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Better Sailing Days Ahead

By Teresa Parker

THIS SPRING HAS PROVEN again to be a hardship on the Great Lakes shipping vessels that pass by our island.

As we all know, last winter was a long cold one with the last of the ice finally leaving Lake Superior in June. After a cooler than normal summer this year too, it was no surprise to many that the ice would be a problem in the Spring, as it was – and still is. Even though now, in the middle of April, spring has finally arrived, it hasn't yet reached some areas of ice-bound waters.

The Soo locks opened for the shipping season on March 26th but the vessels that cleared the locks became stuck in heavy ice in Whitefish Bay. There were two casualties suffered as the CG Mackinaw, the biggest and most powerful ice cutter we have here on the Great Lakes was damaged by ice, as well as the Kaye E. Barker which suffered a hole in her fore peak.

The freighter Lee A. Tregurtha came alongside her to unload her cargo so that she could go to dry dock for repairs. Both ships are owned by the Interlake Steamship Company, which is a well-known name in these parts. Although based in Ohio, the company maintains a 'corporate retreat' at the old Coal Dock in DeTour, Michigan.

To add to the company's winter woes, its 1,000 footer Paul R. Tregurtha was also stuck in the ice off St. Joseph Island for two days before being rescued by a Coast Guard cutter. As an aside, 'Big Paul' is so big she's actually land locked! The huge ship won't fit into the Welland Canal or St. Lawrence Seaway locks, so she's permanently confined to travelling the upper Great Lakes.

18 ships in all were caught in the heavy ice and were not freed until the Pierre Radisson came to the rescue on April 8th. The Pierre Radisson typically operates in the Gulf of St Lawrence

Continued on next page



Stuck in Whitefish Bay



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BETTER SAILING . . . *continued from cover*

and St Lawrence River during the winter and in the arctic during the summer. She is 322 feet long, 63 feet wide and boasts 15,000 horsepower to cut through ice over 3 feet thick at a speed of 6 knots. She carries a helicopter inside a midship hangar. She's truly one of which to be proud here on the Canadian side of the border. And again this year, just like a year ago, she's a heroine to the sailors on the Great Lakes.

There were other kinds of problems too. Some of the ships caught in the ice were getting low on groceries, but the Captain of the Kaye E. Barker would think that was the least of his worries. Usually the Mackinaw, a 140 foot long US Coast Guard cutter is enough to handle the job, but not these past two springs. Captain Kendall of the MV Tecumseh said "Conditions were really good from Windsor up to the Sault, but once we got to the St. Mary's River the ice got pretty thick, as it was last year. We did battle ice from the St Mary's River about a quarter of the way across Lake Superior then the ice eased off a bit until Thunder Bay" where the Captain received the ceremonial Top Hat for being the first ship in port.

"Almost with the wave of a wand, the Radisson walked through and the ice parted!" said Mark Gill, Director of Vessel Traffic Services for the US Coast Guard. "18 Vessels were hung up in 35 square miles of crushed ice up to 8 feet thick until the Radisson came to their rescue. A welcome sight by all sailors, shipping companies and the Coast Guard!" he praised.

"All in all, the ice was not nearly as bad as last year." said Captain Kendall. The winds from the South East aided in unclog-



Temporarily plugging the hole in Kaye Barker's bow



Ice floating inside the Kaye Barker's cargo hold

ging the problematic Whitefish Bay area. Some of the ice sheets were described as being as big as a

pickup truck. It isn't the sheets of ice, which are bad enough; it's the crushed ice that is the worst. You see, crushed ice gets pushed and packed by the waves and wind and then becomes a solid mass, likely what they were describing as 8 feet thick. Crushed ice also has the tendency to stick to the sides of steel hulls which can slow the vessels down to perhaps become caught in the ice.

Kaye E. Barker has since been unloaded and is on her way to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin for repairs. This week's issues are "just another clear indication that the lakes need, at a minimum, another heavy ice breaker to pair with the Mackinaw," said Lake Carriers Association President James Weakley in a news release, while also asking for another 140 foot icebreak-

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Pierre Radisson (r) meets Mackinaw (l) at the Soo Locks

ing tug to be added to the Great Lakes arsenal.

A number of shipping companies have delayed their usual fit-out because of the heavy ice conditions. So far, less than half of the registered

vessels have departed on their trips. The grain terminals in Thunder Bay for instance are full and waiting for the ships to arrive. Other ship delays have resulted in holdups in getting stone and iron ore to Essar Steel. The ripple effect can be felt across the Great Lakes and beyond. Some of the Canadian grain goes out through the Great Lakes to China, Mexico and parts of Europe including Russia.

As of Tuesday, the Coast Guard is still escorting ships out of Whitefish Bay, which continues to be plagued with ice, while



Pierre Radisson at Sailors' Encampment

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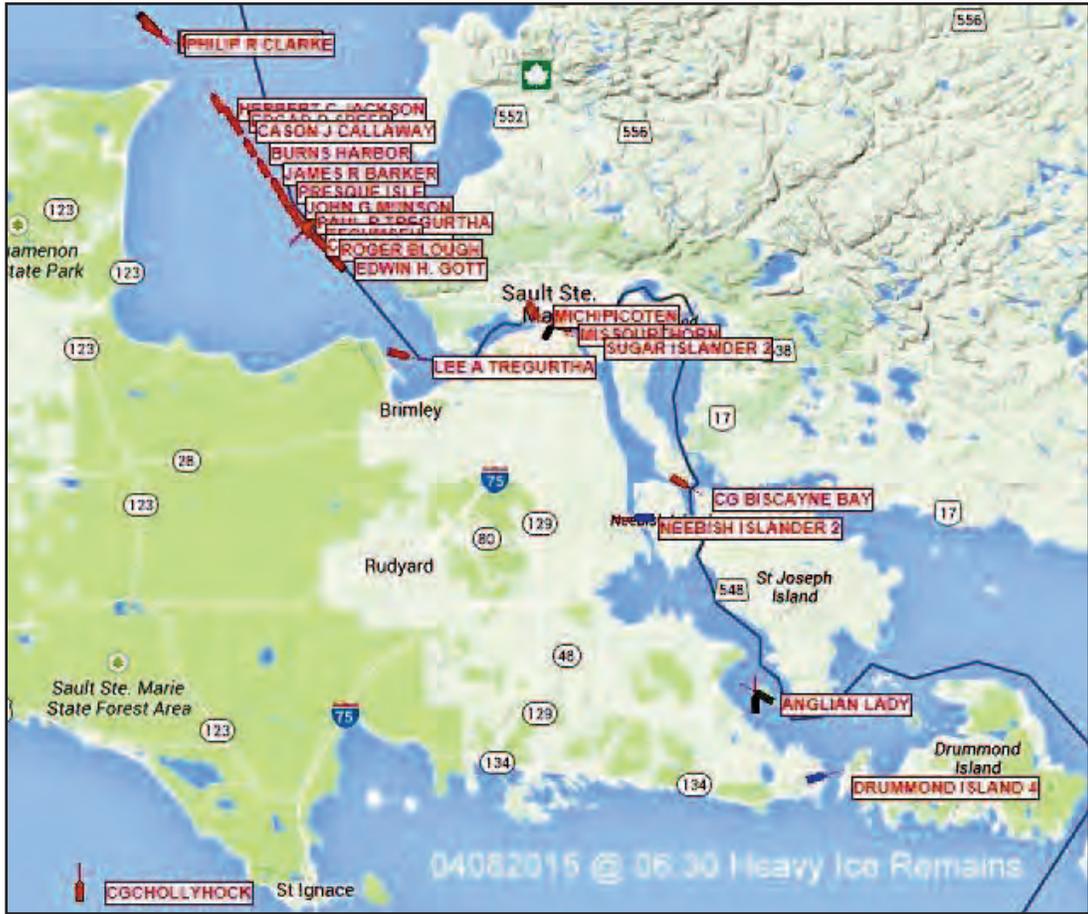


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other ships are waiting to play ‘follow the leader’ back to the Soo. This ice problem hasn’t yet melted away, but hopefully “the worst” is over! It won’t be much longer and they will all have clear sailing once again.

Meanwhile in California ironically, there are reports of swimming pools being demolished in the midst of record heat and drought, as their owners are faced with mandatory reductions in water use as, for the fourth consecutive year, Californians are experiencing a severe drought.

It certainly seems like Mother Nature is in a foul mood these days!

Photos courtesy of Teresa Parker, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Michelle Briggs) and the United States and Canadian Coast Guard services.



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Hip, Hip, Hooray! More Northerners Wait Less for Hip and Knee Surgeries

ATTENTION FELLOW NORTHERNERS with aching knees and hips ... the NE LHIN has reduced wait times for joint replacement surgeries performed by Northeastern Ontario surgeons.

In the two years since the North East LHIN completed its first Integrated Orthopaedic Capacity Plan, knee replacement waits have almost halved from 409 days to 258, and hip wait times reduced from 279 to 206 days.

Almost 80% of hip surgeries in Northeastern Ontario are making the provincial wait times target of 182 days (vs. 71% in 2012), and 73% of knees (vs. 53% in 2012).

Overall the NE LHIN has increased the volume of hip and knee replacements by 15% since 2012/13, resulting in 378 more surgeries in Northeastern Ontario.

“While more work remains to be done, there’s great system progress underway to ensure more Northerners are getting the quality care they need more quickly and closer to where they live,” said North East LHIN CEO Louise Paquette. “The efforts made by our region’s orthopedic surgeons to help achieve better wait-times and better care for Northerners has been remarkable.”

Nipissing University professor Matti Saari says he was “thoroughly impressed” with his recent experience with LHIN-funded joint assessment centres. “I used to run marathons, but prior to surgery, I was in constant pain with arthritis.” His quick assessment at the North East Joint Assessment Centre (NE JAC) in North Bay determined he was a candidate for hip surgery.



Prof. Matti Saari points to his replaced hip during a walk.

In his case, from surgical consultation through to surgery last summer, was just under four months. “What I liked

was how well everything was coordinated through the assessment centre,” says Professor Saari. “It was totally seamless. The advanced practice physiotherapist included me in looking at my X-rays, and even the needed post-surgery homecare devices were delivered and removed without any problems.”

Continued on page 9

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Private location. Upstairs has 2BR, 11/2 Baths and living area. Master BR has deck to enjoy the morning sunrise. Main level features open concept LR/DR/KIT, hot tub and laundry. New windows. 24 x 32 garage is handyman's dream. Gorgeous view of the lake **\$379,000.** Call Murry Pritchard Salesperson 705-849-0976



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Mom will love the oak cabinets, hardwood floors, balcony off the master BR, 2 baths and finished basement. Dad will love the triple garage insulated and heated. The kids will love the deep waterfront for swimming and fishing and lots of room to romp and play. They'll all love the private wooded site with separate deeded second lot. Great island living **\$359,000.**



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JOINT REPLACEMENT . . . *continued from page 6*

Through North East LHIN funding, the region now has five Joint Assessment Centres - in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, North Bay and Parry Sound. The centres have been instrumental in helping to bring down wait times and to get Northerners the right kind of care for their hip or knee ailments.

“More Northerners continue to benefit from timely assessments through the assessment centres to get more care options, referral to the first available surgeon and information about how to manage their pain,” said Dr. Eric Robinson, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Health Sciences North (Sudbury).

Joint assessment centres are now seen as a best practice, providing a centralized access point for patients to be assessed for joint replacement surgery. Since 2010, Joint Assessment Centres have completed over 19,000 assessments on Northerners, finding 67% of patients do not require a surgeon’s consultation. 82% of primary hip replacements are completed in Northeastern Ontario hospitals (compared to 56% in 2009).

People with chronic hip or knee pain are encouraged to ask their Primary Care Provider (family physician or nurse practitioner) about the North East Joint Assessment Centre (NE JAC). The referral form can be found on the NE LHIN website (www.nelhin.on.ca).

NE JAC use is helping to contribute to better wait times for hip and knee replacement assessments and surgery, timely identification and management of patients who are not surgical candidates, better patient education regarding appropriate community resources, improved overall quality of care, and less need for patients to travel outside of the North East for surgery.

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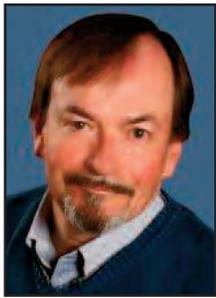

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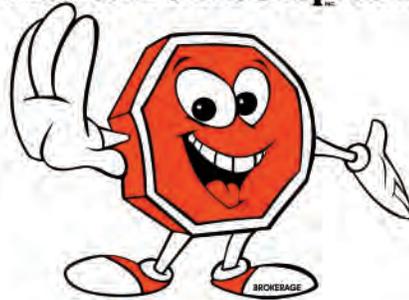

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Icebreaking Begins in the Bruce Mines Area

THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD (CCG), in partnership with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), has an important safety message for all ice surface users in the vicinity of icebreaking operations and shipping routes in the Great Lakes. Icebreaking operations to assist commercial shipping are currently underway in various areas of the Great Lakes.

Icebreaking operations may begin as early as Friday, April 17th in the Bruce Mines area in the North Channel. Dates and routes are subject to change with little or no notice, due to weather, ice conditions, shipping schedules or other unexpected situations.

Broken and fragmented icy tracks left behind by icebreaking operations and other ship traffic may not freeze over immediately. Newly fallen snow may obscure icebreaker and ship tracks and changes in weather contribute to unsafe ice conditions that may remain long after the ships have left the area.

All ice on or near the planned shipping routes and icebreaking operations should be considered unsafe during and after ship transits through these routes. The CCG, the USCG and the OPP are advising everyone to stay clear of these areas.



Our thanks to Dan Campbell for passing on this touching story for our readers. It's a great reminder that "Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance."

The Cab Ride

I ARRIVED AT THE ADDRESS and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.

There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

Continued on page 14

FONDATION
DU PAVILLON SANTÉ
DU DISTRICT DE BLIND RIVER

**BLIND RIVER DISTRICT
HEALTH CENTRE
FOUNDATION**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Blind River District Health Centre Foundation is seeking candidates for a one year full-time contract position for a **Public Relations and Event Planner**. To qualify for this Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC) Intern position candidates must have graduated within the last three years from a related college or university program. The annual salary for this position is \$35,100.

The role of the Foundation is to raise funds for equipment needed by the hospital sites within the Blind River District Health Centre boundaries. Blind River is located on Highway 17, along the north shore of Lake Huron, halfway between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury. Those who live and work in the area enjoy a beautiful, safe, rural environment with urban centres a short drive away.

Please visit <http://www.brdhc.on.ca> for the full job description and qualifications.

Interested applicants may submit their resumes by Monday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m.

E-mail to: lkendrick@brdhc.on.ca *or*

Mail to: Blind River District Health Centre Foundation
525 Causley Street, P.O. Box 970
Blind River, ON P0R 1B0
Attention: Laurie Kendrick
Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
Société de gestion du Fonds du patrimoine du Nord de l'Ontario



Employment Opportunities:

Summer Student and Heritage Presenter

Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site is seeking outgoing and friendly individuals to join our Visitor Experience team in both summer student and seasonal positions.

Located on the southern-most tip of beautiful St. Joseph Island, Fort St. Joseph welcomes thousands of visitors annually. As part of our Visitor Experience team, you will play a crucial role in welcoming and orienting visitors to the site, merchandising the gift shop, collecting admissions, taking part in special events and working alongside the Interpretation Coordinator.

Emplois disponibles:

Étudiant(e) d'été et guide du patrimoine

Le lieu historique national du Fort-St. Joseph est à la recherche d'individus amicaux et plaisants qui veulent se joindre à notre équipe de l'expérience du visiteur en tant qu'étudiant(e) d'été ou de guide du patrimoine.

Situé sur la pointe sud de l'île St. Joseph, le Fort St. Joseph accueille des milliers de visiteurs chaque année. En faisant partie de l'équipe de l'expérience du visiteur, tu joueras un rôle primordial en accueillant les visiteurs, en stockant la boutique cadeaux, en acceptant les frais d'admission, en aidant avec les événements spéciaux et en travaillant auprès du coordonnateur de l'interprétation.



For more information on how to apply for these positions, please contact Stéphane Comeault, Interpretation Coordinator, at 705-941-6202 or stephane.comeault@pc.gc.ca

Pour de plus amples renseignements ou pour faire demande d'emploi, s'il vous plaît contacter Stéphane Comeault, coordonnateur de l'interprétation, par téléphone au 705-941-6202 ou par courriel à stephane.comeault@pc.gc.ca



Friday Night Foods at the Legion

the special will be Chicken Picatta by Neil Caughill along with the regular menu.

Entertainment will be Old Country

Entertainment supplied by volunteer musicians

Come and try your luck at the meat draw!

Take out available

FOR SALE

Brand new rabbit/guinea pig cage with water bottle. Only used for one week. \$50. Call 705 255-7694

Futon good condition \$120. obo 705 246-3714.

Good GE propane gas dryer \$150. 40 gallon hot water heater \$50. brand new used 2 months as we switched from oil to propane. 4400 watt home lite generator \$300. Sears craftsmen 4400 watt generator \$225. Call 705 246-1078

Two sofa beds, 1 double, 1 queen and love seat in good condition. Call 705 246-3333 or 705 575-9191

WANTED

Good used futon. Call 705 246-2738

200 square feet of barn board for cottage sunroom. Call 705 246-3982 please leave a message with your phone number

THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH BURN PERMITS

Residents of The Township of St. Joseph are reminded that Burn Permits are required for all burning between April 1 and October 31. There is no fee for a Burn Permit.

Open burning within the limits of The Township of St. Joseph is controlled by *Ontario Fire Code* regulations, the *Forest Fire Prevention Act* and The Township of St. Joseph Open Fire By-law. Burning is only permitted after 6 pm.

The Township of St. Joseph
705-246-2625
stjoadmin@bellnet.ca

HELP WANTED

Window washer for month of May. Free estimate required. Call 705 246-3333

FOR RENT

Fully-furnished apartments for rent in Hilton Beach: Upper 2 bedroom unit and Lower 2 bedroom unit. Non smoking. No pets please. Call 705 255-8260 or email: gmarziale8260@gmail.com

GARAGE/YARD SALES

Moving sale. Lots of items Saturday April 25. 9 am to 1 pm. 1406 Littleton Street, Richards Landing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Permaculture Design" will be the topic of the April Horticultural meeting. Judy Borek will present an informative session. The public is welcome to join us, Thursday, April 23rd, 7 pm at Harmony St. Marks Church Hall. For more info contact Judy at 705 246-0424

The SJI Historical Society will hold their Spring meeting on April 21st at the Richards Ldg. Library starting at 2 pm. We will be reviewing progress and plans for projects presently in the works and plans for future projects. If you would like to be a part of our efforts, please join us. For more info contact Barb @ 705 246-2089 or Alice @ 705 246-2392

The SJI Garden is looking for any donations. Small hand tools, wheel barrows, rain barrels, shovels, a small desk, and other garden tools (bird feeders or decor would also be welcomed!). If you would like to donate you can call Kristina at 705-987-0821 to drop off your items.

St. Joseph Island Cancer Society: April 20 Noon to 2:00 pm Harmony St. Marks United Church Hall. This is an information meeting and luncheon. Carly Brown, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society Algoma Community Office, will update us on programs and assistance available to Cancer Patients. This meeting is open to the Public. RSVP Joan Bishop 705 246-2387.

SJI Community Garden would like to remind everyone that applications to rent garden plots are coming due on April 30th 2015. If you are interested in renting you can find the applications throughout the island at both post offices, both libraries, and at all of the TWP municipal offices.

AlgomaTrad at CASS presentation on Tues. April 21st at 7:15 pm in the CASS lecture hall. Come and hear what participants of all ages learned in 10 weeks. Free will offerings are welcome and go towards program costs including instrument acquisition and upkeep. AlgomaTrad Spring Contra/Square Dance - Sat. May 2nd, 8pm Legion Hall, Richards Landing. Short workshop for newbies at 7:30. All ages are welcome. Come out for a fun night of inter-generational fun. www.algomatrad.ca



THE CAB RIDE . . . continued from page 12

She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy." she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way." I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind." she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left." she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture ware-



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house that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing!" I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers." I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought.

For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one. People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

You won't get any "big surprise in 10 days if you send this to ten people." But, you might help make the world a little kinder and more compassionate by sending it on and reminding us that often it is the random acts of kindness that most benefit all of us.

"Many people walk in and out of your life, but only love will leave footprints in your heart."

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The Island Clippings is pleased to publish personal Classified Advertising and Public Service Announcements of **50 words or less**, free of charge to Island residents, as a community service. Other than personal for sale ads (**please limit three items**) the announcement must be of value to the community. We reserve the right to decide if the ad is of service to the community. **Please identify yourself when sending in a classified or your ad will not be published.**

Ads or announcements for non-residents or items or services, to be sold for profit, or generate income or events charging an entrance fee (which includes "not for profit organizations") as well as items valued at over \$1,000, will incur a nominal charge of \$10, plus HST. We reserve the right to determine if a fee is required. We reserve the right to edit down to 50 words or less.

Business or commercial ads, including those placed by individuals do not qualify as Classified ad or Public

Service Announcements. Such advertising must be via display advertising, governed by our published rates in effect at that time.

Ads or announcements will appear in one issue, but may be repeated, to a maximum of three weeks (space permitting). **Advertiser must resubmit ad each week.** To ensure space for everyone, please limit your content to a **maximum of 50 words.**

Ads can be placed by: **Email to:** islandclippings@gmail.com
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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ST. JOE

Friday

Hens & Stitches, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10 am to 12 pm
705 246-0036

Island Cast-a-Weights, Calorie Watchers, Hilton
Community Hall (rear door, basmt) - 8:30 am

Walking at the Legion - 9 am to noon

Friday Foods at the Legion

AA Meeting, United Church (new addition, side door) - 8 pm

Saturday

The Children's Library - 10 am to 3 pm

Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 10 am to 3 pm.

St. Boniface Roman Catholic, Hilton Beach at 4:30 pm.

Teen Game Night - Legion lounge - 6 pm to 9 pm

Sunday

The Anglican Parish of St. Joseph & St. George
worships at 11 am at Holy Trinity, Jocelyn

Free Methodist, 10th Side Rd. Coffee, tea and friendship at
10:30 am. Worship service 11 am.

Island Bible Chapel, Richards Landing.

Lord's Supper 10 am, Family Bible Hour 11:15 am.

Grace United, Hilton Beach. 9:30 am.

Harmony St. Marks United, Richards Landing. 11 am.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,
Primary, Priesthood, Relief Society. 10 - 10:40

Sunday School 10:50 - 11:30 Sacrament Meeting 11:40 - 12:30

Monday

Walking at the Legion - 9 am to noon

Euchre, Legion Hall - 7:30 pm (\$4.00 per person)

Bridge, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm to 4 pm
(Open to all seniors) 705 246-0036

Exercise Class, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10 am

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

Carpet Bowling for 50 Plus, Legion

- Refreshments Available - 1 pm

St. Joseph Twp, Public Library - 5 pm to 8 pm

Hilton Union Library - 3 pm to 5 pm & 7 pm to 9 pm

Tuesday

Cribbage (singles), Legion Hall - 7:30 pm
(\$4.00 per person)

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

Quilting - 1-3 pm, Downstairs Hilton Hall except the 3rd week
held at the Trefry Centre. 705 246-0036

Childcare Algoma C.A.P. Children's Playgroup - 10 am to noon
at Free Methodist Church

Yoga, Old Town Hall, RL - 6:30 to 8 pm, drop-ins welcome

Wednesday

Walking at the Legion - 9 am to noon

Nordic Pole Walking at the Legion - 10 am

Free pool in the Legion lounge

Bridge, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm to 5 pm (Open to all seniors)
705 246-0036

St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 10 am to 3 pm

Food Bank, United Church, Richards Landing
(side door) - 1 pm to 3 pm

The Children's Library, 9 am - 12 noon, Storytime 10:30

Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm -
Phone number: 705 255-3520.

League pool in the Legion Lounge at 7:30

Wednesday Food at the Legion 7:30 to 9 pm

Thursday

Dr. Trefry Centre's Day Out Program - 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Coffee Connections 9 am, Dr. Trefry Centre, Come for a coffee!

Free pool all day in the Legion lounge

Exercise Class, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm

The Children's Library, 9 am - 12 noon, Storytime 10:30

St. Joseph Twp.

Public Library - 5 pm to 8 pm

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