens had been trying to adopt for years, the Ford's children, a boy and a girl, became like their own.

So when Jennifer and Melvin found out they were going to have twins, it made perfect sense to let the Allens experience something they'd never had and always wanted.

Carol, 41, and Bryce, 51, had been trying since 1993 to have a child.

They tried adopting the child of a mother who was unsure if she wanted to keep the baby because it was an accidental pregnancy.

Social services officials told them they were not married long enough to adopt. Besides, the mother decided to keep the baby.

They filed an adoption request with social services and for a few years just waited. Then a friend decided to be a surrogate mother, but she also decided to keep the baby.

After three years of failed artificial insemination, failed in vitro fertilization, private adoption lawyers and a lot of money, the couple learned about international adoption.

They filed the necessary paperwork and were three months away from going to the Philippines when they learned Jennifer was pregnant. With twins.



Two-year-old twins Alyssa Ford, left, and Leah Allen, enjoy a playful kiss on a day with their moms, Jennifer Ford and Carol Allen, in Charlottetown. (Murray photo)

## Funding for kids great accomplishment, Gillan says

By Melanie Bernard

P.E.I. will receive \$20.5 million in federal funding for early learning and childhood care, and Social Services Minister Chester Gillan is excited about it.

The funding will be used over a four-year span. The province will receive \$3 million this year.

Gillan said getting the funding was a great accomplishment for the province. P.E.I. was one of the last provinces to sign a deal with the federal government.

"I'm elated because it has taken us a long while to get it."

Federal Social Development Minister Ken Dryden was in Charlottetown on Nov. 24 to announce the deal. The provincial government will decide what to do with the money.

Deanna Martin, an early childhood care and education student at Holland College, said it's about time the government started taking early childhood care seriously.

"They were kind of brushing us off as babysitters. People are starting to realize just how important we are. Finally, people are investing in our future."

Martin said money is needed to pay the existing staff more money.

"A lot of times people have to keep part-time jobs just to make ends meet."

The educators will not need second jobs if they are paid well, Martin said, and they will be able to concentrate on planning activities and focus on what they're doing.

Money is also needed for new equipment, she said.

Gillan said there are three places the money will go:

- To the parents as an increase in subsidy for the children they have in day care:

*continued on page 4*

*continued on page 3*

# Political parties should clean up campaigning, sign pledge to do it, says Green Party leader

By David MacDonald

The leader of the Green Party has challenged the leaders of the other federal parties to sign a pledge promising to campaign with "respect and dignity" instead of using negative tactics.

Leader Jim Harris made the pledge during a news conference in Charlottetown on Dec. 2 when he signed his name to the pledge.

He planned to leave the pledge at the offices of The Guardian for the other leaders to sign when they visit Prince Edward Island during the campaign.

Many observers have predicted this election campaign will be the dirtiest yet.

Harris said it is time to clean up election campaigns.

"Return them to focusing on debate, policy and values that matter to Canadians, as opposed to being involved in mudslinging and name-calling," he said.

"We're taking this stand against the politics of blame and focusing instead on the politics of solution."

Some people say voting in an election encourages bad behaviour in government, he said, but the Green Party plans to honour democracy and respect for debate.

"People have the right to know how parties differ. They have the right to know how they perform



Jim Harris, the national Green Party leader, talks to the media during a news conference at the Delta on Dec. 2. Harris was the first national party leader to visit Charlottetown. (Reeves Photo)

in office, but all this can be done without personal attacks or fear-mongering."

One of the Green Party's policies is to reduce taxes in products which benefit the environment, he said.

In response to a question about Conservative leader Stephen Harper's plan to reduce the GST to five per cent, Harris said his party would be more focused on lowering the GST on specific

items such as hybrid vehicles, public transit passes and high-efficiency furnaces.

"All things that will address our challenge with Kyoto."

One of the party's policies is to have 25 per cent of its candidates 30 years of age and under.

One of them is 19-year-old Haida Arsenault-Antolick, the candidate for Cardigan.

Antolick said one of her biggest goals for this campaign is to get

both the Green vote and the youth vote.

"To me, it's really about trying to infuse some excitement back into politics."

The tension between youth and politics is something of a Catch-22, she said.

"Youth don't often see their issues reflected in politicians' speeches, so we don't vote for them, so they don't respond to our issues."

## Candidates differ on what's key issue in election

By Chris McGarry

The Conservative Party of Canada has a good chance of winning the upcoming federal election, Tom DeBlois says.

But Liberal MP Lawrence MacAulay says Canadians will vote for the Liberals because the economy is doing well.

DeBlois, a retired businessman and the Conservative candidate for Charlottetown riding said in an interview Islanders are upset and disillusioned with the ruling Liberals and the sponsorship scandal so they want change.

"The Gomery Inquiry has put a smear on all politicians and Canadians have to learn to trust government again."

On Nov. 28, the Conservative, Bloc Quebecois, and New

Democratic parties voted to bring down Prime Minister Paul Martin's Liberals, triggering an election set for Jan. 23.

These days, DeBlois is busy campaigning.

Many Canadians haven't given Conservative leader Stephen Harper enough credit, even though he has a vision for Canada, he said.

"Mr. Harper wants to bring integrity back to government.

"That won't happen overnight, but when the people see their officials leading by example, trust will be regained."

Islanders are polite and encouraging. They tell him Canada needs a change, he said.

"If that voice keeps gaining momentum, the Liberals' worst fears will be realized.

"I believe there is a strong possibility of a Conservative minority government coming out of this election."

Canadians must develop a sense of identity and have an appreciation of where they come from, DeBlois said.

"The Conservatives still want to encourage Canadians from different backgrounds to maintain their cultural ties.

"Canadians have a uniform set of standards and there must be common values coast to coast."

But MacAulay said when Canadians evaluate Harper's vision of the country, they will have difficulty voting for him.

"In 1993, after the Mulroney government fell, Canada was just about broke as a nation.

"Sixty billion has been paid off

over the last 12 years under the Chretien and Martin governments," he said.

"Canada has the strongest GDP growth of all the G-8 nations, making it one of the world's best countries to live in."

MacAulay said an election is not needed now and another minority government seems likely.

"The Liberals will do better than anticipated in Quebec and we may even win a majority government."

Catherine Bourgault, a spokesperson for the Bloc Quebecois, said the sponsorship scandal has angered many Quebecers and made separation more popular.

"Surveys show popularity for the Bloc at 50 per cent and rising.

She said she's always been interested in politics, but decided to get involved with the Green Party after a stay in New Zealand where, among other things, she volunteered for that country's Green Party.

The earth's resources are valuable and can never be replaced, she said.

"Right now, our economy is based on pulling resources out of the land, but with no consideration for the true cost of that. The cost is only on extraction."

Both Harris and Antolick agree strategic voting doesn't get results.

"If you don't believe in what you're supporting, there's no passion behind it," Antolick said.

Harris said, "Only when we vote for the party we do want, will things change."

He said he is "outraged" he is not able to participate in the upcoming televised leaders debate, considering how the party has run a full slate of candidates in both 2004 and this current election and received 600,000 votes last time.

"I find it amazing that broadcasting consortiums meeting in secret can make decisions in terms of what our democracy is going to look like."

The party is considering legal action, he said.

"The new leader of the Parti Quebecois is pushing for separation and many French-speaking immigrants to Quebec understand why we want our own nation," she said.

"Separation will be better for Quebec and for Canada."

Jeremy Stiles, deputy leader of the P.E.I. Green Party, said its support is rising because Canadians are tired of traditional parties doing nothing for them.

"In the last election, the Green Party received 600,000 votes. During this election, we expect that support to grow by an additional 25-30 per cent.

"On a percentage basis, British Columbia, Alberta, P.E.I. and Quebec are the provinces where the Green Party has the most support."

# Raise minimum wage, avoid poverty: Halupa

By Chris McGarry

Working-class people being subsidized by government are not lazy, they just cannot provide basic living necessities, a P.E.I. anti-poverty activist says.

Paulette Halupa, president of the National Anti-Poverty Organization made the comments following the provincial government's announcement of a minimum wage increase from \$6.80 to \$7.15 per hour as of April .

Halupa, a member of ALERT PEI, a local anti-poverty group, is lobbying the government to raise the minimum wage to \$9.40 per hour. As the cost of living increases, so should people's wages, she said.

"Otherwise, how would someone live?"

"Small businesses feel they cannot afford to lose money in wages increase, but the money goes back into the economy."

Big corporations often get subsidized by the government instead of small businesses, Halupa said.

"Many times when the subsidies run out, these companies leave the province and most Island-owned companies don't seem to be getting any benefits."

Subsidies aren't the only thing that's unfair, she said. Reporting of crime is slanted towards the poor.

"When people who are wealthy get convicted in court they often get lighter sentences and their income is not reported. I've known of many cases where young offenders who came from well-to-do families got off with a slap on the wrist."

Canada must follow the lead of the Scandinavian countries and have better social programs and

free university to its citizens, Halupa said.

"We're getting to the point in Canada where public education is going to be very costly because parents have to pay so many fees."

"The issues that often get the most attention are ones promoted by special-interest groups who contribute to government campaigns."

When enough people get concerned and active, there will be change, Halupa said.

"People are scared to say anything, scared of their landlords, scared of social services."

NAPO doesn't want to be the voice of the people, we want the

people to join with us. Hopefully some-day, when things get really bad, the poor will stand up and voice their opinions regardless of the consequences."

Labor minister Elmer MacFadyen said government cannot raise the minimum wage any higher because it must consider what an employer can pay.

"Government strives to balance the needs of wage earners with the needs of businesses to remain competitive in the marketplace."

"We also strive to ensure minimum wages are competitive in the Atlantic region and that P.E.I remains an attractive environment to invest in and do business."

## Minimum wage not enough to keep food on table: mother

By Melanie Bernard

The minimum wage isn't enough to make it worth going back to work, says a new mother from the Summerside area.

Jennifer Dawson has a four-month-old daughter and has thought about going back to work part-time, but she said she wouldn't make any money.

"My job would only pay for the babysitter. It makes more sense for me to stay home and let (my boyfriend) do his job."

Lt-Gov Leonce announced in the Nov. 16 speech from the throne minimum wage will go up 35 cents to \$7.15 April 1, 2006.

Dawson has had a few jobs that pay minimum wage or a little higher in the past few years.

"It absolutely sucked. I was paying rent and I had no extra money for myself, none at all. If I wanted extra money, I had to take it out of my rent and pay it back later."

She said minimum wage was "not even close enough" to keep her bills paid, food on the table and money in her pocket.

Dawson worked at a job that paid \$9 an hour and she said even that wasn't enough.

"We just barely got our bills paid. We'd have to pick and choose which ones we'd pay."

She suggested a minimum wage rate of at least \$9 an hour.

The provincial government has a responsibility to keep people happy, she said, and if they can't raise the minimum wage, they should lower taxes to make it easier on those who need every penny.

When Dawson was a teenager, the minimum wage was about \$5.50. She said the government is heading in the right direction by raising the rate.

"I'm glad they're up to \$7.15. It's good, but at the same time, it needs to be more."



### Ready for the holidays

P.E.I.'s province house on Grafton Street sits quietly waiting for the arrival of jolly St. Nick. (Mountain photo)

## Rules change on how to count tourists

By Shane Mountain

There will be a new method for counting tourism traffic to the Island this year.

Tourists will be counted over a complete year rather than for six months of the year.

Also under the new method, Islanders living off-Island and returning home will be counted as tourists. This will add to the num-

bers in February and March.

"We will be counting traffic across the bridge, at the airport and the ferry," said Chris Jones director of policy, planning and research at tourism P.E.I.

Accommodations on the Island will now have to report the number of visitors they have and where they are from.

"We will be able to compare the economic impact after 2006 when

we can compare the numbers," he said.

Tourism Minister Philip Brown said he hopes to stimulate domestic tourism for the next year.

Brown said monitoring the number of tourists helps to build awareness of the true economic outcome over the year. The government has a five-year plan to increase the tourism from one million last year to two million in 2010.

## Funding for kids a great accomplishment: Gillan

(continued from page 1)

•To the operators so they can pay for their heat, electricity and infrastructure; and

•To the staff so they can earn a decent salary.

Gillan said the educators need "some of these federal dollars in their pockets."

MP Shawn Murphy and his office were a great help as well, Gillan said.

"This shows the co-operation with federal and provincial (representatives)."

Gillan said he hopes to have some funding in place before Christmas to "try to get it in the hands of people who need it."

Martin, who has a two year-old daughter, said getting the federal dollars is an excellent start, but she knows how much money daycares need to meet children's needs.

"It sounds like a lot of money, but in reality, the amount of money that is needed isn't close."

Gillan said licensed daycares with five or more kids are eligible to receive money.



Playtime is anytime for two-year-old twin sisters Alyssa Ford, left, and Leah Allen.

(Murray photo)

# Friends adopt twin daughter from friends

*continued from page 1*

Melvin and Jennifer, who are now divorced, sat down for coffee one day after finding out they were expecting.

They had marital problems and talked about what they could do. It was a difficult time to have more children, so the couple decided to suggest the idea of adoption to the Allens.

"They try so hard and things were going to be tough on us, so we thought, all we can do is ask. If they said yes, we would figure out what we would have to do," said Melvin.

Carol said yes, immediately. Melvin said, "We knew what it was like to get up in the middle of the night to a dirty bum and change a baby. We thought Carol was a good enough friend that she deserved to experience every bit of it too."

Carol had some doubts. "I'll be honest. In the back of my mind was that it sounds really good, but I was waiting for that stone wall to happen, like it happened before."

Trying not to get too excited,

she told Jennifer to really think about it, to make sure it was what she wanted and if, in the eighth month of pregnancy, she still wanted to go ahead with it, they would.

"I didn't want her to regret anything," Carol said. "It's her decision to make, but it was one we would all have to live with."

Melvin said in the next nine months they didn't change their minds once.

They didn't even think about it. They knew it was the right thing to do.

"It was really hard leading up to this, but at the same time we knew how much they had gone through and everything they had tried to do.

"The last thing we wanted to do was break their hearts. We didn't want that to happen anymore."

They went through the adoption process, involving social services

and lawyers to make it legal. The couples decided beforehand the first baby born would be the Allen's and the second would be the Ford's.

Then came labour day.

For Carol, it was hardest in the hospital.

*"I just keep thinking, I still have a daughter. She didn't go anywhere. She's just in a different house. I know we did the right thing. I know we did."*

-Melvin Ford

out on the line. That's when I lost it. That's when reality set in for me."

For Melvin, it was different.

He had spent five days in the hospital, sneaking in to see his daughters before any other visitors arrived.

He would talk to them.

He would hold the tiny girls in his arms and cry.

He had to explain, to the daughter they were giving up, what they were doing because he felt deep down in her heart she knew there was something going on.

"I kept telling her Daddy's not a bad man, that it wasn't that we didn't want her. It was what they felt was right. We wanted someone else to have a life that we had."

With tears in his eyes, he remembered when the girls were born.

The nurses let him carry them from the delivery room to where their families were waiting to welcome them.

He felt so much love in that room he thought their lives were complete and that's all that mattered.

He walked over to Bryce with the two girls in his arms and handed him Leah.

"Here's your daughter," he said.

Friends and family kept telling them they would have to put distance between them, that they could no longer be friends.

But they knew they couldn't let

that happen. Carol said if anything, they should be closer.

They would be taking away a part of Leah by not letting her biological parents see her.

"They are the beginning of Leah's life. Bryce and I may be the first ones to come along, but they are the beginning," she said.

The day they left the hospital parking lot was the day it finally sank in.

Melvin and Jennifer were in the first car with Alyssa, and Carol and Bryce in the car behind them with their Leah.

"We went one way. They went another. That was the breaking point," said Melvin.

"It was the hardest thing to watch."

Even now, he thinks about what they have done.

"I just keep thinking, I still have a daughter. She didn't go anywhere. She's just in a different house," he said.

"I know we did the right thing, I know we did."

He paused and beamed at Carol sitting across the table from him.

"No regrets."

# Campaign launched to prevent sexual assaults

By Melissa Brousseau

It only takes a moment to slip a date rape drug into a drink.

That's why an Island campaign has been launched to make people aware of the drugs and their link to sexual assault.

The Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Network PEI, Charlottetown police, UPEI security, Holland College and the province have joined forces to promote prevention of sexual assault.

Prince Edward Island is only the second jurisdiction in Canada to have such a campaign. Yukon Territory is the only other place in Canada where the Liquor Control Commission is part of this type of awareness program.

Kelly Robinson is with the Rape Crisis Centre. She said the centre's therapy services has received 15 reports over the past few years where the assault victim believes they were given a drug.

"Even without official reports to the police, our focus is prevention. We want to keep this from happening to any Islander, but we are especially concerned about our youth."

Only 10 per cent of all sexual assaults are reported to begin with, Robinson said.

"But when you look only at date rape, where the victim knows his or her attacker, that drops to one per cent."

The Liquor Control Commission has provided \$3,000 for posters and coasters that will be available in bars and clubs.

Wayne MacDougall is the chief executive officer of the PEI Liquor Commission.

"We've asked licensees to put the posters up on their premises and stickers up in the washrooms and also that they use the coasters."

The campaign aims to educate young people on how to prevent becoming a victim.

Cpl. Reg Campbell is on the

Drug Awareness Service with the city police.

Campbell hopes this awareness campaign causes men and women to think twice and protect themselves.

"We know these drugs are being used," he said. "But because the drugs leave the system so fast, it's

*"If you suddenly feel more intoxicated than what you should be - because most people know how many drinks they can have before they feel intensely intoxicated - if that hits you early, you should get help."*

- Kelly Robinson

difficult to prove a drug was used and we have had no criminal convictions in this province."

The most common drugs being used as date rape drugs are ketamine, ecstasy, rohypnol and GHB.

"For the most part they are tasteless, colourless and they do not have a smell," Robinson said.

Prevention is key, she said. "Once it's in your drink, there is no way to know."

Robinson offered tips on how to know if you have taken a date rape drug.

"If you suddenly feel more intoxicated than what you should be - because most people know how many drinks they can have before they feel intensely intoxi-

cated - if that hits you early, you should get help.

"These are the kinds of drugs that may make you pass out. But some people drink to excess and they may not have that warning sign, so you really need to be careful."

If someone suspects they may have been given one of the date rape drugs, get to a hospital right away, Robinson said.

"They come out of the system very quickly, so they may not be picked up in your urine unless you get to the hospital right away."

Alcohol is considered a date rape drug, Robinson said. Part of this awareness campaign will be to educate staff in licensed clubs about drugs and sexual assault.

It's important this no longer be looked at as a woman's issue, Robinson said.

"Staff in clubs should be aware of what to look for, like extreme intoxication, because this is a community issue."

If alcohol is involved, it's important, if you are getting mixed messages to stop and clarify with the person what they want to do, Robinson said.

"If you can't be sure that the person has given informed consent, do not engage in sexual activity."

## How to protect yourself

- Stay with your friends – there's safety in numbers.
- Avoid secluded areas in parties or on campus.
- Be forceful and clear about where you are and what you want.
- Do not leave your drinks unattended.
- Trust your gut feelings. If you feel threatened or at risk, don't quell those feelings, act on them and get to safety if possible. Also, if you get a "vibe" from a friend that she or he is uncomfortable or feels intimidated by someone, don't leave him or her alone.
- Mix your own drinks, or get your drinks from the bartender.
- Do not drink from a punch bowl at a house party. It may already be drugged.

- Information from a presentation by Date Rape Prevention, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

# Seniors like move to split department

*Change may end frustrating delays in getting things done: Fraser-MacKay*

By Tammylee Mackenna

Most splits bring misery to those involved, but when it comes to the breakup of the Department of Health and Social Services, the parties involved couldn't be happier.

The new Department of Social Services and Seniors began operation Nov. 8 and Island seniors' groups hope this will bring about change they have been waiting for.

Winnie Fraser-MacKay, president P.E.I. Seniors Citizen's Federation Inc., said it looks like it.

"It is really going to enhance the communication that we will be able to have. We are really excited because meetings have already taken place."

Fraser-MacKay said prior to Nov. 8 seniors' groups faced frustrating delays in getting things done.

"Before, if we had an issue with housing, we would have to go to housing. If we had an issue in money we would have to go to finance. We had to do to that department after department."

The new department will save time and energy, and information will not get lost along the way, she said.

"This way we can go to the minister who is directly responsible for seniors."

Seniors and Social Services Minister Chester Gillan said the first task is the development of the Senior Citizen's Secretariat.

Known as the Group of Nine, Gillan said it exists in other provinces and P.E.I. has been pushing for it for years.

Fraser-MacKay said, "It is all the different groups of seniors who will work with the politicians. It's like one-stop-shopping. It will serve as a single entry point for all the seniors groups across the province into government."

Gillan said the secretariat will be made up of two representatives from the Seniors Advisory Committee, one from the Senior Citizen's Federation, one from the Seniors United Network, a

French delegate, three representatives from government and the deputy minister of seniors.

"That secretariat is going to be responsible for establishing roles and responsibilities of these people and getting the coordinator into position and then saying here is what we think."

The department split because of the increasing number of aging people on the Island as well as the large number of seniors across Canada viewing P.E.I. as a nice place to live out retirement, he said.

The split means there will no longer be a division in time between issues. Matters that previously shared time and focus will now have more attention.

"This will give (the department of) health more time to concentrate on health matters, and seniors and social services can now refocus more on the problems, issues and financial help of the aging," said Gillan.

He is acting as both health minister and minister of seniors and social services.

"I anticipate in the New Year the premier will see fit to apply another person to either position."

Gillan said he could be in one of the positions or there could be two new people in both departments.

The deputy minister has been out meeting with organizations representing seniors, said Gillan.

Seniors groups have been working on P.E.I. for more than 40 years and have a strong voice.

"They are very well orchestrated, represented and they have clubs and federations all over the province, but there was no umbrella organization speaking for them all. Now the secretariat will do that."

Gillan said the secretariat will need more than just cash.

"What we are going to do with them is have a coordinator appointed (within the secretariat) before Christmas to help them."

# Cuts show government fails to understand industry: Clarkes

By Sarah Thorne

P.E.I., with its lack of tall buildings and washed-out ocean glare, is rumoured among filmmakers to have some of the best natural light for filming, Island Media Arts Co-op coordinator Mille Clarkes says.

Her praise for the Island and its small, but solid, film industry came on the same day, Nov. 30, that the P.E.I. government announced it's cutting funding for television and film production by \$300,000 to about \$700,000.

Although the co-op, which receives most of its funding from the Canada Council and Technology P.E.I., won't be directly affected by the funding cut, Clarke said the general feeling is the industry will suffer.

The cut is a bad idea, she said. "Look at the bottom line. Forget about the cultural aspects."

The government needs to recognize

the benefits of local films, she said. Besides exposure for the Island, it gives a boost to other businesses such as those in the food industry, rental car agencies and hotels.

"There's a sense of cultural enhancement that can only benefit the economy."

## Brown questions Currie on lack of support

During question period Nov. 30, Charlottetown MLA Richard Brown questioned Development and Technology Minister Mike Currie on the government's lack of support for the film industry.

"Does the minister not see that other provinces are using the television and film industry to promote their province?"

The money just isn't available, Currie said.

"We do have some very good com-

panies and have been very successful in Prince Edward Island, and we do support them. And we can only support them with the programs that we have and those programs reward those are successful."

Co-op members, along with other filmmakers from the Island, are responsible for a number of successful films.

Brian Ramsey, a co-op member, saw his film Cuban Fire appear at the Cannes Film Festival.

The movie, a documentary about Cuban music, received critical acclaim.

"It's a beautiful film," Clarkes said.

Ramsey said no matter how beautiful a film is, Island filmmakers never make a lot of money.

They might receive a broadcast licence, but once they pay for film insurance, there isn't much money left over, Clarkes said. "You might break even, if you're lucky."

# Downtown renovations almost complete

By Katie Smith

Charlottetown has been undergoing a streetscape project since September to beautify Queen Street. One area of the project is the sidewalk renovation.

The general contractor for the construction was Island Coastal and the sub-contractor laying the bricks was Red Oak Landscaping.

Jamey Smith, owner of Red Oak, said he was happy to be part of this project and glad their company was selected.

The project went to tender and his company, along with Island Coastal, priced the project for three different styles for the design of the walks: inter-locking stones, exposed aggregate concrete and stamped asphalt, Smith said.

Their bid for inter-locking stones was chosen.

Smith had 10 labourers working for him during the fall, each putting in between eight to 10 hours a day, six days a week. The project was due to be finished in mid-November.

The crews was still working hard the day Smith talked about the work. "We should be done in another two weeks or so."

The inter-locking stones are easy to maintain and will be able to withstand a lot of wear and



Jonathan Gallant, a labourer with Red Oak Landscaping, cuts the bricks for the inter-locking sidewalk on Queen Street in Charlottetown. (Smith photo)

tear, he said.

"They will last. They have a stronger PSI (pounds per square inch) than concrete."

He said at the time the project would bring some needed change to the downtown area of Charlottetown.



The Caboose, the newest member of Charlottetown's bus fleet, stops outside the Confederation Centre. The Caboose was added to the fleet to provide extra service to commuters. (Allison photo)

# Transit system needs more buses: manager

By Chris Wood

Trius Tours is heading back to the drawing board to work out the kinks in the new bus system in Charlottetown.

Even with all four buses up and running, the demands of the city are not being met.

A smaller bus called the Caboose will be running east and west through the city to pick up passengers left out of the four-route loop.

For the time being the buses will not run past 7 p.m.

People who work shifts must make other arrangements until the hours are extended.

Trius Tours manager Bobby Dunn says the single-car or low-income families are target riders.

"What we're finding now is the system that is in place is working for the people who really need it, the guy or girl who has not been able to apply for work outside of the city.

"Now the bus is allowing them to get to other parts of the city."

The average ridership is 74 people a day. The bus needs 60 to be profitable.

The goal is to have 240 ride a day within the next five years.

A high of 168 was reported on Oct. 21, but there is still not enough money to extend the

existing schedule.

After paying for manpower and maintenance there is little left, said Dunn.

"The resources are limited right now. The city alone needs six buses to be serviced properly. We need to promote the options for people now. How to use it, when you can use it."

## Money for transit

The Canadian government has allocated \$800 million for public transit. P.E.I. is receiving \$3.4 million to \$5 million.

Trius Tours had two months to get all the details in order.

On Aug. 3, Charlottetown gave the green light to the project.

"Do you realize what it takes to make route schedules, verify designs? You can't communicate to anyone until you go over every detail," said Dunn.

Bus shelters are being built for 2006. A possible partnership with a government agency called Climate Control will advertise on the shelters to explain how using the bus is good for the environment.

Permanent signs will be posted once the shelters are in place. Dunn said they are feeling their way through these matters and getting feedback from the public has been helpful.

## Holland College's residence will get name in new year

By Justin MacNeil

Holland College's new residence won't be named until after Christmas, says alumni development officer Sara Underwood.

The submissions are in for the naming of the new residence on Grafton Street.

The residence naming committee meets for the first time to decide the name Dec. 9, she said.

"The committee will then have time to read and consider the nominations before meeting again to make their selection."

Because the Christmas season is so busy, the new residence name won't be released until after the new year, she said.

"Given the time of year, it is expected to take some time, since everyone is sobusy. We're expecting to be able to make an announcement early in the new year."

# Ban cigarettes in pharmacies: Binns

By Chris McGarry

It is contradictory for health-oriented businesses such as pharmacies to be selling tobacco products, says the executive director of the Canadian Cancer Society, P.E.I. Division.

Dawn Binns said P.E.I. is the only province east of Manitoba that allows cigarettes in pharmacies. The provincial government is introducing legislation banning tobacco sales in drug stores.

A similar bill was introduced last year, but it was delayed because government wanted to give retailers time to comply.

Binns said for 10 years the Cancer Society has lobbied the provincial government for stronger tobacco legislation.

She said a number of groups, including the Council for a Smoke Free P.E.I. and the Lung Association, made presentations to the Standing Committee on Social Development in March, 2004.

"Two recommendations were the elimination of cigarette advertising boards and to reduce the number of businesses that sell tobacco products."

Binns said tobacco companies try to make smoking glamorous through large advertisements.

"By removing power walls, we combat the problem. Hopefully, in the future, hardly anyone in society will smoke and the sale of tobacco will no longer be profitable."

(Power walls are the area where customers can see cigarettes when they enter a store.)

Binns said at one time smoking was socially acceptable.

"Most people started smoking at age 12 or 13 because it was glamorized in Hollywood movies. In recent years, the youth anti-smoking movement has tried to steer young people from the habit."

She said in the United States, tobacco companies have been accused of tampering with cigarettes, adding chemicals to encourage addiction.

Canadian courts have already ruled removing power walls does not violate freedom of expression provisions in the constitution, she said. "I don't believe we're infringing on freedom of expression. This involves curtailing corporate advertising, not individual expression."

Ryan Murphy, a pharmacist with Murphy's pharmacies, said that business was one of the first in Atlantic Canada to remove cigarettes from its stores.

"Some Island pharmacies still sell cigarettes, but from a pharmacy point of view, we're involved in promoting and trying to improve the health of Islanders."

Murphy said P.E.I. has one of Canada's highest smoking rates. "We offer one-on-one and group counselling, and tips on the importance of quitting smoking."



Laura Smallman, of Lawton's Drugs on Grafton Street, is one of many pharmacy employees who may soon stop selling cigarettes due to legislation introduced by the provincial government.

(Russell photo)

## New food-drink policy upsets local hockey fan

By Melissa Brousseau

Penny MacLeod goes to "tons" of PEI Rocket hockey games. And until this season she usually brought a Tim Horton's coffee with her to the Civic Centre to drink during the game.

She wasn't aware there was a policy change when she went to a Rocket game in early October.

She gave her ticket to the staff at the door. He ripped her ticket and stamped MacLeod's hand, but when she was walking through she was stopped.

"Oh, no. You can't take Tim Hortons coffee in there," she was told.

Gary Connelly, the team's vice president of marketing, said this is the team's policy with all food and beverages, not just coffee.

Connelly said after the team

couldn't finalize a deal with Tim Horton's, a new sponsor, Robins Donuts, came on board this season.

After arguing with Civic Centre staff for five minutes, MacLeod was told to go into the lobby and drink her coffee with the others.

"So I went out and there was a whole slew of people, probably 20 or so, along the back wall drinking Tims."

The puck was about to be dropped, so MacLeod had to pour out her coffee. She took her seat and was starting to calm down when she noticed the people in the corporate boxes.

"The people in the box seats had Tim Horton's coffee, and that made me more upset than I had been at first.

"So from then on I was thinking about who I was going to com-

plain to when I got home."

There is a simple explanation, Connelly said.

"The corporate sponsors pay \$10,000 a season for their seats and there are privileges that go with that, including a different menu."

The first phone calls MacLeod made were to city councillors Terry Bernard and Philip Brown. She also phoned Tim Horton's owner Danny Murphy. And she wrote a letter to the editor of the Guardian newspaper.

"I was just wild," she said.

In response, she received a phone call from Rocket general manager Serge Savard Jr.

"And all he did was try to tell me that I misperceived the situation.

"That it wasn't just Tim's products that weren't allowed in the

rink, it was every outside product.

"He told me that if I bought a Robin's coffee in West Royalty, I wouldn't be allowed to bring that in. This had never happened to me before and I go to tons of Rocket games," MacLeod said.

Connelly said the team's policy is in line with other Quebec league team.

A check with those teams found fans in Halifax could bring coffee to games.

Connelly said despite a few complaints at the first of the season, fans have taken the change in stride.

"It's an event centre. It's not minor hockey. In the Civic Centre during minor hockey you're allowed to bring in food and beverages.

"We have a very large budget, so revenue is very important to

the franchise," he said.

"We had people bringing in their own pizza and popcorn and you're not allowed to because we sell these items."

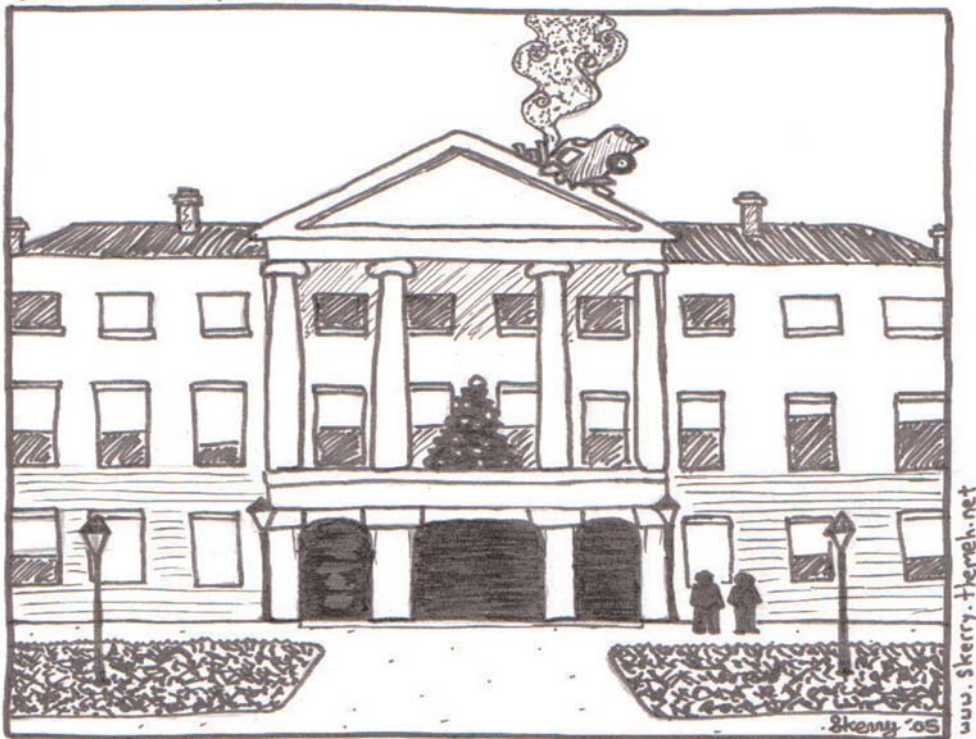
MacLeod said this annoyed her even more.

"The Rocket don't own the rink. The taxpayers are the ones who own it and I was annoyed that they could make special deals about what we can take into the Civic Centre."

Connelly said the Rocket are the Civic Centre's primary tenant and operate a business inside the centre.

"It's not like we're going to have someone thrown in jail for bringing a coffee to one of our games, but we are in this to make money and every coffee brought in is one less dollar of revenue."

DUTCH &amp; RUSSELL



"I DUNNO MAN... SOME OF THESE ISLAND DRIVERS..."

## The future isn't what it used to be

By Jonathan Russell

I am afraid of the future. More accurately, I am terrified of time travel.

Since Edward Bellamy's 1888 book *Looking Backward* launched the time-travel genre, many science fiction writers and film-makers have tried to capture the complexity and ambiguity of the subject, from H.G. Wells' 1898 novel *The Time Machine* to the loveable *Back to the Future* trilogy.

The most distressing thing about Bellamy's classic is the protagonist, Julian West, mysteriously transported from the year 1887 to 2000, stumbles upon a near-perfect utopian world.

What kind of world would you find if you traveled 113 years into the future? I am no prophet, but I don't see a utopian world in the making.

What's even worse than the thought of an awful future awaiting our great, great grandchildren, is; what if someone from the future traveled back to 2005?

Has the future already happened, or are we governed by the monotonous ticking of hands on a clock.

Albert Einstein refuted the idea of "absolute time" when he wrote the theory of relativity in 1905.

His theory states there is no unique measure of time.

"Each observer has his or her own measure of time," explains Stephen Hawking in his book, *A Brief History of Time*.

In 1935 Einstein teamed up with

fellow physicist, Nathan Rosen, who, together proposed that the theory of relativity allows for the Einstein-Rosen bridge. The bridge, now known as a wormhole, is a shortcut through space-time. No one has been able to take this shortcut through warped space-time because it closes off too quickly. If someone could build a vessel to move fast enough through the wormhole to keep it open, theoretically, they would be able to travel through time, explains Hawking.

That is just what I needed to hear to keep me awake in fear every night because, as I see it, the future has already happened – it runs parallel alongside the present.

I'm nervous that late some night I'll hear a knock at my door. I'll open it, already startled, and see my withered 50-year-old self back from the future.

He, I mean, I would look myself straight in the eye and say, "Don't bother, pal." And, I would walk away full of pity and frustration for my young-self. This scenario, however, would create a paradox.

"Bob Wilson did not see the circle grow," reads the first line in Robert A. Heinlein's 1941 short story, *By His Bootstraps*.

Heinlein's astounding sci-fi puzzle is about a man who keeps meeting up with different versions of himself from different time-frames which range from a few minutes in the future to a decade.

So if I, from 50 years in the

future, did arrive on my doorstep it would have shown in recorded history. A chain of events would lead to me growing old, finding a time machine and coming back to warn my young-self. I can't think of a more painful, or more literal form of reincarnation.

Why not just break the chain?

Hawking says, "You could not go back in time unless history showed that you had already arrived in the past. When you did go back, you wouldn't be able to change recorded history. That means you wouldn't have free will to do what you wanted."

This would make the *Back to the Future* trilogy inaccurate.

If you had a time machine, what point in your life, or history, would you visit? If, 50 years in the future you had a time machine, what would you say? Be careful, because as the paradox states, you'll hear these words of wisdom over and over again.

"Life is short, live now."

"Put it all on red-17."

"Before stepping into a time machine, study the paradoxes more seriously."

I am afraid of the future in general. I'm especially terrified of time travel. I am the kind of person who would hop in a time machine without thinking about the cycle paradox.

But really, we're all time travelers in our own little way. We're just traveling at an agonizingly slow rate.

## Thanks to everyone

By Momoko Yoshida

I thought I would never like winter in Prince Edward Island.

But I surprised myself when I saw the first snow this year.

I was actually excited.

I looked out of the window, saw the snowfall and suddenly realized this might be my last winter in Canada.

It is very emotional for me. The last Thanksgiving, the last Halloween and the last Remembrance Day are already over. The last Christmas, the last Christmas break, the last New Year's Day... how many more "lasts" do I have?

I first came to P.E.I. on Sept. 24, 2003, leaving my friends and family at the Narita International Airport in Japan. I took the English as a Second Language course for five months. After I passed the English test and applied for the journalism program at Holland College, I moved to Montreal where my friend lives. And in September 2004, I was back on the Island.

My three-year stay in Canada is going to end in six months. I'm going to graduate on May 28. Lately, I often look back the last two and a half years, what I've done and what I've gone through. Time went by so fast, but at the same time, it felt like such a long time ago since I left Japan.

It wasn't all fun. There were a lot of hard times. But whenever I look back, I only recall these fond memories.

I hated people looking at me as they look at a Japanese girl, not a journalism student. I hated that I had to spend a lot of time to do something everyone else in the class could do so easily. I wanted

to be like my classmates. I wanted to be as good as them. I always wanted to do better and hated that I couldn't.

After lots of tears, laughs and yawns, at some point, I realized that's not something I should think about. It's so easy to complain, but I need to change if I wanted a change.

I'd already thought about this too much and I knew neither comparing myself to my classmates nor complaining would help anything.

I had to change.

Like this, I could become myself. And fortunately, I'm with thoughtful people who could respect who I am.

My visa will expire on July 25, 2006, so unless I go to school or find a job and start to work, I have to leave before that day.

I have some fear.

I'm not sure if I'm ready to work in Canada, but if I go back to Japan, I can easily lose my English. I know this; however, either way, my life will be great because I know it's really up to me. Anyway, I still have another six months and my focus is still on graduation.

I don't know what I'll be and what I'll be doing after six months or 10 years or 20 years later. But one thing I can say is wherever I go and whatever I do, I will never forget the time I spent here and P.E.I. will be always a special place to me.

It would be a lie to say I have no regrets at all, but I'm glad I could be here. I'm glad I chose to be here. I'm glad I could meet wonderful people here.

I like every one of you.

This is thanks to everybody.

## The Surveyor

is a learning tool for students in the Journalism program at Holland College. Opinions expressed in *The Surveyor* do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration.

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# Give us a choice, let's stop the debate

## opinion editorial

West Prince medical services have been in chaos for months and even years.

Now there is a debate between respected members in West Prince whether the one hospital would actually benefit or worsen our medical situation.

It is time the government stopped talking about this issue and gave people in West Prince a choice. Let them vote about this proposed solution.

There are reasonable arguments on both sides.

One hospital would make the region more attractive to doctors and possibly would result in better care overall.

Certainly doctors would be less stressed by offering people better care. The on-call situation would be more relaxed for them with more doctors helping out in a brand new facility.

O'Leary and Alberton both have hospitals, and Nancy Wallace and Mayor Pat Murphy both respectively think money would be bet-



**Matthew Somers**

ter spent strengthening these facilities.

It is no secret that if such a new hospital were built, it would be placed in Bloomfield.

How would people in Tignish feel about the new hospital as they would have a slightly longer journey from there should an emergency arise.

If it means overall better care, they would probably agree to it.

If not, they potentially stand as the ones with the most to lose.

We all know that even though the extra travel would be minimal, seconds are precious in an

emergency and seemingly anyone having an emergency in the Tignish area would be at a scary disadvantage.

If the government is going to pitch this new facility, it certainly is going to have to make some guarantees.

Dr. Herb Dickieson, the president of P.E.I. Medical Society, is all for the new hospital. He says it would mean the best overall care for West Prince.

I, and many others, respect Dickieson's opinion, but the fact remains a decision has to be made somehow.

Having a vote would allow everyone in West Prince to have their say. We need better health care in this area. I am one of many undecided at the moment on this matter, but something has to be done.

My plea to the government is to give us some guarantees for this facility that our health care will improve as a result. The government must stop looking at it strictly in financial terms. It has to make sense and West Prince needs better health care because it is getting ridiculous.

Please help us.

# You can lead a horse to water

## opinion editorial

Do voters make decisions based on their own opinion, or are they just led to the political trough by the hand that feeds?

If a political candidate does not feed your brain with information on why his or her view is the best, do voters make an informed decision?

Take the recent plebiscite vote in P.E.I. A province that usually has a 80 per cent voter turnout ended up with a paltry 30 per cent. Horrific in terms of the Island's voting history.

Many people did not vote because they felt confused by the information presented to them. The reason behind the plebiscite was not clear to many. Limited polling stations and a



**Chris Wood**

lack of a solid campaign by a political party were valid reasons for a low voting turnout.

In a conservative province like P.E.I., people often need encouragement to make a move. If there is no prodding, people don't move. "I won't move until you

tell me to" seems to be the mind frame.

Politicians didn't say how high, so nobody jumped.

No matter how bad this coming winter may be, in the run up to the federal election there is no need to worry about low voting numbers. Islanders will be at the polls in droves.

Through rain, sleet, snow and hail, hell if the sea is rising, Islanders would make it to the polls.

With a winter election now in motion, Canadians will open their doors to local candidates in the coldest conditions.

Many make a huge deal out of this. Other countries face much worse conditions. Try conducting a campaign under gun fire with bullets flying around your head.

I know this is an extreme example, but look, Canadians – and Islanders – have it good.

# The new math, according to Gillan

*He said P.E.I. has 63 per cent probability of filling medical positions in rural areas*

## opinion editorial

One major issue dominated health care debates during question period last week: recruiting family physicians for P.E.I.

According to the governing Conservatives, the province is doing a good job at hiring family physicians. They're content with the number of doctors on the Island because they're confident they'll be able to increase that number in a few short months.

But the Liberals aren't so content. They want to see not only the number of doctors on the Island increase, but they also want an increase in the number of positions allocated for doctors in the province.

One statement made in the legislature has opposition members, journalists and citizens all wondering one thing: Where does Health Minister Chester Gillan get his numbers from?

There's one number in particular that's a mystery. That number is 63. Gillan responded to a question about how sure he is that family physician positions in rural parts of the province will in fact be filled.

"Of those six vacant positions, we have at least 63 per cent probability that in the next few months that those six positions are going to be filled."

He later said the probability could be as high as 65 per cent.

"We have a 63 per cent to 65 per cent very good probability that we're going to be able to fill those rural positions in the very near future."

The next day opposition leader Robert Ghiz questioned the minister's math. Ghiz spoke with an actuary, an expert in number crunching. He said the actuary had no idea what Gillan could be talking about. So, he asked Gillan to explain. He wanted to know if the number was just picked out of the air.



**Daniel Mark Wheaton**

"Has the minister taken advice from the Atlantic Lottery Corporation?"

Gillan responded, "It was very simple mathematics actually and it was the fact that if there are six vacancies, which there are 6.3 vacancies and family physicians and because of our recruiting strategy, our recruiting plan, we have started obviously to contact individuals and to find out would you be interested, could you make us a promise, how much of a promise could you make to return to Prince Edward Island before certain dates."

So... I was still wondering. And as a journalism student, I did what I do best when I'm left wondering. I asked a question.

"What is the formula you use to determine the mathematical probability of the government's ability to fill family physicians positions on P.E.I.?"

And his response? It went like this: "There's six vacancies and we think that we have four. I wasn't talking about any mathematical formulas. I wasn't talking about statistics. Until somebody signs, we can't count them as assured that they're going to be here."

I understand that. But what I still don't know is, where did he get the number 63?

# Breeder, business owner disagree about odds of dogs in stores coming from puppy mills

By Charissa Reeves

Anyone buying a dog from a pet store is probably supporting a puppy mill, says a local registered Irish Wolf Hound breeder.

But a local pet store says that's not true.

Jaunita MacLeod is a Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) registered dog breeder from Charlottetown.

Pet stores are not allowed to sell CKC-registered dogs, so any dog bought from a pet store will not have its papers, even if the store says the dog came from a breeder, said MacLeod.

"That's what a puppy mill is. It's a breeder. That doesn't mean they're reputable."

Every purebred CKC registered dog comes with papers from the CKC.

But Melissa Foley, store manager for the Charlottetown Pets Unlimited, says unfortunately a few bad decisions by some pet stores have given a bad name to many.

Foley recommends prospective owners ask themselves a few key questions before purchasing a dog from a store: are the puppies well socialized; can you spend time with the animals without obligation; are vet records up to date and available; does the pup come with a solid health warranty.

"These are all signs that a store truly cares, will stand behind the quality of their animals, and with a little digging you will find that not all pet stores are the same."

In order to be a CKC-registered breeder, a person must seek out a purebred pair, always maintain proper healthy dogs and the



One of Jaunita MacLeod's Irish Wolf Hounds says hello through the fence on a large pen. (Reeves Photo)

breeding pair must be registered championship show dogs.

MacLeod's dogs cost \$1,500 each and there is no difference in the price between one of her dogs with breeding rights and one without.

If a person is simply looking for a pet, he doesn't get the breeding rights because it can lead to irre-

sponsible breeding and puppy mills, said MacLeod.

"If it's a person who's going to show the dog and go forth in the breed, then, yes."

When a person breeds he must send the mother's and father's papers into the CKC where they check the dog's histories in their database.

The CKC then sends papers back for the parents and a set for each of the puppies.

When a person comes looking for an Irish wolf hound, MacLeod asks questions through casual conversation to see if the person will be a suitable, responsible owner, said MacLeod.

"Usually you can tell by the way they talk, by the attitude they have. If a person is relaxed, they tend to say things and you can analyse what they're saying."

She sometimes turns people away, MacLeod said.

"If I don't think they're suitable, I don't say, 'No you're not getting one,' I say, 'I don't have any puppies.'"

MacLeod has sold puppies to people from all over the world.

"There's a puppy right now going to India."

She has also sent dogs to New Mexico, the eastern U.S., and Alberta.

After the interview MacLeod took a visitor outside to the pen to take pictures of her dogs. There were four adult females, one adult male and five 14-week old puppies.

Three of the adults lope out to see who's coming. The male, the largest of the adults gives a few deep woofs to say it's his yard the visitor is approaching.

Irish wolf hounds are the tallest dogs in the world, although Great Danes are a close second.

It's been raining, so their wiry fur is stuck together in little clumps.

"You don't look very pretty when you're wet, do you?" MacLeod said to one of the wet

snouts sticking through the fence.

Though grey is the most common colour for wolf hounds, MacLeod's dogs are red, and brindle. Some of them look almost blonde.

The puppies are housed away from the adult dogs so they don't get trampled.

At 14 weeks old they are already as large as a nine-year-old, mixed breed, medium-sized dog.

A few gentle licks from one of the adult females and a wet muzzle greet the visitor.

Wolf hounds are very gentle dogs and communicate with their eyes, said MacLeod.

"They're amazing dogs, their intelligence level is high above almost any other breed of dog."

They are easy to train. They catch on quickly to what they're asked. And they really want to please, said MacLeod.

"They treat you like you're God to them."

They are very loyal dogs. Although they are not guard dogs, they will stand between their owner and a threat, said MacLeod.

"It is true, they will protect with their life."

Breeding is not a money-making venture, said MacLeod.

"People have the misconception that people who have purebreds are making money."

To maintain five Irish wolf hounds for one year, between feeding and showing at a limited number of shows, costs MacLeod about \$10,000.

MacLeod breeds her dogs about every three years.

# Pesticide rules feature fines, tougher rules on use

By Charissa Reeves

Higher fines for misuse and less access to some chemicals are among changes planned by the province as it updates the rules on pesticides in the new year.

Environment Minister Jamie Ballem says there will be amendments to the Pesticide Control Act and a new set of regulations.

The environment advisory council presented the government with a report and recommendations in 2004, he said.

"They had public hearings across the province and they had private meetings with stakeholders: users of pesticides, retailers

of pesticides and opponents of pesticides."

Among the amendments are higher fines for people who improperly use pesticides, though 90-95 per cent of the time pesticides are used properly, said Ballem.

"There are a few that violate the act and contribute to violating the act and regulations, and it's our intent to create more of a deterrent."

Don Reeves, the manager of the pesticide regulation program for the province, said the amendments are planned so the government has the authority to establish the regulations.

"The act itself is the skeleton of the whole system and the regulations are really the flesh of the system."

Separating pesticides into two categories, domestic and non-domestic, is one of the proposals.

Domestic pesticides are everyday use pesticides someone may use on their garden.

Non-domestic pesticides would be used in industries such as landscaping and farming.

Ballem likens it to a pharmacy where domestic products will be available over the counter, but non-domestic products will be locked up and retailers will require training to instruct buyers

on proper use.

Liberal opposition member Richard Brown said the only amendment Premier Pat Binns has tabled so far involves higher fines.

It's OK to raise fines, but what about enforcement, said Brown.

"One recommendation we would like to see is the government purchasing 75 metres around public buildings and schools. It allows a good buffer zone."

Farmers shouldn't be made to absorb the cost of this land as it is a matter of public health and public interest, Brown said.

Ballem said the government is

asking for a 10-metre voluntary buffer zone to put distance between row crops and public buildings. The government is not asking farmers to absorb costs, it is asking the building owner and the farmer to each donate a five-metre zone combined to make the buffer zone.

"We're not talking about a lot of property, there are 99 buildings and over half are owned by the government."

The environment ministry worked with the agriculture and health ministries when it looked at the recommendations to help come up with the new regulations, said Ballem.

# Colourful crossing guard sees it all at street corner

By Robert MacDonald

"Murphy is an Irish name. It means potato," says Peter Murphy, the crossing guard on the corner of Hillsborough and Euston. He definitely doesn't look like a potato, and yet it is the first thing he'll tell you when he introduces himself.

Wearing a black hooded sweater, a blue baseball cap, thick dollar store sunglasses, stained and faded jeans, and a kerchief around his neck, Murphy doesn't stand out as the crossing guard type.

His gruff appearance, thick beard and overall size may seem intimidating to some, but not the children. They love him and he loves them. Just seeing his crooked-toothed grin is enough to make anyone smile like an idiot.

However, being a crossing guard isn't as easy and safe as some would believe. With all the cars driving to work in the morning, it can get quite hairy.

"Funny thing about people, once you wrap a hunk of metal around'em. They become a\*\*holes," he said.

A bald man in a silver sedan pulls up, beeps his horn and climbs out of his car, ripping for hair that isn't there.

"Hey man, you're blocking my view of traffic," he says, pulling at more imaginary hair.

"I'm sorry, sir," Murphy said, moving out of the way. He leans in and whispers, "See what I mean... I've had my foot run over twice out here."

The bald man gets back in his car and drives away.

"Just a second," Murphy said, walking into the road and putting his massive arm around a brunette he knows, who walks the crosswalk every day.

"How are you beautiful?"

"Oh good, just going to work."

"Where do you work now?"

The two engage in a conversation that is drowned out by a tanker truck driving through the intersection.

The young woman continues her way to work and Murphy comes back sighing.

"I love women," he says, scratching his beard. "Women



Peter Murphy stops traffic to help students cross the street at Hillsborough and Euston. He has been working as a cross guard for about 10 years. (MacDonald Photo)

who are unconcious of their own beauty."

He continues to talk about what he did before this.

He went to art school right after high school. He draws comic books, writes and has had work published.

He worked for a publishing company and edited a small newspaper.

He even acted for 10 years when he was younger.

A small child walks to the corner talking happily to Murphy.

"Don't mind him," Murphy said to the child about the reporter standing with him.

"He's just a spy, who writes everything down."

Soon though, the children stop coming and it's time to leave. Murphy offers a handshake with his large, leather-gloved hands, and remains standing at his post, the now empty street corner.

## 'All eyes were on us as we were doing our jobs'

*Diver remembers what it was like searching in the murky waters near bridge for the body of a missing local man*

By Lorie O'Halloran

Losing his eyesight might not be as big a challenge for Frankie Gormley of Stratford, P.E.I. as it would be for most people. He's used to being in the dark. He's a diver.

Gormley does not consider his work a job. It's like a hobby.

"I've had a lot of jobs, but this one you don't mind waking up in the morning to go do."

Gormley has been diving since 1995 when he received his certification. He works for Divers Quarters, a company owned by his brother.

Last year, Gormley was involved in the search for Tyler Watts, who was suspected of falling off the Hillsborough Bridge. The family was worried and heard stories that's where he fell, so searchers wanted to dive that area, said Gormley.

"We did three separate dives on three separate dates."

Watts went missing on Dec. 5, 2004. Authorities believed he accidentally fell off a catwalk under the bridge while making his way to Stratford from a Charlottetown bar.

Gormley said visibility in the water was poor. The old bridge, which had fallen down years ago, was basically a bridge underwater.

"There's a lot of things you can get snagged up in. It was a fairly dangerous dive."

Watts' family was on site, as were the police, and a few boats, said Gormley.

"Basically all eyes were on us as we were doing our jobs."

Everybody was talking, standing around full of anticipation, hoping the divers would come up with something.

Everyone was on edge, said Gormley.

"Watts' family were in tears

the whole time the diving operation was underway."

The divers doubted they'd find Watts' body. Although they knew roughly what time he fell, they did not know whether the tide was coming in or going out, or what the current was like that day, said Gormley.

"We didn't want to tell the family that. We wanted to just do our search, just so they'd know."

Despite having performed many different dives, under numerous situations, Gormley said for him this one was unique. And he wanted to help the family.

"I knew what I had to do, but I was nervous."

Although the dive produced no additional clues to Watts's disappearance, divers were glad to help the family, said Gormley.

"We did this dive on a volunteer basis."

Growing up, Gormley wanted to become a policeman, he said. But if he were to do it all over again, he would not change his career.

"This job is really the job I've always dreamed of. I'm glad I've found it."

Gormley said when he is diving, there's not much to see because the visibility is poor, but it gives you a lot of time to think.

"It's almost like you're in your own little world."

Although Gormley does not like the cold water, he likes the fact that every day is different.

"It's a different job. It's unique. Not everybody does it."

Gormley likes it when he is asked what he does for a living. "It turns into a conversation, which is always cool."

Gormley recommends anyone who loves the water to give diving a try.

# Soup kitchen offers helping hand

By Jonathan Russell

At 9:00 a.m. Judy Campbell, manager of the Upper Room soup kitchen on 101 Richmond St., unlocks the doors.

She thinks about how many people she will be serving, what meals to prepare and how many volunteers will show up.

Even more than that, she wonders what she's going to face, how people are going to be and what moods they will be in.

"If, in the run of a day, I get someone that might be intoxicated, then I find if I sit down and talk with them, then certainly I'm going to get respect back. Over the years I've found that you get respect if you show respect."

They deal with many people with mental illnesses, she said. Some can't hold down a job.

Hung on the left wall as she walks in is a framed picture of Jesus Christ. He sits kneeling, praying, perched on a rock overlooking a small town.

Campbell recalls a scary moment from nearly a decade ago.

The kitchen, then on the second floor of the Bacilica Recreation Center, had closed for the night.

Everybody had left except for Campbell and two volunteers, one very young.

Three men walked up the stairs and met her at the top.

"Sorry, we're closed," she said.

Two of the men accepted that, turned around and left. One did not.

The unidentified man demanded to eat.

"We are closed and you cannot come back until the morning," said Campbell.

"Do you know who I am? I've slept on the streets of Toronto," said the man.

Campbell was scared. She tried to rush to a nearby phone to call the police, but he blocked her path. The two other volunteers were in the kitchen, terrified.

Campbell made four failed attempts to get to a phone.

The man stood in front of her, hollering, spitting.

After 15 minutes, she got into her office and slammed the door. He left immediately.

She called the police.

Most of the people she serves are single men, she said.

"I see men falling through the cracks all the time."

The lunch meal today is turkey soup donated from St. Paul's



The manager of the Upper Room soup kitchen, Judy Campbell, prepares for an eager lunch crowd.

## Russell Photo

Church, a day-old donut from Tim Horton's, a buttered roll and a glass of milk or apple juice.

After she opens the door, she prepares the kitchen for lunch. She brews coffee and usually helps customers with complaints or if they just need to talk.

Before lunch, volunteer drivers go around to Tim Horton's, the Superstore and a bakery to pick up day-old bread products.

Just recently, people have brought leftover Halloween treats, she said.

"We get our food supply from a whole lot of different sources really."

The public, the kitchen's main food source, is extremely generous, she said.

"If we needed a bag of potatoes today, I would spread the word, maybe to two or three people and by the end of the day I'd probably have a dozen bags coming in."

Henry Tye, the chair of the board of directors of the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry, said at the end of August there was barely any food left.

"A few months ago our shelves were empty."

The community has been very helpful, he said. But it's not all about convincing people to give.

"We don't need to go out and

promote good will, all we need is to convey the need."

Once 10:30 a.m. hits customers start shuffling in.

Frank MacDonald, a retired Colonel Grey biology teacher, is a volunteer. He has served soup in the kitchen for two years.

It's a very friendly place to work, he said.

"I thought it would be a good place to volunteer, turns out it was."

Campbell said the busiest lunch hour she's seen in her 28 years with the kitchen was nearly 100 people.

"People who come in 11:30 will come in, eat and be gone. They don't sit around, so we never have tables filled at all times."

Today she predicts around 50 people for lunch.

"This time three years ago 20 would have been a lot."

Tye said the soup kitchen is part of a critical ministry that shouldn't exist because Canada is so rich compared to other countries.

"Our business should be declining."

It isn't though, he said.

"They just don't have enough to make it to the next paycheque. There's no end in site."

Customers sit and wait patiently for the lunch hour to start.

"What's your prediction for the winter like?" a woman asked a man.

"Snow," he said.

Campbell, MacDonald and Gail McCormack, the other volunteer for the day, work steadily on preparing lunch. They move quickly around the small kitchen, pausing once or twice a minute to crack a joke and laugh.

Campbell puts the big steel pot of turkey soup on top of a large metal stove with six separate burners. It sits alone, cooking.

While MacDonald and McCormack cut and butter rolls, a woman comes up to the serving window.

"Thanks for the supper last night," she said. "It was better than any Christmas dinner."

In the kitchen, behind the scenes, trays are put together faster and faster. The phone rings constantly, taking Campbell out of the kitchen. The rumble of the crowd in the open seating area gets louder. The smell of soup becomes stronger.

The kitchen, that smelt like dough a few minutes ago, now smells like boiling potatoes.

In the middle of the rush, a soft, brown teddy bear sits, slumped over, holding a red pillow heart which reads "Volunteers make a difference."

McCormack pours 50 glasses of milk from a metal milk dispenser that has a typed message which reads, "Our cow is running dry. Only one glass of milk per customer. Sorry, no refills."

It's almost 11:30 – lunch time.

MacDonald spoons the soup from the pot into small bowls. The bowls go onto trays, prepared by McCormack, that have a spoon, a muffin and a buttered roll on each. McCormack serves them.

"Good morning Clifford," said McCormack. "Milk or Juice?"

"Milk."

A man with crooked teeth tries to get MacDonald's attention.

"Frank," he said, excited.

MacDonald turns.

"How ya doin'?"

People are all equal, regardless of their income, said MacDonald.

"It just goes to show, right across the whole range of society, people are the same. Some are just not as lucky or ambitious as the rest of us."

Campbell starts putting away glasses, rinsing them, putting them in grates to go in the dishwasher.

A man with a cut on his nose comes to the counter.

"Hey Joe," MacDonald said.

"What's she doing," asked Joe, pointing at Campbell.

"She never stops, the woman never stops. No rest for the wicked," MacDonald said, laughing.

A picture of two praying hands hangs over the serving window facing the employees.

Campbell did a lot of volunteer work before she started at the soup kitchen.

"I think volunteering is a wonderful way to get out into the community and help. It certainly is an eye-opener."

Campbell said she loves volunteering.

"You meet so many people, wonderful people. It's very important." In five years she will retire from the soup kitchen and would like to volunteer at the hospital.

"A lot of my volunteers go into schools and help kids read, I'd like to do something like that."

Helping people is very important," she said.

"I get a great feeling of accomplishment. I get a great feeling of reward, when you can help somebody. Even if it's only making a phone call for them, even if it's only sitting down to talk to them for five minutes. It makes me feel really worthwhile. It makes me feel like I've done something."

Tye said until society changes, the ministry will work hard to do its part.

"Somebody should be sorting out why there's poverty."

But instead of just complaining about it, the ministry will do what it takes. "We're busy being the answer."



Teddy sits quietly in support of the busy volunteers. **Russell Photo**

# Teacher finds ways to make learning exciting

By Chris Wood

Being a teacher is so much more than directing students to a page in a book and telling them to read. They have to engage their spirits and harness their energy.

These are some of the practices Shawn Doiron displays in his class every day. He has been teaching for four and a half years. Doiron has taught every grade from Grade 1 to Grade 12, those being his favorites.

"In some respects, in both ways, you're still teaching them to tie their shoes," said Doiron.

When a student is straying from the pack, there are a number of ways to reel them back in, said Doiron.

"You try to find those who feel lost. They are just looking for a little bit of attention. They have to see they can co-exist with you. Engaging in simple conversation will help students come around."

Doiron taught band class at Colonel Gray High School last year, a dream come true for him considering he was once a student in the same class.

After his first year of teaching, Doiron realized he needed to change his teaching style. He felt no connection to the students.

When his personality pushed through, it was better for everyone.

Doiron draws from his past influences for his own teaching. He is young enough to still remember what it felt like to be a student.

"I know what it's like to be the guy bored in class."

Now when Doiron enters a classroom he has never been in before, he simply does nothing. This may sound odd, but it works, said Doiron.

He scans the room with a pleasant smile.

He is aware of the people in the room and shows he is not afraid of them.

He says if they sense weakness, they will get him. He used to show he was the alpha male and it didn't work.

Reprimanding students on bad behaviour can be difficult. It's

*"If you show you have a heavy side as well as a soft side, they will just go along for the ride."*

- Shawn Dorion



Shawn Dorion conducts his classrooms with compassion and authority. (Wood Photo)

usually the most sensitive ones who act out. It's not always the situation at hand causing the conflict. It goes deeper. There is always something more, said Doiron.

Every single one of them want validation. Use compassion, make

an agreement with the student to learn by the mistakes they make, said Doiron.

"Humanity surpasses any job you have." Doiron said balancing between being a friend and an authority figure can be

difficult. "If you show you have a heavy side as well as a soft side, they will just go along for the ride. The best teachers are the ones who went along for the ride. The worst teachers are the ones who lose their emotions. Don't take focus off the students who want to learn."

Being a musician has helped Doiron in his classroom. His ability to go with the flow has been one of his saving graces.

"You've got to be really quick on your feet to be a teacher. You've got to ad lib. Make silly mistakes. Just keep your class moving."

Doiron feels reverse psychology sometimes works when he is teaching a subject students are not interested in.

Reining in passions or adding quirks to emote, and adding facts and riddles all help with the boredom some students may feel, said Doiron. Changing your tone of voice can be enough of an entertaining antidote. Be fun, give them a little, then move on.

"It gets a quick laugh, attention back, boom, move on with the lesson."

Doiron takes the beauty and innocence of life through less filtered eyes, from a Grade 1 student, where every day is a new experience, to a Grade 12 student who is about to leave the nest and go on his or her own.

# Magical trip to set of Harry Potter movie thrills boy with cancer

By Robert MacDonald

If you had one wish, what would it be?

Would it be for riches, or fame, or take off with one special friend and do something nobody has ever done before?

Kurtis Kelly, 16, wanted to see magic, so the Children's Wish Foundation sent him to London, England for a week to visit the set of the third Harry Potter movie.

He was diagnosed with malignant leukemia when he was 14 and told he could soon die.

Kelly decided he would live what life he had left the same way as he did every day before. He was still cheerful, hung out with his friends, and death didn't loom heavily on his mind.

When a representative of the Wish Foundation asked for his wish, he thought of Harry Potter.

"It was really tough to think of one, and they gave me a few weeks to think. I was thinking a few months before I got cancer that it would be cool to go and meet these people, and that's what I decided to do."

The trip to London was long and left everybody with a case of jetlag. When Kelly finally reached his hotel, the couch beckoned him to sleep. The day after he arrived, he and his party set off for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and

Wizardry. They were to stay for five hours, but ended up staying for seven and a half.

"Magical would be the best word I could use to describe it," Kelly said. The coolest thing was being able to see all of the

different things in the movie and how it all came together, he said.

"We were all going through a tough time and just being there lifted our spirits. It was just like magic."

For him, the animals were most memorable, seeing the owls, toads, cats, and other magical creatures.

"I actually had the owl sitting on my arm."

Kelly said it's clear fame hasn't gone to the heads of the actors either. They're still just kids.

"They were just as excited to have me there as I was to be there, so they kept me an extra two and a half hours."

He stayed and talked with the actors and toured the set. It was unbelievable, he said. "It seemed like it was happening to someone other than myself but when I was there it hit me like wow."

He even got a kiss from Emma Watson, the actor who plays Hermione Granger in the movies.

"I was sitting in my wheelchair and she just bent over and gave me a hug and a kiss, so I decided to have a good time and gave her one back."



Kurtis Kelly

*"I was sitting in my wheelchair and she (Hermione Granger) just bent over and gave me a hug and a kiss, so I decided to have a good time and gave her one back."*

# Deadly allergy to peanuts change the lives of hundreds of families across the Island

By Momoko Yoshida

Shellee Mann's life is not quite as it used to be.

No weekend breakfast at a favourite restaurant any more.

No long trips.

No peanuts and peanut butter.

But she doesn't mind at all.

As long as she knows her son is safe.

Noah, 4, was diagnosed last summer with an anaphylactic reaction to peanuts.

"We had known for about a year that he had an allergy to peanuts but really didn't understand what a serious allergy it was," Mann said.

Anaphylaxis is a potentially fatal allergic reaction.

Mann said there was a "huge adjustment" in her everyday life after Noah's diagnosis.

Her family doesn't go to restaurants any more.

They take their own food to family gatherings. Hand washing is the first thing they do when they come home.

When they travel, they must know where the hospitals are and how long it would take to get there. They are wary when they go to other people's houses.

Children who come into the house must to wash their hands first.

Two-hundred and twenty-nine students who have allergies to peanuts and other food have reported to the P.E.I. education department, said administrative assistant Debbie McKenna. The department is responsible to send out EpiPens, a device that quickly delivers medication to a person in anaphylactic shock through a needle.

Anaphylaxis Canada says one to two per cent of Canadians have anaphylaxis and 50 per cent of Canadians know someone at risk. However, Mann found there weren't any groups which support people with such severe allergies in P.E.I.

So she started Island Allergy Support to help families that share the same fears and anxieties, she said.

"It's a very unique situation when you live with a child with a severe allergy. Your day-to-day life really changes. You need to be super vigilant and you need to think about a lot of things that people with children without allergies don't need to think about.

"You're sending your child to school every day. Your child



Shellee Mann starts Island Allergy Support which provides support for families with a severe allergies. Her three-year-old son Noah was diagnosed that he has anaphylactic reaction to peanuts.

(Yeo Photo)

may be allergic to peanuts and the school might be full of peanuts. That is the most dangerous place to your child in the whole world. It's pretty scary to have to live with that every day."

Mann said even though there is a growing awareness, people still don't understand anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergy.

"I think when people hear the word allergy they think sniffing and runny nose. There's a lot of work to be done to raise awareness."

She wants to make sure each

## Awareness and education is goal, says Atlantic coordinator of AAIA

Gloria Shanks, Atlantic coordinator of the Asthma/ Allergy Information Association in New Brunswick, says awareness and education are essential.

She lost her son, Billy, who had a fish allergy, 19 years ago when he ate a slice of smoked salmon he thought was ham. He had an anaphylactic reaction and he didn't have an EpiPen.

school which has a student with a severe allergy has an emergency plan and training sessions in how to use an EpiPen.

"If anything ever does happen in our school system, I would hope that they would be well-prepared and they would be able to deal with it in the best interest of the child. That's basically just following the minister's directive."

The directive includes procedures schools should follow and the responsibility of the parents to provide principals with information about the student's allergy.

The family didn't know anything about either his condition or the EpiPen until the night Billy died. They were never educated because anaphylaxis was so rare at that time. Shanks wanted to do something so another family didn't have to go through what her family endured.

"That's why I became involved. I wanted to educate people, to let

Provincial chief health officer Dr. Lamont Sweet said Island schools are much safer than they used to be thanks to the directive.

"The program came in about 10 years ago and there's a dramatic improvement in the schools."

He doesn't know why, but severe allergies to peanut products is a growing problem in the United States and Canada.

David McCabe, superintendent of Eastern School District, said schools ban peanut products where any student has a peanut allergy. "Schools are very con-

scious about it and take it quite seriously."

them know that the death need not occur. There are things you can do to protect yourself and that was the most important thing for me to make sure that some other children knew how to protect themselves."

She goes to schools to talk about anaphylaxis. The association has made up an anaphylaxis reference kit, which is used in

scious about it and take it quite seriously."

He said schools are cautious about not only peanuts, but other foods that can cause anaphylactic shock.

"If a student is allergic to another type of food, obviously that food can't be in the classroom where the student is, or in the corridors or in the cafeteria, wherever the student is."

Dale Sabeau, superintendent for the Western School Board, said the minister's directive is "very clear" and all schools in P.E.I. follow it.

"It is dealt with school by school. Those schools that have students with allergies, they basically create their own action plan and their own procedures.

"I'm sure that any of the school that has students with allergies, once parents advised their son or their daughter has this allergy, then they do have procedures in place with EpiPens and people who know what's response to take, including bus drivers."

Noah goes to Kiddietown day care in Kensington. After his diagnosis, Mann wrote a letter to parents asking their support.

The centre is now peanut-free.

"Our parents accepted right off. There wasn't a problem," said Marlene Turner, the owner of the day care. She reads a book that Mann brought to children, shows them an EpiPen and explains what they should do for Noah. They've been "terrific," Turner said.

"After they have lunch, they say, 'Now I have to go to wash my hands.'

"A little boy came in and said one morning, 'I like to have peanut butter on my toast, but I can't because that would make Noah sick.'"

Mann said she appreciates the support from all the daycare staffs and the parents. "I still have a lot of anxiety and I still have a lot of fear, but they'd certainly gone a long way to lessen that."

New Brunswick schools. The group also works with the government and schools for training sessions and has regular contact with them. Government, schools, restaurants, support groups, allergists and societies are all involved in a board, Shanks said.

"Education and awareness is my goal and it has been from the beginning and it'll continue to be"

# 'Weed' has a place in society: activist

*Nearly 50 per cent of Canadians have experimented with marijuana: Statistics Canada*

By Justin MacNeil

Bremlae MacMillan, 19, calls himself a pot-activist. Not only does he smoke marijuana recreationally, he spreads the word about how people are misled into thinking marijuana is bad for people.

Marijuana has a place in our society, he said.

"Some people don't realize, but getting high isn't a totally negative thing. It's as normal as drinking a beer or a coffee."

MacMillan isn't alone. People all over the country seem to be lighting up the illegal drug.

According to the Canadian Addiction Survey done by Health Canada, 44.5 per cent of Canadians report having used marijuana at least once in their lives.

Statistics Canada said in July about three million people 15 and older used marijuana or hashish at least once a year in 2002. The number who admit using marijuana "nearly doubled in 13 years."

MacMillan began using pot at 15. By the time he was 18 he was smoking it every day.

Marijuana use opens up the creative mind and makes people more open, he said.

"You're more open-minded when you're on pot," he said. "I think if it was legalized we'd have a more peaceful society."

Blair T. Longley, Canada's Marijuana Party Leader, said depending on human perceptions and purposes, the cannabis plant can be grown for food, fibre, fuel,

fun, or for feeling better.

Marijuana laws took the single best plant on the planet for people and claimed it was almost as bad as murder, he said in an interview.

"The single simplest extreme example of absurd and insane laws based on dishonesty and violence is marijuana law. All other common drugs including coffee are actually more dangerous and less safe."

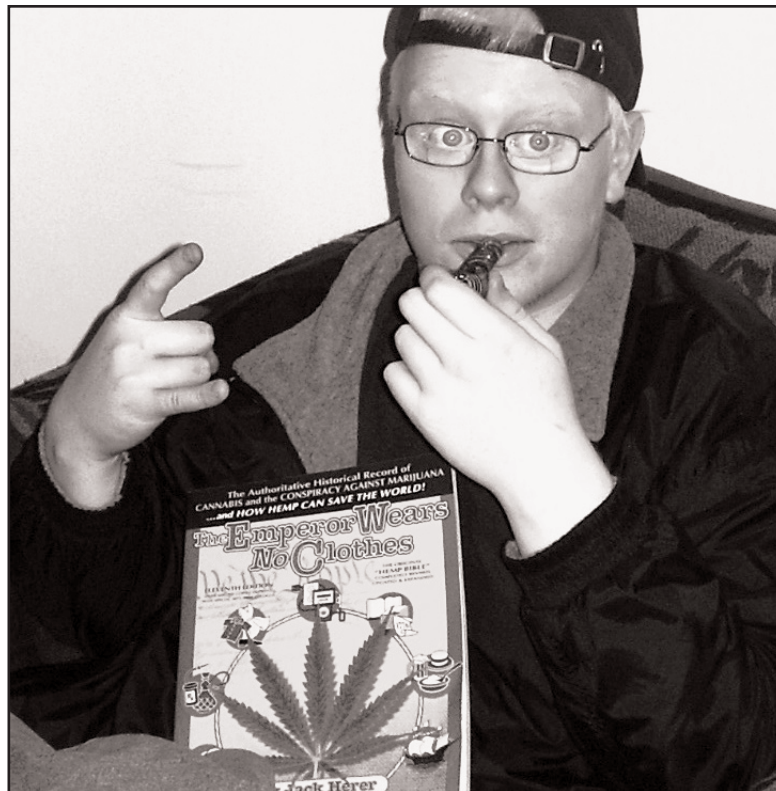
The Marijuana Party exists because marijuana laws have deliberately ignored evidence and logical arguments for decades, he said.

"Marijuana Party candidates are essentially a collective of independents that agree cannabis should not be criminalized."

People need to be informed about the good things about marijuana, said MacMillan. People don't always want to listen so you need to know what you're saying.

"You always have to have good sources. One of my best sources is The Emperor Wears no Clothes, by Jack Herer. It's about the conspiracy against marijuana and how hemp can save the world."

Brooke Bryce, the communication advisor for the Canadian centre on substance abuse, said marijuana has the potential to be controlled, but most people who use it, abuse it. "It's important to know and to be able to recognize the warning signs of problematic use. If you are experiencing any of these warning signs, we would suggest speaking to a doctor or counsellor."



Bremlae MacMillan with a pipe like the kind used to smoke marijuana. (MacNeil photo)

Warning signs include smoking pot during school or work hours, forgetting things, ending relationships with your friends who don't smoke marijuana and giving up things you once enjoyed like recreational activities or hobbies, he said.

"According to the Canadian Addiction Survey, most users of cannabis do not report experiencing serious harms due to their cannabis use. However, a sizeable

percentage, about one-third, report failed attempts to reduce their use despite low rates of serious harms. This patterning of problems seems similar to cigarette use."

Since becoming a pot activist, MacMillan was accepted into a graphic design course at Holland College. Because of his failure to meet attendance and productivity requirements, MacMillan was ejected from the class at the end

of his third month.

"Marijuana didn't get me kicked out of school," he said.

"I did that. I just wasn't into it like I thought I was going to be."

Typical effects from recreational use of cannabis include relaxation, impaired concentration and short-term memory, and increase in appetite.

Some people experience hallucinations, anxiety, and depression. A few experience panic, paranoia, or an increase in pre-existing psychiatric symptoms.

Usual doses impair motor skills, especially when used in combination with alcohol.

Cannabis use before driving - or undertaking any other activity requiring motor coordination, such as using heavy machinery or playing sports - is dangerous, said Bryce.

"Adverse effects of cannabis use include respiratory damage, impairment of physical co-ordination, delayed fetal and post-natal development, reduced memory and ability to learn."

Long-term effects of marijuana can include increased risks of chronic cough, bronchitis and emphysema. Long-term, heavy use has also been linked to some forms of cancer, he said.

None of that worries MacMillan, who says he'll keep smoking.

"I just really love it. It makes boundaries that exist when you're sober go away. You're on the same wavelength as people you get high with."

## Canadian student finds education on other side of world

By Jamie Allison

Mikaela Mosher has two degrees from a Canadian university, but seeing the world was her real education.

While travelling and exchange programs are a big part of many students' lives, Mosher, a native of Cole Harbour, N.S., went above and beyond, deciding to travel abroad twice, to radically different countries. As much as she enjoyed her university life, it was the travelling that taught her the most, she says.

"I travelled and I had a great time. The people I've met, the experiences I've had and the

friends I've made probably mean more to me than the actual education."

Mosher graduated from Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Que in May, 2005. It was late in 2002, her second year of university, when Mosher decided to travel. After researching her options through the school's exchange partners, she chose Australia and Monash University in Melbourne. The choice was made with both school and fun in mind, she said.

"I wanted to travel, but I was also going to school. I was in biology and I knew they had really interesting plants and animals

that you can't find anywhere else in the world in Australia, so I thought it would be interesting to study there."

Mosher says her positive experience in Australia made her want to travel again, even if it meant staying in school longer.

"My first time was probably the best time of my life. I saw so many great things and had such a great experience that I wanted to do the same thing again, but in a different country, and I really wanted to go to Europe."

When she returned to school, Mosher again looked into which schools were available. Knowing she needed to find an English

school, Mosher had to choose between a trip to England or Sweden. Eventually the English school cancelled their agreement with Bishop's and her choice was made for her. In January, 2005 Mosher travelled to Jonkoping International Business School in Jonkoping, Sweden. The first thing Mosher noticed when she arrived in Sweden was the language barrier. "In Australia everyone spoke English, in Sweden they obviously speak Swedish. Some of the younger people will speak English to you, but not the older people."

Swedish people were also much more reserved, Mosher said.

"I didn't really make any Swedish friends. They're really nice people, they're just shy and reserved as a culture. Much more so than Australians."

In her travels Mosher also visited a number of other countries in Europe, including Scotland, England, Germany, Spain and Belgium, which she says was terrific for the chocolate and waffles.

Mosher says she enjoyed Australia the most. "I preferred Australia. It's way nicer. I just love the beaches and the interesting animals."

"I had an equally good time in both places, but Australia is just better. Sweden gets too cold."

# 'Canes roll over hoop opponents

By Tyler Simpson

Plenty of turnovers helped Holland College Hurricanes outscore Northern Maine Community College Falcons 77 to 57 last Saturday.

The Falcons, who traveled eight hours to play the Hurricanes at UPEI, also lost the second game 68 to 57 on Sunday.

Hurricanes players Scott Bentley finished with 16 points while Chris Boswell ended the second half with 14 points in the first game.

Peter Bates, the Falcons forward who scored 26 points for his team in the first game, blamed turnovers and missing players as a factor to their lose.

"We were missing a few players that weren't eligible to come to Canada. We seemed to struggle with the turnovers," Bates said. "Plus the eight-hour travel was a wear on the team."

After the first game, Hurricanes guard Chris Boswell said the team didn't play as well as they could've, but knew what to expect in the second game.

"We got to guard 25 (Bates) better and work harder as a team. He (Bates) was the only one who could score on the team, so they just gave the ball to him."

The Hurricanes led the Falcons 33-27 going into the second quarter in the first game and Hurricanes guard Matthew McKenna helped finish the game by scoring 12 points.

Neither team had any information about the other but that didn't change the game plan for the Hurricanes.

"We just came out to play our own game," said coach George Morrison.

"I'm pleased with the way the bench played. I thought we could work on our defence a little more though.

"We ended up fouling people more than defending them."

Other outstanding performances in the second game for the Hurricanes was Pat Havard who ended up with 29 points and Peter Bates for the Falcons who scored 36 points.

The Hurricanes will enter the Christmas break with a record of 9-3.



Peter Bates (top left) takes a break on the bench during half-time. Reese Deveaux (left) drives to the hoop after a turnover. Andrew MacIntosh (above) grabs a rebound from three Falcons players.

(Simpson Photo)