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THIS WEEK

News:: »

Town says farewell to native son



Grand Falls-Windsor has lost its oldest native son, only five days after his 96th birthday.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

Buchans highway needs major work, says MHA



The PCs seem to have a bad case of frozen shoulder when it comes to the Buchans Highway.

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Good luck, Alison

News::

Good luck, Alison

EVH student competing in Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador this weekend

SUE HICKEY
Advertiser

Say the word “pageant” when it comes to a competition for girls and young women, and it doesn’t take long for some people to form opinions, not always good ones.

But 17-year-old Alison McCarthy has a quick answer that should easily dispel any negative stereotypes.

“I decided to compete because I thought it would be a great opportunity to gain more leadership experience,” said the young Grand Falls-Windsor resident. “I also want more experience in general with interviews and meeting new people.”

The Exploits Valley High student is representing her town for the title of Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador 2007 this week.

She and 27 other young women arrive in St. John’s Feb. 23, with the final gala show on Sunday, Feb. 25, at the St. John’s Arts and Culture Centre, where the current title holder, Sabrina Fitzpatrick, crowns her successor.

“I do think there are a lot of negative stereotypes around pageants,” she admits. “People are like, ‘It’s only a beauty pageant, and you don’t need many smarts to compete.’”

“But I’d like to point out to people that there is more to going up on stage that night with your dress. You have to do an academic test about Newfoundland and Canada, and take a fitness test, an interview with the judges and many other things. You have to be able to answer an impromptu question and present a speech. It’s more than just getting up on stage and presenting yourself.”



Alison McCarthy is off to the pageant – the 2007 Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador one, that is. Here going through some notes for her speech, the 17-year-old says she’s nervous, but excited at the same time about representing Grand Falls-Windsor at the event Feb. 23-25 in St. John’s.

Thu, February 22

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Say the word "pageant" when it comes to a competition for girls and young women, and it doesn't take long for some people to form opinions, not always good ones.

[FULL STORY]

Police investigating residential break-ins
Police are investigating two residential break-and-enters that occurred last weekend.

[FULL STORY]

Exploits communities exploring shared fire services
Provincial fire commissioner Fred Hollett has said regional fire departments may be the best way for smaller towns to provide a firefighter service, and some Exploits communities may soon just be following that advice.

[FULL STORY]

Funds, support continue to pour in for Bishop's Falls man



Jason Lingard may have lost part of his right leg, but he's gained an

Alison has been working on her speech, which not surprisingly is about the merits of student leadership.

She says she's nervous about the competition, but excited as well. "I'm nervous, not to go to up on stage or anything, but about actually making a good impression. When I have to speak in public that's a bit nerve-wracking, but generally I'm more excited than nervous."

To enter the pageant, Alison had to fill out an extensive application, where she had to provide academic status, explain her extracurricular activities, special training, travel experience, hobbies and interests, and provide photographs.

"Contestant #2," as it says on her application form, certainly has an impressive list of interests and achievements for someone who is not even 18 yet. She has a good academic average; serves on her student council and has a great deal of volunteer experience. For example, she has been an altar server at her church, an assistant ballet instructor, is involved with Students Against Impaired Driving and a Brownie leader, to name a few things.

In her spare time, Alison also studies music – she will probably be the only accordion and tuba player at the pageant – and has been involved with her school drama club, the youth firefighting training program, figure skating, gymnastics, Girl Guides and the provincial and national student leadership conferences.

And there's the awards, too, of course. Some of those on her list include scholarships, awards at science fairs, numerous Kiwanis music festival awards and gold and silver medals in girls' hockey.

SOME DIDN'T KNOW

When she first let people know her intentions, the reactions were sort of mixed.

"At first, people didn't know that there was such a thing as Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador until Sarah Pinsent competed. She was the one who brought it into the public. I explained it to my friends and they thought it was really cool that I was actually going to try out for this.

"My family, too, thought it was neat because my cousin was Miss Grand Falls-Windsor, Maria Newhook, she also completed in Miss Newfoundland and Labrador a couple of years back so they're pretty used to the whole thing.

"My mom was pretty excited that I wanted to try out.

"

Alison also says she's received backing from another former pageant competitor, teacher Debbie Ball at EVH, the Bishop's Falls native who won Miss Newfoundland (she was Debbie Toms then).

"I deal with her regularly and she's given me a lot of pointers. I've helped out behind the scenes with the Miss EVH competition and it is going to be really cool to experience. She told me I should try out and would really enjoy it."

Alison says Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador – especially the current title holder – is someone that young women can look up to.

"Sabrina Fitzpatrick is a really good role model for young girls. Sabrina went to lots of events and she was in high school, too, so to do all that and juggle school, is a big feat and people should look up to her."

At the competition, one of the extra events (though it's not essential for contestants to take part in) is the talent show.

"I'm singing "Nothing" from the Broadway show *A Chorus Line*. Sarah Pinsent won the talent show last year and I'm really proud to represent the town again and live up to the expectations that people have of Grand Falls-Windsor after Sarah won it."

Other News:

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Icebergs are gathering up, for their Spring journey south
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The Advertiser: Good luck, Alison

outpouring of goodwill and generosity.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

- please select -

Sports:: »

Cats up by two in series



To say a hockey game was well-fought usually means teams played their hearts out to see who will come out on top, but it had an entirely different meaning in West Coast Senior Hockey action this past weekend.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

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COLUMNS: ANDY BARKER - **Ferry bad news**

Just as the Canso Causeway ended Cape Breton's need for a ferry service to mainland Nova Scotia, the Confederation Bridge (opened on May 31, 1997) ended P.E.I.'s need for a ferry service.

Even people in Labrador will have an easier time travelling and will be less isolated, as more and more roads open up to the west.

The P.E.I. summer ferry service to Nova Scotia could now be shut down forever because the bridge can handle all traffic. As well, the ferry service in the Bay of Fundy from Digby, N.S. to Saint John, N.B., and Yarmouth N.S. to Bar Harbor, Maine could be shut down because people can easily travel on the inter-provincial highway system.

However, the ferry service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney continues to be Newfoundland's prime connection to the mainland. No other province depends upon such a ferry service. With only pipe dreams of a tunnel to the mainland, a ferry service will be a necessity for us long into the foreseeable future and as a result fares, schedules, and other boats plying the route matter very much.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

COLUMNS: ARTHUR BLACK - **Greed is going around**

Let's take a gander at the giant Wall Street investment firm of Goldman Sachs. Its bankers and traders produce nary a hubcap, not one bar of music or a solitary bale of hay. In Biblical terms, they toil not, neither do they spin. Goldman Sachs traders make phone calls, work their Blackberrys and take lunches with clients.

Last year their bosses voted themselves a little Christmas bonus: \$16.5 billion.

That means that each – each! – of the company's top dogs got to take home an *extra* \$20 to \$25 million apiece for 2006. But hey, the little guys at GS did okay too. In fact the *average* employee at Goldman Sachs earned \$623,000 US last year.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

COLUMNS: DAVID NEWELL - **Watching from the break**

THE FIGHT IS OVER – NOW SHAKE HANDS, PLAY HOCKEY

I know I have spent a great deal of space here over the past few months talking about hockey, but there are still a few things that need to be said.

I have been around the game since I was six, and have never been involved in a bench-clearing brawl. I have only seen one once before, during a senior game at the old Memorial Stadium, when Knobby Lambert challenged all comers.

This past weekend I witnessed two. In three hours.

[\[FULL STORY\]](#)

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