

## From the Publisher's Desk

There is something inherently undemocratic about the suggestion by Green Party Leader, Elizabeth May, and Liberal Party Leadership Candidate Joyce Murray that the NDP not run a candidate in the upcoming federal by-election in Labrador.

Ms Murray urged Ms May not to run a Green candidate and Ms May urged the NDP not to run a candidate in an attempt to combine all the opposition votes against the Conservative candidate.

In effect, they are trying to eliminate all options but two for the voters in Labrador as a way to try and defeat the Conservative candidate.

Deliberately removing the voter's choice, as a political policy, seems undemocratic to me.

It is up to the voters whom they want to represent them and they should have as many options as possible to choose from.

Give the NDP credit, they decided to have a candidate in the election along with the Liberals and the Conservatives.

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You will have to forgive me if my (Small C) conservative leanings are showing.

I listened to the delivery of the Federal Government's latest budget and then waited a couple of days to check on the various political and business reactions to the budget to see if my thoughts were with the majority or the minority.

They seem to be with the majority who feel the budget was a safe one in these volatile economic times.

I watched the TV news on Budget night and the financial situation in Canada was contrasted with the situation in Cyprus where the Government was threatening to put a 20-per-cent tax on people's savings accounts as a way to bail the Government and the banks out of a financial mess.

Canada has come through the recent financial meltdown in the United States in good shape and the country continues to perform well, in economic terms, as the European Countries lurch from crisis to crisis.

Canada's stable situation is a direct result of our sound banking system which has a lot more constraints on it than many other countries, particularly the United States, and the policies of our Federal Governments over the past decades.

The current government in Ottawa recognizes the world situation and is taking a (Small c) conservative course.

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The Provincial Budget was delivered on Tuesday and it followed the tone of the Federal Budget with restraint in spending and cautious optimism about oil prices and our economic future.

The Government says it will eliminate the annual deficit by 2015 and that is a good thing but it still needs to control spending and reduce Government's non essential operating costs to bring our Government per capita costs more in line with national standards.

The budget outlined Government's intention to put all the English language schools in the province under one school board. That is going to be a mammoth undertaking and it will only work if the organization is set up to be able to respond to the different operating conditions that exist throughout the province.

Many of the functions of the school boards can be centralized but day to day operations of various schools will need to be given the freedom to reflect local conditions.

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That's 30 for now.



Calvin Taylor

## What does he look like

Calvin Taylor is well known in CBS for his volunteer services over the years and his many years of teaching.

But not many people know what he really looks like.

Cal has worn a beard for more than 40 years but now he is giving everyone an opportunity to "see" the real Calvin Taylor.

He has volunteered to shave off his beard for a good cause—to support Ronald McDonald House.

The shaving will take place at the McDonald's location in CBS on McHappy Day, May 8th. Until then, Calvin is soliciting donations, to support his decision to present a new face to the world. He hopes to raise \$3,000.00 and is already half way there.

There are several ways to donate, Call 738,0000 visit On Line at [www.OurHouseNL.ca](http://www.OurHouseNL.ca) or [info@rmhnl.ca](mailto:info@rmhnl.ca) or give Cal a personal call.

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador is to provide sick children and their families with a comfortable home-away-from-home, in close proximity to the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre.

## Three times' not a charm

Three strikes for one CBS resident.

On Sunday, March 10th, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Street Patrol arrested a 19 year old male in the CBS area for not just one breach of a court order but three separate breaches of a court order. The man was detained at the lock-up in St. John's overnight to answer to the judge the next morning.



The Shoreline is published each Thursday at Foxtrap, Conception Bay South, NL, by Codner Holdings Ltd.

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ISSN 049-486X

Electronic Subscriptions Available

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Production Agreement No. 1011973

Frank Petten, Publisher

## Politics 101

By Alvin Hewlett

### What's in a Name?

Could it get you elected Prime Minister? My surname is Hewlett. My great-grandfather, William Hewlett, was born in Ward's Harbour, Notre Dame Bay in 1824. His parents, Robert and Mary Hewlett, are presumed to be from England. William married Jane Burton in 1846 and they had my grandfather, Esau Hewlett in 1865. Esau Hewlett first married Charlotte Croucher; and after she died in 1902, he married Alice (Ryan) Rowsell at the Little Bay Islands Methodist Church in 1903. It was noted at the time that everyone except my grandfather signed the marriage register with an 'X'. Esau Hewlett eventually received a Crown Grant for a piece of land at Port Anson, on Sunday Cove Island in Notre Dame Bay. My father, Clifford Hewlett, was born at Port Anson in 1923. I was born at Port Anson some 29 years later. The Internet tells me that the earliest record of the name Hewlett in England was in the Dorset area, where someone of that name was granted land by King William the Conqueror, for services rendered in the Battle of Hastings in 1066. This means that my ultimate ancestor was either a traitor to England's King Harold (who lost the Battle of Hastings), or an invader from Normandy! How's that for a family name? It's a name entered twice on the House of Assembly Roll of Members, but could it get me elected Prime Minister? Probably not.

What if my surname was Trudeau? Could it get me elected Prime Minister? It's too early to tell, but Trudeau certainly has a better chance of making that grade than yours truly. One recent poll by Forum Research saw a three-way split in national political affections with: the Conservatives at 31%; the Liberals at 30%; and the NDP at 27%. Up until its recent leadership race, the Liberal Party had been polling a poor third, well behind the Official Opposition NDP. However, once Justin Trudeau announced that he would be seeking the Liberal Leadership, the party's fortunes started to turn around. The same Forum poll also asked people their voting intentions if Trudeau wins the Liberal Leadership; and the results were quite startling. With Trudeau at the helm, the Liberals would jump ahead to 39%, as compared to the Conservatives at 32% and the NDP at 20%. So far, Justin Trudeau's main claim to fame is that he is the son of the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Trudeau hasn't won the Liberal Leadership yet; but just his surname alone is enough to change the stated voting intentions of many Canadians.

Back when I worked in Premier Peckford's Office, the Liberals had been out of power since the defeat of Joey Smallwood in 1972. However, before being defeated, Joey had a major falling out with two of his lieutenants - John Crosbie and Clyde Wells. Crosbie eventually went over to the Tories, but Clyde Wells left politics to pursue a career in law. While they languished in opposition, the cry of the Liberal Party faithful was: "Just wait until Clyde Wells gets back into politics!" When Wells did get back into politics, he led the Liberal Party to victory in 1989. My time in the House of Assembly was spent in opposition to Premier Wells, and the cry of our PC Party faithful at the time was: "Just wait until Danny Williams gets into politics!" When Williams finally did get into politics, he led the PCs to victory; and the party is still in power today.

In the case of Wells and Williams, there was obviously a lot in their names - enough to turn the political tide, and win victory at the polls. The provincial Liberals have been running a poor third in the polls of late, and many of the party faithful are saying: "Just wait until Dean MacDonald gets into politics!" It remains to be seen if he will, and whether his name carries the weight that some people think it does. On the federal scene, Justin Trudeau's name has pumped new life into the Liberal Party of Canada. It still remains to be seen (once he is elected Liberal Leader) if he has the stuff of Prime Ministers.

But, in the meantime, just the idea of Trudeau is enough to upset the status quo in the polls. What's in a name? Quite a lot, it seems - provided you have the right one.

*"Alvin Hewlett currently lives in Paradise, having served as MHA for Green Bay, Chief of Staff to Premier Brian Peckford and Parliamentary Assistant to MP Norman Doyle."*

#### WRITE TO US

Letters to the editor should be brief and to the point. The name, address and phone number of the writer must be included for verification. Because of space limitations. Public interest and good taste, letters may be edited, condensed or rejected. Care is taken not to misinterpret the writer's point. Letters may be published over a nom-de-plume if the writer wishes. Personal attacks or defamatory remarks will not be published.

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