



DON'T FORGET!

Set your clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov . 6 It's the end of Daylight Savings Time.

The Belledune Messenger



The voice of the Village of Belledune

Vol.3 No.10

www.belledune.com

November 2011

Rayburn Doucett: Still passionate about antiques after all these years

Pulling out a drawer on a circa-1930s dresser, Rayburn Doucett points out its dovetailed corners, wooden back, bottom and rail.

"Buy something that's good quality," he advises. "If you buy \$10,000 of furniture, in 10 years it should be worth \$20,000."

He should know. In a former chicken farm in Belledune, he has what is now the biggest antique store in the Maritimes. Antiques Plus' building is as wide as four suburban residential lots and as deep as most houses are long. And business is good.

"When times are tough, the interest in antiques seems to flourish because people can come in and buy a bedroom set made of solid wood for \$2,000 instead of going to a furniture store and getting the comparable piece of furniture for \$4,000 to \$5,000," said Mr. Doucett. "Quality for quality, antiques are the best investment you can make. It's also the only type of furniture that will never depreciate."

Mr. Doucett is perhaps best known in New Brunswick for his 25-year political career in Fredericton and current role as the chief executive officer of the Port of Belledune. In 2011, he was named one of the Top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada by Atlantic Business Magazine for the third consecutive year.

Antiques and furniture, though, have long been a passion for Mr. Doucett. As a young man, he set up Ray's Furniture in the old Frenette building in Belledune. Then, he established Antiques Plus. Now, it seems, he is about to take a bold step into the past.

With all of the furniture he buys at estate sales for Antiques Plus, Mr. Doucett winds up with many good, solid pieces of furniture that aren't antiques. Soon, he will be selling that furniture in the same store in which he started in 1964.

"It won't be every day but I might blow it out on the odd weekend," he said. "I'm actually using [that building] now to put the stuff that's not antique."



Rayburn Doucett, owner of Antiques Plus, stands beside one of his favourite pieces in the store.

257 av. King Ave., Bathurst, NB E2A 1N9 • 506.546.1707
 Fax: 506.546.8588 • www.impressionprinting.com

Impression
 Imprimerie et Design • Printing & Design

Belledune considering amalgamation with local service district of Chaleur

It's a move that could just change the boundaries of the Village of Belledune forever.

Belledune is now a long, thin village along the shores of Chaleur Bay. But, in October, the mayor and council of Belledune agreed to consider a brand-new way of looking at Belledune.

They agreed to ask for a feasibility study on the issue of annexing the village with the Chaleur Local Service District. The first step in that process is to send a letter to Local Government Minister Bruce Fitch to ask for a study to see whether or not such a joining would make sense.

William Hamilton, chair of the Local Service District of Chaleur, thinks it just might. After the last council meeting, Mr. Hamilton explained annexation might allow the local service district, which includes communities from

Charlo to Archibald Road and from the Resources Road to Chaleur Bay, to rid itself of its local committee. And there could be other benefits as well.

"There could be taxation advantages and others with respect to policing and fire protection," he said.

In October, Belledune Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden said the annexation of the two municipalities would create a significantly bigger municipality and this could give the village more clout.

"Bigger is not always better but, in this case, it is," said the mayor. "The status quo of municipalities and of local service districts is not going to stay the same much longer. This is a very pro-active move for Belledune."

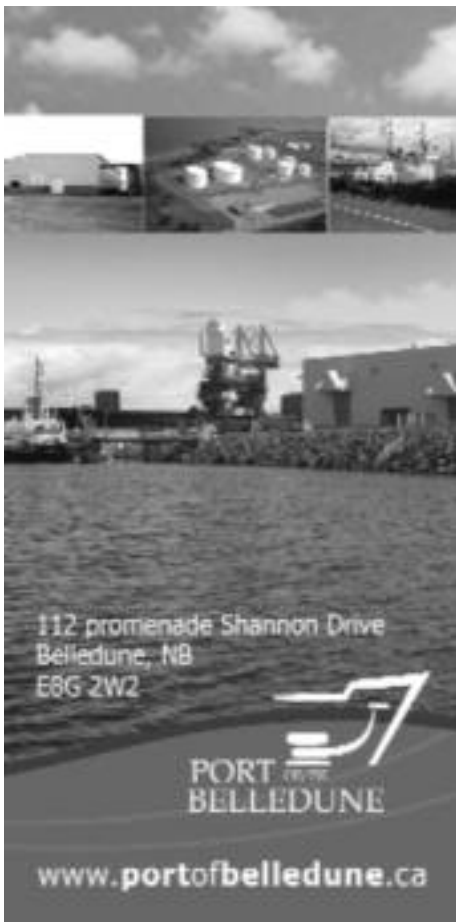
Mayor Duivenvoorden suggested the creation of such a super-Belledune would probably have to be a three-way partnership with the village, the local

service district and the province.

"Because it is such a big and largely unpopulated region, I believe that at first it would have to be a three-way partnership," he said. "In most local service districts, the cost of the services is not generally covered by the taxes collected. It is subsidized [by the province]."

There have been clear indications the province is interested in cutting down on the number of municipalities. A 2008 report by Jean-Guy Finn recommended a cut in the number of municipalities from 101 to 53. And, midway through the last election campaign, Premier David Alward reportedly said the province "can't afford to allow the Finn report to sit on a shelf somewhere."

In October, it was widely expected the province's local governance minister would announce reforms this autumn.



Belledune In Brief

Councillor Paul Daley a councillor no more

A long-serving Belledune village councillor has stepped down and moved to Fredericton. During its October meeting, council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Paul Daley, who had served the village for many years. His resignation took effect Oct. 7. The chief electoral officer will now be notified of Mr. Daley's resignation and the vacant position on the village council.

"Paul Daley represented his constituents well and brought an educated and balanced point of view to the table," said Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden. "I will certainly miss him. We wish him well."

MP's Belledune office moves into home

MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon's Belledune

office is moving out of the recreation centre, where it was open only a few hours per week, and into the home of the woman who staffed the office.

"It's a move to better serve Tilly's constituents in the area," said Dianna Noel. "Instead of having an office one morning a week, I will be available five days a week from my home office. At the home office we have phone, fax and internet for communication which was not available at the rec centre office."

The location of the office is: 3026 Main Street. The phone number, e-mail and website are: 237-2333; djnoel@nbnet.nb.ca and www.tillygordon.ca .

Council Meeting Schedule

Nov. 21	7 p.m.
Dec. 19	7 p.m.
Jan. 24	7 p.m.

Village hires interim CAO

Retired civil servant brings wealth of policy experience

There's a new, temporary top bureaucrat in the municipal offices of the Village of Belledune.

Campbellton resident Mel Parker is temporarily taking over the duties of chief administrative officer David Hughes while he's on sick leave. Mr. Parker's appointment starts Nov. 1.

"It's getting to crunch time for Belledune," said Mr. Parker. "Mr. Hughes has been out for some time and it's getting close to budget time. This is an opportunity to help them."

A long-time civil servant who has since retired, Mr. Parker was the municipal affairs representative for Restigouche County until 2002, during which time he was also involved as a municipal returning officer. After his retirement from government, Mr. Parker continued to do consulting work, including some human resources policy work for the Village of Belledune five years ago.

Even today, he is a trustee on the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation and well known for his understanding of



Councillor Mario Lapointe



Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden

public policy.

"He definitely knows his stuff in terms of developing policy and I'm sure he will be a big help in redefining council's direction," said Coun. Mario Lapointe. "We're going to have a good follow-up meeting and bang out some objectives and timelines. We have to start moving on stuff somehow."

According to Coun. Lapointe, the temporary appointment to the chief administrative officer's position is just that: temporary. There is currently no discussion about making Mr. Parker's

appointment permanent.

"He's not interested in that," said Coun. Lapointe. "He's retired and he's just helping us out for the time being."

With the chief administrative officer on sick leave for several months, the mayor and council of the Village of Belledune have had to wrestle with finding someone to handle the mounting backlog of work. At the June council meeting, Andy Flanagan, the village's community development officer and former mayor and administrator, was put forth as a possible candidate for a temporary chief administrative officer but that motion fell through for a want of someone to second it. Then, in October, Fire Chief Frank Guitard indicated an interest in the top spot in a letter received by council but not read during the public meeting. The contents of that letter were not divulged. Later that month, Mr. Parker, whose name had been put forward prior to receipt of the fire chief's letter, was brought in to fill the job.

See INTERIM Page 5



The former Belledune School might just be the site of the newest special care home for seniors under a current proposal.

Nurse eyes old school for special care home

A registered nurse at the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst is hoping to open up a 24-room, special care home in the former Belledune School.

Tara Hickey, who is originally from Belledune but now lives in Dunlop,

has been in negotiations with the Village of Belledune to acquire the property.

Under the current proposal for the old Belledune School, 26 seniors would be able to live in rooms that would each have their own

bathroom. The gym would remain to allow residents to exercise year round.

Ms. Hickey is now undertaking her marketing study. She can be reached at: 783-2187 or

See SCHOOL Page 5



James' Messenger

Taken to task for being right-wing, pro-military

I got chewed out the other day for being a right-wing, pro-military wingnut.

Wingnut?

Well, maybe. It wouldn't be the first time someone's told me my ideas are out there. But really, though, my political views are similar to those of Ghandi. I'm a centrist.

And pro-military?

Well, I suppose I am pro-military in a sense. I was, after all, an infantry officer in the Canadian military and co-commander of a platoon. As such, I've taken the army's basic training and can probably still toss a grenade and shoot a rifle.

Still, I'm no Johnny Rambo. I can't jump out of swamps with a knife clenched between my teeth, an automatic rifle spewing a shower of bullets, and my torn military T-shirt revealing a cauterized bullethole and scars.

Nope, I'm no super-warrior. And I'm also no warmonger. I'd much rather have a peaceful solution to a conflict than send in the troops.

But, then again, so would our troops. It's too easy for critics who know nothing of war to paint the heroic men and women who risked and sometimes sacrificed their lives for this country as lovers of war. But nothing could be further from the truth.

As every veteran and Canadian soldier will tell you, they stand ready to defend this country. But they also always hope it will not be necessary. And for their courage and willingness to defend our great country, I salute them.

Belledune EMO Emergency Preparedness Tips

Be safe during power outages!

Follow these simple tips to stay safe during power outages.

1. Clean chimney flues every autumn.
2. Have on hand a battery-powered or wind-up radio.
3. Consider a non-electric standby stove, heater or portable generator.
4. Do not use a BBQ, camp stove or generator indoors.

5. Keep a good supply of alternate fuels in a garage or shed away from the house.

6. Open the refrigerator or freezer only when necessary.

7. Use proper candle holders and never leave candles or oil lamps unattended.

8. If you must evacuate, turn off the main electrical breaker or switch.

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.

Birthday Corner

Happy birthday, Emilie! The Belledune Messenger publisher James Risdon and his wonderful wife Ada Chan wish a very happy birthday to their daughter Emilie. She turns nine on Nov. 27.

The Belledune Messenger

is published by ACI Media Group Inc. and is distributed free-of-charge, thanks to our sponsors and advertisers. Any reproduction of The Belledune Messenger, in whole or in part using any means without prior written authorization, is strictly prohibited.

Publisher: James Risdon

ACI Media Group

1050 Smith Street
Bathurst, New Brunswick

E2A 3V2
(506) 545-7192
acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com



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

Continued from page 3

School property bought for \$59,350 plus tax

thickey61@gmail.com .

In October, the village's mayor and council agreed to buy the roughly 30-acre property on which the former school sits for \$59,350 plus HST. Under the terms of the deal

the village has with the province, Belledune will have to pay another \$59,350 plus HST if the property is sold within the five years after the municipality takes possession.

Belledune School, which had

students from kindergarten to Grade 5, closed its doors at the end of June last year due to dwindling enrolments. Built to accommodate 100 students, Belledune School had only 20 students in its final year.

Continued from page 3

Interim CAO to provide staff with leadership

"He really is a policy-oriented guy and if you have a policy it really helps keep you out of trouble in a time of uncertainty," said Mayor Nick Duivenvoorden.

According to the mayor, the arrival of the interim CAO will likely be a relief for municipal staff who have been working without a top bureaucrat to oversee operations and provide leadership.

"All of those people have been doing their own work every day but I think they will appreciate the arrival of a chief administrative officer even if on a

temporary basis," said the mayor.

In mid-2009, Mr. Hughes moved to Belledune from Chatsworth, Ontario with his partner, Paula Higgins, and two of their children. The former director of the Grey County Social Services Department in Owen Sound, Mr. Hughes had been responsible for an annual budget of \$30 million.

He brought to the Village of Belledune 18 years of senior management experience . He holds a master's degree in public administration, a B.A. in psychology and is certified in human

resources management, emergency preparedness and municipal management. The Village of Belledune had hired Mr. Hughes after undertaking an extensive search for a chief administrative officer to oversee its municipal business.

"There comes a point in the growth cycle of a community where council and staff require some expertise to move ahead," said Mr. Hughes in 2009. "You move beyond that post-office style where you deal with things as they are thrown at you."

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
Interim Chief Administrative Officer - Mel Parker	522-3703
Community Development Officer - Andy Flanagan	522-3797
Administrative Assistant - Nicole Carrier	522-3700

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Belledune Messenger is proud to bring a new feature to Belledune residents. Every month, Jacquet River School students whose stories are chosen by teacher Shanna Hicks will see their work published in The Belledune Messenger. This month, Jacquet River School Grade 6 student Emily Ann Dempsey brings us her story, **The Lost Kitten**. We hope you'll enjoy this story written by a local student.*

The Lost Kitten

Andy and Raggedy Ann are best friends. One sunny day while Andy was walking to Raggedy Ann's house, Andy saw a small black and white kitten. So Andy picked up the baby kitten and rushed to Raggedy Ann's house. They both thought the kitten must be lost.

The next day they went door to door and handed out flyers to everyone in town that they could find. Day after day no one called for the lost kitten. After two long months of waiting, they decided to keep the fluffy, black and white kitten. They




By
Emily Ann Dempsey

named him Dipstick because of his long black tail with a white tip. Dipstick really liked his new home with Raggedy Ann and Andy.

One day while Raggedy Ann, Andy, and Dipstick were playing outside, Dipstick spotted a fluffy, black and white kitten that looked just like him by some bushes. Dipstick ran to see the other kitten. Raggedy Ann and Andy ran after Dipstick and found a mother and her kittens behind the bush. When they looked closely at the family they saw black and white kittens that looked exactly like Dipstick! Raggedy Ann and Andy figured out that the cats were Dipstick's family and they decided to adopt the whole black and white family! And they all lived happily ever after with Raggedy Ann and Andy.

The Book Corner




The Screwtape Letters is probably one of the weirder books you will ever read.

The entire volume of this classic of Christian literature, penned by C.S. Lewis, consists of letters and advice exchanged between Screwtape, an experienced devil, and his bungling demonic nephew, Wormwood, who has been assigned to secure the eternal damnation of a young man who has just converted to Christianity. Strange but cool.



Country music legend Johnny Cash's only novel, *Man In White*, is the fictionalized


The title of Ernie J. Zelinski's *The Joy of Not Working: How to Enjoy Your Leisure Time Like Never Before* says it all. This is a book about having a satisfying and fulfilling life without working at a job.



A role model for loafers of all social classes, Mr. Zelinski quit his job at a power utility at the age of 29 and at the time of writing his book had yet to return to a regular 9-to-5 gig.

story of the Christian apostle Paul whose sudden conversion on the road to Damascus bewildered many and led to a complete change of lifestyle for a man who had previously persecuted the early followers of Jesus Christ.

Ten years in the making, this novel is a reflection of Johnny Cash's spiritual



Don't know Gen X? If that's the case, they're probably your parents. This

generation is comprised of people born in the 20 years after 1960 and, just like you, they had their own angst. But mostly they were bored. Douglas Coupland, who denied that generation even existed, wrote *Generation X*, coined the less-than-flattering term McJob and wound up as the unofficial spokesperson for all Gen Xers. It seems they do exist.

journey and a fascinating glimpse into what Paul might have experienced as he struggled to understand and fulfill his new mission.

In 1986, Mr. Cash said this novel served its purpose; it kept him going back to the Bible, searching and meditating.

Books featured in The Book Corner are picked from various libraries and bookstores in the region and may or may not be in any one particular library at any given time. Should you have a favourite book you would like to share with readers just send an e-mail to The Belledune Messenger.

Great Christmas ideas start here



Golden Image Center

For all your digital and photographic needs!

Your Nikon dealer

Call: 548-0088



We will train you on your purchases!

Zone Image/Madisco Place
1173 St. Peter Ave. Bathurst, N.B. E2A 3A1
www.zoneimage.ca

S SINGER
Sewing Machines
Is now



OPEN!

Sewing Machines
Sergers

@ Christie's

\$149 .50 plus tax

\$353 .10 plus tax

Buy **BOTH & Save More!**

\$479 plus tax

Call today! 544-1178

212 Main Street Bathurst

Lay-away plans available for Christmas

ON-SITE SERVICE OF ALL MAKES!

Spinning Wheel Yarn Shop



Gift certificates available for the knitters on your list!

Come in for great ideas and supplies for your one-of-a-kind handmade Christmas gifts! Hand-knitted items available.

309 King Ave. Bathurst, N.B.

549-4367

Patons Sirdar Briggs & Little Regia Xstitch
Needlepoint Patterns Needles Notions

A Few Splinters

Christmas, gifts &



everyday home decor.



www.afewsplinters.ca

191 Main St. Bathurst 548-4007



Great Christmas ideas start here



Boutique Monique

The Latest in Women's Fashions
Sportswear - Sweaters - Dresses
Regular & Petite

DOLCEZZA

CONRAD C
collection

Zoé

- See Our Specials -

197 Main St. Bathurst, N.B. E2A 1A6
Tel.: 546-2250



Coats & Jackets

Wool
Downfill
Cashmere
Leather
Accessories



We Paid the Tax! "A Special Gift"

197 Main Street Bathurst
546-6464

Advertise in

The Belledune Messenger



*You're reading it now.
And so are your customers.*

The Belledune Messenger goes to EVERY SINGLE HOME in Belledune every month. Electrical contractor Novolux had this to say about their experience:

"James helped us get our message out to the right prospects. The results were IMMEDIATE and our technicians met great people from the Belledune area, who are now Home Protection Plan members and customers for life!"

Call: 545-7192 today!

**The Belledune Messenger
Make It Work For You!**

www.gogiro.com

Call:

545-7192

or e-mail

acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com

*And get your business online
with a professionally-designed website
for as little as*

**\$25/month
+ \$250 setup fee**



Gogiro Atlantic Canada