

Most of crowd walks out of Scotiabank meeting



Scotiabank vice-president David Noel (standing) addressed a capacity crowd of Belledune residents in St. Gabriel's parish hall about the pending closure of the bank's Jacquet River branch at the request of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

They came, they listened - and then most of them walked out in disgust.

In mid-April, Belledune residents packed into St. Gabriel's parish hall to listen to

Scotiabank officials talk about the pending closure of the bank's Jacquet River branch.

Most were hoping the bank might have a change of heart and keep the Jacquet River

branch open.

They didn't like what they heard.

When a resident asked a Scotiabank

See SCOTIABANK Page 8

The Belledune Messenger

The voice of the Village of Belledune

Vol.3 No.5

www.belledune.com

May 2011



Firefighters still ready to battle blazes in Belledune

Firefighters are responding to calls in Belledune and the community is still protected against the threat of fire, says

David Hughes, chief administrative officer for the Village of Belledune.

"For a community this size, I would

say while we need to resolve this situation, between the members still on

See MAYOR on page 2

Continued from page 1

Mayor Duivenvoorden negotiating with Fire Chief Frank Guitard

call and neighbouring communities, we have protection ” said Mr. Hughes. “There’s enough good will and enough conscientious citizens that will respond if there’s a call by 911, with the firetruck and lots of water and a handful of people.”

In mid-April, several firefighters handed in their pagers, meaning they would not be available to respond to fire calls, due to an issue involving income tax and wages. Mr. Hughes would not comment on the matter further since it is a personnel issue.

Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden was still in negotiations with Fire Chief Frank Guitard by The Belledune Messenger’s press deadline.

“Talks are continuing and we are trying to resolve the issue as quickly as possible,” said Mr. Hughes.

While the municipality and its fire department work to resolve the issue, the Village of Belledune is also counting on the support of the neighbouring communities of Charlo and Pointe Verte with which Belledune has mutual aid agreements for fire calls.

Going into the labour dispute, the Village of Belledune had 44 firefighters, including the fire chief and his two deputies.

“We don’t get many fire calls on a normal day ” said the village’s chief administrative officer.

Port wants cargo link to NFLD.

The long-awaited cargo link between the Port of Belledune and Newfoundland took a step towards becoming a reality in mid-April.

The local port authority issued a call for expressions of interest for a company to operate a cargo vessel service between Belledune and the Port of Argentia, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The proposed transportation connection linking the Port of Belledune with the Port of Argentia would provide for a competitive option to service Newfoundland, and particularly the Avalon Peninsula, with drop trailers from New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

In a statement, officials with the Belledune Port Authority indicated they and their counterparts at the Argentia Port Corporation are eager to move forward with the cargo service.

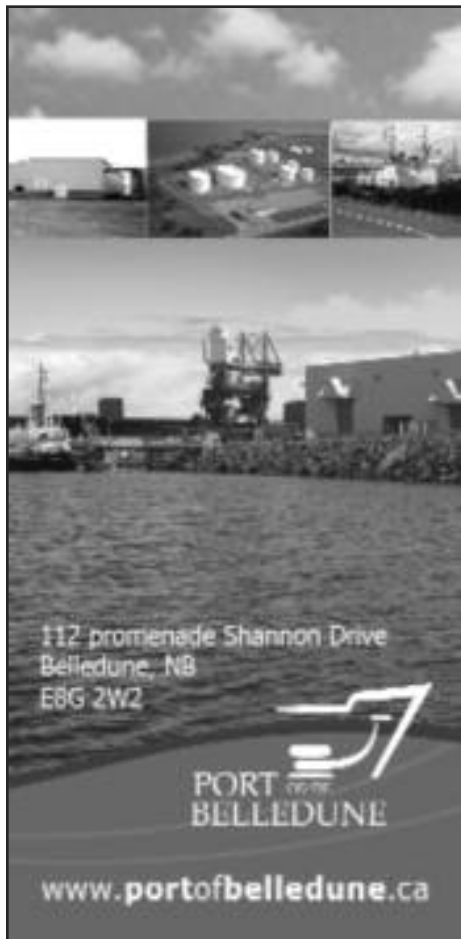
The call for expressions of interest for the cargo service between Belledune and Newfoundland came in the wake of an announcement by the federal minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Keith Ashfield, of \$1.5-million to go towards the construction of new transportation infrastructure at the port.

“The worldwide demand for low-cost modular fabrication locations adjacent to ice-free, deep-water ports with heavy lift capacity is increasing,” said Harry Williamson, chairperson of the Belledune Port Authority’s board of directors.

This funding contribution supports the

construction of a new facility that will enable the lay-out and production of pre-assembled steel units for use in local, national and international projects.

With its new multimodal transshipment capacity, the Port of Belledune will be able to take advantage of shortsea shipping opportunities all along the eastern seaboard.



a b c d e f g h i
Hey, teachers!
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The Belledune Messenger would like to bring the best of Belledune’s students to the community and is accepting short stories. Submissions to The Belledune Messenger should be less than 500 words. Parents will need to agree to have any stories published. E-mail acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com for more details.

Council Meeting Schedule	
May 2	7 p.m.
May 16	7 p.m.
June 20	7 p.m.

VOTE 2011

Conservative, Green, Liberal or NDP

Your vote on May 2 will determine Canada's next federal government

On May 2, Canadian voters will head to the polls to elect themselves a new federal government.

The values and strategies of that next government will depend on what you as a Canadian eligible to vote do on that day.

In Canada, we have the privilege of being able to choose our political leaders.

In this riding, four political parties are fielding candidates. The Conservative Party is being represented by incumbent Tilly O'Neill Gordon, the Liberal Party by Keith Vickers, Green Party by Ronald Mazerolle and the New Democratic Party by Patrick Colford.

The Belledune Messenger contacted each of these political parties and offered the candidates an opportunity to

provide a portrait photograph of themselves and a 250-word message to introduce themselves to the voters in Belledune.

These messages are the candidates' own words and have not been edited. Space provided to political parties who did not send in a message has been deliberately left blank.

Greens field Ronald Mazerolle

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; my name is Ronald Mazerolle and I am your Green Party candidate for the Miramichi riding. My family's history in Canada dates back to 1685, and includes ancestors of both European (Acadian, Scot and Irish) and M'ikmaq heritage. I believe this unique cultural perspective enables me to better represent the diverse population that lives in the Miramichi riding.

I have lived in Miramichi all of my life and have worked at

See GREENS on page 6

NDP offers up Patrick Colford

Patrick Colford was born in Upper Blackville, New Brunswick, on Sept. 21, 1980. Moved to Fredericton in 2001 and worked at St. Thomas University. He completed his red seal journeyman in Culinary Arts at NBCC in 2005. In 2005, Patrick moved back to the Miramichi region and began work at Miramichi Regional Hospital and Atlantic Institution.

Always active in union activism and politics, Patrick has been a union activist ever since he was first hired as a cook

See COLFORD on page 6

By way of full disclosure, the publisher of The Belledune Messenger wishes to openly declare that he has in the past been a member of a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Canada student discussion group, very loosely affiliated to the Rhinoceros Party in Montreal, a nominal member of the Liberal Party's youth wing in Quebec and a volunteer for the Conservative Party. In the coming election, he will likely be spoiling his ballot due to his pro-life position and the various parties' positions on abortion and euthanasia. He has recently been an anti-nuclear activist and supporter of more access to education and protested outside the provincial Legislature to end a province-wide strike at New Brunswick Community College. At the municipal level in Bathurst, he ran unsuccessfully for the mayoralty in the last election on an environmental and economic development platform.



Ronald Mazerolle



Patrick Colford

Liberals put forth Keith Vickers

Keith Vickers received the nomination as Liberal candidate for Miramichi on October 3, 2009. Mr. Vickers previously served as special assistant to the Honourable Charles Hubbard, member of parliament for Miramichi for 14 years.

As an MP's assistant, he was responsible for everyday office, administration, writing correspondence, providing research for parliamentary committees and private members' bills. His main focus was to help solve the problems and address the concerns of the people of

See LIBERALS on page 6

PCs offer Tilly O'Neill-Gordon

I have been very pleased to be your MP for the past two and a half years. I feel we have accomplished a lot for the area but there is still so much to do.

As you may know, my background had been as a teacher for 38 years in the Miramichi area before being elected in 2008.

Over the past few years I have been pleased to announce funding of \$1.5-million towards the construction of new transportation infrastructure at the Port of Belledune. As well, a repayable contribution of \$3.2 million

See JOBS on page 6



Keith Vickers



Tilly O'Neill-Gordon



James' Messenger

*Please do not adjust
your sense of reality*

When I was 17 years old, I used to think that the world was nuts. Now that I'm 52, I know it is.

I'm just as baffled by humanity's collective insanity now as I was as a kid only now I've given up trying to figure it out. Consider this:

People are getting fatter but we're making our cars smaller. Until people start getting slimmer, how about we stop shoehorning them into breadboxes on wheels?

Energy companies are still spewing out radioactive waste from nuclear reactors even though the stuff lasts a real long time and can kill people. Everyone keeps looking for a place to put the stuff. I have an idea: let's bury it under the houses of the presidents of the energy companies that make this junk and let's see how long they keep making more of it.

Governments are fighting a war against obesity even as they make money by handing out business licenses to fast-food joints and collecting taxes from them. Ditto with tobacco and alcohol.

Why do we in Canada pay millions upon millions of dollars every year to plow streets clear of snow instead of just putting snowmobile tracks on the bottom of our cars?

Can anyone explain to me why the hair transplant industry took off, of all times, just as men were starting to shave their heads to look cool? Or why there's braille at drive-thrus? Or why signs warning of falling snow are always placed in such a way that you have to be right where the snow falls to read them? I'm mystified.

Messenger Classifieds

The Belledune Messenger Classifieds are FREE for the first three lines for Belledune residents, businesses and non-profit organizations when sent by e-mail to acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com

That's about 113 characters and spaces of text. Bold or italic text, black-and-white photographs, and extra lines are available for only \$2 each. Classifieds must be paid prior to publication.

Classified ads which are mailed in will be priced at \$20 due to the extra workload. Classified ads from outside Belledune will billed at \$25 per ad.

Insults & Compliments

Ever want to insult someone but were just so downright disgusted you couldn't find the right words? Ever want to pay someone a compliment but got tongue-tied because they're just so difficult to compliment? Well dont' call us to help out. We will not consult with you to help you out on this nor will we send you the insult or compliment you need. Just play nice. Thanks.

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3792 B Main Street Belledune. Opening Feb.1.
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Five Star Professional Maid Service is now offering bookkeeping and tax services. E-file. Reasonable rates. Discount for seniors. 3296 Main Street Belledune. For rates and appointment call Patsy Roy Turple at 237-2751.

patsyturple@nb.aibn.com

Birthday Corner

Happy 58th birthday, Chief O'Brien! Trekkie James Risdon wishes a very happy birthday on May 30 to the chief engineer of Deep Space Nine and the Enterprise-D on The Next Generation. Actor Colm J. Meaney was also in Die Hard 2 and Stargate Atlantis and was the voice of Tom O'Flanagan in The Simpsons.



Village of Belledune

Mayor: Nick Duivenvoorden

Deputy Mayor: Emmie Flanagan

Councillors:

Elaine Levesque-Godin, Paul Daley, Jerry Guitard, Mario Lapointe

Town Hall: 522-3700
bell001@nbnet.nb.ca

Clerk/Treasurer: Brenda Cormier

Fax: 522-3704

Arena ice rentals: 522-3700

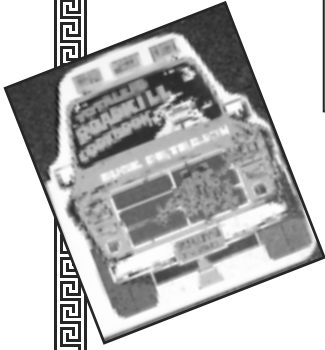
Chief Administrative Officer

David Hughes
522-3703
davidhughes@nb.aibn.com

CDO – Andy Flanagan

522-3797
belledunedevlopment@nb.aibn.com

The Book Corner



Got a hankering for Rats O'Roni? How about Pepe Le Stew?

Buck Peterson's *Totalled Roadkill Cookbook* is chock-filled with real recipes for frying, stewing and steaming the critters a motorist might hit with the family car or truck.

Not for the queasy, this book claims that "roadkill as a food source is the ultimate act of recycling and a celebration of the studded Wheel of Fortune."

A delightful book of Christian prayers by Pamela Kennedy and illustrated by Stephanie McFetridge Britt, *Prayers at Eastertime* is geared to children - and the child in each of us.

While the prayers are simple to read and understand, they also come with passages from Scripture. These prayers cover a wide range of circumstances, from fear of storms to thanksgiving and praise and just having fun.



The Kissing Hand, by Audrey Penn, is the heartwarming story about a racoon named Chester.

Just before the young racoon is ready to go to school, his mother shares with him the secret of the kissing hand.

With a simple, tender gesture, she lets her son know she will always love him and gives him the sense of security he needs to go to school without feeling lonely or afraid.



Books featured in this Book Corner column are from a private collection but may be available through amazon.com. Always check with various libraries and bookstores in the region to see whether books are available locally. And, remember, should you have a favourite book you would like to share with readers just send an e-mail to The Belledune Messenger and we will do our best to feature it in a future issue.

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Continued from page 3

Jobs are top priority: PC

through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Business Development Program, which will support the cost of the new building and site development.

Jobs for the riding is still my first priority and we have made some headway on that front. The Prime Minister has announced the payroll centre will be located in the riding bringing 550 needed jobs. These will be high paying, secure full time jobs. We have also announced the expansion of the Renous Prison bringing up to 100 jobs at that institution.

I was also very proud to bring various infrastructure improvements throughout the riding in our stimulus plan. I look forward to serving the riding once again.

Liberals to fight for jobs

Miramichi.

He has been an entrepreneur in the private sector and has been involved in finance, banking and investments. He has a strong business background and has served on boards, organizations and volunteer groups in various capacities.

Keith has been married to his wife Debbie for 33 years and they have two children, Chelsea and Allan.

Keith understands the importance of engaging all members of the community when finding solutions to local issues. Job retention and creation is Keith's number one priority. He will fight to bring the national pay office and the 550 promised jobs to Miramichi now.

Colford active in NB unions

at St. Thomas University in Fredericton in 2002. He became a shop steward and fought numerous unjustified reprimands. Then in 2005 he was hired as a cook at the Region 7 hospital back home in Miramichi and his involvement has taken many forms in CUPE and in the community ever since.

Patrick was elected secretary of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour Youth Committee, secretary of Miramichi District Labour Council, youth representative of CUPE NB Equality Committee, New Brunswick rep for CUPE National, and sits on various committees within his local union representing the Miramichi Hospital Workers.

He is an active member of the New Democratic Party.

Greens respect Mother Earth

all the major industries here at one time or another. My priority is to create sustainable jobs in harmony with the environment.

All parties are claiming to be Green but none are truly committed. Recent environmental climate changes indicate that we have reached a turning point and perhaps have even passed it! It is imperative that we consider our environment in all our future decisions. The Green Party is committed to do this.

It is my respect and concern for our Mother Earth that has driven me to seek the candidacy for the Miramichi Green Party, and I hope that I can count on your vote.

Belledune Community Resources

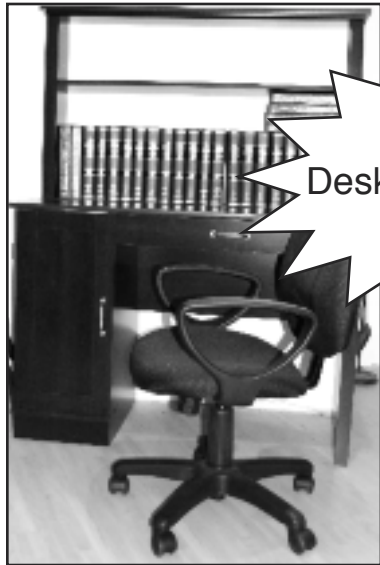
The Belledune Messenger is pleased to provide the following list of important community resources. Should there be others you would like to see added, please e-mail: acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com

Belledune District Planning Commission	542-2688
Belledune Public Library	522-3701
Emergency	911
Environment New Brunswick Emergencies	547-2092 1-800-565-1633, afterhours
MLA Roland Haché - Nigadoo Chaleur Riding	542-2424, during business hours
MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon - Miramichi Riding	1-800-567-5564 237-2333
NB Power - Outages - Streetlights	1-800-663-6272
RCMP	911 For emergencies 1-888-506-7267 Non-emergency
Blue Bin Recycling Program	546-8016, ask for Sarah
Restigouche County - SPCA - Animal Control	684-4396 557-9790 emergency
Roman Catholic churches - St. Gabriel The Archangel & St. John the Evangelist	237-2027
Royal Canadian Legion Durham - Jacquet River	237-2983
Village of Belledune Municipal Office	522-3700
Chief Administrative Officer - David Hughes	522-3703
Community Development Officer - Andy Flanagan	522-3797
Administrative Assistant - Nicole Carrier	522-3700

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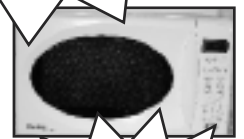


\$127
Z-line tempered
glass desk



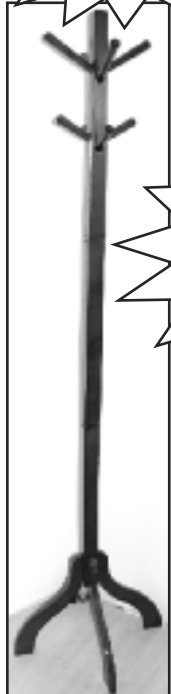
\$99
Z-line tempered
glass bookshelf

**Going ...
Going ...**



\$39
Microwave

\$29
Coatrack



\$249
5-piece dinnette
set



Sold

\$39/each
Steno chairs



\$149
Slik Able 300 DX
camera tripod



Continued from page 1

Scotiabank will close branch: official

official whether or not the bank was open to reversing its decision to close the Jacquet River branch, the reply was clear.

"Unfortunately, the reasons for the decision have not changed. We have already committed to expanding the branch in Bathurst," said David Noel, the Scotiabank's district vice-president for eastern New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. "I don't see [the bank reversing its decision] for practical business reasons."

With Scotiabank officials at the meeting stating the decision to close the branch would not be reversed, the crowd grew progressively more upset until, finally, most of them walked out en masse.

"If the Bank of Nova Scotia wants our business, let them send someone here who can answer [our questions]," said one man.

He then turned and started to walk out, followed by most of the people in attendance. Only about 40 people, including Belledune's mayor and economic development officer, stayed behind to listen to the rest of the bank official's presentation.

During the meeting, the local Scotiabank branch manager urged Belledune residents to give the bank a chance to continue to serve them but out of Bathurst.

"Give us a chance to let us serve you as we have for 100 years," said Mark Brochu, the Scotiabank's manager in Jacquet River and Bathurst. "My employees are a part of this community and they are committed."

Many residents, though, indicated they would close their Scotiabank accounts if the local branch closes in June as announced.

The Scotiabank had a record year with net income of \$4.2 billion in 2010. In a statement on its website, the bank claims it met or exceeded all of its four key financial and operational objectives for that year.

With all of those profits for the Scotiabank, Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden said he doesn't believe the bank really needs to close its Jacquet River branch.

"More than \$400 million a month in profit and we're being kind of led to believe our community is affecting that in an adverse way," said Mayor Duivenvoorden. "I don't



Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden told Scotiabank officials the sheer number of people in the crowd was a good indication of how important the bank is to Belledune.

think we're going to buy that."

Throughout the public meeting, held by the Scotiabank at the urging of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, a federal government agency that works to protect and educate consumers of financial services, bank officials said they would work with local residents to help them with the

'Why not move the Bathurst branch to Jacquet River?'

Andy Flanagan
Community Development Officer

transfer of financial services from Belledune to Bathurst.

A local pharmacist, though, said she got no help from Scotiabank when she called the local branch.

"As soon as this announcement was

made, I immediately called the local manager and there was no attempt to make things easier for us," she said. "All we were told is 'We expect to keep 80 per cent of our clients.'"

A survey released earlier this year by the Village of Belledune shows most Scotiabank clients in Belledune who responded to the survey intend to transfer their accounts to another financial institution if the bank closes the local branch.

Andy Flanagan, the Village of Belledune's community development officer, said he has been working to get another financial institution to set up shop in the community.

"I'm going out and I'm not leaving any stone unturned," Mr. Flanagan said at the public meeting. "Every bank I've met is saying the same thing: they're going to have to do a feasibility study."

According to Mr. Flanagan, it will take at least a year to attract a bank to Belledune. He told Scotiabank officials their bank was shortchanging

the community since it will now likely be stuck without a local banking outlet for at least six months.

Mr. Flanagan did note that Belledune's tax base has grown from \$32 million to about \$370 million and so he questioned the bank's decision to move out of Belledune at a time when Bathurst's economy has been hard hit.

"Why not move the Bathurst branch to Jacquet River?" he asked.

Scotiabank officials did hold out the hope the bank's building could be given to the village for use by a non-profit organization. Mr. Noel said he would take all feedback from the meeting back to the Scotiabank.

"I am listening and I am responding in the best way that I can under the circumstances," he said. "I am getting ideas about things we can be doing differently."

Although it had the authority to call for this public meeting, the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada cannot require the bank to change its mind about the closure.

"From here on, it is a business decision," said Adrianna DiRienzo, a compliance officer for the agency. "We have no powers beyond this meeting."