



# Irish Loop Post

Vol 3 # 10 The Community Newspaper of the Goulds, the Southern Shore and St. Mary's Bay September 5, 2010

## Lights, camera, action for Goulds' manholes

The video footage being shot in manholes in the Goulds may not contain the ingredients for a Hollywood blockbuster but it could help engineers figure out a way to stop the pipes from collecting too much water.

Ward 5 councillor Wally Collins secured the \$400,000 needed for the so-called infiltration study this past summer.

Collins explained there is too much storm sewer water getting into the sewer system in the Goulds, to the point where it overwhelms the pumping station.

That situation is preventing land from being developed in the area and even delaying the placement of sidewalks along the Main Road near St. Kevin's Elementary.

Collins is hopeful that once a way is found to stop so much water from entering the system, the City of St. John's will pay to run a new sewer line from the existing system in the Goulds to Walsh's Lane in Kilbride, where the effluent will be pumped on to the city's new sewage treatment plant at Riverhead on the southside of St. John's harbour.

Pumping so much water to Riverhead will tax the system, Collins said and drive up costs.

See 'Goulds,' page 4

## A second chance

*Slowly, but surely, the former Presentation Convent in Witless Bay is undergoing a rebirth*

By Craig Westcott  
Irish Loop Post

It's turned out to be a bigger challenge than she had bargained for, but Colleen Hanrahan is pressing ahead anyway, determined to give the old convent in Witless Bay a second life.

Hanrahan, a business consultant in St. John's acquired the 7,000 square foot building five years ago through a combination of serendipity, determination and persuasion.

She had been visiting her aunt Bernadette Maddigan in Witless Bay when she heard the old convent was about to close and may even be torn down.

"So I immediately went back to St. John's, sat down and dashed off a letter to the

congregation saying, 'I understand you're leaving, or have left, and if you're interested in having someone buy it, I might be interested.' I sent that letter in September, I got a letter back in October to say they had formed a committee, because there was several other people who were interested."

Shortly after that, Hanrahan was invited to tour the property and make a formal proposal to the Presentation Sisters, who had operated there for 150 years.

"A couple of months later I got a letter back to say that even though my proposal wasn't the highest price, they liked my intended use, so they were prepared to deal with me," Hanrahan recalls.

For her it was a life changing, and affirming, in some

respects, experience.

"It's like everything came together," Hanrahan says. "I really love old buildings. And the fact that when I was a kid I used to go up to Witless Bay a lot to visit my grandparents and the garden parties and all those connections that you have. And when you see a building like that, especially that chapel, I just realized that, 'Wow, that window is spectacular.'"

The window is an extraordinarily beautiful, tall, stained glass window made by artist Lois Koch of Beauvais, France. It was installed in the chapel in 1890. Koch also made a window for the Basilica in St. John's.

Hanrahan, whose company, the Institute for the Advancement of Public Policy See '1850s,' page 2



Colleen Hanrahan and the stained glass window that sealed her determination to preserve the former Presentation Sisters convent in Witless Bay. Hanrahan has refurbished the outside of the 7,000 square foot building, but much work remains.

## Showing a lot of heart

Witless Bay's Georgina Barbour has use for Miss Teen Newfoundland title

Georgina Barbour of Witless Bay is in for a very busy autumn.

Last month, the 17-year old graduate of Mobile Central High School became Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador 2010. Barbour had finished first runner-up and was named Most Talented Teen when the pageant was held at the Arts and Culture Centre in March, but with the finalist now unable to fulfill her duties because of school obligations on the mainland, it falls to Barbour

to take up the crown.

She is doing so just as she starts her first year of studies at Memorial University where she hopes to complete a degree in bio-chemistry. The academics shouldn't be too much of a challenge though: Barbour graduated high school with a 95 per cent average and is attending MUN on full scholarship. She won the Dr. Leslie Harris Memorial Scholarship, the Fry Family Foundation Horizon's Scholarship for Teen Leadership and the

Winston Churchill Scholarship for Youth Leadership.

In high school, Barbour served as president of student council, editor of the school newspaper, Green Team and Community Youth Network co-ordinator, member of Tutoring for Tuition and Peer Mentoring, volunteer coach with Mount Pearl Special Olympics and as a spokesperson and fundraiser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Barbour has raised nearly See 'Barbour,' page 5



Georgina Barbour intends to use her title as Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador to raise awareness for heart health.



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# 1850s' Convent marked the start of schooling in Witless Bay

Continued from page 1

in St. John's, a privately owned research firm that advises companies and governments on social and other issues, saw the convent as perfect place for corporate retreats, meetings and other functions.

Then the enormity of the task that she had set for herself started to become evident. After meeting with officials from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and other groups, Hanrahan realized the price tag on her dream was about \$1 million.

That led Hanrahan to reconsider her options. But she has been pressing on with the work anyway. Last year, she renovated the outside of the building, replacing clapboard, fixing windows and repairing the roof.

Hanrahan says many people have offered suggestions about what to do, but she's still working it out.

"I don't want to have a B&B, that's not my interest," she says. "I'm more interested in corporate retreats and running workshops, that

kind of thing. I'd like to continue on with (the convent's) education theme."

Hanrahan is referring to why the convent was built in the first place. It was constructed between 1850 and 1860 under the direction of Fr. Patrick Cleary, a man who became more popularly known as "The Dean." Cleary had been recruited by Bishop Michael Fleming, a maverick in the Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland, who had asserted the rights of Roman Catholics on the island and placed the institution on a firmer financial footing. It was Fleming who brought the Presentation Sisters and Sisters of Mercy to Newfoundland and set the stage for a building boom that eventually resulted in the Basilica of St. John's as well as convents and priests' houses around the province. Fleming died in 1850, but Cleary was presumably following his former Bishop's dictates when he embarked on the goal of bringing the Presentation Sisters to Witless Bay, or Whittle's Bay, as

it was then known, to educate children,

"Basically he (Cleary) was responsible for that centre, building the church, building the priest's home and then he recognized that in order for them to promulgate the gospel using Catholic education, because of course Irish kids were disadvantaged, he would need the Presentation Sisters to come and live there," says Hanrahan. "But they needed a place to live, so that's why they built the convent."

Hanrahan thinks about 10 to 20 Nuns may have lived there at any one time. The convent contains about 10 cells, or bedrooms. But for Hanrahan it's the chapel with its domed ceiling and beautiful stained glass window that is the key feature.

"The other thing about the building that's of heritage significance is what they call the Contemplative Garden," says Hanrahan. "When you're there, there's always something in bloom, so someone knew what they were doing. Every part of the season, there's something in bloom. I don't know how to do it. Obviously there was a Sister there who was able to coordinate it."

The building remains structurally sound and immaculate inside, though it has been stripped down for interior renovation. Hanrahan says she can't give a firm completion date, "but we're still aiming for the original

intent. It depends on the cash flow... It's a challenge for sure."

Hanrahan is looking at using the convent as a tourist establishment as well as a corporate meeting centre, in the hope that the corporate traffic will help make it a year round operation. It will also be available to local community groups.

"Now we're at the point where we've got a lot of money in it anyway and we have to really think about what we want to do," says Hanrahan.

Hanrahan says she has received a lot of support from people in the community, especially the Witless Bay Heritage Committee and the town council. "And the fact that the (outside) renovation is done, people are more aware of its presence," she

adds.

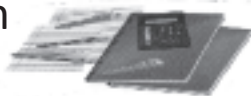
Hanrahan says old buildings like the convent have more value than some people realize. In fact, there are a lot of beautiful old buildings in Witless Bay, she argues. "And that's why people go to see Brigus and why people go to Trinity and why people are going to Bonavista. There is value, and (the fact) that these buildings are still standing after 150 years, that should tell builders something today... They knew what they were doing back then... "A lot of people think heritage is of limited value. The point is, restoring these buildings adds a great deal of value. It reconnects people with their heritage and history, but it also involves a lot of investment to restore these buildings and to modernize them."

Hanrahan points out that a local construction crew was hired to do the renovation and subcontractors from the Southern Shore were employed for various parts of the work. "I certainly have done what I can to employ people from the Irish Loop," Hanrahan notes.

Given that her mom, Jean (nee Maddigan) Hanrahan grew up in Witless Bay and that one of the first Nuns recruited to the convent was named Hanrahan, though it's now known if there is any family connection, Hanrahan can't help but feel a special connection to the building.

"It is a very special place, very peaceful," says Hanrahan, "and hopefully people will enjoy it when I figure out how to proceed with this."

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# Rooted to the land

## For Bob Aylward, farming is in the genes

By Craig Westcott  
Irish Loop Post

Bob Aylward has always been a down to earth fellow. Even during his days as a cabinet minister with Brian Peckford, the Kilbride resident always kept his perspective as well as his sense of humour.

That was especially important during the latter days of Peckford's administration when the government was taking a pounding in the legislature and press for the failed Sprung greenhouse experiment.

Then came four years sitting in Opposition. That's when Aylward took up farming on his family's land in Kilbride.

Aylward says he used to name the weeds in his strawberry field after the Liberal members sitting across the House on the government side. "I couldn't get rid of the one I called John Efford," he says, a big grin running across his face.

After Aylward left elected politics in 1993, he turned to farming full time. He was 47.

"I'm 64 this year, but when I started this the days were longer. They're getting shorter," he laughs. "I get about eight hours in now and that's getting to be a bonus. I could do 14 one time."

But he still gets a lot of personal satisfaction from it.

"Yes, I enjoy watching it grow," he says. "Actually, I don't like the harvest time because I know what's coming right behind it -- winter. But all fall I'll sell firewood. I cut firewood up there, spruce and juniper," he says, pointing to a hill in the distance. "And I'll bring in some birch. I think I brought in 48 cords of birch last year... There's a good market for it."

Aylward is working ground that has been in his family for three generations. His grandfather Nicholas Aylward bought the land from the Murrin family and another family almost a hundred years ago and kept dry cows on it.

Aylward said he always wanted to try his hand at farming and had hoped to work alongside his father. But by the time he was ready to start his father had taken sick and could only watch his son through the window. "It's too bad he wasn't here because I wouldn't have made half the mistakes that I did," says Aylward. "I didn't have a clue about what I was doing."

Nevertheless, for Aylward, farming is in the genes. His grandfather on his mother's side, James Murphy, was also a farmer in Kilbride, working land in an area near Den-

more's Lane in what is now called Richmond Hill. Ironically, Aylward's daughter bought a house in that area some time ago and discovered it was located right on the land formerly owned by one of her great-grandfathers.

"I started out, trying to make sure I didn't use any insecticides, or any kind of pesticides," says Aylward. "I started with strawberries, and they were doing pretty good for a while, but it's a big risk for strawberries in this part of the province, because of the frost in June. If you have a good spring, it's usually a bad year for strawberries, the same as bakeapples. If you get a good spring, the bakeapples start up early and then when you get a frost in June, it kills them all."

Aylward says if you get six good strawberry crops in 10 years you're doing well.

"So I cut down on them, and I start raspberries more than strawberries now," he says. "They're a bit later in the year, so they don't get affected as much by that frost. And there's a bigger demand for them, which I didn't realise. I put them in first as wind breaks for the strawberries and people wanted them more than the strawberries at the time... If you take care of them, you can get nice big raspberries, half as big as strawberries sometimes, so



Bob Aylward working the farm in Kilbride. The property has been in his family for three generations.

it's easier to pick them. You can walk along picking them."

Aylward's farm is still insecticide free. "That's why all the weeds are there," he points out, laughing. "And he still does all the planting himself, using a small roto tiller, which he says is one of the best purchases he ever made along with the small Kubota tractor he operates. But farming on that scale is marginal financially. Aylward admits

he wouldn't be able to make a living at it without the fallback of his government pension.

"Last year I made \$83 off them (the strawberries), for six months work," says Aylward. "We had a frost in June and July last year."

Aylward grows tomatoes root crops too, including two varieties of potatoes as well as carrots, turnips, lettuce and a species of green onion as big as a broomball.

"I specialize in them a little bit," Aylward says of the onions. "A buddy of mine, Alec Pearcey over in Glendale nursery, starts them for me in February in his greenhouse. It takes almost a full year to grow them. They're big white ones, beauties, I could eat them raw."

"But all the strawberries and raspberries are U-pick," he adds. "I don't sell to the stores, or anything."

See 'Aylward,' page 5

# Congratulations 2010 Youth Ventures Award Winners



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## Mullowney not happy with province's funding rejection

Bay Bulls Mayor Harold Mullowney wasn't pleased at last month's public council meeting when he had to inform his fellow councillors that the provincial government has rejected the town's funding request for further construction on St. John's Road.

"This is a real sore point for me," Mullowney explained after the meeting. "St. John's Road was supposed to be completed years ago. We had our share of the money in hand three years ago and wanted to do it in one shot. But the government wrote back and said it was too much and could we cut it in pieces."

The town agreed to that request and the first phase of improving the road was completed. Mullowney said the town was assured at the time that the province's share of the funding would be in place

when it came time to start phase two.

But now the province has told the town there is no funding available for the work.

The latest phase would have seen the rest of the road widened with curbs, gutters and sidewalks installed all the way back to Foodland and the Southern Shore Highway. Mullowney reckoned the total cost at about \$1 million. The town still has most of its money in the kitty for its share of the work. Now it's a matter of waiting for the province to ante up.

"So here we are applying again for next year," said Mullowney, who admitted he is worried the town will get a closed door again next year and that when the project is finally approved, inflation and soaring construction costs will make the job much more expensive.



Bay Bulls Mayor Harold Mullowney, centre, presides last month over the first public council meeting held in the new \$1 million Town Hall. In addition to offices for town staff and the public chamber, space has also been set aside for the RCMP to lease. The town is planning a Grand Opening tentatively set for September 24.

### 'Play on' at Della Drive courts

The status quo will remain at the Della Drive basketball courts in the Goulds, says Ward 5 councillor Wally Collins.

The councillor held a public meeting at the recreation centre a few weeks ago after complaints arose about young people using the courts after hours.

Collins said a good number of youths were among the 30 or so people who

turned up for the meeting.

"For right now, we're going to leave it status quo, we're going to leave it open," said Collins. "There wasn't a big lot of complaints, and there were more people really for keeping it open than there were to shut it down. But we're going to watch it, and if we've got to put a camera up there, we will."

Collins said the courts will be checked periodically by

the City of St. John's parks patrol and the lights at the facility will be turned off every night to discourage late play.

Collins said there was no vandalism, it was just a matter of games going late into the night.

"It's used all the time, it's a busy spot," said Collins. "Now that we've got the signs up, and they turn off the lights, it's improving really."

### Goulds study will precede sidewalks

Continued from page 1

"We've got to try and fix that problem before we start, and then next year, hopefully in November, I'm going to try to get the sidewalks in front of the schools."

Collins said many people in the area are wondering when they are going to be able to develop their land.

"Basically that's the second step" he said. "The first

step was getting the \$80,000 we approved last year to get the study done to see what way we're going to tackle it. Now we've got the study back, and the next step is to get the storm water out of our sewer system. And the third step will be putting the sidewalks in front of St. Kevin's school. And hopefully we'll get that (placed) on the capital works budget in Novem-

ber.

Collins said there is plenty of land in the Goulds, even aside from the amount that is part of the agricultural land freeze, that could be developed. "The Goulds can be as big as Mount Pearl, population wise," said Collins, "it could be 25,000 people, but we can't develop, because we don't have the (proper) sewer system there."

### Bay Bulls council continues 'no name' policy

Staff with the Town of Bay Bulls will continue to black out the names on development applications coming before council.

Mayor Mullowney says the practice is in keeping with legislation governing personal privacy. However, he admits it

makes the job of discussing and voting on specific development applications more difficult.

Mullowney said most councillors can easily picture a property in question when the owner is identified. Without that information, they may have to make a greater effort to

actually visit some properties to properly inform themselves before voting on a matter.

Mullowney added that not all applications have the names blacked out and that for now discretion to do so will rest with the Town Clerk.

### Celtic Business Development Corporation (CBDC Celtic)

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# Aylward still awed by the pastoral beauty of his piece of Kilbride

Continued from page 3

Aylward says there's a good market for anyone who wants to sell berries wholesale to stores and restaurants. "The last five or six years, it seems to me, everyone is getting that feeling that fresh is better," Aylward observes. "And it is better - anyone who grows anything knows that a potato tastes a little different when you get it right away."

He doesn't bother advertising. One time NTV happened to do a story on his farm and for the next two days it was so busy, Aylward couldn't accommodate all the cars. He says his land is too small for an operation like the Lesters', of which he is a big admirer. "They work like horses, they

do, and they have a real good strawberry operation."

Though he works alone, Aylward is not without company. There are moose on his farm, two coveys of grouse and lots of rabbits. "It's an amazing spot," he says. "There's a little pond down there that was full of ducks all spring. I'd whistle to them and they'd come up. It's amazing to have it in the middle of St. John's, but it's not going to last. It (development) is moving in. There are houses going in down there (next door) now and there are people looking for this land too. And when you get surrounded, you're done. But that's it. It's supposed to be progress, but I don't think it is."

Aylward's latest project is a Christmas tree crop. He's experimented with growing the trees in the past. But this time, he's set aside a better spot for rearing them. In Nova Scotia, the trees take seven years to mature. Aylward figures they'll take 10 here. "I'm pushing the limit," he admits, referring to his age. "I might see one of them. I just want to see what they will do. I'll get a rocking chair and wait 'til they grow in 10 years. I won't be able to bend over to weed."

But Aylward is being more self-deprecatory than he needs to be. He's still in pretty good shape physically and remains one of the Pro-

gressive Conservative Party's best campaigners. He is one of the most outspoken advocates of Newfoundland's farming industry and still takes on interesting jobs for friends, such as hauling cars

to Newfoundland from the United States and the mainland. That rocking chair looks to be a good way in the future just yet. And then there's his sense of humour, as sharp as al-

ways. Asked whether climate change is affecting his farm, Aylward says he welcomes reports the average temperature could rise four degrees. "I'll grow bananas here then," he says, laughing.



## Bidgood's Cove tourism centre opens its doors

The Bidgood's Cove Tourist Information Centre officially opened in Petty Harbour last month. The building was erected thanks to \$124,000 in funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. ACOA minister Keith Ashfield couldn't be on hand for

the ceremony, but did get a tour of the property a few days later when he was in Newfoundland on government business. The property is built on the site of the former Bidgood's salt fish plant. The land was donated to the town by the late

Roger Bidgood. Joining Ashfield, centre, during his visit were, from left, fisherman Mike Hearn, Mayor Nath Hutchings, the town's administrative assistant Judy Noseworthy and Ann Payne of the Petty Harbour - Maddox Cove Development Board.

# Barbour a true achiever

Continued from page 1

\$3,000 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation, most of it from a song she wrote, called Matters of the Heart, which can be downloaded on Youtube. Barbour intends to use her reign as Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador to continue raising money and awareness for the group. The cause is important to her because her Dad and namesake George suffered two strokes

last year. "But he's doing better now, and we're just hoping for the best," said Georgina, who has been singing and playing guitar and piano and writing songs since she was in Grade 9. In fact, Barbour wasn't long home from a performance in China with the choir Shalloway when she learned that she would be assuming the duties of Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador. Since then, she has donned

the crown in Flower's Cove and the Cupid's 400 celebrations and this month will head to Gambo for an event. It's a hectic schedule for a woman who will turn 18 in October. "I'm looking forward to it, and I'm pretty sure I can handle it all," said Barbour. "I'm so excited about it, it's going to be a great opportunity to see all the province. It's definitely going to be a big learning experience."

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## Still making friends

*Riverside Restaurant and Lounge celebrates 40 years*

It's getting to the point where the Riverside Restaurant and Lounge is nearly an institution.

Last week, owner Rick Hayden, his family and staff celebrated 40 years in business.

The Cape Broyle eatery and lounge has come a long way since the early days when it was simply known as "the snack bar," though many patrons still call it that.

The family business was started by Rick's father, Harold Hayden. Harold had spent some time working on the American air force base in Goose Bay saving money so that he could come home to Cape Broyle and buy the snackbar from his brother. Rick was 11 at the time and promptly put to work peeling potatoes.

"I used to leave Sacred Heart school and come up at 3:00 o'clock and peel potatoes by hand," Rick recalls. "Myself and Kenny Duggin. He was older than I was, so he could peel potatoes twice as fast. We used to get paid by the bucket."

Over the years, Harold expanded the business by adding a lounge that became a popular spot for dances on the Southern Shore.

"It was so busy in the 70's that he built another piece on the lounge, which made it bigger again," Rick recalls. "A lot of the bands, like Brian

Finn and Celtic Connection, they all started there, that's how they got going, I suppose."

Hayden allows he's seen a lot of faces over the years and could write a book about some of the things that went on.

About 15 years ago, another piece was added to the building to create the restaurant that overlooks a small brook and the harbour.

Since Harold retired, Rick has pressed on, expanding the operation by taking on catering jobs, such as at the Southern Shore Folks Arts Council's dinner theatre in Ferryland and by introducing a line of moose burgers that has become one of the most popular barbecued items on the Southern Shore.

What's the most important lesson he's learned from his father?

"Well like father always said, if you're in business and if you keep the place clean and treat everybody the same, you'll have a successful business," Rick says. "You've got to treat everybody the same. You don't treat anyone any differently than anyone else who comes through that door."

That advice ties in with the company's slogan: Enter as strangers, leave as friends.

In the past few years, the restaurant's reputation has spread beyond the Southern

Shore thanks to growing tourist traffic and the attention of television shows including *One Chef One Critic* on Rogers Cable and *Places to Go with Sharon Snow* on NTV.

The NTV segment aired just this past summer.

"We haven't stopped since," says Hayden. "And all it cost me was two fish 'n' chips, two moose burgers, one dessert, and two drinks - for a \$30,000 commercial. I figure it would cost you that much (as advertising) for sure. And it was great, it's unreal how busy we've been since that. I'm sure it had something to do with it."

The Riverside is even seeing buses full of senior citizens pull up for a meal.

Hayden says he wasn't nervous during the filming thanks to Snow.

"Sharon made me feel so comfortable starting off," he says. "She was just talking to me, she's so natural, she's great. I had the microphone on and didn't realise that the cameraman was always taping me when I was talking. Then he put all that stuff together. We were talking away and he was taping away and I didn't even know it."

The Haydens have been fortunate in that the business has never really faced tough times. It's just grown steadily every year, to the point now where 16 people are em-



Word about the quality of food at Riverside Restaurant in Cape Broyle is getting around. This past summer, NTV's Sharon Snow featured the restaurant on her program, *Places to Go*. Owner Rick Hayden started in the family business when he was 11, peeling potatoes after school.

ployed during the busiest months, which is tourism season in the summer.

Still, it's lots of hard work. Hayden says that's the key to success.

"We're there seven days a week and if we're off a day, we're out doing business for

the restaurant, picking up supplies and stuff," he explains. "If you want to succeed today, you've got to work hard, and by working hard you're working 12-15 hours a day. You'll never get paid for what you work, but that's it, you own your own business, you work for it."

For all that, Hayden is well pleased with the way things have turned out. He still enjoys going to work everyday.

"I do, because you're meeting so many different people," Hayden says. "And everybody has got a different story. You can just relate to everybody."

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Congratulations to Rick Hayden and his Family & Staff  
at Riverside Restaurant & Lounge on 40 years of Success!

# Mistakes, I've made a few (doozies)

Apologies to Keith Ward right off the bat. Last edition, I ran a photograph of Keith, which was taken during the Tely 10 Road Race by my friend Eddy Howlett. Keith has been running in the Tely 10 for years. The headline read: *Running Man*. Okay, that made sense. But the sub-headline didn't. It read: *Time for province and feds to 'step up to the plate' for Colony of Avalon, says Ed.* That made no sense at all. Worse, the story was on the front page. Was I embarrassed? Don't be talking. So, Keith, please accept my sincere apology.

In the rush to get the paper to the printer, I used an old template and forgot to change the sub-headline.

The blunder put me in mind of some other doozies over the years. Like the time Prime Minister Stephen Harper toured Renew's. I quoted Loyola Hearn as saying, "The Grotto that's built on the Mass Rock is the only rock in the country, as far as I know, where they have the rock itself where people hid away to go to Mass designated (as a Heritage site) and we built a grotto on it. And the old *fornications*. It's things like that that are noted historically and it's a



**Pillar to Post**  
By Craig Westcott

great area to visit."

Yes, historic fornications probably would make for a great visit. Of course, I meant to write fortifications. And in my defense, I actually did. The culprit was the word processing program on the computer. If you misspell a word, and sometimes even if you don't, the computer automatically "corrects" you and inserts the word it "thinks" you meant to use. So the computer made a fool of me and Loyola Hearn. But I should have picked it up by proof-reading the paper. Unfortunately when you work by yourself there isn't much time for proof-reading. Meanwhile, if you happen to know of any historic fornications in Renew's, let me know. That could make for an interesting yarn too.

During *The Southern Post* days I wrote a column using the phrase "pubic outrage." No, I wasn't referring to my teenage years, or the time my wife made me get a vasectomy. I had meant to say "public outrage."

I'll try to do better.

## A real gentleman

The Goulds lost one of its finest gentlemen last month with the passing of Pat Ward. He was 85.

Pat was born and raised in Portugal Cove South, where he is still fondly remembered by many friends and family members. That's where he became known as "Hum" Ward, which was short for his middle name Humbert. The story goes that folks in the Cove came to calling him Hum to differentiate him from his cousin and best friend, who was also named Pat Ward.

After leaving the Cove to pursue a career, Pat worked in Greenland for a while on an air force base. But he spent most of his life in the Goulds, where he operated a waste collection business for many years and raised a large family. Pat was well known for his welcoming smile and gentle ways. It can truly be said he never had an enemy. He was one of those folks who didn't care for material things, but thought a lot about people.

After he retired Pat continued his two favourite pursuits - hunting and fishing, and collecting pictures and memorabilia about the Goulds and the Southern Avalon, particularly Portugal Cove South. Pat often took his kids and grandkids on his forays in the country, a practice he continued right up to last year. He was an enthusiastic historian of the region and a fount of knowledge when it came to connecting family histories and relations.

To say he was respected by the community is an understatement. He brightened the lives of everyone who knew him. Pat now joins his late wife Madonna, to whom he was so devoted.

## A time in Trepassey

Oh, to have owned the beer contract on the southern Avalon

this past summer. With Come Home Years in every second community, the region was humming with people back from the mainland and other parts of the province to see family and friends they hadn't seen in years.

From all accounts it was a special summer for residents in Cape Broyle, Aquaforte, Port Kirwan, Trepassey and St. Mary's, where some of the bigger celebrations were held. A dance one night in Trepassey is said to have attracted 2,000 people at the gate. At one point, the RCMP even issued a special note to the media asking that it warn people that it planned to step up its patrol for drunk drivers in the Trepassey area. However, there were no notices of any arrests.

All of this activity was in addition to the regular garden parties and celebrations such as Cape Race Days. When it comes to having a time, few places can put it together like the people of the Southern Shore and St. Mary's Bay.

## Still a beacon

The Cape Race and Mistaken Point area continues to attract national and international media interest. Recently a crew from *Land & Sea* visited Mistaken Point to film a segment which is expected to air this fall.

At Cape Race, lighthouse historian Dave Myrick of the Goulds has been called upon by both Japanese and German filmmakers to help with their research on the area.

One of the concerns of residents in nearby Portugal Cove South is that the road to Mistaken Point and the Cape badly needs improvement. Help may be coming however, if Environment Minister Charlene Johnson, who recently visited



Brittany Morash, 17, had a busy time greeting former Trepassey residents who returned to their roots for this summer's Come Home Year celebrations. Morash worked at the Trepassey Museum.

the area, presses those concerns at cabinet.

## Quiet change

An era has passed in the country between Portugal Cove South and Cappahayden. The last man left working at the Loran-C station, Joey Coombs, has retired as the facility gets mothballed for closure.

Satellite technology has rendered the tower with its bright red beacon unnecessary. But for many years, it was a crucial aid to sea navigation. It helped a few bird hunters pick their way back to the road too.

Years ago, the centre employed a large number of people and served as an important economic generator for the area.

## Road work

Crews have been busy cutting brush along one side of the road between Bay Bulls Big Pond and Middle Pond on the Southern Shore Highway.

This should make it a lot easier to spot moose on the side of the road. There has also been a lot of money spent on repaving the road from St. Vincent's to Gaskiers the past two summers.

## IRISH LOOP POST

The community newspaper of the Goulds, the Southern Shore and St. Mary's Bay

Vol 3 # 10  
September 5, 2010

## Publisher & Editor

Craig Westcott  
editor@thebusinesspost.ca

## Office

302 Main Road,  
The Goulds

## Mailing Address

18 Monument Road  
CBS, NL A1W 2A4

Tel. 709-745-1444

Fax. 709-745-1446

## Advertising

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Sisters Jenna, Kristen and Jill Connolly of the Goulds represented Newfoundland at the Eastern Canadian Fastpitch Softball championships for peewee girls in Saint John, New Brunswick last week.



Residents of Portugal Cove South held a cemetery mass in memory of their departed loved ones during Cape Race Days in August.

Photo by Maddie Westcott