



What we've been doing in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

Town Resident reaches summit of Kilimanjaro

On Saturday June 8th, Mayor Collins sent a note of congratulations to Anne Marie Simms (Lane), a resident of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's, who was one of the group of women who reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (aka the Roof of Africa) in Tanzania , Africa that morning. Anne Marie, a frequent tri-athlon runner, joined T A Loeffler in her latest mountain climbing effort. Anne Marie and the rest of the team are quite an inspiration given that none except Loeffler had climbed a mountain before. You may recall from a Telegram article and various media interviews that the training ground for the team was the Signal Hill trail which they climbed as many as 7 times a day. The summit of Kilimanjaro sits nearly 6 km up in the clouds. For those who may have missed the website to find more details of this tremendous effort, it is:

<http://www.taclimbsdenali.com/kilimanjaro/default.asp>

The following journal entry written by T.A. Loeffler was taken from the above listed website and was posted there the day she reached the Kilimanjaro summit.

Summit Day 6/7/2008

Hi this is TA calling in from the summit of Kilimanjaro at 5895 metres with every single one of the WOKies!!!...it's a bit of an emotional moment up here. People have climbed so hard, they have pushed themselves to their edge, and reached through for inner strength and group strength, to get here after a journey of about 9 ¼ hours.

We re having fun celebrating, taking pictures, and we are going to start turning around and heading for home because we still have the second half of our journey to get back to our camp safely...we will take in pole, pole just as we have on the way up, and have lots of hydration and snacks to get us safely back down.

I still haven't recovered from singing the 'Ode' at 5895 metres...it was a pretty wonderful moment....thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. It's been an amazing morning, actually it's been an amazing night, and we left at about 11:30 its 9 o'clock now. The views when the sun came up were absolutely fantastic. We are sitting here looking at a sea of clouds, with some big mountains poking out. We can see the crater of Kilimanjaro and many of the big glaciers. We wish you could all be here to see it with us; we can't wait to bring the stories of our trip home to you all, who have loved us and supported us through all this 6 month journey.

So we best get going...but we will talk to you soon...

Bye, bye

TA



TA Loeffler holding the Newfoundland flag on a recent expedition. Photo: TA Loeffler website, Eyes of the Spirit photo album

Portugal Cove – St. Philip's Farmers' Market Saturday, June 28th, 2008 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

(And every Saturday following, through to October 11th, 2008)

For stands bursting with the vibrant colors of harvest, and high quality craftsmanship visit our local Farmers' Market in Portugal Cove – St. Philip's. You'll support Newfoundland farmers and crafters while enjoying the crisp character and flavour of freshly picked fruits, vegetables and homemade goods

Conveniently located at:
The Town Hall Complex
1119 Thorburn Road
Portugal Cove – St. Philip's
895-8000 pcsp@pcsp.ca

Exit off the TCH at Thorburn Road and head west. One minute past the Rotary Sunshine Park.

Interested farmer and craft venders should call 895-8000, or email pcsp@pcsp.ca for information on how to purchase a table each week.

Please note that there are limited number of tables that are available on a first come first serve basis.



What's Going On in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

On-line www.pcsp.ca

Summer 2008

Solid Waste Management

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has recently announced its strategy for Solid Waste Management for the Province. Under this strategy the current landfill site at Robin Hood Bay will be retrofitted into a modern Waste Management Facility. This will be a four-stream operation, including composting and recycling. The new dumping fee regime at this facility will make waste diversion even more critical in the future.

In 2007 the Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's purchased a new two-stream vehicle, which allows the Town to collect fibres and other materials enabling it to participate in Waste Diversion Initiatives. This allows the Town to take advantage of cost savings due to waste diversion as well as playing an important role in protecting our environment.

Your town is considered to be a provincial leader in environmental initiatives and will continue to look at new innovative ways to preserve the environment in our community.

Town Approves Heritage Action Plan

The Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's recently approved the re-establishment of an advisory Heritage Committee. The Committee has been active in recent months and prepared an action plan, which has been approved by Council.

The Heritage Committee is pleased to advise Councillors, Staff and citizens of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's of the following; a mature student from the Marine Institute has been hired for a 13-week work term. Mr. Ian Murphy will work on the history of the West Point cemetery and possibly on other abandoned cemetery's in Portugal Cove. A grant of \$1000 was recently approved by The Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation for Heritage activities.

The committee acknowledges with thanks, a donation from PC and Network Solutions , a local IT company, for the provision of two laptop computers for use with students and committee members. The Heritage Committee looks forward to working with the people of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's to develop and promote our rich heritage. For further information contact Kevin Aucoin at 895-2450.

Wind Power Update

The Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's is well on its way to using wind power for Town facilities.

The Town Council recently had a presentation by Bill Scott of FGA Consulting Engineers, who were commissioned by the Town to undertake a feasibility study into offsetting the Town's power usage with wind generated power. The study's preliminary results show that one wind turbine could generate enough power to offset what the town uses at its various facilities. These include two waste water treatment plants, the Public Works depot, Town offices, streetlights, and two fire stations.

The total cost of powering these facilities is approximately \$160,000.00 per year. Past trends show this amount approaching \$200,000.00 per year in five years' time. Based on data from St. John's airport (the closest location where long term records have been kept), the town has an excellent wind profile for wind power generation.

According to Councillor Jon Seary, this is exciting project for Portugal Cove – St. Philip's, which in addition to saving us considerable amount of money in the long term, is green, renewable energy. This initiative also has the potential to be used by other towns across the province, resulting in a distributed generation system that is owned by the towns themselves.

Currently, the Town is in the process of seeking green project funding. The next steps for the project include various stages of engineering and planning, discussions with the power utilities, and public consultation.



A wind turbine in Alberta. Just one of these turbines could offset the usage of our Town's facilities.

Trouble Viewing the Town's New Website?

Clear out your internet cache so that it removes the old site from your computer's memory or simply retype the address pcp.ca into your URL bar. This should bring up the new site with no more troubles.



Photo courtesy Canadian Idol

Local Resident Mark Day Makes Canadian Idol Top 24 Cut

It seems that on top of all our local talent here in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's, we have yet another rising star. Twenty (20) year old Mark Day, a Portugal Cove native, has made it into the top 24 in the 2008 Canadian Idol.

According to the Canadian Idol website, Mark is the lone competitor from Newfoundland in the Top 24. "I'm really excited to be the only competitor in the Top 24 from Newfoundland, but it's actually a little nerve-racking as well. I feel very fortunate and I am pumped to be here, as I have the hopes and dreams of an entire province riding on my shoulders!"

Making the long journey from his first audition in St. John's to taking the Canadian Idol stage has been thrilling for Mark, who considers himself a natural showman. "I feel most comfortable when I am in front of a crowd. When I have an audience, my personality shines, my jokes roll and my singing sounds like it's at its best", Mark recently told Canadian Idol reporters.

Don't forget to tune into Idol, Monday and Tuesday evenings at 8:30pm. on NTV.

Website Updates...

The Town's Website has recently been updated to include several development related items such as zoning maps, land use designation maps, as well as updated development regulations, municipal plan and several other documents that will answer many of your questions. Also, there is an FAQs section or Frequently Asked Questions section added under the Quick Links drop down menu. If you have questions related to Planning & Development, Public Works or Recreation, check out the website. You may just find what you are looking for.

Town Slogan...

The Public Relations, Economic Development & Tourism Committee has put forth a recommendation to Council that Council adopt the town slogan as being, "*Portugal Cove - St. Philip's, Rugged Land and Living Sea*". Council will be revisiting this in a meeting in the near future. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the slogan please email them to pcp@pcsp.ca

June is Recreation Month "Just for the Fun of it!"

Designed to raise awareness about the importance of recreational activity, "**June is Recreation Month**" is a national campaign that reminds us of the benefits of active living. "**Just for the Fun of it!**" is the theme used for the provincial launch of this campaign that takes place June 2nd.

As a part of our participation in "June is Recreation Month," the Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's will be hosting a "**Get up and Get Active Recreation Day**" on Monday, June 30th.

We invite all youth to come and take part in an afternoon of organized games and activities at **Rainbow Gully Park from 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.** It will teach the importance of fitness and promote healthy living.

Adults are also invited to come and participate in the launching of the Provincial Walking Campaign in our community. The aim of the program is to increase involvement in walking as a recreational activity. Please come out to the **Recreation Centre at 7:00p.m.** for a presentation and a chance to use the pedometers!

The Recreation Department encourages all residents to take part in our "**Get up and Get Active Recreation Day**" on June 30th. This is not only a reminder of the benefits of physical activity, but a chance to help us build a healthier community.

For further information concerning the "Get up and Get Active Recreation Day" please contact the Portugal Cove - St. Philip's Recreation Department

Local Residents Awarded National Canadian Environment Awards and Order of Canada

The following biographies appeared on the Canadian Environment Awards Website, Canadiangeographic.ca when two local residents were awarded national Canadian Environment Awards for 2008.



Photo: Ocean Net

Newfoundland Flotilla '97, he sailed from Toronto to Bonavista Harbour, stopping at more than 20 ports along the way. En route, however, shorelines strewn with garbage and surface-water oil slicks forced O'Brien to think hard about the conditions of Canada's beaches at more than 20 ports along the way. En route, however, shorelines strewn with garbage and surface-water oil slicks forced O'Brien to think hard about the conditions of Canada's beaches.

The state of Newfoundland's coast — a historical source of pride for all islanders — was even more troubling for the self-made businessman. A believer in the "power of one," O'Brien was determined to reverse the decline, but he knew realistically that it would take the help of thousands to bring back the degraded shorelines. To instill an ocean-conservation ethic among all of Newfoundland and Labrador's marine communities, O'Brien founded Ocean Net.

At Ocean Net's first shoreline cleanup in the fall of 1997, schoolchildren, teachers, divers, rock climbers, fishermen and firefighters volunteered their support. "Our strength is our people," says Mary Coxworthy, Ocean Net's Executive Director. "People here have pride in their local beaches, and all we have to do is steer them in the right direction. We're making everyone a steward for the shorelines of Newfoundland and Labrador."

The idea caught on almost immediately, says Coxworthy, and local organizers emerged in far-flung communities to deliver the group's message and extend its reach. By 2008, more than 30,000 volunteers had tackled some 1,500 beaches, shorelines and underwater sites across the province and removed almost 500,000 kilograms of garbage. With the development of stewardship, community environmental agendas started to organically grow. "We had a successful cleanup at Port Saunders that launched a campaign to build a boardwalk around the waterfront," says Coxworthy, "and one school in Bay Roberts now mentors other schools."

To support its action-oriented mandate, Ocean Net also hosts a variety of educational outreach and incentive programs — school presentations, information pamphlets and DVDs, summer camps and two annual conferences — that have introduced local supporters to broader issues such as climate change and seabird conservation.

Bob O'Brien Ocean Net Shoreline cleanup program

In June 1997, avid sailor and proud Newfoundlander Robert O'Brien celebrated the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's arrival in North America — in style. With the

Jon Lien, Founder, Whale Research Group of Memorial University, Portugal Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador

In Newfoundland and Labrador fishing villages, Jon Lien is known affectionately as "the Whale Man." It's an apt moniker for the Memorial University professor who has rescued more than 1,000 whales from fishing nets over the past 30 years — primarily vulnerable humpbacks.

An animal behaviourist, Lien used the Atlantic coast as an outdoor classroom for students to observe Newfoundland's warm-blooded marine giants. The whale sightings, however, coincided with a surge in the province's inshore cod fishery and a growing number of whales becoming trapped in expensive fishing gear — a disaster for both the animals and Newfoundland's already marginalized fishermen.

In 1978, one desperate fisherman called the university for help, resulting in Lien's first impromptu release. When the marine scientist subsequently learned that no official whale-release protocols existed, he launched the Whale Research Group (WRG) and an educational and conservation campaign.

"My goal was always to satisfy the fishermen and the whales," says Lien, who is renowned as a bridgebuilder. "Persuading the fishermen to accept our help as environmentalists took a great deal of time. I talked to them a lot about whales and gave them books. When they quoted passages back to me, it was obvious they were interested."

Case by case, Lien and his crew developed the art of whale rescue, deftly paddling a Zodiac alongside the giant mammal, calming it, then gradually releasing its head and fins and pushing it free of the net — saving fishermen millions of dollars over the years. As news of WRG's success spread and as the educational campaigning took hold, Lien and his team were greeted as colleagues. "It was very rare that we had to cut the fishing gear, and if we did, we'd help repair it," says Lien. "The fishermen really came to trust us and took ownership of protecting the whales." With the early-1990s collapse of the cod fishery, WRG's rescue efforts refocused offshore.

Now retired, Lien is a local hero whose model has been exported around the world. True to his down-to-earth reputation, the Whale Man's greatest achievement has been to instill a homegrown stewardship ethic. "It was clear to me from the start that if I didn't get fishermen involved, there would be problems," says Lien. "I wanted to get both of them out of the situation so it was win-win."



Order of Canada

The Honourable John Crosbie, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, presented the insignia of Member of the Order of Canada to Dr. Jon Lien during a special investiture ceremony on Tuesday June 10, 2008, at 2:30 pm, at Government House in St. John's. Dr. Lien was appointed to the Order on May 3, 2007.

Photo: Whale Research Group