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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

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'IT'S UNSUSTAINABLE'

Special report The public service falls under scrutiny as government wrestles with a fiscal crisis

56,000

The number of public servants in the province

22

per cent: the increase in the public administration jobs over the last five years

12.9

public administrators per 1,000 people in New Brunswick

4.9

public workers in Ontario per 1,000 residents

THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

First in a series

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON – As the province confronts its biggest fiscal crisis in history, the phenomenal growth of New Brunswick's public service has landed in the spotlight.

With the government buried in more than \$9 billion of debt and facing pressing budget shortfalls, the steady rise of the public service over the last several decades is now under scrutiny.

Although many New Brunswickers have demanded more frontline workers such as teachers and nurses at the government's pre-budget consultation sessions, the ballooning bureaucracy is raising questions about how effectively taxpayers' money is being spent.

The growth in the province's public service has skyrocketed over the past 50 years – from about 3,000 public servants in 1960 to about 56,000 today, according to Statistics Canada figures.

A stagnating population and faltering economy only exacerbate concerns about how taxpayers will carry the burden of the seemingly inexorable expansion

of the public service, never mind the shrinking tax revenues the government faces as an aging workforce moves into retirement.

"It's unsustainable," says Kevin Lacey, Atlantic Canada director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, a non-profit group dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government.

"The budget deficit is so big that you have to deal with the size of government and spending," he says. "The province will have to undertake some pretty significant cuts in the public service."

As he heads into his first budget on Tuesday, Finance Minister Blaine Higgs is wrestling with an \$820 million deficit. To this point, he has asked for a two per cent cut in spending by departments for the coming year – that amounts to a \$150 million trim in government expenditures.

But his maiden budget could be a lot tougher, even on the public service. Higgs, who worked in the private sector for three decades before being elected last fall, has openly talked about "right-sizing" government and the need for better efficiency in its ranks.

There is little doubt the swelling of the public service has increased the burden on taxpayers, Lacey says.

New Brunswick has the largest civil service per capita of any province in Canada, according to an Atlantic Institute of Market

PLEASE SEE → **REPORT, A6**



New Brunswick must make 'significant cuts' to its public service while dealing with its deficit, says Canadian Taxpayers Federation Atlantic Canada director Kevin Lacey. PHOTO: PAUL DARROW FOR THE TELEGRAPH JOURNAL

Alward warns about budget pain

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

EEL RIVER BAR – Premier David Alward is warning New Brunswickers to expect pain in next week's budget as the Progressive Conservative government wrestles down the province's towering deficit.

Alward says failure to tighten the budget would put the deficit out of control.

"The people of New Brunswick can expect that we are taking this very seriously," he said before entering a cabinet meeting on this First Nation reserve Thursday. "If we don't start to deal with the fiscal situation this year...we'll have a deficit of more than a billion dollars."

Although Alward promised to "bring the province's books back to reality in a responsible way" over a number of years, he admitted "there will be pain."

"We will have a strong start this year and we'll be coming forward with a long term strategy," he said. "The plan will balance the need to reduce our spending and also (increase) revenues."

Interim Liberal leader Victor Boudreau said the premier should look for savings by reducing his well-heeled political entourage.

"I hope Alward realizes that he and his ministers don't need so many highly-paid political staff," he said. "He doesn't need to reward all who helped him on the campaign with six-figure jobs they didn't have to compete for."

Boudreau also called for

PLEASE SEE → **BUDGET, A2**

TODAY

QMJHL

Dogs bid for win record on line **B10**

Crime

Father's death still a mystery **C1**

Actualites.....A2	Deaths.....D7
Business.....B1	Horoscope.....D2
City.....C1	Magazine.....D1
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Losing suds is no excuse for losing your cool, judges say

SHAWN BERRY
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON – A man who beat his unsuspecting victim unconscious in an "unprovoked and vicious" attack over missing bottles of beer should have been sentenced to jail, not a three-month curfew, New Brunswick's top court has ruled.

In a judgment released Thursday, the New Brunswick Court

of Appeal gave Burtis Joseph Dunn a three-month sentence for the assault that occurred at a graduation party and left the victim hospitalized for five days.

But the court immediately stayed incarceration, ruling that as Dunn has nearly completed his probation, his incarceration is unnecessary.

"He has fulfilled the curfew condition of the probation order that was, improperly, meant to

punish him for his crime," Justice Marc Richard wrote for the three-judge panel.

"In the circumstances, there is no valid reason to abruptly interrupt his rehabilitative path to punish him at this late point in time."

Richard said the trial judge who sentenced Dunn last year would have been justified in imprisoning him for three months, followed by probation for 15

months. That's also the sentence the panel settled on.

Dunn, who was 19 at the time of the 2008 incident, was attending a graduation party in Gray Rapids, about 45 kilometres southwest of Miramichi, while on summer break from college.

Court heard he had consumed at least eight bottles of beer. At some point in the evening he noticed his remaining beers

were missing. He was told by others at the party that the victim was the culprit.

While he confronted the victim at the party, there was no incident until later, when the victim was going to his car to leave and was attacked from behind.

The victim told the court he was left with a broken tooth, stitches under his left eye, and

PLEASE SEE → **COURT, A2**

SPECIAL REPORT

“When they have more work than they think they can handle the first thing they do is hire more people.” DON MILLS

Government hiring more managers

REPORT ← A1

Studies report that used data from Statistics Canada.

For every 1,000 people living in New Brunswick in 2008, the provincial government employed 12.9 public administration workers, the report found. That figure includes only workers in provincial departments and agencies, not public employees such as teachers and nurses.

The number is high compared to provinces such as British Columbia (4.4 per 1,000), Ontario (4.9) and Alberta (7.8). Even when measured against one of its closest counterparts, Nova Scotia (9.3), the province's bureaucracy is relatively plump.

Yet public service growth is not just a New Brunswick phenomenon, says AIMS president and chief executive Charles Cirtwill.

“If you look at the federal public service it has grown exponentially under the Conservatives,” he says. “The last number I saw was a 56 per cent growth in the overall budget in five years. They're hiring people like it's going out of style.”

Since the recession began in 2008 until last month, public-sector job growth was nearly four per cent, Statistics Canada reports. Nearly 3.6 million workers are now employed by either federal, provincial or local governments.

“As private-sector people were losing their jobs or having their wages frozen,” Cirtwill says, “the public sector was actually expanding and their wages were increasing.”

In New Brunswick, the size of the provincial public service has far outpaced that of the private sector.

Over the last five years, public administration employment – the number of bureaucrats working in government departments across the province – has increased 22 per cent, according to Statistics Canada.

That's nearly eight times the job growth in the private sector, which only increased three per cent during the same timeframe and has even declined slightly in the past three years.

Although the increase in the public sector's ranks may be harder to swallow for taxpayers during an economic downturn, it is not a new trend.

New Brunswick's public service increased by 5,000 employees between 2002 and 2009 to now more than 56,000 employees, according to Statistics Canada. And that may not even reveal the true picture: Tory insider Bill Thompson told the Telegraph-Journal in January that the former Liberal government had added 7,000 new civil servants while it held power from 2006 to 2010 – 2,000 in health care management jobs.

The Liberals dispute this, saying the real increase was nearly half that. And the province's official numbers seem to back this up. But Higgs, who has oversight of the public service as human resources minister, admits even he doesn't understand the government's accounting of its workforce.

Whatever the numbers, they've been on the rise. So have the salaries, wages and benefits public-sector workers are paid.

A new study by the Frontier Centre for Public Policy found average weekly wages of provincial public servants across Canada grew on average by 55 per cent over the 12 years ending in 2009.

Private sector employees, however, saw an average wage growth of only about 30 per cent over the same period.

The Frontier Centre, an independent Prairie-based think tank, also found that taxpayers are providing public-sector workers with pensions, benefits and job security that few in the private sector enjoy.

James Pierlot, a Toronto-based pension



Jo-Ann Fellows, a public policy columnist and former civil servant, says the government has grown beyond the province's means. PHOTO: DAVID SMITH / FOR THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

THE SERIES

Today	The rise of the New Brunswick public service
Saturday	A modest history and today's discontent
Monday	The union influence
Tuesday	What now?

lawyer, stated in a recent C.D. Howe Institute commentary that 80 per cent of public-sector workers participate in pension plans with guaranteed payouts. Yet, less than 30 per cent of Canada's private sector workers have a pension plan at all.

“There is a major gap there,” says veteran pollster and political observer Don Mills. “Many public-sector pensions are underfunded as well, which means taxpayers are on the hook for that unfunded liability.”

New Brunswick's auditor general released a report last month indicating that the pensions of teachers, judges and public servants went from a credit of \$51.1 million in 2001 to a \$321 million expense on the province's bottom line in 2010.

“Private sector workers have seen their holdings diminished significantly and in some cases have even postponed retirement because they've lost so much equity in the markets,” says Mills, the president and CEO of Halifax-based polling firm Corporate Research Associates.

“At the same time, they are asked to fund the increasing wages and pensions of public-sector jobs, which are basically jobs for life without any accountability related to performance.”

Mills says the public sector needs to find ways to measure productivity and increase efficiency.

“When they have more work than they think they can handle the first thing they do is hire more people,” he says. “They don't look at efficiencies or new processes or hardware that can do the work quicker or faster.”

Mills says it's difficult for the private

sector to compete.

“Backstopped by taxpayers, government can afford to pay out higher wages and better benefits than the private sector can't always match,” he says. “The competition for talent is now heavily weighted to the public sector and that really shouldn't be the case.”

The taxpayers federation's Lacey agrees, noting that “private corporations can't compete with the salaries and benefits of public servants. As a result, it hurts the progress of the province.”

The better salaries and benefits of public-sector workers are largely attributable to unions, he says.

“Powerful public sector unions make these gun-to-the-head demands of politicians and more often than not they get their way,” Lacey says.

“There was actually a case just last week where the city of Moncton gave its outside workers about an 11 per cent

POWERFUL PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS MAKE THESE GUN-TO-THE-HEAD DEMANDS OF POLITICIANS AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THEY GET THEIR WAY.”

KEVIN LACEY

wage hike over four years, or about 2.75 per cent a year,” Lacey notes. “Considering the inflation rate is about 1.6 per cent in New Brunswick right now, that is a large increase, especially since it's funded by tax dollars.”

A report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business stated that 74 per cent of public-sector employees are represented by collective bargaining agreements, compared to 20 per cent in

the private sector.

“With no incentive to keep costs in check, such as the market mechanism, upward pressure on wages can succeed and the increases passed on to customers – in the case at

hand, taxpayers,” says Wage Watch: A Comparison of Public-Sector and Private-Sector Wages, released in Dec. 2008.

Meanwhile, there aren't many more people to help foot the bill in New Brunswick. The population hovers around 751,750 – just 1,200 more than lived in the province in 2000. And with thousands of baby boomers set to retire in the next decade, the government's tax revenues are about to slide while costs for health and senior care reach higher.

All this worries Higgs, the finance minister.

“The public service has grown significantly while at the same time our population has remained relatively stagnant,” he says. “That relationship alone says we need to look at whether we've got the right trends here.”

“We want to look at that trend and see how we can right-size government,” Higgs says, who came to government after more than three decades working at Irving Oil. “We need to develop an efficient model for the delivery of service.”

Last fall, citing New Brunswick's debt and worsening fiscal state, one of the top bond rating agencies shifted its outlook for the province from “stable” to “negative.”

The move by Standard & Poor's signalled a possible rating downgrade and an increase in borrowing costs for the province in the future.

The Dominion Bond Rating Service indicated at the same time that it would wait for the Tory government's first budget, expected to be tabled next week, before shifting New Brunswick's rating.

Jo-Ann Fellows, a former provincial civil servant for nearly 20 years and a columnist on public policy issues, says the New Brunswick government has grown beyond the province's means.

“We've spent 100 years living off the dole of the federal government,” she says in an interview at a downtown Fredericton coffee shop. “The people in the rest of Canada are paying for us to live in the style of which we've become accustomed, which includes a much too large public service.”

The proliferation of government departments, secretariats, agencies, commissions, legislative assembly organizations and Crown corporations is excessive, Fellows argues.

“At the moment, there are 24 departments, four secretariats, eight agencies, 16 commissions or corporations, and eight organizations listed under the Legislative Assembly,” she says.

The Population Growth Secretariat, for example, formed in 2006 under then premier Shawn Graham.

“It started out with one part-time secretary and one full time bureaucrat and it now has 42 people,” she recalls. And it has a budget of \$4.35 million.

While she was encouraged by Premier David Alward's commitment to reduce the number of ministers in his cabinet to 16, she says the impact is negligible.

“The government has left everything

else intact,” she says. “They should merge similar departments together, such as agriculture and fisheries, and just have separate branches under one ministry.”

Pierre-André Hudon, associate professor in the public administration department at the Université de Moncton, says the real question is how big New Brunswickers want their government to be.

“The debate shouldn't be about whether public servants are paid too much or too little or if there are too many or too few,” he says. “The debate right now should be about the size of the state and where do we want the public sector to stop and the private sector to start.”

Hudon says there is a backlash brewing against public workers across North America.

Civil servants, he says, have become scapegoats for cash-strapped governments struggling to balance the books.

Rather than debate the number of bureaucrats or their wages, Hudon says New Brunswick needs to reexamine what is considered “collectively important.”

Hudon says governments have drifted away from the core function of hiring frontline education and health care workers to hiring more managers.

“Governments have moved away from the core of what people really need or value, such as education and health care,” he says. “You can make a really strong argument for government to be involved in economic development or population growth, but that's not necessarily an essential or core function of government.”

The Liberals, faced with the Tory claims of a 7,000-job hiring spree, argued that the hirings they did make were for frontline workers like nurses and teachers. But the province can't – or won't – break down the hires.

Hudon argues the public sector has become over-managed.

“One of impacts of this is there are more managers and less frontline workers. That could be why the government's wage bill has gone up but outcomes in education and health have remained the same.”

Hudon says Atlantic Canada has more public-sector workers per capita than the rest of the country partly because it lacks the critical mass needed to deliver services more cheaply.

“You don't benefit from the economies of scale in New Brunswick,” he says.

The sum of its parts

New Brunswick divides its public service into four sections

Part I	Government departments such as Business New Brunswick or Finance: 9,800 full-time employees; nearly 1,900 part-time workers
Part II	The school system – teachers, bus drivers and school district employees. 10,900 full-time employees, 6,200 part-time employees
Part III	Health workers: 12,900 full-time employees; 7,050 part-time.
Part IV	Crown corporations: 4,700.

Sources: Government of New Brunswick Workforce Profile 2009, Office of Human Resources, Statistics Canada, Table 183-0002 – Public sector employment, December 2009.



“As private-sector people were losing their jobs or having their wages frozen,” Charles Cirtwill, president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, “the public sector was actually expanding and their wages were increasing.” PHOTO: QUENTIN CASEY/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

MARKETS REPORT

TSX 171.74 to 13,084.00 YTD -2.7%	DOW 172.45 to 11,951.91 YTD +3.2%	Nasdaq 4114 to 2,643.73 YTD -0.3%	Gold \$13.50 to \$1,529.20 YTD -7.6%	Dollar 0.54 to \$1.0222 YTD -1.7%	Crude \$2.64 to \$99.29 YTD +8.7%
Nasdaq Canada 15.04 591.21	S&P 500 18.02 1,270.98	S&P/TSX-60 9.58 750.86	TSX Venture 23.64 1,934.93	Natural gas 0.076 4.75	Euro \$0.0187 \$1,4345 US

SECTION C / SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011

TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM

Employment report paints dreary picture for N.B.

Trend Statistics Canada's monthly recap shows that provincial unemployment rates are the third worst in Canada

NATALIE STECHYSON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Employment levels in New Brunswick hit a three-year low last month, with the size of the workforce edging down and the number of people with full-time jobs shrinking, according to the most recent labour force numbers.

Just over 351,000 New Brunswickers over age 15 had jobs in May, a 1.8 per cent decrease year-over-year, according to numbers released Friday by Statistics Canada. The labour force shrank by 1.3 per cent and unemployment increased 4.2 per cent since May last year, leading to a 9.5 per cent unemployment rate in May. Only Prince Edward Island and

Newfoundland and Labrador had higher unemployment rates last month. Broken down by industry, employment levels went down in construction, healthcare and social assistance, and professional, scientific and technical services. Other industries saw employment edge up slightly – natural resources, manufacturing and

information, culture and recreation, said Labouafia Yssaad, an analyst with Statistics Canada. "There are more declines than increases," Yssaad said. "The small increases in other industries were not enough to offset the declines." Canada saw an overall 1.6 per cent employment increase in May compared to May last year,

with the unemployment rate decreasing slightly to 7.4 per cent. Friday's discouraging provincial labour force numbers come on the heels of Thursday's optimistic economic outlook report from RBC that said New Brunswick's economy is starting to turn around, predicting a modest 1.9 per cent provincial GDP growth in 2011, driven largely by

the natural resources sector and manufacturing. The reason RBC is more optimistic about the jobs picture in the longer term has to do with the effect of higher commodity prices on the domestic economy, said Kirsten Cornelison, an economist with RBC Economics

PLEASE SEE → PICTURE, C2

Chicken facility manager appeals to Tories

NATALIE STECHYSON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Nadeau Poultry Farm Ltd. has sounded a battle cry in New Brunswick's ongoing chicken wars.

In an announcement Friday, the general manager of the St. Francois-de-Madawaska facility said he will keep fighting for a solution to the chicken-supply management issues in the province, appealing to the government and public to support the 50-year-old company as the actions of a competing company threatens its business.

"The government has completely ignored St. Francois," Yves Landry said in an interview. "We want a fair and equitable share. We don't want all the chicken, but we want an equal share. And that's what we want to the government to do. Because right now, St. Francois, and Nadeau Poultry, are in a critical condition."

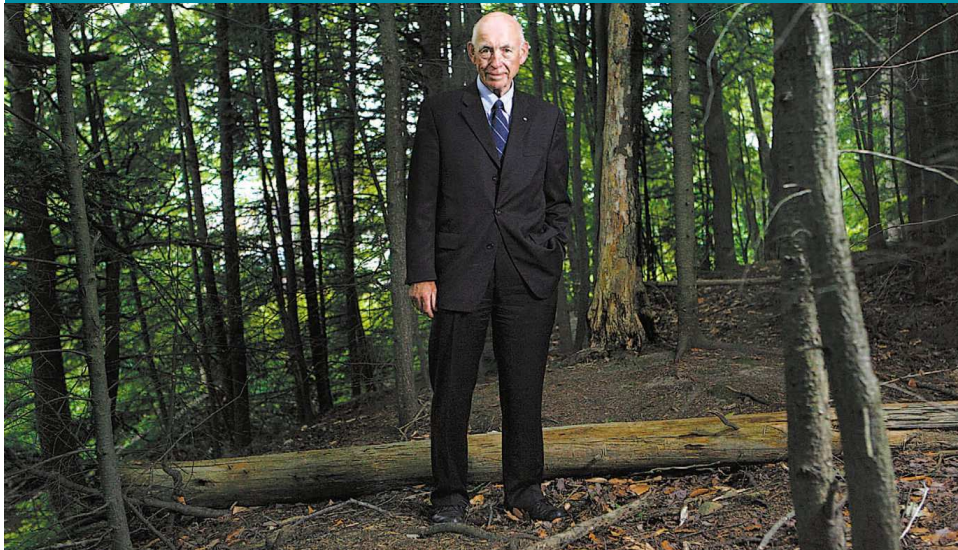
Last week, the Federal Court of Appeal ruled that major poultry production company Groupe Westco Inc. is free to process its chicken wherever the company likes, dismissing Nadeau's petition to force Westco to continue selling its entire production of live chickens to Nadeau.

Nadeau currently has the only chicken slaughterhouse in the province. The company cut 165 jobs in 2009, a year after Westco – based in Clair – teamed up with Quebec-based processing company Olymel L.P. and began shipping its chickens to Olymel's slaughterhouse in Quebec instead of Nadeau's. This decision cost Nadeau almost 80 per cent of its chicken supply, Landry said.

Since then, Nadeau drew most of its business from an operation in Nova Scotia, but by this time

PLEASE SEE → MANAGER, C2

A TIME FOR A CHANGE



J.W. Bud Bird says updates are required to the Crown Lands and Forestry Act to reflect the challenging era the sector faces. PHOTO: MATTHEW SHERWOOD/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

Balancing a timber plan remains a challenge

Forestry Task force juggles a draft that combines concerns of industry and need to protect environment

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

A lot can happen in almost three decades. Since the Tory government of Richard Hatfield adopted the groundbreaking Crown Lands and Forests Act, the forest industry has suffered a steep de-

cline and timber and pulp and paper production have fallen. Mills across New Brunswick have shuttered, jobs have been lost and forestry-dependant communities have been hollowed out. As industry scrambles to keep up with changing market

dynamics, a new understanding of forest ecology is shifting public values and increasing demand for environmental safeguards. It's in this complex context that New Brunswick's Crown forestry task force drafts a blueprint for timber objectives with the aim of realizing the full economic value

of public woodlands. Chairman Norm Betts, a University of New Brunswick professor and cabinet minister during the Bernard Lord era, admits it's a monumental task. "We're all closet environmentalists," says Betts, a Doaktown native, canoe-maker and devoted angler who believes the province's woods, waters and wildlife must be preserved. "But we have to balance that with the degree of certainty that

companies need to invest in an industry that is struggling," he says. "It's the classic balance between the environment and the economy and the tradeoffs that have to be made." Bud Bird, the father of New Brunswick's 1982 Crown Lands Act, says legislation governing public woodlands needs to be updated to reflect the forest industry's decline.

PLEASE SEE → TIMBER, C2

Caisses populaires set to mark significant milestone

POLLY LEGER
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

From humble beginnings in a church basement in Petit-Rocher to an institution managing \$3 billion in assets, the Fédération des Caisses populaires Acadiennes is the definition of a success story.

Its first office was in a small two-room house in Petit-Rocher. Now, it conducts business in a sprawling brick complex in Caraquet where more than 300 people head to work every morning. With a total workforce of 12,000 people, 82 locations across New Brunswick, and an estimated

200,000 members, the Fédération has celebrated many accomplishments over the years. Today, it celebrates a different milestone: its 65 birthday. In 1946, fledgling caisses populaires in towns across Acadie banded together and split from the anglophone New Brunswick

Credit Union League to form the Fédération des Caisses populaires Acadiennes. This weekend, the Acadian community will fete the credit union with a day-long celebration in Caraquet today, celebrating not only the federation, but the first Caisse started 75 years ago.

Sunday, the Village Historique Acadien, located 50 kilometres east of Bathurst, will unveil a recreation of that first tiny office. Camille Thériault, former premier and current CEO and President of the Fédération, said

PLEASE SEE → MILESTONES, C5

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BUSINESS

"New Brunswick needs to set itself apart from the explosion of plantation forestry in developing countries." PETER LEE

Changes required to reflect the difficult times the forestry sector has endured

TIMBER ← C1

With many of the smaller forestry players out of the game, he says government should expand the role of professional timber management firms on Crown land.

"There are not enough major industrial wood processing plants with the correct forest management operations to manage the lands," says Bird, who notes his role as a director on the board of Acadian Timber Corp., which manages Crown land on behalf of licensee Twin Rivers Piner.

"The province should consider hiring professional forest managers to carry out the work on the ground," he says. "Somebody like Irving or Acadian could actually manage land beyond their own licence to serve other wood processing companies — separating the forest management aspect from the industrial aspect — and be paid a fee for doing that."

Expanding the management that is already in place would also require rigorous checks and balances, Bird says, in order to hold forest managers accountable.

If the Crown land were well managed, the Department of Natural Resources could award the forest management firm access to the higher yield, he says. Poor managers of Crown forests, on the other hand, could stand to lose their licence, Bird adds.

By creating clear incentives and disincentives for managing the people's forest, he says Crown lands could have higher yields and be more sustainable into the future.

"The distinct accountability of large professional companies like JDI who have large tracts of their own land they manage...that in my opinion is the right way to continue going," Bird says. "It's expanding upon the original principle of the act, which is to engage professionals to manage public forests."

If the department isn't making enough money — it posted a \$32 million shortfall last year — he says hiking stumpage rates or reducing fees paid to timber managers through increased efficiencies are viable options.

But the management of New Brunswick's 3,272,505 hectares of Crown forest land is a complex issue fraught with controversy.

The proof is in the smorgasbord of reports, task forces and surveys conducted by the provincial government over the last several decades.

Topics range from biomass harvesting and wood diversity and to the fundamentals of future competitiveness and forestry investment opportunities — to name a few published in the last few years alone.

The most recent controversy erupted Friday, as the Conservation Council of New Brunswick charged that a small tweak to the Crown Lands Act would force taxpayers to dole out cash to companies.

The issue lies in a small wording amendment in Bill 44 that would change the phrase the government "may compensate" companies for forest

management expenses to "shall reimburse."

"It is rare that legislation actually removes the discretion of a minister in New Brunswick, but that is what replacing the word 'may' with 'shall' accomplishes," says Tracy Glynn, forest campaigner for the council.

Executive director David Coon adds that he is concerned that "changing the law to require the minister to compensate forest companies opens the door

THE PROVINCE SHOULD CONSIDER HIRING PROFESSIONAL FOREST MANAGERS TO CARRY OUT THE WORK ON THE GROUND."

BUD BIRD

wide open to pay pulp and paper companies for reductions in their wood allocations" and other costs.

The controversy is unlikely to fade away soon, even once the current task force concludes its work, given both the amount of Crown land in the province and the value of the forest industry.

Half of New Brunswick's forest is Crown land and its sheer vastness attracts attention and varying interests. Also, the forest products sector

accounts for almost 40 per cent of the province's exports and has an annual payroll in the province close to \$1-billion.

Mark Arseneault, president and CEO of the New Brunswick Forest Products Association, says the working forests yields an enormous benefit to New Brunswick. "It's worth 3.5 per cent of GDP, \$35.1 million in royalties and \$248 million in direct taxes," he says.

Peter Lee, executive director of Global Forest Watch Canada, says a renaissance of the forest industry will take "big, bold ideas" like the historic Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement, a partnership between conservationists and business to conserve vast swaths of the forest.

"It's an example of companies taking a market-based, hard lined, dollars and sense point of view and seeing the value in sustainable forestry," he says.

"New Brunswick needs to set itself apart from the explosion of plantation forestry in developing countries."

Roberta Clowater, executive director of the New Brunswick chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, says a good first step would be increasing the amount of protected areas in the province — currently one of the lowest in the country.

"We harvest and operate very intensively in our forests so we definitely need more protected areas," she says, pointing to a public survey on New Brunswick Crown forests from 2007.

The survey found that the top priority of most people surveyed was the

protection of water, air and soil, followed by provision of habitat for wildlife.

"The government needs to manage those Crown land forests to ensure the sustainable conservation of all the different ecological goods and services we get from drinking water, to wild life, forest products like timber, maple syrup and pulp and paper to clean air and flood prevention," Clowater says. "It's all of those things and that's a big task."

Andrea Feunekes, a member of the Crown woods task force, concedes it's a daunting task to balance sometimes competing interest.

"Industry has asked for a very specific objective in terms of timber," says Feunekes, co-chief executive officer of Remsoft Inc. "They are looking for some certainty so they can go to bankers and know they have access to wood and that it is worthwhile investing in their business."

Yet Feunekes says putting a monetary value on public trees requires the careful consideration.

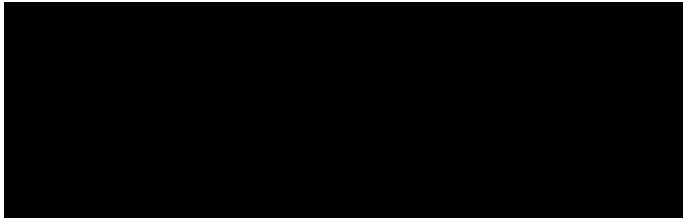
While the industrial use of Crown land for forest products benefits the public by creating jobs, paying taxes and spurring spinoffs, this should be balanced with goals such as conservation and biological diversity, she says.

"In addition to economic value, we need to look at the big picture," Feunekes says.

"It's public land and it's there for all of us, so if there is a timber objective it needs to benefit all taxpayers."

Dilbert

by Scott Adams



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Generator Caterpillar diesel 1996 438 KVA 175 hrs; **(4) Hoist**: 50 Tons Kone over head crane top running 68' span; 10 Tons Kone over head crane double gerber, 15 Tons Provincial over head crane simple gerber, 17.5 Tons Munck over head crane; **(2) Hoist** 1 & 3 tons, Electric **Chain hoist** 1 & 2 Tons Loderstar, **Chaine hoist** 1 ton Loderstar, **Hydraulic Press break** 8'1/4 90 tons, **Hydraulic Shear Di-ACRO** 8'1/4, **(6) Lathes**: Gemins GE 1996 serial 5858 26' bed 46' swing 80' gap and tooling for numeric control Heidenhain with motorized trolley; PBR Italien model TM-30 with numeric control turnvision acurrite 36" gap 24" swing and 114" bed; **Mcdougall** with 280" removable bed 60" gap and 36" swing; **Titan** 1990 mod. SNA 710 x 300 mm removable bed 32" gap 28" swing and 116" bed; **CNC** 27' bed and accessories; **Colchester Mascol** 1600 20" swing 90" bed 30" gap; **Cutter lathe** with 4' x 20" table, **Tooling for lathes**, **Manuel shears** 16 ga. tons, **Overhead crane** Kone 17.5 tons capacity, **Moris Overhead crane** 10 tons with chains and 2 winch of 3 tons capacity Loderstar with 15' span; **(2) Overhead crane** 2 & 3 tons with 20' span; **Beam 24** height broken with stand 16'; **Engine Cone** Kone, **Cylinder grinder** Farrel 25'; **Cylinder grinder** Armstrong Walmsle 25'; **Milling machine** Rumag 3 axis 12' x 60' mod. RU20V22 1965 with tooling; **Manuel press** Greenie, **Hydraulic press** Powerteen Wilson 100 tons mod. S100-13-3, **Gallows** 1/2 tons, **Engine crane** FRH30 6600 lbs capacity, **Press box** UB4830 universal handing equipment 10HP.

2 MOBILE OFFICES NRB MODEL 12'X9'X9' AND 10'X14'X9'

HEAVY DUTY READY RACK

ROLLING STOCK / 10 FORKLIFTS

Adjustable Forklift 15 tons; **Hydraulic paper clamp** for forklift; **Kenworth 10 wheels truck** 1994 cummins engine transmission 1470LL R.A.RATIO 4.33; **(2) Shunter trucks** Ottawa 1996 & 1991; **Trailex trailer** 38' 3 axes; **Manac Trailer** 2001 mod. 13231201 31' x 102"; **Electric forklift** MA90W30R and charger for forklift; **(6) Hyster forklift**: **Hyster** 3 sections 13 600 lb double wheels 250' elevation 8713 h; **Hyster 80** with cab propane 9585 h 8000 lb hard tires; **Hyster 70** 8995 h 7000 lb with cab and hard tires, **Hyster 80** 240' elevation mod. 580LBCS 6500 lb pneumatic, **Hyster 80** 3847 h 8000 lb with cab and hard tires, **Hyster 830** propane 9348 h with cab and hard tires, **Hyster 135X2L** 189 410 lb pneumatic double wheels diesel, **(2) Caterpillar forklift**: mod **VC60D** 3 sections 7185 h 1 60 lb pneumatic; **GC40K** model with cab 15 200 lb 240' elevation 10 821 hr propane and hard wheels matt 3 sections; **Mechanical brooms** Tennant mod. 385 propane 2186 hr; **Hydraulic unit** for forklift; **Caterpillar mat** for forklift; **Quick attach** for John Deere; **Cissor lift** platform 20';

MANUFACTURING, TOOLS, WELDERS AND LOT OF STEEL

Notcher roll of cardboard with smoke collector: **Deep dumper** 3/4 to 3 yards; **(2) hydraulic cylinders**: **Pneumatic cylinder**, **Pneumatic Graco pump** with oil recovery basin; **Balancer roll**, **Manul liqger** Mobililt; **(2) Electric liqger** Yale & ML; **Industrial hydraulic pooler**; **Sand Blast cabinet** Econolinc; **Pole jib** 4 tons; **Ready rack**; **(4) Dust collector** Polyvent & Plymouth; **Hydraulic unit** 40 HP; **Lot of hose**: **Chain bloc** 1/2 & 2 tons; **(2) Compressors** Devilbilis 15HP 1750 RPM & Ingersoll Rand 7.5 HP; **(2) Tool box** Greenlee; **Drill Hammer**; **Dust collector** double General; **Troat Nibbler** Pull max; **High pressure water machine** 5HP 3000lb; **Pipe bender** Greenlee; **Drill** Buffalo; **Roll punch** mod. 504 cap. 48x3 gellions; **Assorted vice**; **(3) Horizontal bandsaw** Johnson; **Tannswitz**; **Sager**; **Mini bandsaw** Jet; **Plasma cutter** thermal Dynamics PAK 15XC; **Robot welder** 400 amps; **(8) Welders**: Miller MCG250A Miller Goldstar 300SS, Miller GTS 750 amps; **(2) Dust collector** systems Plymouth; **(4) Cabinets with drawers** William Wilson; **Knife sharpener**; **Gockel darmslact** mod. GA3-5144; **Gear box** (40) **Polly dolly**; **Lots of ladders and stepladders**; **Grinder** 1/2 to 3 HP; **Oil tank 1800 liter** capacity; **Cabinets**; **File**; **Dehumidifier** Cargocare; **(14) Shelf** 42" x 8' x 7'; **Fire door** 10x10 WayneDallon; **Air conditioning système** Trane 20 tons; **Water treatment system**

INSPECTION : MONDAY JUNE 20TH FROM 9H TO 4H

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See photos and direction: www.encanteurasstalbot.ca



Chickens are processed at the Nadeau Poultry Farm Ltd. plant located in Saint-François-de-Madawaska. The manager of the facility is appealing to the government for support in a dispute over chicken production. PHOTO: GLEN VENNEN/UTELGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

Website launched for support

MANAGER ← C1

next year the company will lose that supply — about 200,000 chickens per week.

On Friday, Nadeau launched a website and video documentary to appeal to the public for their support.

In an earlier interview, president and CEO of Westco Thomas Soucy said competition in the industry allows New Brunswickers a fair price, and ensures he can do the best job with his product as possible.

The ongoing conflict between the two companies has been damaging to public perception of the industry, giving a bad name to inter-provincial movement when really it's quite common, said Mike Dungate, the general manager of the Chicken Farmers of Canada.

"If you look at inter-provincial movement, it's almost been raised as a bad thing. It isn't," Dungate said.

"If we're doing it for the wrong reasons, then sure, I get that, but we've got seven producers on Prince Edward Island. They do not have a processing plant."

Prince Edward Island producers currently ship their chickens to New Brunswick and to Nova Scotia, Dungate said,

noting that without interprovincial movement they would not be able to farm.

"It is a key component of our supply-management system," Dungate said.

Westco hopes to build its own slaughterhouse in the very near future, Soucy told the Telegraph-Journal Tuesday. Sunnymer, a partnership formed by Westco and Olymel, is seeking permission to build a new slaughterhouse in Clair, about eight kilometers from Nadeau's plant, with a capacity for 450,000 birds per week. The proposed \$40-million plant is expected to create about 250 jobs.

If this does go forward, Nadeau is asking for an equal share of the chickens, Landry said.

"We want to be able to stay in business and continue on in creating jobs, and keep our jobs, and keep our chickens in New Brunswick," Landry said.

"We want an equal share, that's all I'm saying. If there are two plants, if there are three plants, then so be it, but let's be fair about it."

Thomas Soucy, CEO of Westco, and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries both did not respond to requests for an interview.

Factors in place for turnaround

PICTURE ← C1

Research, in an email to the Telegraph-Journal.

"Although higher prices don't boost real GDP, they do increase incomes, which leads to higher domestic demand," Connelson said. "We can see this in the relative strength in retail sales and weekly earnings. Eventually, this will lead to real output increases and higher employment."

Two more factors should lead to employment growth, Connelson said — strong growth in manufacturing, which is expected to continue, and the Potash mine expansion in Sussex, due to begin operations next year.

On a month-to-month basis, the province's unemployment actually decreased 0.5 per cent since April — not because employment increased, but because the size of the labour force went down, Ysaad said.

"The unemployment rate declined because of a decline in the labour force,

namely, the number of people looking for work," Ysaad explained.

"When you have a fewer number of people looking for work, of course, you have a decline in the number of people who show up as unemployed, and that results in a lower unemployment rate."

At least part of the picture is people leaving the labour force, many of them adults over age 55 who may be retiring, Connelson said. Of the net 3,700 people that left the labour force, about 2,300 of them were age 55 and over. But at the same time, this age group has increased their participation rate in the labour force, Connelson said, increasing from 19 per cent in 1990 to 33 per cent in 2010.

But Statistics Canada has estimated that, as the population ages, these numbers will decrease. The agency projects that the working age population in New Brunswick is going to shrink by about 16 per cent by 2036, Connelson said.

"In the future, it could be hard to maintain labour force growth unless participation rates continue to increase."

BUSINESS

Employment Jobsless numbers down in province C3
 Markets Toronto Stock Exchange up for fourth straight week C4
 Automotive Toyota reduces production in North America C4

MARKETS REPORT

↑ TSX 100.66 to 14,208.43 YTD +5.7%	↓ DOW 29.44 to 12,380.05 YTD +6.9%	↓ Nasdaq 15.73 to 2,780.41 YTD +4.8%	↑ Gold \$14.80 to \$1,474.10 YTD -3.7%	↑ Dollar 0.12 to 104.45 YTD +3.9%	↑ Crude \$2.49 to 112.79 YTD +23.4%
↑ Nasdaq Canada 3.79 767.06	↓ S&P 500 5.34 1,328.17	↑ S&P/TSX-60 5.22 812.10	↑ TSX Venture 13.25 2,388.79	↓ Natural gas 0.016 4.04	↑ Euro \$0.0118 \$1,4478 US

SECTION C / SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011

TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM



The Fremont Bridge in Portland, Oregon is aglow against the evening sky. The New Brunswick Business Plan model is not without precedent. The Oregon Business Plan, developed by business and political leaders, has an ambitious plan to create 25,000 jobs per year for the next decade. Much like New Brunswick, Oregon has suffered high unemployment. PHOTO: TOM SCHWABEL/GETTY IMAGES

Pitching the plan to the premier

Jobs Two men steering business strategy will seek Alward's stamp of approval next week

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

With the lights turned down on the Future NB summit, David Ganong was left to map out a plan. From tattered handwritten notes to formal submissions, the New Brunswick business titan turned days of heady brainstorming into a path forward. "There was an enormous amount of energy at the summit,"

says Ganong, co-chairman of the summit and chairman of St. Stephen-based candy manufacturer Ganong Bros. Ltd. "There were lots of ideas and engaged people that wanted to work to move New Brunswick forward," he says. "So our goal was to try to keep that energy going and sort out what we were going to do next." An interim steering committee was struck, an in-depth analysis by an independent consultant

drafted and soon a plan was born. The so-called New Brunswick Business Plan is seen as a possible antidote to the joblessness, stagnant economic growth and chronic government shortfalls that plague the province. Bringing together business leaders, politicians and academics, the plan is to woo more high-paying private sector jobs to the province – and just as important – to train a robust labour market

here to fill those positions. "That is our primary goal," Ganong says. "We want more private sector, tax-paying jobs." Although the ideas pitched at the Future NB summit have progressed light-years from a back of a napkin sketch into a fledgling organization, it's not ready to launch yet. Next week Ganong and Camille Thériault – the co-chairman of the summit, former Liberal premier and head of the province's

francophone credit union – will make a pitch to Premier David Alward. While Alward attended the summit last December and contributed his own ideas for turning what some have called a failing province around, Ganong says it's critical to ensure have the premier is on board at this critical stage. "We want to make sure there

PLEASE SEE → **JOBS, C2**

Halifax shipyard plans bids on two massive contracts

QUENTIN CASEY
FOR THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

HALIFAX – Irving Shipbuilding Inc. plans to submit bids for two massive federal shipbuilding contracts, an ambitious move that could land the company \$35 billion in shipbuilding work, enough to span three decades. "We will bid for both packages," said Mike Roberts, Irving Shipbuilding's vice-president of corporate development. "We don't expect to be the only bidder for both." Last October, Irving Shipbuilding was one of five Canadian shipyards shortlisted for two major federal shipbuilding contracts, part of Ottawa's National

Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy. One shipyard will be selected to build combat vessels, such as the Navy's Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ships and the Canadian Surface Combatants, which will replace the current fleet of destroyers and frigates. A second shipyard will be picked to construct non-combat vessels, such as the navy's Joint Support Ships, the Coast Guard's offshore science vessels and the new polar icebreaker. Previously, Irving indicated it was interested in building the combat vessels. On Friday, Roberts said the company will bid on both contracts by the July 7 deadline. That means Irving is now trying

for two contracts worth a total of \$35 billion. The contracts would span more than 30 years and involve the construction of 28 large vessels and 100 smaller ships. Still, Roberts indicated that Irving's main focus remains on the larger combat vessel contract. "We feel we are perfectly suited to build the combat ships," he said in an interview. The two contracts will likely be awarded in the fall. If successful, Irving would be guaranteed steady shipbuilding work for decades, most of which would take place at the company's Halifax Shipyard. "It will basically keep a generation of workers busy," Roberts said. Friday also saw Irving

Shipbuilding's bid receive a very public endorsement. In Halifax, members of the provincial legislature voted unanimously to support Irving's proposal for the federal contracts. In an interview, Premier Darrell Dexter said the economic value of the contracts could not be overstated. "It's enormous in terms of the length of work and the amount of money being spent," he said. "It would literally mean that a young person going into the shipyard in Halifax at the beginning of the contract could spend their entire working life there, and perhaps see their child start on the same shipbuilding program." Dexter said Irving's bid could

produce 4,000 direct jobs. He called it the biggest opportunity for Nova Scotia since the navy's creation a century ago. "The benefits from these projects would extend ... throughout eastern Canada," he said. "We think other premiers, other business leaders and other labour leaders will all want to join us in ensuring we have the strongest possible bid." Irving is competing against four other shipyards: Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd.; Seaway Marine & Industrial Inc. of St. Catharines, Ont.; Quebec-based Davie Yards Inc.; and Kiewit Offshore Services, a division of Peter Kiewit Infrastructure Co., which is based in Milton, Ont.

USING OUR NATURAL ADVANTAGES



DAVID CAMPBELL
ECONOMICALLY DRIVEN

Successful economic development essentially boils down to a jurisdiction's competitive advantages. There has to be a rationale or specific advantages that create the case for why a company would want to invest their capital in your community. This rationale can be based on a wide variety of attributes ranging from the highly abstract to the concrete. On the abstract end of the spectrum, one study of Fortune 500 companies found that CEOs are far more likely to invest their company's capital in the city or town in which they were born than anywhere else. It is more likely, however, that investment decisions will be based on concrete attributes such as a geographic advantage, the tax environment or specific infrastructure. Natural resources such as minerals, agriculture, forests and fish are geography-specific advantages that have provided the backbone economic foundation for many jurisdictions across North America and around the world. When it comes to communities or provinces taking deliberate steps to try and attract investment or grow specific industries, natural resources provide a core advantage that sets them apart from other jurisdictions. New Brunswick needs to find ways to effectively use its natural resources to support economic development and provide the tax revenue that supports our communities and our social objectives. From shale gas to rare earth metals, a number of natural resources-based opportunities are emerging in the province. This is why I was happy to see the provincial government issue a request for proposals (RFP) this week relating to the exploration of a confirmed potash deposit near Sussex. The government believes there will be strong interest to develop the Millstream potash deposit due to the global market trends in potash prices and demand. The request for proposals asks interested parties to provide their plans to "carry out further assessment of the Millstream deposit and eventually develop potash and/or related evaporite mineral deposits" in the area. Interestingly, the province says it will "give particular importance to any proponent that agrees to carry out additional refining or

PLEASE SEE → **COLUMN, C2**

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TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

NEW REPORT SAYS LIBERALS' TAX CUTS ARE UNAFFORDABLE > BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM

POLICING COSTS ON THE RISE

Safety Cash-strapped municipalities face significant increases in the cost of providing their residents protective services

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON - As financially strapped towns and cities across New Brunswick collectively tighten their belts, one item in municipal budgets continues to swell.

Police budgets have increased steadily over the last decade, eclipsing almost every other public service on balance sheets.

With New Brunswick municipalities facing a three-per-cent cap on property assessment increases and a one-per-cent cut to the unconditional grant, services such as libraries, parks and recreation could bear the brunt of cutbacks if policing costs are not also brought under control.

The province's three biggest police forces, the Saint John Police Force, the Codiac Regional RCMP and the Fredericton Police

Force, have all seen budget increases that far outpace inflation.

"The rising cost of policing has certainly been a concern for councillors," Don MacLellan, general manager of Community Safety Services with the city of Moncton, said. "They've really scrutinized the police budget because it's an area that has grown briskly."

The ballooning cost of the

Codiac RCMP, a regional police force used by Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe, has sparked debate and an in-depth study about the future of policing in Greater Moncton.

Moncton's share of the regional police force has jumped sharply, increasing 60 per cent to \$18.72 million in 2010 from \$ 11.72 million in 2001 - a hike averaging about six per cent each year. Meanwhile, Saint John's police

budget has jumped more than 40 per cent since 2003 - also an average increase of almost six per cent a year. The \$22.67 million the Port City spent on police services in 2010 was more than any other jurisdiction in New Brunswick.

The Fredericton Police Force has also seen its budget rise, nearly doubling over the last



Stephen McIntyre
PHOTO: PETER WALSH/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

PLEASE SEE → POLICE, A2

ELIMINATION OF AMBULANCE FEES REMAINS A PRIORITY: MINISTER



Health Minister Madeleine Dubé said Tuesday the Tories are committed to following through on a promise to eliminate ambulance fees in New Brunswick. Dubé says she's looking forward to scrapping the policy that led to a Grand Falls family receiving a bill for ambulance transportation less than a week after their 17-year-old died in a workplace incident. PHOTO: STEPHEN MACGILL/LEVEY/CANADAEAST NEWS SERVICE

Ambulance bill upsets victim's family, health minister

Pledge Madeleine Dubé says the Tory government will honour a campaign pledge and scrap contentious fee

CHRIS MORRIS
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON - Health Minister Madeleine Dubé says the fact that Ambulance New Brunswick sent a bill to a grieving family less than a week after the tragic death of their son proves it's time to scrap the fees.

Fabien Desjardins said Tuesday

he and his wife are upset after receiving a \$130 ambulance bill from the night their son Patrick, 17, was taken from the Wal-Mart store in Grand Falls to the local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

While Desjardins did not want to comment publicly at this time, he made it clear he is distressed that the bill came so

quickly after his son's death last Wednesday.

Dubé said she also is dismayed at news the family was billed for the ambulance service.

"This is really a tragedy for that family and that community and, on top of that, receiving an ambulance bill is certainly a shock to them as well," Dubé said.

"This is why we have been saying as a government that this is something we want to revoke, those type of fees. A lot of people have challenges with either paying the bill or, in times of tragedy, receiving a bill. It's really tough. We are working to eliminate those fees. It is still a priority for our government."

The Progressive Conservatives promised to eliminate ambulance fees during the election campaign, but they have not moved on the commitment since coming to power in October.

Dubé said the promise will be kept. She said she is "looking forward" to eliminating the fees. Ambulance services were free under the previous Tory government of Bernard Lord, but Shawn Graham's Liberals reinstated the fees, saying they were trying to stop abuse of the system.

Under the fee structure, residents of New Brunswick are billed \$130.60 when an ambulance is called on their behalf.

PLEASE SEE → FEES, A2

Consulting fees 'downright crazy', says Saint John deputy mayor

Project Stephen Chase says city should hire its own engineers after paying \$800K in fees on pumping station

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINTE JOHN - With Saint John common council approving a nearly \$800,000 consultant's bill for just one element of the price

harbour cleanup project this week, Deputy Mayor Stephen Chase is wondering if it's time to do things differently.

Instead of paying consultants millions in fees, he says the city should hire a team of specialized

engineers to design and manage construction projects for the dozens of water and wastewater projects set to be underway in the coming months and years.

"This system doesn't always translate into the best value for

the project owners, which is the water ratepayers," he said in an interview Tuesday.

The issue came to a head on Monday when council was asked to approved an \$800,000 invoice from ADI Limited - fees to design and manage the construction of a \$1.7-million wastewater pumping station on Spar Cove Road.

PLEASE SEE → PROJECT, A4



Stephen Chase
PHOTO: CINDY WILSON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Backup power doesn't cost \$1M per day

GREG WESTON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON - Contrary to popular belief, it is not costing NB Power \$1 million a day to purchase replacement power while Point Lepreau is offline.

Although that figure has been often cited by media and politicians alike, documents from the utility itself show the number could be less than half that amount.

NB Power's 2009-10 annual report states that Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) is responsible for construction cost overruns, but notes the utility is responsible for other costs. "There are, however, financial implications for NB Power, as project owner," the report says, before detailing the capital costs and deferral costs totaling \$30 million per month as a result of the delay.

While that amount equals about \$1 million a day, the report shows \$11 million per month goes toward capital costs, including contracted staff, insurance and other expenses involved with

PLEASE SEE → LEPREAU, A2



Development Look at battle over Rockwood Park C1

Actualities. A2 Deaths. D6
Business. B1 Horoscope. D3
City. C1 Magazine. D1
Classifieds. D4 Opinion. A6
Comics. D8 Sports. B5
Crosswords. D7 TV Listings. D7
Dear Abby. D2 Weather. B4

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ACTUALITÉS

"We're all in the same boat in terms of trying to balance public services while facing constantly rising police costs." DON MACLELLAN

Forces are using increasing number of civilians

PROVINCIAL JOURNAL

POLICE ← A1

decade. It increased 94 per cent to \$14.04 million in 2010 from \$7.55 million in 2001 — an average increase of more than eight per cent a year.

Each city calculates the cost of public safety differently, which makes it difficult to compare how much each city spends on law enforcement. For example, Fredericton does not include its facility, fleet or translation costs in its police budget whereas Moncton does.

But the trend in each city is the same: Steady increases in police and public safety budgets that are far greater than the cost of living.

"This is a battle city councils fight across the board," MacLellan said. "We're all in the same boat in terms of trying to balance public services while facing constantly rising police costs."

Even in smaller towns across New Brunswick, policing has far surpassed other municipal services.

Hartland town council, for example, recently approved its 2011 budget. While the overall budget increased by only two per cent, the town's police budget spiked by more than six per cent.

Yet as the cost of maintaining law and order in New Brunswick increases, the crime rate has dropped by nearly 20 per cent over the last decade.

According to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, the ratio of crime cases for every 100,000 people in the province declined to 5,627 cases a year in 2009 from 6,621 cases a year in 2000.

Rather than increased criminal activity, the rising police costs have largely been attributed to the successful negotiating tactics of police unions.

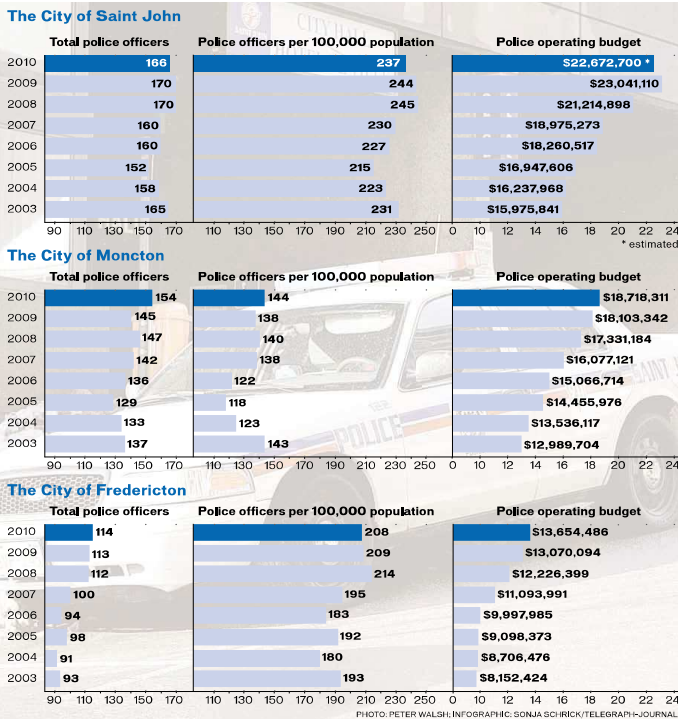
Rothesay police Chief Stephen McIntyre, president of the New Brunswick Chiefs of Police Association, said more than 80 per cent of police budgets are wages and benefits.

"Those costs are usually negotiated through a union and outlined in a collective agreement," he said. "It is certainly no secret that unions look at what has been achieved in other jurisdictions for wage increases to achieve parity with others."

The result is wage hikes usually much higher than inflation, making policing increasingly costly for municipalities.

But McIntyre said a police force that doesn't offer wages that match the competition could run into staffing issues.

"If you start to erode the wage scale, you could run the risk of getting to the point where your police force is no longer an attractive opportunity for a new recruit to seek employment," he said.



Another solution eyed by municipalities is the offloading of certain duties such as paperwork to civilian staff.

"We've been successful using commissionaires, volunteer officers and cadets from the local college," said Moncton's MacLellan. "They are used to handle the front desk work, take down complaints and do general paperwork."

Dean Secord, president of the New Brunswick Police Association, which represents the front-line police officers of the province's nine municipal and regional police forces that are not staffed by the RCMP, said using civilian staff is acceptable so long as it doesn't

result in layoffs.

"We have them in Saint John and other municipal forces across the province," said Secord, a Saint John city police officer.

"Civilian staff are used sometimes in detention facilities to get officers out in the street rather than sitting in the jail cell area," he said. "It's OK as long as you don't lose the manpower."

Yet Secord is less warm to another solution put forward: cutting back on training for police officers.

"Criminals are getting smarter and using new techniques and sometimes you have to get officers off the streets to

train them," he said. "The reason crime rates are down is because officers are on the streets and also doing the nitty-gritty computer investigational stuff where a lot of the crime is happening these days."

Fredericton Public Safety Committee chairman Eric Megarity said the bottom line for municipalities is the security and protection of residents.

"We can try to control police and fire costs, but at the end of the day these are core services," he said. "It's certainly difficult facing a budget crunch, but we have to be careful that wherever we cut, it does the least amount of damage."

Taxes
Pub owner pleads guilty

WOODSTOCK — A Woodstock business owner will have to pay a large fine after being sentenced on 16 counts of failing to file tax returns for both himself and his business. Brent Clark, owner of the Riverside Pub, pleaded guilty to eight counts of failing to file a personal income tax return and another eight counts of being an officer of a corporation that failed to file returns. The charges related to returns between 2000 and 2007. Clark has until July 12, 2011, to pay fines totalling \$16,000 on the failure to file charges. He was given the minimum fine of \$1,000 per offence. A compliance order was also issued, requiring Clark to file the returns by May 31.

Alcohol
Drunk driver triple the limit

SUSSEX — A Nova Scotia man who had three times the legal limit of alcohol in his system when he was pulled over last fall has been fined \$2,500 and banned from driving for a year. Stewart Grant McLean, 38, of Antigonish, pleaded guilty in Sussex provincial court to impaired driving. McLean was on Route 1 near Sussex around midnight Nov. 20 when his erratic driving was reported to police by another motorist. An officer pulled McLean over and quickly noted the driver's bloodshot eyes and the scent of alcohol. A breathalyzer recorded a blood alcohol level of 240 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood — three times the legal limit of 80 milligrams per 100 millilitres. Duty counsel Brian Ferguson said the defendant has a nerve problem and had been drinking that night to kill the pain. Judge Henrik Tonning said the high reading was an aggravating factor and he would have to increase the fine to \$2,200 plus a \$330 victim impact surcharge. In Tonning's court, the fine for a first-time offender who is between 80 and 160 milligrams of alcohol in their blood is typically \$2,000 and a one-year driving prohibition.

Agency defends delivery of invoice

FEES ← A1

In a statement on Tuesday, Ambulance New Brunswick reiterated its billing policy while also offering condolences to the Desjardins family.

"His death has saddened the entire community, including Ambulance New Brunswick staff in the region," the statement says.

The organization states it is "required by law to send out the bill regardless of the patient's outcome."

WorkSafeNB has launched an investigation into Desjardins' death.

An autopsy has confirmed the 17-year-old, a popular Grade 12 student at John Caldwell School in Grand Falls, died of electrocution.

He was using a commercial floor scrubber in the garage section of the store when the incident occurred.

Local police said a defective extension cord was the likely cause of the tragedy.

WorkSafeNB said the garage area was damp and the buffer machine was old.

Fabien Desjardins said in an interview with CBC last week that he refuses to call his son's death a workplace accident.

"We're not calling this an accident," Desjardins said in the interview.

"If you're driving down the road and you hit a moose, that's not an accident. If a drunk driver hits you and kills your whole family, that's not an accident, that's negligence."

Critic says utility should file quarterly updates

LEPREAU ← A1

the project.

The remaining \$19 million per month goes toward the deferral account — costs associated with buying replacement power, paying salaries of staff who will be needed once the plant is back online and other standard expenses.

Tom Adams, a Toronto-based energy analyst, says \$1 million a day sounds like a steep figure. "I've always been nervous about that number," he says.

"They've been citing that number since the beginning of the project, but market conditions have dramatically changed since the beginning of the project. The market for replacement power goes up and down. Market prices have been soft

over the past year."

Even though Lepreau's maximum generating capacity is known, it's impossible to tell just how much energy NB Power is buying, which would also determine the total cost.

NB Power is keeping almost 700 employees on its payroll while the refurbishment is completed.

At a salary of about \$100,000 a year, Adams calculates a ballpark price of \$6 million a month for employees, leaving a maximum of \$13 million a month — or about \$433,000 a day — for replacement power. "Which is substantially lower than this \$1 million a day," he says.

NB Power will begin paying off the deferral account once Point Lepreau is running again.

The project was originally scheduled to take 18 months and cost \$1.4 billion. However, technical problems discovered while reassembling the reactor have caused extensive delays, extending the project to an estimated three years and adding about \$1 billion in extra costs.

Adams says the lack of clarity over exactly where the cost overruns are going highlights the need for more specific information from NB Power.

"The public shouldn't be in the dark about this kind of stuff," he says, adding that every other province except Newfoundland and Labrador provides quarterly financial updates. "It's just a scandal. It's one of the only utilities in Canada of its size and importance that does not issue quarterly statements."

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POLICING BILLS UNPAID

Safety Several New Brunswick communities in arrears reimbursing province, which pays Ottawa for RCMP services

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON — More than a dozen New Brunswick municipalities are behind on their police bill, with the town of Shippagan owing nearly \$2.5 million to the province for RCMP services, the Telegraph-Journal has learned. The northeastern New

Brunswick town has carried an outstanding balance since 1997, according to documents filed with the clerk of the legislature. The provincial government pays Ottawa for the RCMP's regional services and then bills each municipality on a quarterly basis. While most towns and villages pay their bills, some have missed payments and others have

continually shelled out only a portion of the balance owing. Last September, for example, the Department of Public Safety sent the town of Shippagan a bill for \$130,625. But the town only paid \$73,670, slightly more than half the total balance due. After more than a decade of only paying a fraction of the invoice, Shippagan owed the

province \$2.45 million as of mid-December. With a population of about 2,800, the police debt equals almost \$900 for every man, woman and child in the Acadian Peninsula community. "This is an alarming situation," Liberal MLA Donald Arseneault said during a public accounts hearing with the Department of

Local Government at the legislature Thursday. "When you start cutting millions (from the provincial budget) ... and letting communities like Shippagan off the hook for \$2.4 million ... that is where I have a problem," he said. The cost of law and order has risen steadily across the province, eclipsing almost every other

public service on municipal balance sheets. The quarterly invoices sent to Shippagan for the regional RCMP service have risen to \$130,625 in 2010 from \$89,375 in 1997, for example. The increase averages almost four per cent a year, which exceeds the cost of living increase.

PLEASE SEE → SAFETY, A2

FORMER UNBSJ VICE-PRESIDENT WILL BE CHEERING FOR HER SON'S TEAM



New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan throws passes before a game last fall. Ryan's mother Doris is a former UNBSJ vice-president. PHOTO: AL BELLO/BETTYPAGES

New Brunswick's NFL playoff connection

Relationship Former UNBSJ vice-president Doris Ryan is the mother of outspoken New York Jets head coach

MARTY KLINCKENBERG
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Portraits of Doris Ryan hang in two buildings on the Saint John campus of the University of New Brunswick. The province's most famous football mother is recognized for contributions in both the Ward Chipman Library and Oland Hall. The mother of bombastic New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan and his twin brother, Rob, the recently appointed defensive coordinator of the Dallas Cowboys, Doris served as the university's vice-president from 1988-94. Now retired and living in Ardmore, Okla., she is getting ready to cheer on Rex's team in an NFL playoff game. The Jets are just one victory away from their first appearance in the Super Bowl since 1969. On Sunday night, she'll be in her living room, watching the Jets as they take on the Pittsburgh Steelers in the American Football

Conference championship game. The winners will represent the conference in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6 in Dallas. "I'd rather stay home and watch on TV than go to the game," Doris Ryan said. "You can see much more and I can yell all the time. "But if they win, I'll probably go to the Super Bowl." A professor and the director of a research institute at the University of Toronto, Doris Ryan was recruited by a headhunter for the position in Saint John. For a few years after retirement, she remained in Saint John, where she made many friends and volunteered on one of Elsie Wayne's election campaigns. "I still remember Elsie calling Saint John the Friendliest Little City in the East," Doris said. The ex-wife of Buddy Ryan, the former head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles and Arizona Cardinals, she eventually returned to

PLEASE SEE → HISTORY, A2



A portrait of former UNBSJ vice-president Doris Ryan hangs in the Ward Chipman Library in Saint John. PHOTO: ONDY WILSON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Public would have last word on HST hike

Policy Premier remains adamant he hasn't heard support for increase

SHAWN BERRY AND WENTIN CASEY
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON — One way or another, New Brunswickers would determine whether the government of Premier David Alward could raise the HST to help fight the deficit. Alward, who campaigned on a pledge not to hike the HST, said he knows of no major desire for the tax hike. "Quite frankly, I haven't heard very many New Brunswickers say that. I've heard a few business leaders, but I certainly haven't heard it from average New Brunswickers," he said. "That's not on my radar screen." Alward's government is contending with an \$820-million deficit. During pre-budget consultation hearings this week, Finance Minister Blaine Higgs has been asked several times to increase the HST. Higgs has repeatedly said during the hearings that everything remains on the table in terms of finding savings, but he has stressed the government does not have the mandate to change its stance on its platform issues. Alward said an easy fix and a fix that is responsible and right are two very different things. "One of my largest concerns

and look at previous comments, (Wednesday) was absolutely no different," he told reporters. "I have no intention of increasing the HST. What I've said is look, if we hear from a vast majority of New Brunswickers who say that would be a responsible decision to take, I would consider it." Alward, who campaigned on a pledge not to hike the HST, said he knows of no major desire for the tax hike. "Quite frankly, I haven't heard very many New Brunswickers say that. I've heard a few business leaders, but I certainly haven't heard it from average New Brunswickers," he said. "That's not on my radar screen." Alward's government is contending with an \$820-million deficit. During pre-budget consultation hearings this week, Finance Minister Blaine Higgs has been asked several times to increase the HST. Higgs has repeatedly said during the hearings that everything remains on the table in terms of finding savings, but he has stressed the government does not have the mandate to change its stance on its platform issues. Alward said an easy fix and a fix that is responsible and right are two very different things. "One of my largest concerns

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"The costs (of policing) have been a concern to many municipalities across the province."
DONALD ARSENEAULT

Liberal MLA says province should withhold grants to offenders

SAFETY ← A1

Although Arseneault admits ballooning public safety costs put a strain on municipalities, he said it's unfair towns such as Grand Falls, Grand Bay-Westfield and Dalhousie pay their bills on time while Shippagan has been in arrears for more than a decade.

"The costs (of policing) have been a concern to many municipalities across the province," he told the hearing. "But most do pay that bill by raising taxes or becoming more efficient within the budget."

Arseneault suggested the province withhold the unconditional grant from municipalities that have neglected to pay for their RCMP services.

New Brunswick will dole out \$67 million in unconditional grant funding to municipalities in 2011 — with Shippagan set to receive \$391,212.

Shippagan Mayor Jonathan Roch Noël, the Association Francophone des municipalités de Nouveau-Brunswick Inc. and the Cities of New Brunswick Association did not return calls for comment. The Department of Local Government referred calls to the Department of Public

Safety.

Meghan Cumby, a spokeswoman with the Department of Public Safety, said the department has consistently invoiced municipalities for the full amount owed.

"We have consistently advised them (of the amount owing) and ensured that they understand the debt," she said. "We'll continue to press the municipalities and work with them and we're confident this will come to a resolution."

Other towns and villages in New Brunswick are also struggling to settle their policing services bill. Centreville, a Carleton County village with a population of around 550, receives a quarterly invoice for about \$14,513. Yet it owes the province \$140,948 — the equivalent of slightly more than two years of invoices.

Meanwhile, Paquetville has an outstanding balance of \$106,985, Chipman owes the province \$212,369 and Millville is more than \$66,000 in debt.

For a province deeply mired in debt — New Brunswick owes more than \$9 billion — the debt of the municipalities highlights the widespread problem of government expenses outpacing revenues.



A number of municipalities are behind in their payments for police services. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Amount owed by municipalities

Municipalities	Quarterly Invoice	Outstanding Balance
Shippagan	\$130,625	\$2,452,515
Memramcook	\$130,625	\$391,875
Lameque	\$39,460	\$233,919
Saint-Leonard	\$37,518	\$219,700
Chipman	\$35,825	\$212,369
Centreville	\$14,513	\$140,948
Paquetville	\$17,815	\$106,985
Millville	\$8,408	\$66,054

PROVINCIAL JOURNAL

Justice Prison term for cocaine charges

MONCTON — Shawn Govang, 43, of Moncton has been sentenced to two years in prison for trafficking in cocaine. He was also prohibited from possessing firearms for a period of 10 years, prohibited from possessing restricted weapons for life, and required to submit a DNA sample. The charges stemmed from a lengthy investigation by the RCMP's J Division drug section that culminated in 2009. The investigation targeted individuals with ties to organized crime, as well as street-level drug traffickers operating in several southeastern communities.

Consultation Fredericton session now set for Feb. 3

FREDERICTON — Pre-budget consultation public meetings that had been planned to take place in Fredericton on Thursday have been rescheduled to Feb. 3, as follows: 2 p.m.: stakeholders, Room 209, Centennial Building, 670 King St., Fredericton, and 7 p.m.: public meeting, KC Irving Theatre, Hugh John Flemming Forestry Complex, 1350 Regent St., Fredericton. Finance Minister Blaine Higgs is inviting Fredericton-area residents to attend the meetings, which will be focused on spending priorities for the 2011-12 budget.

Assault Police seek public's help

FREDERICTON — Police in the capital are asking for the public's help in their investigation into the assault of a 30-year-old man last spring. In the early hours of Sunday, May 16, 2010, Fredericton police officers responded to Saint Dunstan's Church at 621 Brunswick St. A 30-year-old Fredericton man was found on the ground near the church with serious injuries believed to be from an assault. As a result of the incident, the man was hospitalized for several days. In the days and weeks that followed, police received a number of tips from the public, to date the investigation remains open. Police are asking anyone who has information that might be relevant to this incident, no matter how insignificant it might seem, to contact Det. Brad Bourque at 460-2315 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Poverty Advisory committees hold first meetings

FREDERICTON — Three advisory committees formed by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation to tackle key issues in the province's fight against poverty have held their first meetings. Members of the advisory committees represent government; business; community non-profit organizations; and persons who have experienced poverty. Several tasks were dealt with at meetings held this week, including establishing the roles and responsibilities of the committees and developing a timeline for completing their work. The committees cover health benefits, social assistance reform and social enterprise and community investment funds.

Economist, business group have opposite opinions on tax hike

HST ← A1

about increasing the HST is the impact on those who can least afford it — the most vulnerable of New Brunswickers," he said, noting that it would have the biggest effect on those with fixed incomes.

Alward's office was asked to elaborate on what kind of a groundswell would be needed to bring a change in the government's position on the HST. In an e-mail, Alward's press secretary said the premier explained his position clearly.

Tom Mann, a member of Democracy for New Brunswick, a coalition that began grading the parties on their commitment to democratic reform during last year's election campaign, said it's understandable that government positions can change.

But he said if they are to alter a major position, politicians need to take the issue to the public.

"Something as significant as

introducing an increase to the HST, we believe they have to vet that through some public process," Mann said.

He said that's true for any elected government looking to switch course on a clear promise.

"The government is going to have to come up with a process that will pass some small test in New Brunswick ... one that is genuine and real."

Hiking the HST would hurt small businesses, says the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). But a Mount Allison University economist says a tax increase is inevitable as the Alward government attempts to balance the budget. And boosting the HST will do the least damage to the economy.

Such a move would be a mistake, argues CFIB policy analyst Andreea Bourgeois.

"Most small businesses are not expecting a stellar year. They're trying to get by," she said in an interview from Moncton on Thursday. "An HST increase

would hurt consumer confidence and spending in the province. It would hurt a lot of small businesses."

Bourgeois says the opinion of small business is reflected in a recent CFIB survey of more than 300 local business owners. Nearly 80 per cent of those polled said an HST increase would harm their business.

According to Bourgeois, an HST hike would place a particularly high burden on the tourism and food sectors. Both sectors are consumer-driven and face two more minimum wage increases this year, she noted.

But economist Craig Brett sees the issue differently.

The Mount Allison University professor says the Alward government will struggle to slay the province's \$820-million shortfall without a tax hike.

"Of all the taxes, the HST and other consumption taxes are the ones that seem to be the least damaging to the economy," Brett said. "That's what makes the HST a

main target when they think about raising revenue."

According to Brett, there's a belief that consumption taxes have a more severe impact on the poor. But that can be fixed, he said, by providing an HST rebate to low-income earners.

"With a broad-based tax, there's no where to run — that's both the great thing and the bad thing about it. You have to pay it," said Brett, a Canada Research Chair in Canadian Public Policy. "But this is also what makes HST's unpopular — they can't be avoided. The money is coming out of your pocket no matter what you do."

The question is: will the Alward government follow Nova Scotia and Britain in boosting its consumption tax to fight a growing fiscal shortfall?

Brett thinks so, especially because a large portion of the current deficit was caused by Liberal tax cuts over the past two years.

"I can't see how they can balance the books without raising taxes."



David Alward, in his own words

"The last thing that I believe that needs to take place is that we raise taxes."
April 7, 2010.

"The reality is we know there are difficult times, we will work through those difficult times as a province, and that will not include a raise to the HST."
Nov. 8, 2010.

"What we've said is we will not raise the HST. The last thing I want is to raise taxes in New Brunswick."
Nov. 24, 2010.

"The HST issue is one that I believe will affect those who least can afford it... and for me that's an issue."
Dec. 28, 2010.

"If the people of New Brunswick have a very loud message to say (the HST) should be increased, I would never say no, but I have no indication that that's the way it is."
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011.

Ryan pleased with the work of both her sons as football coaches

HISTORY ← A1

her hometown of Ardmore, which is 100 miles from Oklahoma City and Dallas, and not too far from St. Louis, where her oldest boy, Jim, an attorney, lives.

"He says he is the only one who didn't go into the family business," Doris Ryan said.

Once a year, she attends one of Rex and Rob's games — early this season she took in a Jets victory over the New England Patriots — and she knows football inside and out.

Perturbed at Rex's penchant for profanity, she scolded him after getting an earful in the debut of the HBO reality series

Hard Knocks. But all is forgiven now, and she is excited about the Jets' success.

"I can't believe how well Rex has done in his two years there," she said. "The Jets have gotten to the AFC championship game both years."

"When you are in New York, you are in the media centre of the world, but they

seem to really like him there.

"With football coaching, you are either moving up or moved out, and both of my kids have been very fortunate that way."

Marty Klinkenberg is the senior writer at the *Telegraph-Journal*. He can be reached at martyklinkenberg@hotmail.com.

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The Flag of Quebec, featuring a white cross and four fleurs-de-lis on a blue field, was adopted and flown for the first time.

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Trying to predict the future of an unpredictable energy sector; Volatility Three years after Benefits Blueprint document unveiled, landscape has changed dramatically

New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal

Mon Feb 7 2011

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Section: Main

Byline: **Brett Bundale** Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN - On an early spring day three years ago, **business** leaders, politicians and reporters filed into a nondescript conference room.

They gathered to hear the recommendations of a study called Benefits Blueprint, which aimed to maximize spinoffs from resource megaprojects slated for New Brunswick.

It was early 2008 and Saint John, the heart of the energy hub, was the scene of an unprecedented flurry of development.

The looming economic crisis and total transformation of the energy landscape was far on the horizon.

No one could imagine a drop in power demand would crumple the **business** case of building brand new power plants for export, or that a glut of cheap natural gas and surplus hydro power would make it cheaper to buy electricity than run one of the province's fossil fuel burning plants.

At the time, with energy-hungry neighbours in New England and Nova Scotia craving more power, the game plan was all export oriented.

"It was pretty heady times," said Bob Manning, chairman of Benefits Blueprint, a study funded by the provincial and federal governments.

"There was an awful lot of money either being spent or being contemplated to be spent," said Manning, a wealth management adviser with Owens MacFadyen Group. "We were talking in the billions of dollars."

New Brunswick was on the brink of an energy boom fuelled by six energy projects: a liquefied natural gas plant and pipeline, the Point Lepreau nuclear plant refurbishment, a new potash mine in the Sussex area, the proposed second nuclear reactor at Point Lepreau and Eider Rock, a proposed second petroleum refinery in Saint John.

The study estimated these projects would spend \$44 billion in the region, create 33,000 jobs, and generate \$14.2 billion in tax revenue over 10 years.

"Everyone was very optimistic," Saint John Board of Trade president Imelda Gilman said.

"We were very hopeful. If all those projects came to fruition it would be a boon for the region," she said.

But the energy sector has shifted 180 degrees from its giddy days in early 2008.

"We stepped into a global recession and everybody had to take a step back," Manning said.

The economic downturn set off a raft of mill closures, lowering industrial power demand and shelving major energy projects throughout North America.

In New Brunswick, the proposed second refinery was called off and talks of a second nuclear reactor stalled.

Almost overnight, the insatiable appetite for energy along the northeastern seaboard diminished, resulting in a surplus of energy production and plummeting power prices.

As Premier David Alward's energy commission tours the province to consult with New Brunswickers on a 10-year energy plan, co-chairmen Jeannot Volpé and Bill Thompson are aware how quickly the energy landscape can change.

Thompson - who spent decades as a civil servant in Fredericton before leaving his post as deputy minister of energy in 2006 - said the energy sector is nearly "diametrically opposite" to what it was just two years ago.

New Brunswick now has more generating capacity available than what is required, he said.

"We have way too much capacity in electrical generation," he said. "We have about 4,200 megawatts of capacity and last summer we were drawing in August 850 megawatts and our winter peak was 2,800.

"Coleson Cove operated 10 days last year ... power is now so cheap that at night you can actually be paid to take it," he said. "It's gotten to the point that the market is so twisted. It's a buyers' market."

Bill Marshall, a power industry analyst and former employee at NB Power and the New Brunswick System Operator, said the drop in natural gas prices is one of the biggest changes to the energy market in recent years.

When natural gas was de-linked from oil, the prices began a steady decline, he said. And with the discovery of new natural gas deposits as well as shale gas, the natural gas market now competes on its own at half the cost of oil.

With an abundant supply of cheap natural gas in New England, surplus hydro power in Quebec, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Lower Churchill Falls project set to churn out hydro electricity by 2017, New Brunswick is strategically positioned to buy excess power, Marshall said.

"NB Power is buying a lot of energy from Quebec and New England right now and not running oil-fired generation here because it's cheaper," he said. "That's the best deal in the short term."

Predicting what the energy sector will look like in a decade is an impossible task, Marshall said, but natural gas could continue to play an important role.

"The biggest issue you've got looking forward 10 years and beyond is how long are gas prices going to stay low," Marshall said. "With additional discoveries of shale gas and possible shale gas right in New Brunswick, a gas future is a distinct possibility."

Energy consultant Tom Adams said New Brunswick has to "get off baseboard heaters" and switch to other home-heating fuels, especially natural gas.

To encourage this, Adams said New Brunswick should implement time-of-use rates, charging more for a kilowatt hour during times of peak power demand.

"The point is to give the customer an honest accounting of what it costs to deliver power in the wintertime," he said.

"Producing power in the summertime is very inexpensive but during a cold snap it's very expensive," he said, because NB Power is forced to run its costly fossil fuel plants, such as Coleson Cove, Belledune and Dalhousie.

By charging NB Power customers rates that more accurately reflect the utility's costs, more New Brunswickers would be encouraged to switch to natural gas, he said.

But Adams said a big issue the energy commission must address is the cost of natural gas in New Brunswick.

"From a natural gas point of view, New Brunswick is an island," he said. "It's disconnected from the natural gas market. Natural gas prices have plunged but New Brunswickers are not benefiting. This has to change."

The bottom line, according to Adams, is that the "status quo on electricity in New Brunswick is not acceptable."

"NB Power's debt is too high," he said. "Its dependency on oil prices is frightening. And there is an urgent need to get New Brunswick off electric heat."



TELEGRAPH JOURNAL

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BALANCING OUR FORESTS

Sharing profits from shale lauded

Debate Interest groups struggle with finding right mix of commerce and conservation

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH JOURNAL

In a small mill town in the heart of the Maine's Acadian forest, the struggle between economic development and conservation is unfolding.

Millinocket, smack in the middle of the state with a population just over 5,000, is known for its old lush forests and rich pulp and paper history.

But with its mills shuttered and workers laid off, town councilors and residents are searching for ways to revitalize the town's once grand papermaking industry while protecting its legendary old-growth forests.

Some residents argue a national park could help forestall an exodus of town residents caused by the closure of the region's last paper mill in East Millinocket, which shut down in April, idling 450 workers.

But opponents call the national park effort an economic disaster for northern Maine, arguing it would destroy the forest products industry and send a message that the region is closed for business.

The debate continues to rage between the environment on one side and economic growth on the other. But Maine is not alone in



Roxanne Quimby talks about her plans for the land she owns in the Millinocket region of Maine during a meeting at the Northern Maine Timber Cruisers snowmobile club in Millinocket, Maine. Quimby, the most vocal proponent for growing the state's parklands, has publicly offered 70,000 acres to the United States federal government for the creation of a Maine Woods National Park. PHOTO: BANGOR DAILY NEWS

its search for a seemingly elusive equilibrium.

New Brunswick, which once boasted a roaring pulp and paper mill in nearly every city and town, is now also struggling to make sense of the changing industry.

The province's forestry sector,

pummeled during the economic downturn and struggling to get back on its feet, has asked for more clarity on Crown land timber objectives.

The government has responded with a task force on Crown forests, a three-person committee set to deliver its final report and

recommendations this week. But on the other side of the teeter-totter, New Brunswickers also want protected areas untouched by the heavy machinery of logging firms where they can hike and hunt in the pristine wilderness.

For now, conservationists and

industry folk in New Brunswick continue to work to find middle ground, with discussions and public meetings that pale in comparison to the colourful debates next door.

In Maine, the most vocal

PLEASE SEE → DEBATE, A2

NATALIE STECHYSON
TELEGRAPH JOURNAL

The provincial government is assessing what financial compensations should be paid to landowners and communities affected by shale gas exploration and drilling.

The government is committed to developing a formula so landowners and nearby communities can "share in the financial benefits of the natural gas industry," according to a news release last week that outlined the government's new regulations for hydraulic fracturing—a process where a mix of water and chemicals is pumped kilometres underground into drilled wells to break apart shale rock formations, freeing gas to rise to the surface.

"We're developing the formula," confirmed Steve Benteau, a spokesman for the Department of Natural Resources.

"Until this point, all the revenue went to the government and...we're going to develop a formula so that we can share that with the property owner and the nearby communities."

At this time, Benteau can not say whether the formula will offer incentives or be based on models from other regions. The government will be happy to share the details once the model is approved, Benteau said.

In most areas of the United States, where landowners have mineral rights to the properties, companies can offer landowners compensation to allow them to operate on their land. Firms in Arkansas, for instance, typically pay landowners anywhere from 12 to 20 per cent of the value

PLEASE SEE → SHALE, A2

Province's stalking rate among highest

GREG WESTON
TELEGRAPH JOURNAL

FREDERICTON — A Statistics Canada study shows New Brunswick has among the highest incidents of stalking in the country, with a rate well above the national average.

At 80 reported cases per 100,000 people, New Brunswick is narrowly behind Prince Edward Island, at 82, for the worst provincial rate in Canada. The national average is 59 cases per a population of 100,000.

Criminal harassment, commonly referred to as stalking, refers to repeated and sustained conduct that causes victims to reasonably fear for their safety. It can include following or communicating with another person, repeatedly watching someone's house or workplace, or directly threatening another person.

According to the study, Saint John has the second-highest stalking rate in Canada with 149 cases per 100,000 people, behind only Kingston, Ont.

Along with Saguenay, Que., the three were the only cities with rates higher than 100. Women are most likely to

PLEASE SEE → STALKING, A3

THE BEST JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER



MARTY KLINKENBERG
IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

He thought he had seen everything in this season to beat all, and then Scott McCain travelled to the Twin Cities for the NHL entry draft.

There, the majority owner of the Saint John Sea Dogs saw five of his team's players selected, including three in the first round.

"Having just come off the Memorial Cup, I didn't think I could ever be more excited," McCain said Saturday as he sat in the stands at the Xcel Energy Center. "But I reached a new high last night."

"To get a third pick in the world, as a franchise I am not sure we will ever see that again. That is superstar territory. We feel pretty darn fortunate."

An aisle behind McCain, Jonathan Huberdeau sat wearing a Reebok shirt and the contented air of a panther that had swallowed a canary, which in fact, he had.

On Friday night, Huberdeau was chosen by the Florida Panthers with the third pick, the earliest a player from Saint John

has ever been selected. Nathan Beaulieu and Zack Phillips soon followed, going to Montreal and Minnesota, making Saint John the first team from the Quebec league to ever have three players drafted in the first round.

When proceedings resumed Saturday, Tomas Junco and Ryan Tesink joined the elite cast, the Slovak taken early in the second by the Detroit Red Wings, the scrappy Saint Johner going in the sixth to the St. Louis Blues.

"It says a lot of things about our team," McCain said. "To say the least, we are pretty excited."

With five players taken, Saint John accounted for a healthy portion of all those drafted from the QMJHL. Cumulatively, the other 15 teams netted a total of 17 draftees.

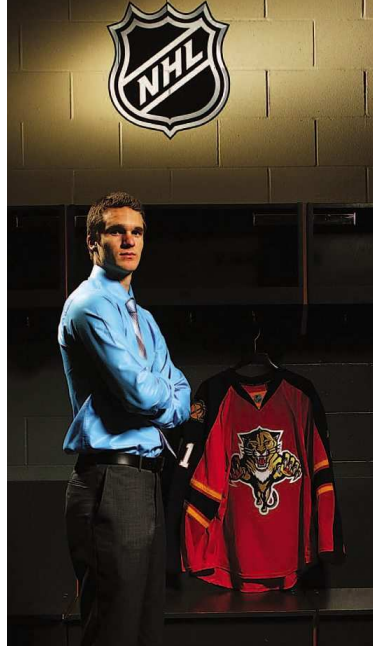
Even if a sports writer from Montreal mistook New Brunswick for Newfoundland in a question to Huberdeau on Friday night, and even if the Miami Herald is still mistaking St. John's for Saint John, which it did in Saturday's editions, it isn't likely those sort of errors will continue for too long, at least not in hockey circles.

"Saint John is on the map now, don't kid yourself," McCain said.

In two days and seven rounds, 211 players were drafted in all, and the Sea Dogs ranked among the most successful organizations with their five. Only the U.S. Under-18 team, which plays in the United States Hockey League, had more, an astounding 11.

"There had been a lot of talk

PLEASE SEE → NHL, A2



Saint John Sea Dogs centre Jonathan Huberdeau, picked third overall by the Florida Panthers during the 2011 NHL Entry Draft in St. Paul, Minn., was one of five Saint John players selected during the two-day draft. PHOTO: ANDRE RINQUETTE/GETTY IMAGES

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ACTUALITÉS

"We'd liked to see it managed the way we see fit using non-timber forest products to grow our economy," SCOTT CLOWATER

Move to share profits from natural gas 'progressive'

PROVINCIAL JOURNAL

SHALE ← A1

of gas produced from wells. In Canada, where mineral rights are generally government property, individual provinces usually write the royalty framework and money usually flows back to the province.

The government has estimated that, based on current projections, overall production could be valued in the range of \$2-billion to \$3-billion and royalties alone could amount to \$300-million to \$400-million per year for New Brunswick.

The decision on whether to offer com-

Compensation could help boost the public's support of the shale industry in the province, Knoll added.

One of the problems provinces have encountered with developing shale gas is that landowners affected by tests and drilling feel they are not getting anything back, said Kevin Hefferman, the vice-president of the Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas.

A commitment even to consider a compensation model is worthy of applause, Hefferman said.

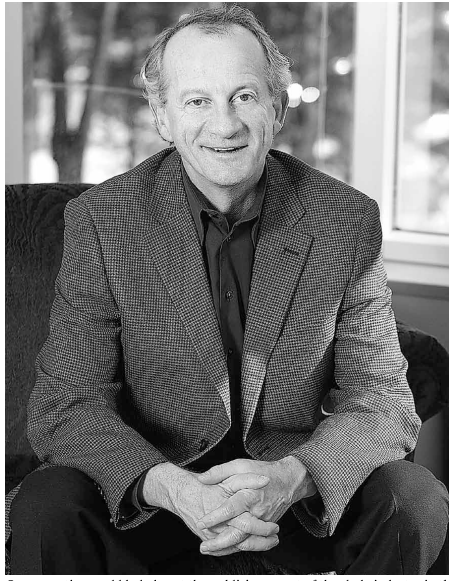
"This commitment from the New Brunswick government is really progressive. It addresses that disconnect," Hefferman said.

Because natural gas is a non-renewable resource, it's crucial not to rush the decision-making process, cautioned John Herron, president of the Atlantica Centre for Energy. The province needs to optimize the potential opportunities and revenues if the industry does move forward, Herron said.

"I think it would be prudent to have an earnest debate about how those royalties are allocated and spent," Herron said, noting that Alberta has decided to put its royalties into a heritage fund to benefit future generations, and New Brunswick could consider similar action.

Until a commercial shale discovery is made and brought to production in the province, dividing royalties won't be an issue, the Natural Resources spokesman said.

"Keep in mind this is a formula for sharing revenues from natural gas production, of which we don't have any yet," Benteau said.



Compensation could help boost the public's support of the shale industry in the province, says Corridor Resources CEO Phillip Knoll. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

IF THEY GET SOME COMPENSATION BACK, WE HAVE NO PROBLEM."

PHILLIP KNOLL

penation, and what kind of royalty formula to use, is completely up to the government, but Corridor Resources Inc. — one of two companies testing for shale gas in the province — supports the government's commitment, said president and CEO Phillip Knoll.

"The government makes royalties off the revenues we produce, and if they want to distribute some of the royalties back to the local government, we're all for it," Knoll said.

"The people in the areas where this activity is going on, if they get some compensation back, we have no problem with that whatsoever."

Tragedy
No sign of missing Fredericton boater

MIRAMICHI — District 6 RCMP has scaled back search efforts for a missing boater who fell into the Miramichi River from a small fishing boat on Thursday afternoon. RCMP say he is presumed to have drowned. Dr. John Jack Mackay, an 81-year-old man from Fredericton, was fishing with a man from Bloomfield Ridge when he fell overboard. Searches of the river by boat and by RCMP dive teams, as well as volunteer ground searches of the nearby shoreline, have found no sign of the missing man.

Education
Life of Juniper Elementary extended

JUNIPER — The Department of Education has decided to keep Juniper Elementary school open for one more year. District 14 education council had recommended closing the school, which would have saved as much as \$250,000, to help meet the province's targeted spending cuts. Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Jody Carr chose to close the school, but not until the 2012-13 school year. The district says it will now have to find other ways to cut the required \$1.3 million from its budget for next year.

Upgrades
Derby playground awarded \$20,000

FREDERICTON — The provincial government is investing \$20,000 towards improvements to the Millerton Community School playground in Derby, south of Miramichi. South-west Miramichi MLA Jake Stewart made the funding presentation to the Millerton Playground Committee on behalf of Economic Development Minister Paul Robichaud. The funding will go toward the purchase of new playground equipment at the school and is being provided by the Regional Development Corporation's Family and Youth Capital Assistance Program.

Abundance of draft picks presents challenges and opportunities

NHL ← A1

that we were going to have a lot of kids drafted — three or four in the first round — and it all pretty much went as planned," Sea Dogs coach Gerard Gallant said. "As a coach, I am thrilled."

Projected to be taken in the first round, Jurco tumbled to No. 35 and had to wait for Day 2.

"I was kind of sad last night, but it's a new day and I am happy to be drafted by Detroit," Jurco said. "I still really can't believe it. I dreamed about this as a kid. "It is a dream come true."

The unprecedented success at the draft is great, but it will also complicate matters for the Sea Dogs, who will start next season with a number of players in NHL camps, and also have at least a handful playing in the World Juniors come Christmas time.

"The early part of the season is going to be much, much trickier," Gallant said. "We are not talking about having four guys out at the start, we are talking maybe eight, nine, or 10. But we'll put up with it in September, and be better late in the year."

"Actually, it is really good for

everybody: for the young players who are going to get experience in those early games, and for our guys who will be at NHL camps."

A winger who racked up 480 points in 11 seasons with the Red Wings and Tampa Bay Lightning, Gallant was selected in the sixth round of the 1981 NHL entry draft.

For him, it wasn't a momentous occasion.

"I didn't even know when the draft was," he said Saturday, seated in the Minnesota Wild's home rink in St. Paul. He wasn't at home in Prince Edward

Island when Detroit called, and ignored the message when he heard it a day later. "I didn't call back," he said. "I thought somebody was playing a trick on me. I didn't believe it."

The draft is far more high-profile now, and so, too, are the Sea Dogs — major junior hockey champions, and blessed to dress some of the most highly regarded players of all.

After six years, Saint John is on the map — and all over the draft board.

Marty Klinkenberg is the senior writer at the *Telegraph-Journal*. He can be reached

Upper Miramichi exploring ways to utilize vast stretch of Crown land

DEBATE ← A1

proponent for growing the state's parklands is conservationist and Burt's Bees cosmetics co-founder Roxanne Quimby. She has publicly offered 70,000 acres to the United States federal government for the creation of a Maine Woods National Park. Quimby and her supporters say a national park would provide a steady revenue stream and attract tourism dollars to the region, which boasts the state's tallest mountain, Mount Katahdin, and largest lake, Moosehead Lake.

But a handful of town councillors predict that a national park would destroy access to lands that have been open to recreation and industry for generations. Turning working forests into a park would be another blow to the region's battered economy and do nothing to address the high unemployment rate,

councillors say.

They question whether the National Park Service can properly manage the existing parks in Maine, given its maintenance budgets are already billions of dollars in the red.

It's a controversial debate, one much more impassioned than the quiet and deliberate discussions being held in Upper Miramichi.

The rural community, which incorporated two years ago, takes in 16 communities including Boiestown, Astle and Bloomfield.

"When you look at our region on the map it's the whole centre of the province," Mayor Scott Clowater says, noting that the region's 1,840 square kilometres of land is 60 per cent Crown forest.

"We'd liked to see it managed the way we see fit using non-timber forest products to grow our economy," he says.

Community forestry, like the concept of turning thousands of acres into a national park, is not new.

Tracy Glynn of Conservation Council of New Brunswick says the idea of decentralizing control over public lands has already been put to work in British Columbia and Quebec.

"It's about communities taking control of local forest resources," she says. "It's up to them to decide what is best for their community."

The Upper Miramichi is working with the conservation council to develop maps of the region with information such as municipal boundaries and forest density and location.

Sarah Carson-Pond, economic development officer with the Upper Miramichi, says there are a number of non-timber products the rural community is looking into developing, such as fiddleheads,

syrups, teas, berries, nuts and balsam fir tips for wreath making.

Although more research is needed to understand how to harvest these products sustainably to minimize the ecological footprint, she says these products have the potential to create jobs in the area and generate revenues.

Mayor Clowater says he'll be meeting with provincial officials in the coming weeks in hopes of obtaining permission for the community to manage 12,000 hectares of Crown forests.

"We'd have to hire a forester and a manager and still cut some wood to pay for that, but it would be managed differently," he says. "There would be more value-added products."

Although Clowater says turning the entire area into a park or protected area, such as being considered in Millinocket, Maine, is not part of the community's

plan, eco-tourism and recreational opportunities are being researched.

Roland Michaud, president of the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation, supports the idea being floated in Maine of increasing the amount of protected parks and recreation areas.

"A lot of the older generation just can't see any way of making money from these forests without logging them," he says. "But that is where we're missing the boat."

"There is literally millions of dollars up in the air every year for eco-tourism that we could be cashing in on," he says. "The traditional forestry industry will always have a place in New Brunswick and Maine, but it's time we got ahead of the curve and take advantage of the demand for outdoor activities and outback adventures"

— with files from the *Bangor Daily News*

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Maritime titans remember the spark of a trailblazer

Published Saturday May 14th, 2011

E5 Brett Bundale
Telegraph-Journal

Wallace McCain, humble, frank and hardworking, was part of a special breed of Maritime entrepreneurs.

It was a generation of sharp businessmen that had risk-taking in their DNA and determination in their bones. They turned local start-ups into wealthy empires and remained fiercely loyal to small-town roots.

Like Gilbert Ganong of St. Stephen, K.C. Irving of Bouctouche and Frank H. Sobey of Stellarton, N.S., McCain was a Maritime businessman with an enduring legacy.

"The entrepreneurship skills that Wallace and his brother Harrison brought to the creation of one of the world's largest frozen foods companies will go down in the annals of New Brunswick history," said David Ganong, chairman of Ganong Bros. Ltd., the family-owned candy-making firm.

McCain's steady ascent in the business world has cemented his status as a New Brunswick business icon.

What catapulted the son of a potato farmer from the fields of Florenceville to Forbes magazine's annual list of billionaires is a tale of rising up from humble beginnings through true grit and a dash of luck.

"He was part of the first generation of entrepreneurs that had a spark, a grand idea that keeps evolving," Ganong said. "I don't know what the DNA is that creates those types of people, but Wallace is hard-driven, fast talking. And - cover your ears - you're going to hear some four-letter words."

Legendary for cussing like a sailor on the open sea, McCain got his start further inland on the sloping farmlands of the St. John River Valley.

After university and a stint as general manager of a hardware store, McCain and his brother, Harrison, took over their father's fledgling seed-potato export business and co-founded McCain Foods.

"They started out with very little experience," said Purdy Crawford, a Bay Street lawyer, philanthropist and close friend. "They set up their first line and didn't even know how to run it. They had a lot of problems but they were entrepreneurs and they persevered and over time became incredibly successful."

The McCain brothers, with their boundless ambition and entrepreneurial acumen, were in good company.

It was the late 1950s and Bill and David Sobey arrived in Saint John to open their third grocery store in New Brunswick.

Knowing the Sobey's chain presented a giant market for their products, the McCain brothers showed up at the opening.

"I must say they were the most enthusiastic couple of guys I had ever met," David Sobey recalled from his home in New Glasgow, N.S. "Even then you recognized just that dynamic personality. Especially Wallace - he was a super salesman."

The second son of Frank H. Sobey, David Sobey spent a good chunk of time in the merchandising end of the family business as he worked his way up the ladder to his current role as chairman emeritus of Sobeys Inc.

"I was on the buying end at times and you never ended up saying no to Wallace," Sobey said. "He always had a reason why you should buy, so that is what you ended up doing."

The McCain and Sobey brothers became close friends and shared a pride in growing family-run businesses from their home base in the Maritimes.

"Wallace McCain was a trailblazer in all that he did," Sobey said. "As a businessman, he helped build a true Canadian and global success story. As a proud Atlantic Canadian, he advocated endlessly for the growth and development of the region that he always thought of as home."

From its headquarters in Carleton county, McCain Foods flourished into the world's biggest french fry processor, dominating the global frozen foods industry with factories and employees around the globe.

The company soon branched out into pizzas, appetizers, vegetables, desserts, juices, entrees and oven meals and now operates 53 facilities worldwide with more than 20,000 workers and annual sales exceeding \$6 billion.

"It was an incredible achievement," Crawford said from his law office in Toronto. "If they had gone public, with the pressures for immediate market performance, they would never have achieved what they ultimately did achieve."

"You couldn't go into the U.S. and lose money for three or four years and satisfy the market," he said. "But it was the good thing to do, the right thing to do and they did it in spades and created long-term value."

The McCain brothers had help along the way. Cedric Ritchie, a well-connected local boy from the St. John River Valley, held the position of chief executive officer of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Ritchie had started out as a bank teller in Bath, New Brunswick, and worked his way up to general manager and eventually the head of Scotiabank.

He had close ties to Maritime business leaders, like the Irvings, Sobeys, Braggs and McCains, and had a nose for good investments.

"If the McCains wanted to buy a company in some foreign country that was in the french fry business, they would just call Cedric," Crawford said. "They had him on speed dial and he seemed to always come through with a loan that would enable them to make the purchase."

While Harrison McCain was known for his charisma and business savvy, Wallace McCain's great contribution was attention to detail and behind-the-scenes operations.

"Wallace understood the operations and he travelled around the world building new plants, hiring people and successfully running operations," Crawford said. "He was well-liked but he could be tough."

Crawford, a native of Five Islands, Nova Scotia, first met McCain at Mount Allison University. His mother was friends with the well-respected family of Margaret Norrie - later McCain - of Truro, and eventually he became close with Wallace McCain.

"Wallace liked to have a good time, he enjoyed sitting down at night with friends and living it up, smoking cigars and drinking scotch," he said. "But that never prevented him from being on the deck the next morning."

Much like K.C. Irving's ambition to expand his business from oil and pulp and paper to shipbuilding and building supplies, or Frank Sobey's drive to grow his business from a rural grocery store to one of Canada's richest holding companies, McCain wanted more.

"Wallace was never one to rest on his laurels," Ganong said. "He was a man that was driven towards success and big ideas."

After serving as president and co-chief executive officer of McCain Foods for nearly four decades, McCain set his sights on another major Canadian food processing company: Maple Leaf Foods, which he acquired in 1995 after the well-publicized split with his brother.

As chairman of the Maple Leaf board, Wallace steered the meat-processing firm towards greater success. Maple Leaf reported sales of \$5 billion in 2010 and employed more than 20,000 people at its operations across Canada and in the United States, United Kingdom, and Asia.

"He worked extremely hard to build McCain Foods," Ganong said, "and then he reached out and took over one of the other largest Canadian food companies to try to take it to another level."

Crawford, who sat on the board of directors of Maple Leaf, described Wallace as having an extraordinary attention to detail.

"Wallace was regarded by the board unanimously as a great chairman," he said. "He was incredibly good managing people...but he could have a temper at times."

Bill McEwan, president and chief executive officer of Sobeys, said McCain's impact on the country "will be felt for generations to come."

"Wallace was a true gentleman, an entrepreneur, a nation builder, a humanitarian, a mentor and, quite simply, a business legend," McEwan said. "Our industry and our country lost a true giant with the passing of Wallace McCain."

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MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011

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CRABBERS QUESTION NEED FOR LOW QUOTA

Regulations As season gets underway, crab fishermen in the region say low quota is unnecessary and is hurting workers

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

As fishermen set off on the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence for the start of the crab fishing season today, many are seething over a record-low quota for the second year in a row.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans slashed the quota by more than 60 per cent last year to 7,700 tonnes of snow crab biomass from 21,000 tonnes in 2009. The total allowable catch has increased only slightly this year to about 8,500 tonnes.

The low quota shortens the season, decreases the revenue of fishermen and cuts the working hours of crab processors and deck hands, said Robert Haché, spokesman for snow crab associations from New Brunswick.

"It's going to be a very short season again because of the low quota that was allocated," he said. "People are pretty upset about that."

While total industry losses have been pegged at about \$30 million, Haché said New Brunswick's coastal communities have lost millions more in spinoffs.

Ghislain Chouinard, regional director for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, said snow crab exploitation rates had crept up in recent years and as a result the stock was in decline.

After the drastic quota cut last year, he said fishermen expected to find fewer crabs in their traps. "Last year, the catch per trap stayed at the same level as they were the year before," he said. "If the biomass of crab had decreased by 63 per cent, it would have had an impact in the fishery but we didn't see that."

Chouinard admitted that crab stocks naturally go through cycles of abundance and scarcity. But he said the industry must be regulated to ensure there are enough adult crabs in the water for reproduction and ultimately the survival of the species.

Yet Haché said crabbers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are committed to fishing sustainably both to conserve the crustaceans and ensure a livelihood for future fishermen.

However, Chouinard said he stands by the recommendations made by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists, noting that catch rates are always higher at the start of the season.

"In terms of how the biomass is estimated, the methodology has been used for years and is quite accurate," he said. "When you get to these levels you get nervous because you don't know if the stocks will be able to recover."

"The stock was declining at



Achille Dignard secures some crab traps on the Isabelle VI trawler at the Shippagan wharf. PHOTO: GLEN VIEUVEAU FOR THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

PLEASE SEE → CRABS, A2

Co-hosting gig could boost Alward's profile

Event Premier will share spotlight at dinner with influential Canadians

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Premier David Alward will swoop into Toronto this week to co-host one of the biggest public policy events of the year.

More than 1,000 policy makers, political junkies, business leaders, and heads of universities and non-governmental organizations will gather at the Toronto Convention Centre Thursday for the Public Policy Forum's annual testimonial dinner.

Along with Elyse Allan, president and CEO of GE Canada, Alward will co-host the 24th edition of the annual event, introducing honourees for their contributions to the quality of public policy and public management across the country.

But Alward will also have a unique window of about five minutes to introduce himself to



Erica Richards lays in her hospital bed at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital while posing for a photo with parents BeBe Richards and John Richards. Erica contracted a rare disease that is carried in pigeon droppings and has lost her vision. PHOTO: JAMES WEST

'Please don't feed the pigeons'

Warning Woman loses sight after contracting disease carried in bird feces

MICHAEL STAPLES
CANADAEAST NEWS SERVICE

FREDERICTON — Erica Richards can't believe what has happened to her.

In the span of a few weeks, she has been transformed from a vibrant 23-year-old woman who loved nature to a person battling for her life.

In early January, Richards contracted a potentially fatal condition called cryptococcal meningitis, a fungal disease carried in the feces of pigeons.

The debilitating illness attacks the spine and the brain, causing severe swelling. It left her confined to a hospital bed in a state of delirium for weeks.

But the most devastating consequence of the sickness is that Richards is now blind.

"Be aware of this disease. It could kill a child in a heartbeat," Richards said in an interview from her hospital bed. "It could kill a senior in a heartbeat without you even having to worry about the symptoms. It comes on that fast. If you don't realize the symptoms, it could kill you, too."

comes on the heels of Fredericton city council's approval earlier this month of a recommendation that it toughen its animal control bylaw to make it illegal to feed pigeons.

While such complaints are unusual, a problem exists on Grand-dame Street with a property owner who refuses to stop feeding the birds. The pigeons are roosting on roofs and defecating.

Once the amendment is drafted and declared law, it will give the city's bylaw enforcement officers the power to ticket and fine offenders.

Ward 9 Coun. Stephen Chase said it's important to control pigeons.

PLEASE SEE → PIGEONS, A2

Emphasis on jobs in southwest riding



TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

DEER ISLAND — As the ferry cuts through the blue-green waves of the Bay of Fundy on this sunny April afternoon, Floyd Richardson and his wife Joyce are among a dozen residents who remain in their vehicles and out of the cool wind during the 20-minute ride to this small community off New Brunswick's southwest coast.

The commute to the mainland is one they are forced to make a little more regularly than they would like.

"We're seeing our taxes go up and services go down," says Floyd Richardson, a retired Bell Aliant employee who moved from Saint John to his

grandfather's homestead on Deer Island 12 years ago.

Over that time, the small, picturesque island of about 700 people has lost some vital services, the most recent of which is its only financial institution, a credit union that shut its doors last year.

There is an elementary school, but residents fear it may close too as enrollment dwindles and there is always concern that the ferry service may be reduced or worse still, cut altogether.

When the conversation turns to the May 2 federal election, he's quick to emphasize jobs as the area's No. 1 priority, and in particular, he would like federal politicians to focus on the tourism industry to boost the economy around this rural area.

"The island is part of the sprawling New Brunswick Southwest riding, which is profiled inside today's Telegraph-Journal. Please see page C6.

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PLEASE SEE → FORUM, A3

ACTUALITÉS

"I do not want anyone else to suffer this agonizing disease and I ask anyone who is feeding pigeons to stop ... it's a matter of keeping people healthy." ERICA RICHARDS

Bylaw will make it illegal to feed pigeons

PIGEONS ← A1

"Pigeon droppings potentially spread disease but, in the instance up on Grandme Street, the pigeons up on the roof of that church are pecking the gravel off the shingles."

Richards said she decided to go public after learning about the recent article in the Daily Gleaner on pigeon poop.

"Please don't feed the pigeons," Richards said. "Try to shoo them away, if you see them ... It (the disease) is horrible. The pain that you get from this disease is crippling.

The after-effects are with you for life and you just can't stop thinking about it. I just want other people to know and try to stay away from pigeons."

Oddly enough, Richards said she has no recollection of ever being anywhere near pigeons.

"I am still wondering to this day where I got it. I could have stepped in it and brought it into the home. I just don't know."

Richards said the symptoms started with a migraine headache – one that wouldn't go away.

Richards was admitted to hospital Feb. 10 after many days of intense head pain. Shortly after, she went into a coma-like state.

"When I woke up I thought I had a mask over my eyes, but I was wrong. I was blind. I was recently told that I will be blind for the rest of my life. This is a tough thing for a 23-year-old to go through ... My world crumbled around me."

Richards said the odds of surviving the disease are 50-50.

"However, I managed to make it through," she said, battling tears. "I don't know how, but I am still here, and I am glad because I get to warm everyone else of this."

Dr. Cristin Muecke, the Department of Health's regional medical officer, said the disease is often associated with pigeon droppings.

While not being able to speak about a specific case, she said the illness can't be spread from person to person and is more common with someone who has immune problems.

Richards, however, said she has never had a problem with her immune system and that's what's so puzzling about contracting the affliction.

In the meantime, Richards said she has no idea when she will be leaving the hospital. When she does leave, she'll have to re-learn everything.

Richards said her parents and friends have been wonderful during her recovery, but added it'll be years before she gets back to what she had before.

Erica's mother, BeBe Richards, said her daughter's illness has been a nightmare, because at first they didn't know if their daughter was going to live or die.

"That was hard – very, very hard," she said.

Richards, meanwhile, said the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is helping her and she's keeping her fingers crossed that she'll get a seeing-eye dog from the MIRA Foundation.

"I do not want anyone else to suffer this agonizing disease and I ask anyone who is feeding pigeons to stop. It's not just a matter of keeping your neighbourhood clean ... it's a matter of keeping people healthy."



Crab traps adorn a fishing trawler at the Shippagan wharf. PHOTO: GLEN VIENNEAU FOR THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

U.S. scientist argues DFO stock estimates are low

CRABS ← A1

been developed over 20 years and periodically we have a scientific peer review of how we do the analysis," he said.

But New Brunswick crabbers, doubting the science used to justify the reduction in quota, hired Dr. Gerard Conan of Marine Geomatics to evaluate the federal department's work.

Using crab density data collected by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans from samples collected by trawling in the south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2010, Conan developed his own analysis of crab stocks.

He estimated 36,648 tonnes of commercial quality crab, about 20 per cent more than the department's estimate of 30,500 tonnes.

In his report, Conan concluded that "producing minimal biomass estimates is not an adequate approach for

managing the snow crab stock.

"This can only hurt the level of industry's confidence in the work of (the department's) staff," said Conan, who holds a PhD from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the United States.

"Presenting reasonable estimates that are justified by various alternatives will be better received and supported by all stakeholders."

With these findings in hand, the snow crab associations from New Brunswick, Quebec and Prince Edward Island wrote a letter to Fisheries and Oceans Minister Gail Shea.

In the letter dated March 14, the crabbers' associations requested that the minister direct the department to seek a new peer review of the scientific data before setting the 2011 quota.

However, the request went unheeded in what Haché called a move to "save face."

"It was a quick and dirty decision to save face, that's all," he said. "She got a lot of bad press for lowering the quota last year so she wasn't about to revise biomass estimates now."

In addition to hurting fishermen, last year's quota reduction reduced work hours for roughly 2,000 processing plant workers and deckhands in the Acadian Peninsula, he said.

At the time, the provincial government sought federal compensation for the snow crab industry, arguing that the drastic fluctuation in quotas from year to year cut into the business of provincial suppliers on the international market.

When contacted for comment Friday, Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries spokeswoman Katharine Sidenius said "the province continues to favour an open and transparent scientific approach, based on resource sustainability and industry viability."



Jocelyn Haché help secure some crab traps on the S.J. Magalie trawler at the Shippagan wharf. PHOTO: GLEN VIENNEAU FOR THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL



André Savoie works ties some buoys on the Donald Chantal trawler at the Shippagan wharf. PHOTO: GLEN VIENNEAU FOR THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

PROVINCIAL JOURNAL

Fire Trucker flees burning rig

MONCTON – A truck driver hopped out of the cab of his vehicle on the Trans-Canada Highway on Thursday, moments before it burst into flames. Salisbury fire Chief David Bannister said the man was heading east just before 7 a.m. and had just passed the Salisbury Big Stop when he sensed a problem. The Salisbury Fire Department arrived and had the blaze out within 15 minutes, but the cab was destroyed. The trailer and its load suffered no damage. Bannister said the fire originated in the truck's electrical system.

Transportation Moncton unveils new transit facility

MONCTON – A gleaming new \$13-million Codiac Transit bus storage facility and headquarters is now fully operational on the site of the old headquarters on Moncton's Millennium Boulevard. General manager John Allain says it is the best funded federal project in the city's history as it will protect and extend the life of Codiac's fleet, cut down on costs associated with winter operations and allow for the significant expansion of the bus system the City of Moncton has in the works. The bulk of the money for the new garage, \$10 million, comes from the federal government through the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on Public Transit. The City of Moncton is paying the other \$3 million toward construction, fencing and a bit of extra land at the back of the property.

Tribute Gallagher school project takes shape

WOODSTOCK – The organizers behind a vocational school in Haiti hope to begin construction later this year. The Friends of Mark Gallagher committee has been raising funds to build a school in memory of the RCMP officer who died in the earthquake that devastated Haiti in January 2010. Now the project is preparing to move into the next phase with an environmental impact study on the proposed site for the school. The site, which is on a hill, will require a lot of preliminary work before it's ready for any structures.

Competition Dieppe singer survives first cut

DIEPPE – Singer Pauline Gauvin has made it through the first round of the Avon corporation's international inaugural singing competition to become one of four Canadian women competing globally. The Dieppe native was one of more than 6,000 women who entered the contest and made the first cut, earning a trip to Nashville to record an official performance video. That video, along with the approximately 175 others, is posted on the Avon's contest website located at AvonVoices.com, along with an area for visitors to vote for their favourite performer.

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GRITS PAN ENERGY REPORT

Energy Commission rapped for not addressing NB Power's debt; government says it will handle issue

CHRIS MORRIS
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON – The long-awaited final report of the New Brunswick Energy Commission has ignited sparks in the legislature over its failure to address NB Power's \$5 billion debt.

The commission report, released Tuesday, calls for the province to increase its reliance on natural gas as a means of

securing a stable and less expensive energy future for people and businesses.

The report's 50 recommendations are designed to lay the groundwork for a 10-year energy strategy to guide the province toward more renewable forms of power generation, such as wind.

But there is barely any mention of NB Power and its massive debt, despite the fact that the utility's financial woes were

originally part of the commission's mandate.

Specifically, the mandate from the Progressive Conservative government, as announced last October, called on the commission to "develop a long-term debt-management strategy for NB Power."

In their introduction, Tory commissioners Jeannot Volpé and Bill Thompson made it clear that, at some point, the mandate changed.

"The mandate did not include dealing with current operational issues that are best handled by the Department of Energy," the report states.

"These operational issues would include the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau nuclear plant, the approach to natural gas extraction from shale rock and NB Power structure and debt, which are all under separate review."

Interim Opposition leader

Victor Boudreau called the decision not to examine the impact of the debt on the province's energy future "a significant omission."

"Today, we see a 10-year report on energy that makes no reference whatsoever to NB Power's debt of \$5 billion," Boudreau said in the house.

PLEASE SEE → **POWER, A2**

MORE COVERAGE A4, C1

Province pledges new MRI units

Health Machines included in estimates not as powerful as several doctors requested

SHAWN BERRY
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

FREDERICTON – The Saint John Regional Hospital will be getting a new MRI machine – but it's not the one for which doctors in the area have been calling.

Delivering health estimates in the legislature last night, Health Minister Madeleine Dubé said Saint John, Moncton Hospital and the Edmundston Regional Hospital will all receive new magnetic resonance imaging units.

The diagnostic imaging machines, valued at \$1.8 million apiece will be equipped with a 1.5 T magnet, Dubé said. That's not nearly as strong as the 3T unit that several doctors have advocated.

Doctors in Saint John area have been calling for the more powerful machine, which they say has a higher strength for fine detail work such as neurosurgery, cancer detection and many cardiac procedures.

The hospital is a major trauma centre and one of two neurological centres in the province.

The physicians have said the regional hospital's existing machine is deteriorating and should have been replaced by now. They say that some of the Saint John region's sickest patients – suffering from breast cancer or heart problems – have to go as far as Halifax for an examination.

When Liberal health critic Bill Fraser questioned Dubé on the choice of machine, she said the Liberals had done little of the legwork by the time the reins of

PLEASE SEE → **MRI, A2**

CONFRONTING RISING SEA LEVELS



Christine LeBlanc, administrator for the rural community of Beaubassin East says climate change and the resutling rise in sea levels has been a concern in the area for many years. PHOTO CREDIT - GILLES LANDRY

Coastal community passes trailblazing bylaw

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

A small coastal community in Westmorland County has become a trailblazer in New Brunswick's fight against rising sea levels.

The rural council of Beaubassin East has passed the province's first bylaw requiring new construction in coastal areas to be at least 4.3 metres above sea level.

The building code is designed

to protect residents and their homes from storm surges and flooding, which are expected to worsen in the coming years.

Environment Canada has warned that swelling sea levels will intensify storms and flooding throughout Atlantic Canada.

The federal department has mapped out the most vulnerable areas, which include the upper Bay of Fundy and areas like Beaubassin on the Northumberland Strait.

Christine LeBlanc, administrator for the rural community of about 6,200 residents, said climate change has been a concern in the area for many years.

"We've been talking about it for a while and then the storm in December encouraged us to take action," she said Tuesday, referring to the flooding and high winds that ravaged the province's east coast and reminded Beaubassin residents of the winter of 2000 when a storm swept the

community and left a \$1.6 million trail of destruction in its wake.

"The storms are getting worse and worse and they're happening more often," LeBlanc said. "We need to take action to be prepared."

In addition to the bylaw passed in March, LeBlanc said Beaubassin-East updated its emergency plan last week to be better prepared in the event of a serious storm.

Karl Wilmot with the Emergency Measure's Organization said all municipalities have an emergency plan filed with the provincial government. He said it should be revised and updated every six months.

"An emergency plan is not a static document," he said. "You've got to make sure the plan is updated, the names and contact information is correct and the risk

PLEASE SEE → **SEA, A2**

SEA DOGS SHARE WALLACE MCCAIN'S DRIVE TO SUCCEED



MARTY KLINKEBERG
IN TORONTO

In his office with a view of CN Tower Scott McCain keeps photographs he holds dear: his family in Jamaica one Christmas, portraits of his

children, a black-and-white print from 1946 of his dad as a right winger in the Central Carleton Hockey League, pictures friends took of the Acropolis and Mount Everest, both with Saint John Sea Dogs' ball caps in the foreground, his father posing for a ceremonial puck drop at Harbour Station.

"If you look around, it's pretty much either family or hockey," McCain says.

On his desk, there is a picture of Wallace McCain, vibrant and handsome. A few feet away rests a handmade sympathy card from employees at the Maple Leaf Foods plant in Brampton.

"I am most proud I had him alive

for 81 years," Scott McCain, an executive at the company, says, choking back tears. "I had the benefit of his wisdom and love and leadership (for) 81 years.

"He taught us all so much, about business and life, about doing the right thing, about philanthropy, about making a difference.

"No longer can I walk down the hallway to get his advice. "I'll miss that."

One of Canada's most brilliant entrepreneurs and a beloved New Brunswicker, Wallace McCain died May 13 after a 14-month battle with pancreatic cancer. At his funeral on Friday, the former french fry king from Florenceville

was remembered as a loving family man and a fan of his son's team, the Sea Dogs.

Even near the end of his illness, he pestered his wife, Margaret, the former New Brunswick lieutenant-governor, to find out their scores.

"Did they win?" he asked, time and again.

He wasn't always so smitten. A winner in business, he loathed losing so much that he refused to attend Sea Dogs games in either of their first two seasons.

"Honest to God, when I first got the team he wouldn't come to watch them," Scott McCain, the team's chairman and chief

executive officer, says. "He told me, 'Unless you win I am not going to come down. If you're not sure they are going to win, I'll wait.' "He was a fair-weather fan, but that's way he was in life, too. He always wanted to be successful."

Over the last year, Wallace McCain kept busy in an attempt to forget about the chemotherapy, the radiation and the pain. He travelled a lot, including to Saint John to take in a few games.

He enjoyed talking with the coaches and players, and was delighted to learn the grandfather of one, Mike Thomas, had been

PLEASE SEE → **DOGS, A2**

TODAY

Municipal
Councillor takes oath of office **C6**

Royalty
Anne prompts Canadian visit **C1**

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ACTUALITÉS

"We've been talking about it for a while and then the storm in December encouraged us to take action."
CHRISTINE LEBLANC

Long-term plan needed

POWER ← A1

"This is going to have a huge impact in the future, whether it is on ratepayers or on taxpayers. Who will be left to foot the bill? Will it be the ratepayers, or will it be the taxpayers?"

Energy Minister Craig Leonard said the commission does recommend that NB Power needs to use its assets more efficiently and streamline its operations.

He said the question of the debt will be handled by the government.

"Because government itself is undergoing a renewal process that will incorporate, not just departments but also Crown corporations, we thought it would be more advantageous and provide more value to taxpayers to simply have NB Power reviewed for its structure and debt management under that process rather than the commission," Leonard told reporters outside the legislature.

"So the commission report sets out policy and they have made indications of where they would like to see NB Power going, which is a more efficient and more competitive model. But in terms of long-term debt management plan that is something that will be taking place under the government renewal process."

Leonard said solving the issue of the NB Power debt is not just a matter of who will have to pay it.

"It has to be looked at in terms of a long-term plan," he said.

"We have to decide on an appropriate capital structure for NB Power. We have to lay out a plan that deals with the annual debt payments that will be coming forward and the annual interest costs from that, that will be coming forward. We have to make sure that we keep a flexible situation at NB Power, that we can take advantage of opportunities that arise in the marketplace without saddling ourselves with a debt repayment process that might be too restrictive or not aggressive enough at certain points."

Boudreau said that, despite the promise of another long term plan, he is worried that the bottom line will be significant rate hikes for New Brunswickers.

Sackville also faces severe risk of flooding

SEA ← A1

analysis is still relevant."

The town of Sackville, on the Bay of Fundy's low-lying Tantramar Marshes, also faces severe flood risk.

A report of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change cited the upper Bay of Fundy as an example of a vulnerable flood zone in North America.

In response, Sackville has kept its emergency plan up to date, going through multiple tabletop exercises as well as

field simulations.

"It's important to run through your plan with a tabletop exercise at least a couple of times to address any errors or gaps and introduce other scenarios," Wilmot said. "Then you go into a full-blown field exercise, where you actually block roads and plug sewers. Sackville did a field operation like this last fall."

Mount Allison University has studied the Tantramar area along the Bay of Fundy extensively, coming up with different plans to adapt to rising sea

levels.

One of the biggest risks in the area is the Chignecto Isthmus that connects Nova Scotia to New Brunswick. If flooded, Nova Scotia could be cut off from mainland Canada and nearby communities in peril.

The study, entitled Examining Community Adaptive Capacity to Address Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Salt Marsh Restoration in Maritime Canada, found the area's dikes and aboiteau, or sluice gates, require more investment to be ready for rising seas.

Correction

John Baker was incorrectly identified in a photo on C4 of the May 24 edition of the Telegraph-Journal. We regret the error.

PROVINCIAL JOURNAL

Social assistance

Plans for cheque deliveries out today

FREDERICTON – Social Development Minister Sue Stultz says the province will reveal its plans today for getting social assistance to New Brunswickers if Canada Post goes on strike. Stultz said the province is reviewing strategies employed during previous strikes by mail carriers to ensure that social service recipients are looked after in the proper way and that their cheques are delivered to them or made available for pick-up in the client's region. "I want to reassure our clients on social assistance that there will be little interruption for them in collecting their cheques," Stultz said.

Legislation

Firefighters to be able to perform rescues

FREDERICTON – Two pieces of legislation were introduced in the legislature on Tuesday that would allow firefighters to perform rescues not related to fighting fires. The changes to the Municipalities Act would establish non-fire related rescue as a service in the under the legislation. Amendments to the Fire Prevention Act would allow the provincial fire marshal to provide advice on non-fire related rescue activities and determine the content of training programs for firefighters wishing to conduct rescue operations.

Health

Importance of tetanus booster shot stressed

OTTAWA – The Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion is reminding Canadians about the importance of being up to date on their tetanus booster. "Although most Canadians understand the importance of tetanus immunization, many people still don't realize that a booster dose is needed every 10 years to keep their protection up," says Dr. Bonnie Henry, Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAAP). Since this is gardening season, people are cautioned to wear protective gloves, clothing and footwear while renovating and gardening around their home.

Fatality

Alcohol believed factor in road death

MIRAMICHI – Alcohol, lack of seatbelt use, poor visibility and driving too fast for the road conditions are believed to have been factors in a fatal, single vehicle crash on Sunday near McGraw Brook. Police say the driver lost control of the vehicle and left the road. The vehicle rolled over and both occupants were ejected. The driver, a 44-year-old man from Sainte-Anne-de-Kent, was pronounced dead at the scene. The passenger was taken to hospital in Miramichi with unknown injuries.

Like his dad, owner has loved hockey all his life

DOGS ← A1

a longtime credit manager at McCain Foods.

Only one week before the Sea Dogs came to the Toronto area for the Memorial Cup, Wallace McCain died.

On Monday night, when Saint John won in overtime to clinch a berth in Sunday's championship game, Scott McCain hugged his brother, Michael, the Maple Leaf Foods boss, and thought of their dad.

"Some people said to me 'Scott, I think you had a seventh player on the team last night,'" McCain says. "I think your dad was on the bench."

"He may have had the best seat in the house."

Like his dad, Scott McCain has loved hockey all his life. In elementary school, he wore his skates in class, to celebrate his 50th birthday, his brother threw him a surprise party at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

"I wasn't a great player, but I always loved hockey people," McCain says.

In one corner of his office, he has framed pictures of the teams he played for in his youth, behind his desk he keeps photos of the Sea Dogs' first three No. 1 draft picks, Alex Grant, Yann Sauvé and Simon Despres.

"I knew we were going to be good this year, but I had no idea we would reach this level," he says. "When we were down, 2-1, on Monday night, I said, 'If we can tie this up, we'll win in overtime.'"

"This team never gives up. The players have extraordinary desire and passion to



Saint John Sea Dogs owner Scott McCain says his father Wallace wouldn't come to games in the team's early years. PHOTO: MARTY KLINKENBERG/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

win. They never get down on themselves."

In his office, there is framed painting of kids playing shinny on a frozen stream and another of his grandmother's house on the edge of the St. John River in northern New Brunswick. That is where his father and Wallace's five siblings grew up.

Down the hallway, an office on the 15th floor at Maple Leaf Foods' headquarters, sits vacant.

Photos of all nine of Wallace McCain's grandchildren cover one wall, a table in one corner is jammed with pictures of the

business titan with presidents and prime ministers, Roméo LeBlanc, Prince Charles and Tony Blair.

There is a canvas by Molly Lamb Bobak, and a picture of Wallace taking a ceremonial face-off at a Sea Dogs game at Harbour Station.

At the end, all he would ask is, "Did they win?"

Marty Klinkenberg is the senior writer at the Telegraph-Journal. He can be reached at martyklinkenberg@hotmail.com

National agency asked to do research on machines, minister says

MRI ← A1

power had switched hands to the Conservatives in October 2010.

"When we arrived in government after the election, I was looking for the plan. There was not really work being done," Dubé said.

She said the province asked the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health to do the research for the province.

"We want to make sure we have the right type of machines. ... They did the research. The end result of that is that there are really few differences in the outcome of what those two pieces of equipment can provide. That is what we based our decision on, that 1.5 T is appropriate for use."

The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health – funded by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments – provides governments and decision-makers with evidence, analysis, advice and recommendations

about the effectiveness and efficiency of health technologies.

In 2010, Dubé, then a member of the Opposition, grilled the Liberal government on why it wanted to buy 3 T machines for Saint John and Moncton and 1.5 T machines for Edmundston and Bathurst.

She said it didn't make sense for citizens in different parts of the province to have access to unequal levels of service.

Speaking on Tuesday night, Dubé said the three new purchases are part of a \$7-million plan aimed at upgrading aging MRIs.

"This is the first step towards a provincial program to improve diagnostic imaging technology. My department continues to work on a program to ensure MRIs are regularly replaced and will be financially stable," Dubé said.

Planning work will take place this year so that the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst and the Miramichi Regional Hospital can accommodate new machines in 2012-2013.

A new machine will be purchased for the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton in 2013-2014.

The spending is just part of the provincial Department of Health's \$2.53-billion budget.

Other key initiatives underway in the department for the coming year include changes to recruiting incentives for doctors and nurse practitioners; funding for the province's new Mental Health Action Plan, \$250,000 for a patient-assistance fund to support those with multiple sclerosis; and a comprehensive diabetes strategy.

Dubé announced changes to the physician recruitment incentives. She also said funding will be provided to add 15 new doctors and 15 new nurse practitioners to the system.

Initial funding of \$250,000 will be allotted for a patient assistance fund to provide support to people with multiple sclerosis.

The province is also dedicating almost \$1 million more to fighting cancer and

improving care for cancer patients.

The New Brunswick Cancer Network will see its budget increase by \$750,000 for the ongoing implementation of the provincial colon cancer screening program. The Dumont will see another \$174,000 to continue the establishment of the Breast Health Centre.

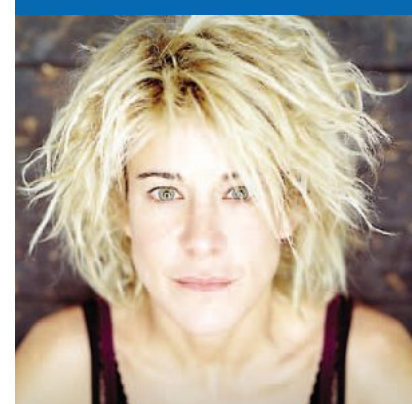
Dubé said the government also wants to make changes that will help the province manage the costs of chronic diseases.

She said that, 72 per cent of the time, hospital beds are occupied by patients with at least one chronic illness. She said that comes as 40 per cent of chronic diseases are preventable.

"Diabetes is one such disease that is on the rise in this province," she said, adding that more than \$2.5 million will be invested to implement a comprehensive diabetes strategy.

In addition, \$880,000 has been allocated as initial funding to implement the Mental Health Action Plan that was recently released. This year's funding will be dedicated to improving services for youth.

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A CALL FOR SAFER CARS



ADAM HURAS/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Steve Leger says he's seen the wreckage from many collisions between vehicles and moose on the province's highways. He says cars should be manufactured with more sturdy frames.

Danger In wake of most recent tragedy, experts says vehicles should be built to tougher standards

BRETT BUNDALE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

There are new questions about improving the ability of cars to better withstand moose collisions following the latest tragedy in New Brunswick in which a young couple lost their lives, leaving their two-year-old son an orphan.

Automotive and safety experts said Wednesday only Swedish-built Saabs and Volvos are specifically tested and designed for run-ins with the hulking animals, which tend to fall on top of vehicles, crushing the roofs and often injuring, or killing, the people inside.

In recent years, physicians from the northern United States pleaded with the federal government to force car manufacturers to reinforce the supports around vehicle front windows, as they are in Swedish vehicles. But, so far, there have been no changes.

Efforts in Canada to improve safety have focused on wildlife fencing and improving driver awareness of the risks – but accidents continue. According to the latest figures available in New Brunswick, there are nearly 400 collisions a year between cars and moose.

Newly-married couple Robin Rousseau and his wife Marie-Eve, who was 10

weeks pregnant, were killed on Saturday after their silver Pontiac sedan collided with a moose on Highway 11.

“When you’re talking about a car versus a moose, unfortunately it’s pretty clear who is going win,” said Steve Leger, who towed the car crushed in the accident to his father’s shop, George Leger’s Towing, in Shediac.

Leger said he found the vehicle early Sunday morning several hundred metres from the highway, still covered in blood and debris.

“There was minor front-end damage from the legs of moose but the windshield was all smashed and the roof was

rippled all the way to the back,” he said on Wednesday.

Leger said cars built in the 1960s were stronger and stood a greater chance of withstanding impacts with large game.

“Now robots tack cars together and the focus is on making them lighter and more cost-efficient,” he said. “I think they could make the front of the roof a lot stronger so the moose wouldn’t land in the front seat.”

He added: “Deer are a lot smaller and bounce off the roof and windshield but a moose can be 1,000 pounds and ends up

PLEASE SEE → SAFER, A2

Surgical suite reopens at Moncton’s Dumont hospital

Repairs Procedures had been cancelled after mould was discovered near operating rooms

ADAM HURAS
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

MONCTON – Hospital officials say the surgical suite at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont Regional Hospital in Moncton will resume its regular schedule today after facing closures due to mould for more than three weeks.

More than 130 elective surgeries were cancelled while work was being carried out to address a mould problem at the main entrance of the hospital’s surgical sector.

“Mould tests were conducted after the work was completed last week and results received were negative,” said Richard Losier, the hospital’s executive director.

“We initiated contact with patients and surgeons on Tuesday and the first elective surgeries will be able to start immediately.”

Half the operating rooms at the hospital were closed in mid-September be-

cause mould was discovered at the entrance to the hospital’s surgical suite.

The closure was expected to last about two weeks, but the reopening was de-

WE INITIATED CONTACT WITH PATIENTS AND SURGEONS ON TUESDAY AND THE FIRST ELECTIVE SURGERIES WILL BE ABLE TO START IMMEDIATELY.

RICHARD LOSIER

layed by the discovery of additional mould in a room near the entrance to the surgical suite.

PLEASE SEE → HOSPITAL, A2

Federal court nixes challenge to Ottawa’s census changes

Ruling Judge says he doesn’t have the authority to tell federal government how to collect data

TAMSI MCMAHON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

The head of a provincial Acadian group says he is disappointed a federal court has rejected his organization’s legal challenge to reinstate the government’s long-form census.

“My first reaction is it is very (disappointing),” said Jean-Marie Nadeau, president of the Société de l’Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick, which represents about 245,000 Acadians in the province.

The society is part of an umbrella organization, the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities, which launched the challenge in the summer in Saskatchewan. It argued the federal government’s decision to replace its mandatory long-form census with a voluntary questionnaire violated the Official Languages Act giving Canadians the right to receive services in French and English.

The group was asking for an injunction

to stop the government from distributing a new census next year and force the government to reinstate the mandatory census. The government argued that the court didn’t have the authority to make such a ruling.

Wednesday, Federal Court Judge Richard Boivin sided with the federal government, saying in a French-only ruling that while legislation requires the government to conduct a census, there are no laws dictating how it designs its data collection.

“It is clear that the Official Languages Act imposes no such obligations that subject the government to a specific methodology such as a mandatory long-form census,” Boivin wrote.

The ruling followed an earlier decision by the commissioner of official languages, Graham Fraser, who said he had no power to reverse the government’s decision.

PLEASE SEE → CENSUS, A2

Anti-poverty group wants help fighting higher prices for groceries

Report Rising cost of food is affecting those who can least afford it

ADAM HURAS
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

MONCTON – A new report shows that the price of basic food items in New Brunswick has skyrocketed over the last four years, an increase that slices into some social assistance recipients’ income supplements by more than 50 per cent.

The results have a provincial non-profit organization calling for action from the provincial government, including the creation of a \$100-per-month healthy food supplement for low-income earners and the calculation of a realistic living wage.

The Common Front for Social Justice surveyed 12 different grocery stores belonging to three well-known chains with locations in all geographic corners of the province.

Selecting 66 items in each store and using a method developed by Health Canada to represent a “bare-bones” nutritious diet, the non-profit organization has found that New Brunswickers on social assistance have little left to pay for other necessities.

“I see a very dark future if nothing is done,” said Auréa Cormier, a food science and nutrition professor at the Université de Moncton and co-ordinator for the non-profit group.

“The objective is to put facts in front of government and in front of the public so they can see that the price of food has skyrocketed and that something needs to be done to alleviate the suffering of those living on very limited budgets.

“The objective is to present facts to the government in order to motivate government officials to move.”

The study found that a 25-year-old minimum wage worker receiving a guaranteed annual income supplement has to spend more than 16 per cent of

PLEASE SEE → PRICES, A2

TODAY

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Bonnell murder case delayed again **A5**

Looking ahead
Port of Belledune excited for future **A5**

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TSX rallies in late-day trading **B5**

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ACTUALITÉS

"This isn't the first warning of this type that we have had and food prices are going up"
BRUCE CRAN

More than 130 surgeries delayed

HOSPITAL ← A1

Senior hospital executives have written to the provincial Department of Health to stress the urgent need for a new surgical suite, which is part of the hospital's master plan.

The surgical suite at the Dumont hospital has six regular-use operating rooms in total, the francophone hospital authority's second largest surgical suite in the province.

Only the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst, which was recently expanded, is larger.

The Dumont hospital was forced to close three operating units in August when it was dealing with cleanup efforts from a leak in the hospital's kitchen.

The kitchen is located above the entrance to the surgical suite and water flowed down through the walls. During the cleanup and repairs, the mould was discovered at the entrance to the surgical suite.

Though officials said the mould had not spread into the operating rooms themselves, it was noted the spores can be carried in as doctors, other staff and patients go in and out.

Vehicles made by Volvo and Saab exceed guidelines

SAFER ← A1

in your lap."

In 2008, the provincial Department of Public Safety recorded two deaths and 383 collisions between vehicles and moose on New Brunswick highways.

It is estimated the province is home to more than 25,000 moose.

RCMP Sgt. Gary Cameron said drivers need to scan the road constantly for wildlife that may leap onto the road from the brush on either side.

He said now that hunting season has wrapped up and moose are in search of a mate, there is an increased likelihood of coming across a lumbering animal on the road.

Moose tend to be extremely difficult to spot between dusk and dawn, he said, because of their dark fur and their non-reflective eyes.

In the case of a crash, Cameron said motorists in larger vehicles that are higher off the ground are often better protected.

"I've seen transport trucks totalled after a run-in with a moose," he said. "But the driver was OK."

Provincial officials in Newfoundland estimated that province had 700 moose collisions last year, with locals calling the massive creatures "landmines" that leave drivers with little or no chance to react.

Sweden, meanwhile, has the highest density of moose in the world - an estimated 250,000 roaming an area about three times the size of the Maritimes. The country records on average more than a dozen moose collisions every day.

"We actually made a moose crash test dummy," said Per-Åke Fröberg, a spokesman for Volvo Car Corporation, in an interview from Göteborg, Sweden. "It's mainly to test the impact to the A-pillars, which need to be reinforced to withstand a crash with moose."

Volvo also has a team of investigators sent to the scene of all road accidents involving a Volvo within a 100-kilometre radius of its Scandinavian headquarters - many of which involve moose, he said.

A spokeswoman for Ford Motor Company said the North American-made vehicles are built to be as safe as possible.

Christine Holland said that although Ford vehicle safety is not specifically designed with moose in mind, the trucks and automobiles are reinforced in areas to prevent the greatest number of injuries.

George Smith, manager of traffic safety and training for the Canada Safety Council, said all cars must meet the Canadian safety guidelines to be on the road.

"But to exceed (the guidelines) like Volvo or Saab is certainly advisable," he said. "All you need is to avoid one death or injury to make it well worth the investment."

However, Smith said the biggest problem on the road is speed.

"If you're driving too fast, you won't have the distance to be able to stop in time," he said. "The best advice is to slow down, especially when it's getting dark."



Aurée Cormier, a food science and nutrition professor at the Université de Moncton and co-ordinator for the non-profit group Common Front for Social Justice, delivers the findings of a study which shows that the price of basic food items in New Brunswick has skyrocketed.

Group hopes to motivate government to act soon

PRICES ← A1

his income on food and if he is the sole breadwinner and has a partner and two kids, it jumps to more than 42 per cent of his income.

A single mom with a child will spend 34 per cent, and a couple with two children will need 51 per cent of their income for food.

Nine out of 14 vegetables surveyed had gone up in price. Carrots, cabbage and onions went up by 29, 39, and 49 per cent respectively.

While wheat bread more than doubled in price and a 1.35-litre can of apple juice spiked in price by more than 83 per cent.

Cormier said the primary way to counteract the problem immediately is with further income subsidies, recommendations that will cost between \$30 million and \$40 million to implement.

"That is what it will cost to improve the situation of the very poor in New Brunswick," she said. "But this is a priority and it shouldn't be put on the back burner."

"I know that the money is not abundant, but if we want to act in a preventive fashion this is the way to go."

The Consumers' Association of Canada said Wednesday that the increase in price of basic food items is not exclusive to New Brunswick, but instead something affecting Canadians across the country

equally.

But the national not-for-profit whose mandate is to inform and educate consumers on marketplace issues and to advocate for consumers with government and industry said greater government spending is not an effective solution.

Association spokesman Bruce Cran said that the cost of freight is primarily responsible for food price hikes and that Canadians can send a message by simply not purchasing fruits and vegetables that have been flown in from around the world.

"This isn't the first warning of this type that we have had and food prices are going up," said association spokesman Bruce Cran.

"But people have to look for value because it is still out there at the moment and I don't believe we are at the stage where this is a catastrophe at this point."

The series of recommendations by the non-profit group also includes a request for the New Brunswick Farm Product Commission to exercise its power to investigate when stores increase their prices by more than 10 per cent above the consumer price index.

"We don't have that jurisdiction and the only regulated product we have is milk as far as retail price," said Robert Goggin, general manager of the New Brunswick Farm Products Commission.

"How would we ever set the price? Most of the food, all of the buying, takes place out of Toronto now and it's not like the past where at one time we had as many as 10 to 20 independent wholesalers in New Brunswick alone."

"We do our level best to ensure that any increases are warranted, we have mathematical indicators from the producer price index and we do a study every year to see what has changed as far as processor costs?"

Goggin added: "Farmers need to make a living, retailers and wholesalers need to make a living and the consumer needs a fair price."

Milk had one of the smallest increases in price over the last four years, according to the study.

The Common Front for Social Justice also wants the New Brunswick Farm Products Commission to increase its representation by requesting that the government nominate two additional members to its current nine-member board.

The non-profit suggests that the selection criteria should be based on the nominees' knowledge of nutrition and their concern for food security for all New Brunswickers.

The commission disagrees. "We're a regulating body and I don't see how adding nutritionists on our board would do any good," Goggin said.

Acadian group hasn't decided whether it will appeal

CENSUS ← A1

Nadeau said he was waiting to hear from the group's lawyers before commenting on the impact of the ruling or whether the group could appeal.

"I hope the lawyers will call us pretty soon to measure the extent of the damage," he said. "There is definitely damage."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has come under fire since it announced plans to scrap the mandatory 40-page questionnaire that was sent to about 20 per cent of Canadian homes

every five years as part of the census. The replacement household survey will be sent to about 30 per cent of households and is voluntary.

Many minority groups, social scientists, provincial and municipal governments, churches and charities oppose the end to the mandatory long census.

They say the data produced by the survey is vital to provide an accurate picture of the country, including the state of minority communities.

The Acadian society has used the detailed census data in several studies, such as examining the economic impact of

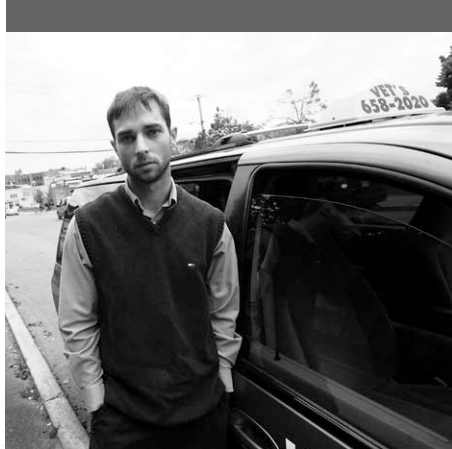
Acadians in the Moncton area. According to the ruling, the Association of Francophone Municipalities of New Brunswick used the data in a study called "Scenarios for strengthening local governance" that was submitted to Infrastructure Canada.

The association's executive director, Lise Ouellette, told the court in an affidavit that getting rid of the mandatory census would deprive minority communities of essential data.

The government says it scrapped the long form because it was too intrusive and coercive.

- with files from The Canadian Press

INSIDE THE JOURNAL



City
Cabbie kept cool despite situation

Driver thought it might have been his time **C1**

ON THIS DAY IN 2003

Californians voted to recall Governor Gray Davis from office and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger from a list of 135 candidates.

SPORTS

Two former N.B. amateur golf champions meet up at \$1 million tournament in Korea, which begins today **B8**

Fall running season ready to heat up **B8**

Sea Dogs happy to welcome stud defenceman back into the fold **B10**

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Convention centre would cost Halifax taxpayers \$325M **B2**



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PROVINCIAL JOURNAL

Energy

N.S. premier sees project proceeding

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter says the election of a new Progressive Conservative government in New Brunswick shouldn't impact plans for a new 500-megawatt energy transmission line between the neighbouring provinces. Dexter said it is his understanding that Conservative premier-elect David Alward is supportive of the project, which was announced earlier this year. "This is something that will be good for all of us. I'm expecting and hopeful that the work will just continue," Dexter told reporters. "I'm going to do everything I can to strengthen the relationship between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick." Dexter said he will meet his newest colleague within the next month, at a meeting of all Atlantic premiers. "I am looking forward to meeting him."

Investigation

Moncton police issue warrant

MONCTON - Codiac Regional RCMP have issued a Canada-wide warrant for 23-year-old Jeffrey Curran, who has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with the stabbing death of a 30-year-old Moncton man last month outside the Elmwood Motel. Curran is described as caucasian with hazel-coloured eyes, brown hair, he is approximately five-foot-seven and weighs approximately 170 pounds. Curran is the second individual to face a charge of second-degree murder in connection with the incident that occurred in the motel's parking lot near Elmwood Drive, a busy thoroughfare in Moncton. Twenty-one-year-old Clarence Kaiser of Moncton was charged with second-degree murder last Friday. If anyone sees Curran, they are advised not to approach him, as he may be in possession of a weapon.

Health

Clinic drops controversial fee

MONCTON - A new medical clinic in Moncton that raised eyebrows by charging a controversial one-time fee to new patients has dropped the fee for now, pending a review. Santé Optimal Health Inc. opened its doors last month with the ambitious goal of providing family doctors for thousands of people currently without a physician in the greater Moncton region. However, the new clinic faced criticism from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick because of the one-time \$50 fee, which the college says goes against its rules. "If you're in the public system, you can't charge people to access a service you are providing," Dr. Ed Schollenberg, the college's registrar, said. The New Brunswick Department of Health and the college agreed that the fee can't be charged, while neither would speculate on the consequences of the fee. This week the fee was suspended while the clinic determines "which direction we're going."

Disturbance

Tired of crime in Woodstock

WOODSTOCK - Residents of a Woodstock neighbourhood are tired of problems in their area with individuals fighting, people driving all-terrain vehicles at high speeds, breaking into vehicles and even an incident with a machete. "Enough is enough," said local resident Kelly Atherton, who lives in the area of King Street South and Union Street. "You can't have kids walking six abreast down the street and not moving for cars." Atherton said something must be done before someone is hurt. Residents have contacted Town of Woodstock officials who suggested they get in touch with the Woodstock Police Force to get information on the Neighbourhood Watch program.

Holiday

Service NB closed Monday

FREDERICTON - All Service New Brunswick service centres and offices throughout the province will be closed on Monday, Thanksgiving Day. The Service New Brunswick TeleServices call centre will also be closed. Regular hours resume on Tuesday. Select online services, including motor vehicle renewals and birth certificate applications, are always available.

NATIONAL POST

Saturday, June 21, 2008

Hong Kong's mouse killer

Canadian 'services the world' from Asian hub

Presented by



Brett Bundale, Financial Post

Published: Saturday, June 21, 2008

HONG KONG -Allan Zeman fumbles with a stack of his business cards. Depending on the time of day, the Canadian expat is a Hong Kong property tycoon, entertainment guru, theme park whiz, fashion trader or government advisor.

"I wear many hats," says Mr. Zeman, who has a wide smile and a firm handshake.

One of his business cards reads "Chairman, Ocean Park Corporation Hong Kong;" another "Chairman, Lan Kwai Fong Holdings Limited" and "Board of Directors, Wynn Resorts Limited Las Vegas."

But his best-known title is "Hong Kong's Mouse Killer," given him in a 2007 Forbes article for his role in revitalizing Hong Kong's 30-year-old Ocean Park amusement park, just as Hong Kong Disneyland was making preparations to open. Some blame him as the reason for Disney's biggest theme park flop.

"I was sort of forced into it," says Mr. Zeman, speaking of his role as chairman of Ocean Park. In 2003, Tung Cheehwa, then chief executive of Hong Kong, asked him to be chairman.

He hired a brilliant chief executive, Tom Mehrmann, the mastermind behind Warner Brothers' Movie World in Spain, then set to work improving Ocean Park's unique animal and aquatic attractions. He has managed to raise visitor numbers and profits and, equally important, create some buzz.

Mr. Zeman is famous for unorthodox stunts, like hiding in a coffin and emerging as a Chinese ghost bridegroom to promote a Halloween event at the park.

Mr. Zeman insists it isn't his theatrics that is keeping Disney down. Rather, it is his deep understanding of Chinese culture and tradition, gained from four decades of living in Hong Kong.

"There's a different way of working here in Asia. You have to be ready to act fast," he says.

Fast is Mr. Zeman's normal speed. The Montreal native got his start as a newspaper boy for The Montreal Star. By 16, he was making more money than his teachers and

drove to school in a convertible Chevy Nova.

He eventually dropped out of school to work for the garment-trade giant Algo Industries. By his 20s, he made his first million dollars importing women's fashion from Hong Kong and bought a mansion in Westmount.

He soon traded his home on the St. Lawrence River to move to the international trading hub on the South China Sea.

"Even though Montreal was great for doing domestic business, from Hong Kong I could service the world," says Mr. Zeman. "With its strategic location and low tax base, it was a dream for a young entrepreneur."

But telling his mother he was moving to Hong Kong was like telling her he was "going to the moon. She thought I was moving to Japan," says Mr. Zeman.

Nearly 40 years later, Mr. Zeman is one of Canada's best-known expats in Hong Kong. He has been awarded a Gold Bauhinia Star for distinguished community service, and has been appointed a Justice of the Peace. Though he still has a Canadian passport, he calls himself "Hongkongnese."

He even brought a taste of Montreal's famed Crescent Street to Hong Kong. He took the Lan Kwai Fong area, a run-down fringe area of Hong Kong Central and has turned its narrow, hilly streets into the heart of Hong Kong's nightlife, crawling with trendy locals, expatriates and tourists.

His first restaurant in the area, California, was an overnight success with Asian-inspired American dishes. He has now branched out into other Asian cities, opening up Park 97, one of Shanghai's trendiest restaurant complexes, and Silk in Phuket, Thailand.

Despite his reputation as a hot Asian restaurateur, Mr. Zeman held onto his garment company, Colby International, until 2000, when he sold it to his biggest competitor in Hong Kong, Li & Fung Limited, for nearly US\$282-million.

But even with this handsome sum in his pocket, the multi-millionaire won't be retiring any time soon. "I'm having too much fun. It's not about the money, it's the energy that keeps me in the game," says Mr. Zeman.

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Green lunches for the urban core

Sustainable montreal

BRETT BUNDALE

Special to The Gazette

Saturday, July 25, 2009

The Green Panther starts his work late at night.

The tofu steaks are marinated, the beans soaked and the fresh organic vegetables washed. Then, before dawn, he cuts, chops, cooks and spices to perfection.

By noon, the Green Panther has packed all the food into a cooler strapped onto the back of his bike and he begins delivering lunches door to door.

Montreal's first completely organic meals on wheels lunch service, the Green Panther, is back in full swing after a winter hibernation. In addition to delivering vegan food to doorsteps, this month, the Green Panther opened a small lunch bar on St. Viateur St.

"We needed a break over the winter to come back stronger," said Haim Shoham, the creator of the Green Panther. "We're just starting to scratch the surface of the potential market."

The Green Panther delivers "good food for the urban jungle" to offices, homes, hair salons and spas. So far most customers are in the Mile End and Plateau Mont-Royal neighbourhoods, but Shoham hopes to expand the Green Panther's tracks across the island.

"I started delivering again in May and people are really digging it," Shoham said. "I mean the first time I went into Lululemon, they were like: 'Oh, it's vegan and organic healthy food, it's just fantastic,' and they clicked into the idea right away. But with others it took more time. I would leave them a business card and once they saw the website they trusted me more."

Green Panther lunches come in ecological packaging and are delivered on bikes. The sandwiches come in recyclable brown paper bags and the salads are packaged in 100 per cent biodegradable containers made from corn.

In addition, everything on the menu is organic and locally sourced whenever possible.

"The tofu is from a local Chinese family that has a really small factory near downtown," Shoham said. "The tempeh is from a family business just outside Ottawa. The pita is from Pita Royal, just off Décarie Blvd. And of course I make an effort to get the vegetables from Quebec when things are in season."

The menu includes pita sandwiches made from tempeh, an Indonesian-style fermented soy bean, tofu steaks and veggie burgers.

"We use what is more like an Israeli pita, which is a bit thicker than a normal pita, so it's nice for sandwiches because it holds the ingredients better," Shohan said.

For those with a sweet tooth, the Green Panther delivers organic fruit, maple-coated nuts and energy balls sweetened with agave plant nectar.

The Green Panther also has special-order items, including what Shoham describes as "the best falafel in the world."

"It's a recipe from my neighbour in Israel," Shoham said. "She had one of the most successful falafel businesses in my hometown, Rehovot, and she wouldn't give anyone the recipe for the longest time. Then a couple of years back she gave the recipe to my mom before she passed away. So she passed on the legacy to us," Shoham said.

The falafel recipe includes vegetables, chickpeas, onions, garlic and lots of spices.

"But I can't give away the secret," he said.

Last year the meals on wheels start-up was run out of a small space rented from a church.

"Now we can offer a greater variety of vegan delights from our lunch bar," he said, adding that the Green Panther also hopes to nab more catering contracts in its second season.

"I definitely want to expand the business beyond the meals on wheels concept."

The Green Panther, 66 St. Viateur St.

Deliveries: 514-903-7770

Online: www.thegreenpanther.com

Email: feedme@thegreenpanther.com

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