THE WRECKHOUSE WEEKLY

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Volume 2 - Issue 15 MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021 *News that matters to the Southwest Coast*

Marine Atlantic gets the go ahead

COURTESY OF MARINE ATLANTIC

Marine Atlantic announced the go ahead of its plan to construct a new facility in Port aux Basques last Tuesday, April 6. From left: Murray Hupman – Marine Atlantic President and CEO, Gudie Hutchings – MP, Long Range Mountains, John Spencer – Mayor, Channel-Port aux Basques, and Gary O'Brien – Chair, Marine Atlantic Board of Directors.

By ROSALYN ROY

PORT AUX BASQUES – More than two years after announcing plans to construct a new facility for its Port aux Basques operations, Marine Atlantic released a statement confirming that it will proceed. The project was first unveiled in June 2018, and work is now scheduled to begin this Spring at the Crown corporation's new location along Hardy's Arterial, opposite the Bruce II Sports Centre.

Marine Atlantic President and CEO Murray Hupman was among the dignitaries in town last Tuesday, Apr. 6 to make the official announcement.

"Initially there was the intention to move ahead with the new building. However, once we started to unravel that, we realized that we didn't have all the proper approvals and protocols in place with the federal government, and so that put us back to the drawing board a bit," said Hupman. "We had to do a business plan – one that aligned with the requirements of the federal government."

Working with other departments, such as the Treasury Board and Finance, to ensure everything was up to snuff took time, and then COVID-19 swept the globe, slowing matters further.

"When COVID hit, we sort of put a lot of things on slow burn; in some cases put them off for about a year."

That didn't mean efforts had halted completely. Hupman observed that despite the pandemic, Marine

> **"It's now a project fully funded and ready to go."**
>
> *– CEO & President Murray Hupman*

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Atlantic's Board of Directors, led by Chair Gary O'Brien, continued to push forward to get the project approved.

"It's been a major initiative of the board since I was appointed," said O'Brien, who assumed the role of Chair in Nov. 2021 for a five-year term. O'Brien has over 30 years of public service experience, but shared a personal satisfaction that the new building will be finished during his tenure.

"If you're going to put yourself out there in public service, you want to see some reality to the efforts that you've put in. It would be disappointing if you looked back and couldn't say you achieved this and this and this."

In fact, getting the final go ahead for the new building is only one item on O'Brien's To Do list for the Board, though he's not quite ready yet to reveal what else they are working on.

"Hopefully they'll become more known as things evolve," said O'Brien. "But you know the board is very committed to this, we're excited, we're anxious to see it started. I pester the CEO all the time as to when we're going to see the tendering documents."

Hupman said the corporate plan was approved only about a week ago.

"It's full steam ahead from the organization's perspective. It's now a project fully funded and ready to go."

Since Marine Atlantic is a Crown corporation, all funding will come from the federal level, noted MP Gudie Hutchings (Long Range Mountains), who was also on hand for last week's announcement.

"I support Marine Atlantic and the town of Port aux Basques every way I can, and this is huge," said Hutchings. "It's going to be a LEED Silver building, so it's going to be environmentally state of the art, a healthy workplace and healthy environmentally."

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmentally Design) is used to certify the sustainability of a structure and is based on points. The more sustainable the building, the more points it scores.

Points are earned through several different categories, including green materials used, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and even access to public transportation. To qualify for a LEED rating, a building must earn a minimum of 40 points. A Silver rating, such as the new Marine Atlantic building, requires a minimum of 50 points. Gold ratings are between 60-79 points and Platinum is scored at 80 and above.

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This waterfront building on Marine Drive is too small to consolidate its staff, but once the new facility is complete and employees relocate to the new Hardy's Arterial facility, Marine Atlantic may find another purpose for it.

Some of the features in the new building will likely include controls for lights or heat that switch off automatically when the room is not in use, for example.

"I'm glad we're going in that direction," said O'Brien. "We've put a lot of time and effort into innovations within this company, and innovation, whether you're dealing with technology or artificial intelligence, it's all becoming critically important as we move forward as an organization."

Hutchings says that the environmental lens is being put on every project the Federal government green lights.

"Is it the municipal because of old infrastructure? Is it the fishermen because of rising water temperatures?" she asked. "Everywhere you go Canadians are concerned about the environment in some way, shape and form."

The intention this year is to finish the ground work phase of the project.

"Some time between June and September we hope to get all the big equipment in and get the land excavated and all the site prepped," said Hupman. "Run sewer, water, get the rock leveled off, get it on a grade, that type of stuff."

Once that is completed, Hupman estimated that it will take five or six months to polish off the engineering details and design of the building during Winter 2021. Actual construction is likely to get started in May or June 2022 once the ground is dry enough.

"We'll go out to tender probably some time in February of next year, probably February or March," noted Hupman.

"There will be two tender processes. One probably April or May (2021) for the ground work phase of it, and then the big one for the physical building after they've finished all the engineering," offered Hutchings.

If all goes according to plan, the building will be weather tight by Winter 2022, after which work can continue on the inside.

The new facility will allow Marine Atlantic to consolidate all of its regional operations under one roof. Currently around 60 to 70 staff are scattered in five different locations around town, which is less than ideal for a number of reasons.

Not only does the corporation intend to make work more efficient in a healthier environment, they want to provide a place where employees can collaborate a lot easier.

"You've got people spread all over the place. You haven't got that dynamic," said Hupman. "You get that teamwork. You get that social environment as an organization built back into Marine Atlantic, where it's been missing now for a while."

Pandemic protocols have forced a tweak to the original design plans though.

"Our concept was an open concept. It was a concept of collaboration and general collision spaces or meeting spaces as the original design, but with COVID-19 there might not be so many collision spaces," admitted Hupman. "We will take pandemic requirements and try to build them into the building as much as we can."

Most of Marine Atlantic's offices in town are rental properties with the exception of the waterfront location. The building went through some repairs and renovations lately, but is too small to consolidate operations, especially in the new normal of pandemic protocols.

"The only building we actually own is 10 Marine Drive," explained Hupman. "If we decide that we have no longer any use for it, it actually goes into the government surplus process."

If that happens, the building will be retained as a federal asset, and government services may choose to re-purpose it for any number of uses or perhaps even choose to sell it.

Assuming COVID permits, Marine Atlantic intends to hold a public information session, perhaps as early as this fall, where it will unveil concept artwork.

"People can come in and actually have a look at it, see what it's going to look like in the community, what it's going to look like from the different sight lines," offered Hupman. "Get people excited about it."

Count Mayor John Spencer as

MARINE ATLANTIC, continued on Page 3

Marine Atlantic reverses fare increase

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The MV Highlanders enters Port aux Basques harbour in March 2021. The Gulf crossing was the only route not to see an increase on passenger fares on April 1.

By ROSALYN ROY

PORT AUX BASQUES – Marine Atlantic has reversed its Apr. 1 rate increase.

Marine Atlantic had initially increased its commercial fares on the Gulf route by two per cent, and commercial and passenger fares on the Argentia route by 2.5 per cent. Rates for drop trailers had increased by 3.4 per cent on both routes.

On March 12, MP Jack Harris (St. John's East) called on the Prime Minister to reverse the planned increase, stating that it would negatively impact every consumer in the province during an economy already reeling in the wake of a global pandemic.

By Apr. 5 it appears the Federal government had come to a similar conclusion.

"Transport Canada asked Crown Corporations in the Transportation sector not to implement increases this year due to the significant burden that COVID-19 has placed on the Canadian economy," stated Corporate Communications Officer Darrell Mercer via e-mail. "While we have had rate freezes in the past, this is the first roll back."

Mercer also confirmed that passengers who crossed during the 4 day span and had paid by credit card would be refunded the difference.

Marine Atlantic has also been impacted by the COVID-19 and that seems likely to continue for the upcoming summer tourist season.

"Numbers are still below normal traffic volumes as customers appear to be waiting to see what happens with the pandemic. With recent discussion and speculation regarding potential Atlantic and Canadian bubbles in the weeks and months ahead, we did see an increased number of bookings. There is still much uncertainty as to what traffic numbers will be heading into the summer season," wrote Mercer.

On Wednesday, Apr. 7 Public Health issued a COVID-19 alert regarding recent ferry travel, citing an abundance of caution. Passengers and crew who sailed on the MV Blue Puttees that departed North Sydney bound for Port aux Basques last Thursday, Apr. 1st at 12:15 p.m. are asked to arrange for COVID-19 testing.

Marine Atlantic *(continued from Page 2)*

one of those who are excited. The Town has been working closely with Marine Atlantic on this since 2017, when it first offered suggestions for a suitable location.

"We've always been in the loop and it was tremendous for us. This is a great day for Port aux Basques," said Spencer. "I see it as a magnet. I see it as a development that's going to move right down through."

The mayor pointed out that a new business enterprise is already undergoing construction along Hardy's Arterial on the other side of St. James' Elementary School.

"This today will be a shot in the arm for that business. I see it as great for the employees that are going into that building. We have the daycare there, we have the rec centre there, we have the schools. I think for attracting new people to our community, this is a good day all the way around."

Hardy's Arterial is becoming increasingly popular with pedestrians, and the town has installed LED light poles. Spencer won't commit to sidewalks just yet, but he's not saying no either.

"Anything is possible. You know what? There were no lights there until this year," Spencer pointed out.

MHA Andrew Parsons (Burgeo-La Poile) and Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (IET) wasn't able to make the conference but welcomed the announcement.

"The timing didn't work out," said Parsons later that afternoon via telephone interview from St. John's. "I'm thrilled with this news. This is something we've all been waiting for for some time."

Marine Atlantic may be a federal entity but the province has helped the Crown corporation get this project off the ground.

"Its importance can't be overstated to our entire province. This is one of those things (that) I think we always need to be cognizant of and keep an eye on, and absolutely we played a role. We worked with Marine Atlantic to work towards getting the property, and I think we assisted the entire way," said Parsons. "We, as a province, have been helpful in any way we can and that's the way it has to be."

Parsons says the impact of today's announcement extends above the obvious.

"Sometimes the biggest impact is the psychological, knowing that we are going to get a beautiful new building," offered Parsons. "There's always been sort of a comparison between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and for staff and citizens to see this brand new facility shows a commitment to the service, a commitment to our area, and a commitment to the employees."

Then there is the potential that this kind of large financial commitment to the town may serve to influence future businesses to set up operations in the region.

"You don't put in infrastructure of this nature without saying, 'Look, we are here and we're going to be staying here,'" said Parsons. "This is a great thing for the community and it's another thing that we, as an area, as a region, need to build on in terms of attracting people to come here, to be here. There's absolutely so many positives that can be taken out of this and I can't wait for it to start."

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LOOKING BACK

What's in a name?

Channel-Port aux Basques has been used by Europeans for centuries, and as such, has had many different names. Various landmarks and stations that eventually became towns were marked on and off throughout the centuries, and a few consistently had names, even if they changed over time.

The earliest maps of Newfoundland showed it as a collection of islands rather than one large mass. On one such map drawn in 1546 by Pierre Desceliers, Cape Ray was marked as Cape Real. By 1602 it was marked as Cape Ray, and the name has stuck ever since. Earlier, in 1534, Jacques Cartier wrote that there were over 1,000 Basque fishing vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence when he sailed to claim the Gaspé peninsula. These Basque fishers and whalers frequented the Port aux Basques harbour to resupply and rest in the relative safety of the ice-free port. They called the area Sascot Portu, the meaning of which I can't find.

According to the Encyclopedia of Newfoundland, the next name to pop up in the area was Bay Éclaire in 1612, referring to the ice-free harbour. A 1621 map drawn by Jacobscz included in A History of Newfoundland by D. W. Prowse marked Cap de Ray, Bay St. Éclaire, and a Port aux Basque further down the coast. It's far enough that it may be the location of present day Burgeo, the name of which bears a striking resemblance to the city and province of Burgos, an autonomous region in Basque Spain.

In 1647, Bay St. Éclaire saw another name change when Robert Dudley marked it as C. Lascot, a French surname. The final change came not long after, in 1687, when Dutchman Johannes van Keulen labeled it as Port aux Basques. From this point on, it was labeled as such until more English settlers arrived in the 1800s and established the town of Channel. Élisée Reclus noted in 1890 in his writing Social Geography According to an Anarchist that Port aux Basques had been "renamed as Channel by the English." As a visitor, he may have been mistaken, as the two towns had (and still have) their own unique identities.

Official work was conducted in Channel once it was established. This was likely due to anti-French and anti-Spanish sentiment in Newfoundland at the time. It had been illegal for either to settle in Newfoundland since the mid-1700s, and settlers often chose anglicized names for themselves and their towns to more easily conduct business.

Finally, in 1945 the two towns amalgamated, changing the name one last time to Channel-Port aux Basques, a symbol of co-operation and the towns' unique history.

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NO TROUT ABOUT IT

I am not a small guy. I'm not huge by any stretch, but during the winter months, I don't tend to exercise much and my weight usually jumps up by 10 to 20 lbs.

That means reason number 300 why I am always excited for the trout season to open. It's a chance for me to go out on the waters and throw a line out, and it's also my main form of exercise.

I don't own a quad or ATV (yet), so any fishing I do means getting there on foot. Personally I love it. I feel like having to walk inland to a pond or stream makes the tug of the line feel more like an accomplishment than if I just parked and flicked.

A few years ago I was on a day trip with family near Burgeo and my mother witnessed how far I was willing to go just to give an untested brook a try.

I descended the embankment, about 15 or 20 feet down and carefully crossed the gravel bed, which was nice and steep and slippery. Then I waded my way through the 4-foot high heather and brush for another 90 feet to get to what I thought would be a good spot for resting trout. It was not.

My mother later told some neighbors about watching my dogged determination to get to the water's edge.

"I don't know how he does it!"

I have no knack for flycasting, despite trying it over and over, so I tend to focus on trouting over salmon. I have a pretty good record on my 12 fishing holes (don't ask - fishers never tell!), but there are three or four spots that I am dying to try.

The problem with those spots is that they are all miles inland, well beyond even my determination.

I have no problem walking for hours. I used to be a mail carrier, and seven hours of stomping around with equipment slung over my shoulders isn't a big deal. But walking over wild lands alone is simply not smart.

When I go it alone, it's no more than a two hour hike. At best, I'm gone for the day. But if a wild animal gets all uppity then I am likely in trouble.

With the cell phone coverage being so spotty around the Southwest coast, I can't rely on a signal out in the woods. Even if I could, what good would it do if nobody can find me? If I step in a bad spot and turn an ankle or break a bone, then what? I am on my own and injured.

No matter how much I love fishing the risk simply outweighs the reward. Being outdoors and alone in Newfoundland's natural beauty is not for the faint of heart.

I know that some of you are likely thinking, "Oh come on. It's nothing. Toughen up."

But being familiar with the land doesn't exempt you from accidents or mistakes. That's why, not matter how badly I want to try a few new spots, I am not going to do it alone. Anyone want to go trouting this summer?

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Patching potholes in Port aux Basques

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Crews were spotted around Port aux Basques last week, including this one on Main Street, patching holes that had opened up thanks to almost a week of heavy rain.

By ROSALYN ROY

PORT AUX BASQUES – It's that time of year again. After almost a week of steady rain, Port aux Basques sent work crews out to patch up the worst of the holes when the sun finally returned last Wednesday, Apr. 7. The worst of these holes, near the Port Club on Caribou Road, were so severe that the town issued a warning on social media urging motorists to use extra caution when driving through that area.

"Town staff has had to deal with excess runoff from melting snow, warmer temperatures, high winds and heavy rain which impacts road surfaces and sub-surfaces due to as accelerated water conditions," stated Town Manager Leon MacIsaac via e-mail. "A number of streets, such as Caribou Road, are producing potholes. Staff have been placing material such as sand bags, cold asphalt, gravel and installing signage until more effective repairs can be made. Permanent repairs to potholes will be delayed until water buildup slows and crews are able to install hot recycled asphalt."

News briefs

Another seal spotted

A little more than a month after a harbour seal was spotted in the waters near Regional Street, a baby seal spent several days resting on the boat ramp behind the Port aux Basques town office. Nearby residents said that the young animal showed no signs of fear and that there appeared to be no mother or other seals nearby.

MHA retains portfolio

MHA Andrew Parsons (Burgeo - La Poile) has once again been sworn as Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology for Newfoundland and Labrador. Parsons was sworn in with the rest of cabinet in St. John's on Thursday morning, Apr. 8.

Clean up week

Town Manager Leon MacIsaac responded to inquiries about the annual Spring clean up week, which is scheduled to take place again this year after May 24. The town plans to post notices with the exact dates and details in the coming weeks.

Social media gossip

Local Facebook groups and private pages were abuzz last week about an apparently unwelcome stranger.

Multiple posts, one with over 100 comments alone, showed pictures of a van bearing Texas plates. The van had spotted around Port aux Basques and other areas of the region. The posts included photographs of the vehicle and identified its driver's social media profile.

Some commentators from outside the region also alleged that the same individual had been approached by the RCMP in another part of the province after complaints they had been seen talking to young teenage girls.

Despite these reports, Sergeant Terry Alexander of the Port aux Basques RCMP detachment stated unequivocally that there is no evidence the person who was the subject of these posts has been up to anything other than socializing.

"We did speak with the individual, and there is nothing to suggest anything he has done anything wrong," confirmed Sgt. Alexander last Tuesday, Apr. 6.

The Facebook posts have since been removed, but not before some of the individual's personal information had been shared repeatedly. That included their vehicle identification number, alleged criminal history and vehicle history reports, were published online and widely circulated.

Such activity is construed as doxxing. Doxxing is the act of revealing identifying information about someone online, such as their real name, home address, workplace, phone, financial, and other personal information. That information is then circulated to the public — without the victim's permission.

News outlets across the country continue to report instances of so-called 'plate-shaming'. Meanwhile restrictions around entry into the province are set to ease when the Atlantic bubble re-opens on Monday, Apr. 19.

Navigating registration for vaccination

SHUTTERSTOCK

Scheduling an appointment to receive a COVID vaccination and arranging for assistance to get you to and from the clinic can prove frustrating and confusing for some seniors.

By RENE J. ROY

Disclaimer: *Gerald J. Roy is the author's father.*

PORT AUX BASQUES – Despite the confusion thats been swirling around the AstraZeneca vaccine in the last number of weeks, Gerald Roy, has no hesitation about receiving his dose. The senior, who is 77 and a lifelong smoker, is considered at high risk of contracting serious complications from COVID-19.

Despite this, he will take any vaccine that is offered, even the Astra-Zeneca.

"I don't really care. One shot is as good as the other at my age."

He doesn't leave the house much these day anyway, other the odd trip to visit the doctor or get a haircut. He no longer does his own shopping and hasn't for quite some time.

"I'm kind of afraid that anything could happen. We live in an area where a lot of people come in from the ferry, and they may linger around town. COVID can so easily travel around this town, and that's the reason I'm afraid to go out without a vaccine."

His fears were realized over the winter thanks to an outbreak that was determined to have originated on the MV Blue Puttees, although that burst of cases was controlled rather quickly. Last week Public Health issued an alert after a Marine Atlantic travel-related case was discovered in the Western Health region, though as of publication no others connected to that sailing had been reported.

But with the continued ease of pandemic restrictions and the re-opening of inter-provincial Atlantic travel, Roy is keenly aware that he lives in a town that has branded itself as "Gateway to Newfoundland".

The first day he was able to register for a COVID vaccination appointment, Roy signed up.

The process can be a little daunting for seniors like Roy who might not be truly technologically savvy when it comes to emails.

Those who wish to register must navigate the provincial website, enter personal information, and select a preferred method of communication to get confirmed for the queue.

Roy had his daughter help him register, and selected a telephone call as his preferred means of communication for exactly this reason.

"I've been waiting and waiting, and there was no appointment available, and nobody ever got back to me," said Roy.

"I asked for initial contact by phone, which never came. Finally last week I was advised by email that an appointment would be available at the Lions Club. I just had to go on their web portal to book it."

When he had his son attempt to book the appointment, the system could not find him an available appointment. Port aux Basques had been booked solid.

"I asked my kids to verify with Western Health what was going on, since they said I was eligible. They suggested that we keep checking the portal link every morning and evening, so that when a spot came up, I could get my shot."

This writer spoke to a very helpful lady at the provincial toll free line who did her best to find Roy a slot, but being unable to do so, suggested instead that he keep checking until an available appointment came up.

"Finally this morning, (Wednesday, Apr. 7) we got an appointment confirmation."

Roy is scheduled to receive his vaccination next Wednesday, Apr. 14.

He has no concerns about which version of the vaccine he gets, as long as he gets one.

"I don't expect to have any problems. And at any rate, if I were to decline this vaccination, then by the time I get another appointment, 4 or 5 months down the road, it may be the same shot anyway, so I might as well get it now."

One day after Roy successfully booked his appointment, he received his phone call re-confirming that appointment.

That same day Health Minister Dr. John Haggie and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Janice Fitzgerald announced that extra and unexpected doses of vaccines had been shipped to the province.

The additional AstraZeneca-Oxford doses are being given out by Western Health and Central Health to people age 55 to 64, but Roy's age means he will receive the Moderna vaccine.

On Friday, Apr. 2, Haggie also spoke out to allay concerns from some seniors in the 80+ age group who feared they had been overlooked after registering but had not yet received an appointment, assuring seniors that they would not be missed.

Meanwhile Western Health has also announced an expanded number of clinics, including in Burgeo, Port aux Basques and Deer Lake.

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Lori's SPORTS REPORT

Here's what you need to know this week about the sports you love!

NHL Noise

You're waking up and reading this on the NHL's trade deadline day. By 3:00 p.m. EST, teams will complete their rosters to finish the season and for the playoffs.

COVID-19 presents challenges. The cap is flat. Some teams may have cap space but lack actual budget without fans in arenas. GMs are doing a cost-benefit analysis of adding complementary players who will have to quarantine.

The **New York Islanders** took the plunge on Wednesday night, Apr. 7 when GM Lou Lamoriello decided it was time to get the band back together. Lou made a deal with his former team, the **New Jersey Devils**, to acquire Kyle Palmieri and Travis Zajac for AJ Greer, Mason Jobst, their 1st round pick in 2021 and a conditional 4th round pick in 2022. The Devils retained 50% of the salary on both departing players. Can you say buyer's market?

Four Canadian teams are expected to be buyers. Having acquired veteran centre Eric Staal last week, the **Montreal Canadiens** are expected to add a defenceman, and perhaps a forward to help replace the injured Brendan Gallagher.

The **Toronto Maple Leafs** have made it known they want a goal scorer, but with Freddie Anderson injured they have to be thinking goaltending depth.

The **Winnipeg Jets** still need help on defence and may bob for more than one apple.

The **Edmonton Oilers** are looking for a top six forward and a top four defenceman – a tall order indeed.

In this market, I expect trades to break beyond the deadline as deals are finalized last minute. My prediction is that the biggest splash will come out of Toronto.

GM Kyle Dubas believes this is a contention year for his team and might be prepared to mortgage his mother to get ready for a long run. I won't be surprised if Dubas makes several moves before shops close.

So where might these new players come from?My modest calculation is that at least 10-12 NHL teams should face the facts and sell some pieces to help themselves for the future. That makes for a flooded market, and a flooded market works in the favour of the buyer.

A couple of teams who were expected to be sellers have upped their game.

Arizona and **Nashville** may not be as wide open as previously thought. But there is a surprise team who may be on the list. It was just two years ago the **St. Louis Blues** hoisted the Stanley Cup, but they're currently outside the playoff picture. GM Doug Armstrong, not exactly timid to make a deal, may use the opportunity to do some tweaking.

Restricted free agent defenceman Vince Dunn has been in trade rumours for some time. He is a young puck mover with upside that would be a good fit for the Habs or Jets.

The Blues also have a couple of unrestricted free agents to move for value. Forwards Tyler Bozak, Jaden Schwartz and Mike Hoffman may be on the move for the right price. It would be quite the disappointment to go from that beautiful Blues jersey to a Leafs jersey, no?

Hoffman isn't the only UFA signed just a few months ago to a one-year deal that may be on the move.

Taylor Hall signed in **Buffalo** with a plan to improve his stock playing next to Jack Eichel. But he was not predicting the gong show that would unfold there, and now he is in the bargain bin again.

Jim Rutherford, appearing on The Athletic Show podcast, expressed his expectation that "the flurry of deals will come after the Stanley Cup Final when teams are preparing for the expansion draft, the amateur draft and free agency."

Here's hoping he is wrong and another GM or two has inherited his brass balls before the trade deadline closes.

Raptors Racket

As of press deadline, the Raptors were two games back of the Chicago Bulls for the final play-in spot for the NBA's Eastern Conference. Realistically, Toronto may be better served by a high draft pick than a play-in experience.

Blue Jays Babble

Also on Wednesday, the Blue Jays announced they had signed General Manager Ross Atkins to a five-year contract extension. Atkins spent 15 years in Cleveland prior to coming to Toronto in 2015.

Since joining the Jays, Atkins has taken the team to two post-season appearances in 2016 and 2020. On the field, we have seen early glimpses of the success Atkins enjoyed in the off-season.

Injuries continue to be a factor for the Jays. George Springer has been out with an oblique strain and was nearing return. But on Tuesday Springer's training session was cut short due to tightness in his right quad. The plan for him is dependent on the outcome of further testing.

The Blue Jays continue to lean on pitching depth while they wait for Robbie Ray, Nate Pearson and Thomas Hatch to return from injury. Ray is anticipated to be the first to return.

"Accumulating injuries are the price we pay for the thrill of not having sat around on our asses." ~ Mark Rippetoe

Satchmo is wondering if the trade deadline drama will interrupt her nap.

© Roy Jahchan

Lori Bennett is a social worker, policy professional, recreation softball player and coach, and new ukulele-ist. A Newfoundlander living in Toronto, Lori loves a good hockey chat or even a debate, just as long as it remains respectful. She posts her gametime thoughts on twitter, particularly about hockey and the Montreal Canadiens, as @lori10habs.

1. What baseball executive served as president of the American League from 1974-83?
2. Name the NFL running back who repeatedly said "I'm just here so I don't get fined" at a Super Bowl XLIX media-day press conference.
3. Brazilian footballer Manuel Francisco dos Santos, famous for his spectacular dribbling, was better known by what nickname?
4. On June 30, 1970, the Atlanta Braves' Hank Aaron hit the first home run in the history of what stadium?
5. What boxing writer and sports historian, known for his signature fedora and cigar, was editor and publisher of "The Ring" magazine from 1979-83?
6. What sport, originating in Spain in 2005, combines volleyball, soccer and gymnastics with music, and is played on an inflatable court with trampolines on both sides of the net?
7. Mexico's premier motorsports track is named after two brothers who both died in auto-racing incidents nine years apart. Who are they?

Answers

1. Lee MacPhail.
2. Marshawn Lynch, Seattle Seahawks.
3. Garrincha.
4. Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium.
5. Bert Sugar.
6. Bossaball.
7. Pedro and Ricardo Rodriguez.

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OBITUARIES

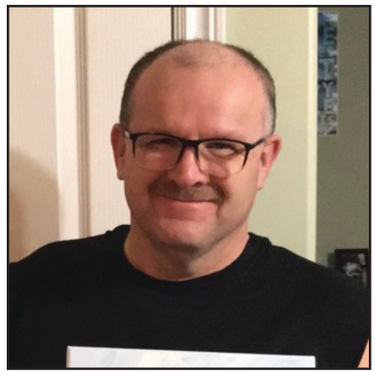
Margariet Jane DEVOY

May 7, 1936 - April 1, 2021

EAST HAVEN FUNERAL HOME

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we, the family of the late Margariet Jane Devoy (née Dutot), announce her passing at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre in Port aux Basques, NL on Thursday, April 1st, 2021 at the age of 84 years. Born in Port aux Basques, NL, Margariet was the daughter for the late William and Margaret Dutot (née Lomond). She was also predeceased by her husband; William Devoy, brothers; Bill (Mable) Dutot, Charles (Nancy) Dutot, Max (Norma) Dutot, brothers-in-law; Frank Cleary and Claude Porter. Margariet leaves to mourn with many fond and loving memories her loving children; John (Angie) Devoy of Doyles, NL, Lawrence Devoy of Oakville, ON, sister; Gladys Porter, brothers; David Dutot, Danny (Marilyn) Dutot all of Port aux Basques, NL, sister-in-law; Ellen Cleary of Loudon, Tennessee plus two grandsons; Shaun, Shayne Devoy both of Utah, four granddaughters; Kimberly Riviera of Maryland, Megan, Stephanie, Carolyn Devoy all of Southern California, and twelve great-grandchildren. Margariet also leaves behind her special dear and loving friend; Karen Swain of Codroy Valley, NL plus a large circle of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends from California to Florida and Newfoundland. In 1972, Margariet was baptised as one of Jehovah's Witnesses and was a part of congregations in Northern and Southern California and Bonita Springs, Florida. Margariet's love of the truths of the bible was the focus of her life and hope for the future. A special thank you to the doctors and staff at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre and the staff at the Mountain Hope Manor for the kindness and compassion given to Margariet during her stay. In keeping with Margariet's wishes, cremation has taken place. There will be no formal visitation or funeral service at this time. A memorial service will be held on Zoom by Jehovah's Witnesses in the coming weeks. To get a link to the memorial please contact Maurice Rumbolt at rumboltrlp@gmail.com. Interment will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Margariet's memory can be made to the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre, 2 Grand Bay Road, P.O. Box 250, Port aux Basques, NL, Canada, A0M 1C0 or to the charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements were in the care of East Haven Funeral Home Inc., 57 Grand Bay Road, Port aux Basques, NL, info@easthavenfuneralhome.com (709)-695-2300 www.easthavenfuneralhome.com

Job 14:14,15



Basil TAYLOR

Oct. 15, 1963 - April 4, 2021

EAST HAVEN FUNERAL HOME

On Sunday, April 4th, 2021 our hearts were forever broken and our lives forever changed as we announce the passing of our loving husband, father, brother, and friend Basil Taylor at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre in Port aux Basques, NL, at the age of 57 years. Born in Port aux Basques, NL, Basil was the son of the late Abe and Olive Taylor (née Osmond). He was also predeceased by his infant baby sister, Alice Sadie; brother, Jeff Taylor; father-in-law, Russell Lomond; and brothers-in-law, Gerry Griffiths, Dave Roberts and David Jeans. Basil leaves behind with many fond and precious memories his loving wife of 35 years, Janet Taylor (née Lomond); son, Ryan (Charlotte) Taylor; daughter, Sasha (Dillon) Simms, all of Port aux Basques, NL; his brothers and sisters, Richard (Juanita) Taylor of Port aux Basques, NL; Gertie (Bryan) Cassidy of Lethbridge, AB; Claire (Gerry) Griffiths of Calgary, AB; Lynn (Brian) Myslicki of Winnipeg, MB; Jane (Walt) Jeans; Darlene Jeans; Hilda Roberts; and Shawn (Alisha) Taylor, all of Mackenzie, BC; and Yvonne Taylor of High River, AB. Basil also leaves behind his mother-in-law, Pearl Lomond of Port aux Basques, NL; sister-in-law, Shirley (George) Anderson of Codroy Valley, NL; brothers-in-law, Kevin (Brenda) Lomond; and Chesley (Rose), both of Port aux Basques, NL. Basil was a very passionate man; he loved carpentry and wood working, and really enjoyed drawing, painting, and reading Earl Pilgrim books as a pastime. He was also a diecast car collector, an Edmonton Oilers hockey fan, and an avid moose hunter. Basil also leaves behind a large circle of loving nephews and nieces, with a few that held a special place in his heart. Basil had many great friends, and in particular a few who were an important part of his battle, including Terry, Dave, and Brenda. He loved you all dearly. A very special thank you to Dr. Al Nabbot and the staff at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre Chemo Unit and nursing staff as a whole. Visitation was held on Wednesday, April 7th from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at East Haven Funeral Home Inc. The funeral service was held on Thursday, April 8th, at 2 p.m. from East Haven Funeral Home Inc officiated by Rev. Faye Coffin. Interment followed at St. Paul's Anglican Cemetery, Barachois Hill, TCH. Flowers are graciously accepted and donations in memory of Basil can be made to Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation, 300 Prince Philip Dr, St. John's, NL, A1B 3V6. Funeral arrangements were in the care of East Haven Funeral Home Inc., 57 Grand Bay Road, Port aux Basques, NL, info@easthavenfuneralhome.com (709)-695-2300 www.easthavenfuneralhome.com

Forever in our hearts.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

* On April 12, 1861, the bloodiest four years in American history begin when Confederate shore batteries under Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard open fire on Union-held Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Bay. Four years later, the Confederacy was defeated at a cost of 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers dead.

* On April 15, 1912, the British ocean liner Titanic sinks into the North Atlantic Ocean about 400 miles south of Newfoundland, Canada, two hours after hitting an iceberg. With 16 watertight compartments, the Titanic was considered unsinkable.

* On April 16, 1947, multimillionaire Bernard Baruch coins the term "Cold War" to describe relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, a war without fighting or bloodshed, but a battle nonetheless. The phrase became a mainstay in the language of American diplomacy.

* On April 17, 1964, the Ford Mustang is officially unveiled at the World's Fair in New York. Named for a World War II fighter plane, the Mustang was the first "pony car," an affordable, compact sporty vehicle.

* On April 14, 1975, the U.S. airlift of Vietnamese orphans ends after 2,600 children are transported to America for adoption. Operation Baby Lift lasted 10 days and was carried out during the final, desperate phase of the war, only 16 days before the fall of Saigon.

* On April 18, 1989, thousands of Chinese students continue to take to the streets in Beijing to protest government policies and issue a call for greater democracy, resulting in the Tiananmen Square Massacre and thousands of protestors dead. Fear that a severe U.S. reaction to the massacre might result in a diplomatic rupture limited the official U.S. response.

* On April 13, 1997, Tiger Woods wins the prestigious Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, by a record 12 strokes. It was Woods' first victory in one of golf's four major championships. He was 21 years old.

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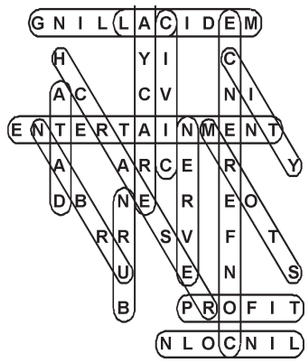
WORD SLEUTH • APPLE VARIETIES

L R S Q N K H E B Y W H T R O
L J A S H H G E B Y W S U R P
N K I T U O G D B Z X U V S Q
O M I K S N E I G I E R Y E C
Z M E A Y E D W U D K D T S Q
S Z P S L Y Z A N O A L R L J
H F A I O C E C N L S O E A Y
X V B J E R U S K C P G B Q P
N U M U M I L N K A E J I H F
J E C F A S I E L B E A L A G
Z Y X V C P U T M R K Q P O M

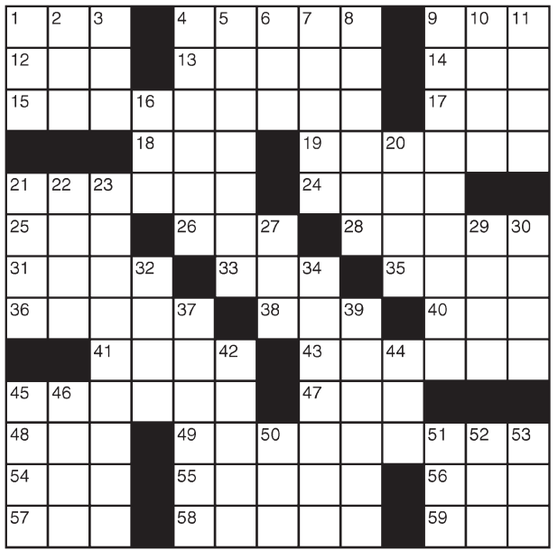
THIS WEEK'S CLUE LIST:

CAMEO
FUJI
GALA
GOLDRUSH
HONEYCRISP
JAZZ
JUBILEE
KEEPSAKE
LIBERTY
LODI
MELROSE
OPAL
PINK LADY
SUNDANCE
ZESTAR

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
_____ CENTER



No. 322 King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Actress Farrow
4 Carries
9 "Blue Bloods" network
12 Fireplace residue
13 WWII sub
14 "2001" computer
15 William and Kate's daughter
17 Lawyers' org.
18 Cato's 502
19 Noah's landfall
21 Summaries
24 Garr of "Tootsie"
25 Berliner's cry
26 Hog haven
28 Quartet doubled
31 Ella's style
33 Congeal
35 iPhone voice
36 King of Judea
38 Dazzle
40 Right angle
41 "I've Got — in Kalamazoo"
43 Sneaky sort
45 Secret matters
47 Request
48 Perched
49 Fraud
54 Candle count
55 Violin piece
56 Bird (Pref.)
57 Standard
58 Wimp
59 Poke

DOWN
1 Buddy
2 Somewhat (Suff.)
3 "Caught ya!"
4 Dutch exports
5 Woodwind players
6 Youngster
7 Really annoy
8 Sound system
9 Donor's beneficiaries
10 Rum cake
11 Venetian-blind part
16 Vitamin stat
20 Story lines
21 Impetuous
22 Caesar's "Behold!"
23 Role
27 Evergreen tree
29 Perry's creator
30 Cash drawer
32 Forum wear
34 In the direction of
37 Does the mambo
39 "Blade" actor Snipes
42 Christine of "Chicago Hope"
44 Alias abbr.
45 Now, in a memo
46 Sitar music
50 Ger. neighbor
51 Mahal preceder
52 Gardner of film
53 Pen tip

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SUDOKU

No. 538 Very Hard

		4	1					8
	7					3		
		9	4		5			
				2			4	
7		8				1		5
	1			6				
			8		3	2		
		6					8	
3					6	7		

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TO SOLVE: Fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 in such a way that each row, colum and 9-box small square contains each number only once.

CROSSWORD ANSWER #315

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	O	G		C	A	L	F		T	A	B	S		
U	R	N		O	N	O	R		E	L	A	N		
S	E	A		A	G	U	E		R	A	R	A		
P	O	W	E	R	S	T	E	E	R	I	N	G		
			E	S	T		B	A	Y					
A	N	G	L	E		L	I	U		B	Y	E		
T	A	R	S		P	O	E		B	R	I	M		
M	E	R		M	A	G		L	O	O	P	S		
			F	A	N		F	L	O					
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	L	O	N	D	O	N		
O	A	H	U		P	L	A	Y		A	M	A		
G	R	A	D		L	E	N	D		Z	A	P		
S	S	T	S		Y	A	K	S		E	R	E		

SUDOKU SOLUTION #536

9	5	3	8	2	7	4	6	1
2	4	7	1	6	9	5	3	8
6	1	8	5	3	4	7	2	9
3	6	5	7	1	8	9	4	2
8	2	9	4	5	3	6	1	7
1	7	4	2	9	6	8	5	3
4	3	2	9	8	5	1	7	6
7	9	6	3	4	1	2	8	5
5	8	1	6	7	2	3	9	4

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES ***(March 21 - April 19)***
It isn't always easy for the rambunctious Aries to give a second thought to their often spur-of-the-moment choices. But aspects favor rechecking a decision before declaring it final.

TAURUS ***(April 20 - May 20)***
Information emerges for the business-driven Bovine who feels ready to restart a stalled project. Be prepared to make adjustments as needed at any time during the process.

GEMINI ***(May 21 - June 20)***
Part of you wants to complete plans for an upcoming event, while your other self wants to see how things develop first. Compromise by moving ahead with your plans while being open to change.

CANCER ***(June 21 - July 22)***
An unexpected change in a relationship could open up a problem or could lead to a much-needed and too-long-delayed reassessment of a number of matters. The choice is yours to make.

LEO ***(July 23 -Aug. 22)***
Time for the Lion to total the plusses and minuses resulting from recent personal and/or professional decisions. See what worked, what didn't and why, and base your next big move on the results.

VIRGO ***(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)***
The clever Virgo can make persuasion work by presenting a case built on hard facts. Sentiment might touch the heart, but it's good, solid information that invariably wins the day.

LIBRA ***(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)***
You usually can win over the most stubborn skeptics on your own. But this time you can benefit from supporters who have been there, done that and are willing to speak up on your behalf.

SCORPIO ***(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)***
You win admiration for your determination to do the right thing. Don't be distracted from that course, despite the offer of tempting alternatives that might suddenly turn up.

SAGITTARIUS ***(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)***
While you still need to maintain control of a dominant situation, a new development emerges, making the task easier and the outcome potentially more rewarding.

CAPRICORN ***(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)***
New factors might have a positive effect on a still-pending matter, but only if the information proves to be credible. Trusted colleagues might be able to offer needed advice.

AQUARIUS ***(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)***
The week favors moderation, especially if a health problem is involved. Resist the impulse to do more than might be good for you at this time. You can catch up later.

PISCES ***(Feb. 19 - March 20)***
You could feel more than a mite upset by someone or some people who might be creating problems for you. Find out why they won't change their ways. Their reasons might surprise you.

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Meet the neighbours: The Livingstons

SUBMITTED

Bruce Livingston will be back to resume work with the Rose Blanche-Harbour Le Cou Heritage Advisory Committee this summer.

Over the phone at least, Bruce Livingston seems like a take charge kind of guy, or perhaps he's just too nice to say no. Last summer after he and his wife, Janet, bought a holiday home in Rose Blanche, he found himself curious about the history of the area. Now he's running a committee dedicated to it.

The Livingstons are friends with John and Jane Wright, who are setting up Shed Pottery in their Rose Blanche holiday home. Both couples hail from Vancouver.

"We followed their adventures," said Bruce via telephone from British Columbia. "My wife and I have always had a great interest in Newfoundland. We've both been visitors and volunteers there a number of times over the years and we wanted to spend more time, so it was a good opportunity."

The Livingstons were initially hoping to return to Rose Blanche early this month.

"With all of this COVID stuff and the crazy plane schedules changing around and just the chance to get our vaccines out here, we thought we'd delay our trip a little bit."

When he does return, it seems Bruce has some more volunteer work waiting for him.

"The town has a number of other heritage aspects, of course, but didn't have the ability to actually make any designations, so municipal heritage designations," explains Bruce. "So what I've been working on with the Town Mayor (Clayton Durnford) and Council is getting a heritage regulation passed."

The regulation passed earlier in 2021 and will allow the Town of Rose Blanche-Harbour Le Cou to designate a structure or area as of historical importance, perhaps even out as far as Diamond Cove. The town's popular lighthouse already has that designation by the province.

"The lighthouse is great, but it's going sort of beyond that and getting other heritage and historic aspects of the Town some form of recognition," said Bruce.

Under the Municipalities Act, towns that choose to recognize areas of local historic importance may choose to set up a heritage advisory committee.

"A lot of towns in Newfoundland in particular have advanced their recognition of built heritage – Bay Roberts, Heart's Content and places like that, and certainly Bonavista. We're not trying to do exactly as they do, but it's similar. When it's a visitor who wants to know more, it's not always someone like me who wants to do a lot of reading in advance of a visit, but if it's something that can easily be seen and learned when they're there then I think that really enhances the visitor experience."

Setting up a committee sounds simple enough, but like with most small towns in the province there is more demand for volunteers than actual volunteers.

"Everybody is stretched pretty thin, so it's one of those things where they said, "Well, you know, great. If you want to be Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee go for it and you're it, so I am," laughed Bruce.

It's still quite early in the new Heritage Advisory Committee's work, but Bruce says some folks have already expressed some interest and willingness to lend a hand.

"We'll kind of pull them together as the summer goes on and the years go on."

Bruce already has a few ideas for what kind of work the committee might want to focus on.

"The main thing that strikes out, that are already there, are the trails – The Lighthouse Trail or the trail from Harbour Le Cou to Rose Blanche. These trails have pretty strong historic purposes and the Harbour Le Cou trail, for example, there's grave sites there, there's an old school site, old apple trees, things like that," said Bruce. "Just the history of how that trail was put in place and what it was used for."

Work has been done on the trails in the past and some already have signage in place, but signs are just one aspect that can be used to attract visitors noted Bruce.

"Then there's a number of structures in town too –fewer and fewer as some get torn down and that work is a bit more delicate because folks have houses which have heritage value have an opportunity to potentially get some assistance on repairs and maintenance, but there are restrictions on change of structures and things like that if you go that route."

Bruce's vision is to offer tourists and residents a sense of the historic aspects of the heritage that does remain.

"You know the lighthouse folks have done a great job with that project and publicizing the trails," said Bruce. "Building that up, building a bit of a walking tour for visitors with heritage structures highlighted, that's something which would be likely of interest. A bit more signage, perhaps, on some of the sites, just to tell a little bit of the history."

In Harbour Le Cou, for example, Bruce talks about the historic and colourful stages and sheds, and houses that haven't been changed much in decades.

"The stories of those houses are going to disappear if they're not collected and shared."

If undertaking this work helps to draw in more tourists then that's just fine by Bruce.

"It's to add an extra dimension really. The lighthouse is a big draw," said Bruce. "This is to add an extra element to that really and to give tourists a reason to stay a little longer."

Installing new resources for that will require money, of course, and that's another hurdle the committee will have to overcome, There may be provincial tourism grants to assist.

"That's probably not so much this year, but down the road. There's also the opportunity for some funding and work with some of the cemetery sites, the grave sites, because they're kind of disappearing."

Bruce has done a lot of research into the area's history already and listened to stories shared by its residents.

"I think I'm pretty familiar. I've long been a great lover of Newfoundland and Labrador and have read a lot of books and stories on it over the years."

He's still keen to learn even more and he's already stumbled across a bit of treasure.

"There was a store in Harbour Le Cou. It's not there anymore. It was torn down but all the records were kept. A fellow had the foresight to keep all of those records," said Bruce. "People are digging out pictures and things that they have. If they don't get saved and recognized, they'll disappear."