WOODSTOCK CRIME SPADE

Town police making arrests in connection to series of ATV thefts, break and enters

By Doug Dickinson

Woodstock police are investigating a series of thefts and break-ins that have taken place in the Woodstock area over the last month. Cpl. Carter Stone of the Woodstock Police Force told the Bugle-Observer that a few weeks ago when a series of ATV thefts occurred — including two privately owned ATVs and two side-by-side Gator vehicles taken from Green Diamond Equipment. The crime spree picked up in the last week with a break-in and theft of an invention at 147 Holley Road on Thursday, Aug. 15, a break-in at a shed behind the Carleton Mill on Monday, Aug. 19, two break-ins and the theft of tools on two nights at New Concrete Products Ltd. on Holton Street, and an attempted break-in at Versatile Contractors on Mill St Street sometime over the last week.

In addition to the break and enter, Stone said a Kubota ATV was stolen from Bayview Truck and Equipment Ltd. in Jacksonville on Monday night, Aug. 19. “We have had a series of break and enter as well as thefts over the last two week period,” stated Stone. “We now have reason to believe they are all connected.”

LOCAL MAN TO RECEIVE ORDER OF N.B.

Dr. Gordon Porter recognized for his work with inclusive education

By John Trinard

Dr. Gordon Porter believes that education is something that all children should have equal access to. He was elevated to the prestigious Order of New Brunswick in a ceremony last fall. He has been working on promoting inclusive education for children. Porter is a co-author of a 2011 report looking at the benefits of inclusive education systems and has worked at New Brunswick and around the world promoting inclusive education.

Porter said that he owes a lot to those that have helped him advocate for inclusive education over the years. “I view it as a great honour but I also fully understand that there were an awful lot of people that I had to work with over the years — parents, fellow teachers, administrators — to accomplish what we’ve done in New Brunswick,” he said.

For Porter, inclusive education is giving every child the same access to education and including all aspects of society as a part of the education process. Porter contrasts this with exclusive education that often sees children with special needs receiving their education in separate schools and in a separate education system from their peers.

Porter recently sat down for an interview with the Bugle-Observer and discussed his work with inclusive education. According to Porter, research and history have shown that inclusive education is always better for children than exclusive education. “Whether it’s racial discrimination, separate schools for people who are minorities, or residential schools for First Nations children, the history of segregation and exclusion is that it is stigmatizing and it’s not as positive as being part of the whole of your community,” he said.

Porter explained that the driving philosophy behind inclusive education is recognizing the importance of being socially covered during the educational process.

POLICY CONCERNS

People’s Alliance executive director says bilingual requirements in public sector are unfair, contribute to out-migration

By Nathan DeLong

The People’s Alliance of New Brunswick is concerned about the hiring process for public employees, particularly in the health sector.

Executive director Sterling Wright said the party, which currently has no seats in the legislature, thinks skilled workers are being turned down for jobs due to their linguistic abilities. “We were approached by Joyce Wright, who has family members who are paramedics,” he said. “Many feel the policies being implemented...”
Bring back a balance that is fair and equitable to everybody: Wright

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by Ambulance New Brunswick are discouraged.

Ambulance New Brunswick recently conducted a survey of paramedics on candidates’ abilities to speak both the primary and their secondary language. “In an area that is overwhelmingly anglophone, it is important that the skills are available with the language skills that they are looking for,” Wright said. “These jobs are either going unfilled or going to graduates fresh out of the paramedic academy with no experience.”

Wright’s only (and only) asking for recognition of those ability to do the job,” Wright said. “They’re not suggesting that people shouldn’t get access to services in their language of choice.” They are saying there needs to be common sense in hiring and promotion and that they not exclude well-qualified people.

When talking to Wright, that such a requirement in job postings is common in New Brunswick’s declining population.

carrying out the work on a variety of fronts, including working, staying, working and raising families and above all ensuring that certain groups of people that are leaving the province for that reason have opportunities for advancement or job security, and secondly the storms that may see the ship being sent to sea in defense of the province.”

Wright added that the party preferred input during private hearings last fall to amend the Official Languages Act.

“Our recommendation wasn’t adopted,” Wright said, “but it is not going to be hiring to be based on merit, and
duality in health care be abolished.”

Wright says the apparent duality in the province’s health sector largely exists within its administration, which he described as “bureaucrats.”

The party acknowledges that the province is bilingual, but Wright said he wonders why the province that has been declared by Statistics Canada as a “Health is bilingual, while Vitalité Health mainly serves francophones.

“We should have one bilingual office to administer the health care system for all New Brunswick- ers,” he said. “The savings could be put into front-line services, which are being cut.”

Wright noted that hundreds of positions, which he says were mostly front-line workers, were slashed in the 2013 budget.

“No such service!” Wright said. “Patient care needs. People needing to get to the emergency room suffer. Waiting lists get longer. It affects everybody. It’s a waste of resources at a time when we have very few.”

Wright said that the Société de l’Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick formed a counter-position “specifically stating that they (wants) 50 per cent of civil state jobs in this province”

“We’re trying to group up why 30 per cent of the population feels entitled to 50 per cent of the jobs at the expense of 50 per cent of the population,” he said. “The list of reasons would they call that equitable and fair treatment?”

He said the former French- official Lunenburg Act was determined to correct inequity and had positive intentions.

Back when Louis Robichaud was premier – the first Acadian premier ever elected in New Brunswicke – he commented that the French-speaking community is not receiving fair treatment in terms of availability of service or getting services in their mother tongue.

Wright said. “There were gaps and deficiencies in hiring. Governments, to their credit, wanted to address it.”

“Something that started with the best intentions has been allowed to get out of hand, and that needs to be a correction to bring back a balance that is fair and equitable to everybody,” he said.

Wright said Dr. Jean-Pierre Fortin, the independent MLA for Fundy-River Valley who was removed from the Tory caucus last fall after speaking out against issues he saw with health care in the health care system, is in favour of the petition.

“Fortin feels the public sector hiring process needs to undergo a full review.”

When you hire somebody, you look for the best person for the job, which isn’t necessarily the most bilingu- al person or the best English-speaking person or whatever language they speak,” he said, adding that people are pleased to see attempts to bring that to the forefront.

Things aren’t the way they were 20 years ago,” Fortin noted. “There are big changes in the province, in the jobs west taking people away.

Firing jobs to only hire a bilingual person isn’t right. We tend to leave jobs empty that could be filled, and we don’t have a lot of jobs that we can allow to stay.”

Despite his removal from the caucus, Fortin said he has to repay for his actions.

“I don’t consider myself to have been punished,” he said. “It’s obvious that David Alfred made a mistake. If I see issues that I think need to be handled, I’ll use my independence to do it.”

“A good leader would recognize a problem and have a discussion. I think he should have had a better leadership decision.”

“We’re counting on Remington’s re-election ‘he feels the democrat we have in this province.’

“The fact that he was kicked out of caucus for having an opinion and expressing it says something about the current state of democracy in the Progressive Conservative Party, New Brunswick,” he said.

Fortin praised the government’s action in the 2014 election.

“The fact that he was kicking himself out of caucus, and this (n’t)’ time we are in power with the difficulties, it was also economically.”

Fortin stressed the importance of New Brunswick looking after its own people.

“You teach your kids to grow up, to school and get to a career path,” he said. “Then you get student loans to prepare for that. And you apply for a government job and ask if they will let you hire them. As a unethical people says to and doesn’t get lured. How does that benefit them, to spend money on an education then force them to go out west to work (mother land),” said New Brunswick where someone may have a family?” Wright does not believe that experience currently has the fiscal capacity to fund the bilinguality program.

“Dr. Parent’s position as a physi- cian is consistent with what we’ve said, and that is consistent with what we’ve said, as is Joye’s,” he said. “All the groups came to the same conclusion, which makes me believe that’s how it is and a correct assessment of the circumstances.”

Wright said on the party’s estab- lishment leading up to the last elec- tion, they did not have the money to get the Gold plated levels of service, where 30 per cent of people in every government office in all parts of the province are fluently bilingual? Or do we provide service on a needs basis considering the demographic breakdown of the community so that service is provided, but not to the expectations that we feel are unreasonable.

Nicole Beaulieu, an investigator with the Official Languages Commission, said that requirements for providing services in both languages are made.

“One piece in both lan- guages is essential in the govern- ment, it is considered an essential tool, it is also essential in education and work experience,” she explained. “Language policy therefore constitutes part of the merit process rather than being separate from it.”

According to Beaulieu, the commis- sion’s mandate requires that people be hired and that people feel they have been hired to do a job.

“We make it clear that mandates, determinations must be made as to the public and the public service in the criteria (i.e. the Official Lan- guages Act).”

Fortin also complained regarding the considera- tion of language abilities in the final job process fall outside of their mandate.”

Porter is one of 10

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What inclusive education has been about this is an educational process about the structure of society, where by being included, teachers need to be able to work with a wide range of needs and different abilities and unique needs.

What inclusive education is about the increasing competence of teach- ers so the more widely diverse education, is more effective.

Exclusive education, in Porter’s view, is about taking children from their peers and can cause emo- tional damage.

“When you segregate and stand apart, the experience, I’m sure we’ve all had it in one setting or another, it damages your self concept, your sense of who you are, your social relationships.”

Aside from this, Porter said that exclusive education has been shown in research to create a less dynamic learning environment.

“The research on learning is that the more heterogeneous you have, the more words kids with a variety of different abilities, skills and interests, the more dynamic it is, there is more stimulation, there is more energy that comes to the process,” he said.

But it also means that only does exclusive education harm children with special needs, it also harms chil- dren that fit into the ‘normal’ category.

“It gives a biased view of what our community is. If all the children that are different’ are divided from you, you start to set up inherent values in young people, who then become interested in those same more are valuable than others,” he said.

On a practice level, Porter said that inclusive education can actually be more cost effective and education.

“If you have a very articulated and well-developed special education system, that stands alone as something that requires tremendous amount of money,” he explained. “I think that cost effective- ness of investing in the regular school system to provide service to all the children... is actually more cost effective than building a big special education system.”

The inclusive education advocate gave the example of Forrest which has what he calls “pretty much a separate special education system” and learned to the extra cost of maintaining a school or a special education system.

Porter said that inclusive education is critical to the Order of New Brunswick in a ceremony later this fall will be given to those who, according to Premier David Alward, have made significant contributions to the development of inclusive education and creative and accomplished citizens.”

— With files from K. Brynnah James, Miramichi Leader