

*A Glimpse in the Life of*



*Bill Luffman*  
*Da Singin' Cobbler*

The following paper researches the life of a Shoe Cobbler from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. Mr. Bill Luffman has been living in Harbour Grace for nearly 50 years. In 1953 he began working at a shoe factory in Harbour Grace, Koch Shoes. This is where he met his wife, Gladys Luffman of Upper Island Cove, NF. In the late 1960's there was talk of the shoe factory closing and Luffman knew it was time to move on.

In 1969 Luffman opened a small shoe business of his own, repairing shoes. At this time this service was unavailable to the town of Harbour Grace and surrounding areas. Today, 24 years later, Luffman is still in business as a shoe cobbler.

Throughout the years Luffman has done much more than repair shoes. His customers have requested a wide variety of tasks from him, such as fixing luggage sets, dolls, coats, ski-doo seats, fisherman buoys and sails, as well as sewing straps on an artificial leg. Luffman has also made many things from scratch, such as elevated shoes, braces for individuals with bad backs, skate-guards for speed skates and dog boots for hunting dogs.

Luffman has never turned down a good challenge. He says "a cobbler's mind is very creative." This statement is certainly true for Mr. Luffman. Luffman may be a cobbler by profession but he is better known as a "Singing Cobbler."

Luffman has had an interest in music since childhood. He recalls being sent into the cold living room for making a racket, when he sang or played instruments in the kitchen. He would always listen attentively to his parents and their friends as they played music in the kitchen during the night. Luffman believes his musical inclinations stems from his family. His mother, three brothers and a sister all have interests in music and singing. Luffman wrote a lot of songs but said, "in them days it was not easy to develop your talents."

Today, Luffman has developed his talents as a singer, as well as a composer. He still owns and works full-time at his cobbler shop but devotes much of his spare time to his

music. His childhood urge for his music is finally being fulfilled. He began entertaining in his own kitchen and then into the kitchens of his own friends, the same kind of things his parents did. The songs that Luffman sang were almost all originals. Luffman writes his own songs about people in the community and events happening around him. His songs are usually humorous to listen to but some of them contain serious stories. Luffman says, " my songs are mostly about Harbour Grace, the history and different political and humorous things. It's fun stuff. It's more centered around Newfoundland music and just carrying on."

Luffman may create his songs for fun but there is always a between the lines story within the song. Each song tells a story about some aspect of our lives. In the next section of this paper I will give an explanation for a few of his songs.

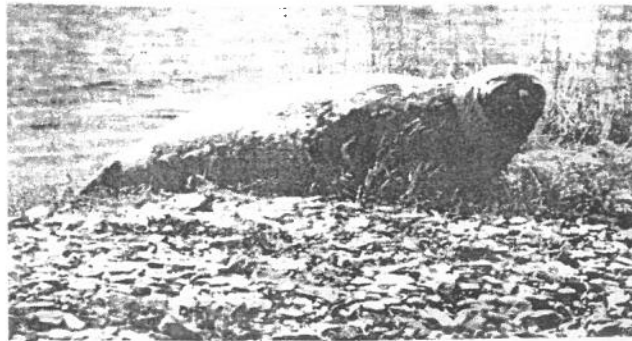
The songs which I enjoy the most is "The Old S.S. Kyle." As many Newfoundlanders know the S.S. Kyle was a coastal boat built in 1912. The Kyle traveled around Newfoundland and up to Nain, Labrador carrying passengers and cargo. The Kyle made many trips in the worst kind of weather and never once lost a life. For the past twenty years the Kyle has been grounded at the west end of Harbour Grace harbour. Today the Kyle is deteriorated and a shame to see. Mr. Luffman praises the Kyle throughout the song and tells of the good job she had done in her day. In the last verse:

The people should rally together  
Bring her back to her old style  
She'd attract the travelling tourist  
Because of her name the Kyle.

Mr. Luffman suggests a way of keeping the spirit of the KYLE alive. Mr. Luffman furthers his views on the Kyle in another song "Sam the Seal". Sam was a seal that came ashore in Harbour Grace and resided in the harbour around the KYLE. The town of Harbour Grace claimed this seal as the town's pet and called him Sammy the seal. Mr. Luffman saw the seal as a little more than the town's pet, he saw Sammy as a messenger.

He's trying to tell us something  
Like how the old Kyle feels  
How she's let down by the people  
But remembered by the seals.

Luffman indirectly suggests that Sammy brought a lot of attention to the town and maybe if the KYLE was restored she too could bring many tourists to the community.



Sammy the seal on Mussel Bank in Harbour Grace

Another song written by Mr. Luffman is the "Hibernia Song." Hibernia is no stranger to Newfoundlanders. Luffman wrote this song shortly after the deal was signed in September 1990. This song gave a brief description of what the project consists of and the jobs it was supposed to create.

There's millions of barrels of oil out there  
got five billion bucks to spend  
20,000 jobs or more it'll take  
to bring the crude oil in.

Maybe it's time for Luffman to update this song. This song recognizes an historical event in Newfoundland. It was not too long ago historical events were passed on through oral traditions, word of mouth and songs. Facts are always easier to remember when put to a tune, so maybe some knowledge of the project will be remembered with the help of Luffman's song.

Luffman captures another great event in Harbour Grace History in the "Peter Easton Song." Each summer in Harbour Grace the town designates one day to re-inact a marriage ceremony between Sir Gilbert Pike and Princess Sheila. On this day there are mock pirates ships in the harbour and there are pirates running around the town capturing some townspeople. Some people do not really know the purpose of this event but Luffman sums it up quite well in his song. (See Appendix A). Luffman's song tells of an event in 1610 when Captain Peter Easton and his pirates came to Harbour Grace and invaded the town.

Well certainly Mr. Luffman did not leave out one of the biggest stories in our provinces history, Foreign Over-Fishing. This song tells of our depleting fish stocks in Newfoundland. Luffman proposes that the only way to prevent further depletion and to rebuild the fishery is to stop foreign over-fishing and allow the fish an opportunity to reproduce and increase in quantity.

These are only a few of Luffman's songs which he composed about the history of Harbour Grace and the province. I have enclosed copies of these entire songs in an Appendix, for my readers to view. Luffman does not only write songs about historical events, he also composes songs about people in his community and events that he has seen and heard about.

One of Luffman's most popular songs is "The Light & Power Boys." Luffman wrote this song because the workers from Newfoundland Power would stop into his shop some mornings to talk or drop off work for him. These men are always dressed in their heavy clothes and they leave the door open in his shop. Luffman always made a joke of it with them saying that he was trying to heat the place up and it was alright for them to leave the door open because they were dressed for the cold. He brings this point out in his song he composed about them, "them rough and tough, them don't mind the cold." This song gives a brief description of the linesmen at Newfoundland Power. It is a job that many of us overlook, but are all there to complain about if we lose our electricity. This song gives the boys a little recognition for the important job they carry out.

Another local story which Luffman has put into song is titled, "Bert Downings Big Old Tree." This song is about a tree in Downing's Lane, Harbour Grace. The tree has been there now for over one hundred years. In recent years it has gotten so big that it's obstructing traffic in the lane. The townspeople are complaining and want the tree removed. Mr. Downing, owner of the land on which the tree stands, is upset. He says, "no way man, that tree is there to stay." The tree was planted by his great-grandfather and Bert played in it as a child. For Bert this tree has sentimental value but for the community it is an obstacle that they want removed.

Luffman wrote this song to humor Mr. Downing. Luffman recalls a number of heated discussions between the local men and Mr. Downing at the Social Building on this topic. At the expense of Downing, Luffman wrote a sequel to this song titled, "Christmas Sequel to Bert Downing's Tree." This song describes Santa Claus lost in the fog and unable to find Harbour Grace, but he spotted the top of Downing's tree and was able to deliver the gifts to the children in Harbour Grace.

Through Mr. Luffman's kitchen entertaining among friends, the word of his talents has spread. People enjoyed listening to Luffman's songs and he began receiving invitations to play at social events. Luffman's first big performance was at Carbonear Folk Festival. This event can draw an audience of over a thousand people. Luffman performed in turn with a number of other entertainers. The response to Luffman's performance was overwhelming and through this public performance he was invited to other social functions.

As Luffman's popularity grew so did his love for music. Luffman spends every spare moment playing his guitar and writing new songs. He says, "I'm always thinking of new songs, even at work I sometimes stop and write down a few lines." Luffman admits to playing his guitar some mornings before he goes to work, but Luffman's creativity does not stop with his songs. To add to the humor and fun of Luffman's music he began to create musical instruments and hats for his performances.

Some of Luffman's handmade instruments include his "Clappers" which is two

pieces of wood which fit under your foot. As the individual taps their foot to the rhythm of the music the two pieces of wood clap together to add sound to the performance. Luffman says " you always tap your foot anyway, so it is just as well to put it to good use." Another instrument is the "Quiji Board." This consists of a piece of Styrofoam about eight by ten inches in size and it has elastic bands around it horizontally. When you strum on the elastic bands it creates rhyme. Luffman uses many other instruments, such as a mouth organ, guitar, ugly stick and a tambourine. Even though each of these are not his own inventions he does make them himself or add items to the bought instruments. For example, Luffman made his own ugly stick and added anything that would rattle.

Luffman also has about twenty five or thirty different hats. Some of these he made himself out of leather or material at his cobbler shop, and others are some that people have given him, including a blue hard hat from Newfoundland Power, and one with a pony tail in the back to imitate Billy Ray Cyrus, with his song, "where's I gonna stay when I'se come home." Luffman's hats have become a big part of his performance. He changes into a new hat each song.

Luffman's public appearances have become much more frequent since his first appearance at the folk festival. He has been performing at a wide range of social events in the past few years such as matinees at the U.S. Naval Base in Argentina, (See Appendix B) dances, and benefits for various needs in the communities. Other events are school assemblies, performing for various bus tours at the Harbour Castle Inn, birthday's anniversaries and retirement parties, as well as each year he is invited back to the Carbonear Folk Festival, and private parties for contestants of the Miss Newfoundland & Labrador Pageant.

Along with all this public recognition Luffman has also received some media attention. Luffman has appeared in various articles of "The Compass", and has recorded several shows for Community Cable, Channel 9. But Mr. Luffman's biggest publicity happened this past December at Kelly's Landing in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland. This event was aired on "On The Road Again" taped and televised February 8, 1994.



Luffman admits that he always wanted to go public with his music, but was always told as a child, that he was making a racket and sent into the cold living room. This inferior feeling stuck with Luffman throughout many of the younger years, but he never gave up. Luffman continued to strum on his guitar and writes his own music. He says "getting more interesting all the time and he is not going to give it up. Mr. Luffman does not charge any fees for his performances because it is his hobby and he believes when you get involved with money, you get serious committed. Often times when Luffman does perform, the organization requesting his presence may cover the expense of gas for Luffman to travel. Luffman has performed outside his own area, places such as St. John's, Old Perlican, Ferryland, Whitbourne, St. Mary's and Sibley's Cove. (See Appendix C). Luffman cannot fulfil all the requests he receives but does his best to attend as many as possible.

Since Luffman has obtained so much recognition and popularity, he was persuaded by his family and friends to produce his own tape. Luffman did so in June 1993. This tape is called Newfoundland Fun & Song. Luffman does not promote his tape a lot but believes later on down the road he may get into music enough to make a dollar at it, but right now it is still a hobby.

Luffman admits that he is still a little nervous talking to an audience, but when he gets his guitar going everything begins to fall into place.

(Bill Luffman performing at  
Harbour Grace Legion.)



He says his guitar boosts him right up the same as Valium. He loves his music and enjoys being out in the public. Luffman feels uncomfortable when performing in line with other performers because he is afraid he is taking up too much time. Luffman is pleased



with the audience response to his performances and says they cannot do enough for him.

Luffman gets his audience involved by inviting them up on stage with him. He gives them a hat to wear and one of his instruments to play, This is an advantage that Luffman has over other one man bands, his handmade instruments do not require much skills or practice to play, you only have to shake or rattle them to the beat of the music.

Luffman plays music to suit his audience. His fans range from all ages, young and old. If Luffman is playing in front of young people he will play songs such as his imitation of "Where Am I Going To Live When I Get Home" by Billy Ray Cyrus to "Where's I Gonna Stay when I'se get Home" and changes his name to Billy Ray Luffman. Luffman loves having children around and therefore plays no off color music during any of his performances. He does not want anyone to get the wrong impression of him. Luffman even has a song made up for children titled "The Shoe Cobbler." This song describes the routine of a cobbler's work, and it tells the children to be careful with their shoes because they protect their feet. In the fourth stanza:

I like repairing peoples shoes  
I do them nice and neat  
I would not do them for earwigs  
'cause they got to many feet.

Luffman is able to keep the children interested. The reference to the earwigs and all their feet amuses the children and keeps them laughing. In the chorus of the song he also adds a line at the end for children to sing, so they are involved. Luffman loves children and enjoys entertaining them. He recalls just recently he attended a school assembly and performed in front of hundreds of children. He invited some of the younger ones up on stage with him. A little boy that remained in the audience sent his grandmother home to retrieve his own guitar, so he could play with Mr. Luffman. Luffman was unaware that this was happening, and his performance was over before the grandmother returned. When Luffman found out what had happened he played a song with the little boy anyway.

Luffman has a suitcase containing his instruments and hats in his trunk all the time so he is prepared to play wherever he goes and is never caught off guard. Luffman has some songs that would only be appropriate in front of an audience from Harbour Grace. These are songs that have to do with Municipal elections, and elections for our representatives for the federal elections other such songs that deal with social events that take place in Harbour Grace, like "The Harbour Grace Regatta, and the "Pirates Harbour Grace Soiree '88". These songs make reference to local people and objects that help add spirit to the community in their own way. For example in the Regatta song, Luffman mentions a couple of family crews that have been competitive and participating in the races for many years.

This article is an example of one family that compete in Harbour Grace regatta each year.

## Six brothers will row in Harbour Grace Regatta

The 126th. annual Harbour Grace regatta is promising to be more of a family affair than previous regattas.

A new crew made up of six brothers will be among the crews on Lady Lake on Monday, July 25, the date set for the races.

The McCarthy brothers of Harbour Grace: Wayne, Jerome, Keith, Garry, Tony and Paul will be coxained by Sonia Williams. Paul Butt has also been training with the crew as an extra.

The corporate sponsor for the McCarthy crew is Rose's Vinyl and Aluminum Products of Harbour Grace.

According to a spokesman for the crew, Jerome McCarthy, the decision to place a family entry in this year's event was made on Regatta Day last year. "Our decision to row in the regatta is aimed at renewing interest in the rowing aspect of the event," McCarthy said.

Suggesting that although the regatta continues to attract large crowds, he felt that the interest in the actual boat races appears to have waned in recent years. "We hope that the time and effort we devote to becoming a competitive crew will motivate others to do likewise. We hope to demonstrate to the public that if we can become a competitive crew by using all six members of one family than certainly many other competitive entries are possible. We would like to see many more local crews train for the regatta."

None of the McCarthy brothers has any previous rowing experience with the exception of Gary who has very limited experience. Despite this they hope to be competitive. "We have been training on Lady Lake since mid May," McCarthy said.

Along with the McCarthy crew, the traditional rowing families of Williams, Chafe and Taylors can also be seen training on Lady Lake on a regular basis. Strong perfor-

mances are again expected from these experienced rowers.

The length of actual race course for the this year's regatta has been increased significantly over previous years to equal the race course in St. John's and Placentia.

Having trained on the longer course, it is felt that local crew will be more competitive with visiting crews from outside the area.

The crews who row the best times in the 1988 Regatta will also set the first new records for the new course length.

Then Luffman has a couple of songs which are common occurrences in Newfoundland, but events that are taken for granted. One of these songs is titled "View From a Window." The song is about a man who is out drinking and is late arriving home, again. His wife is tired of staying home waiting for him. Finally, this night she decides to leave him. Then, the husband is home alone and finds it very lonely waiting her to return. At last the man knows how it feels to be home waiting for someone and they not show up. In the song he is trying to tell his listeners not to make the same mistake he did and stay home with their wives once in awhile before it is too late. This is a typical situation of many families. This song has won Mr. Luffman a lot of "brownie points" with many of the women in the area.

Another song which is always good for a chuckle among Luffman's audience is titled "Newfie Trip to P.E.I." This song gives a brief description of many Newfoundlanders that head to P.E.I. on summer vacations. It follows the route that is taken by many tourists when driving to their destination, and as we all know getting off the island of Newfoundland is the longest part of the trip. In the last stanza of Luffman's song:

The P.E.I. Premier he had done his homework  
at attracting the tourists to his little island  
while our Brian got lost among the cucumbers  
and the big tourist trade just passed him by.

The format of this song is much the same as many other songs. He puts in a little dig about our leading politicians. Mr. Luffman suggests that our money could have been used much more efficiently if put into developing our tourism industry than it was by building Sprung.

Finally, another event which is not uncommon to any Newfoundlander are moose accidents, and without a doubt Luffman used this to compose another song, "Always Watching for Moose." In the song the attitude held is similar to many highway drivers, it cannot happen to me. The proceeds to reveal a moose accident, and tells how easy they

can happen. At the end of this song he proposes a solution to decrease the number of accidents. His solution is no different than most Newfoundlander's and that is to declare an open season on moose.

Throughout this paper I have attempted to explain the life of one man who had a great love for music. For many years of his life he did not believe he had enough talent to become an entertainer. When Luffman's talents were discovered by the community, he regretted not going public earlier.

I chose to write about Mr. Luffman because I believe he has contributed a lot to the town of Harbour Grace, he is doing his part to preserve its history and culture through music. I feel that each and every one of Luffman's songs trigger a memory in his listeners mind. It gets them thinking and remembering the resources the community holds.

Luffman songs are not slow love songs. His songs are lively songs holding controversial issues. Hopefully through Luffman's music people will realize there is more to Harbour Grace and Newfoundland than our depleted fishery. It is time for us to pull together and explore our other resources, as well as build on our tourism industry. We have a beautiful province, we should not be ashamed of it, but promote it. Encourage people to come visit. Our province has potential to put P.E.I. to shame.

In closing I would like to thank Mr. Luffman and his family for their time and patience with me throughout this time past term. They allowed me into their home with tape recorders and numerous questions. They were very co-operative. Thank you, very much. Keep up the good work Mr. Luffman.

(On the right is a picture of Bill Luffman performing at Kelly's Landing on February 8, 1994.)





(On the left is a picture of Bill Luffman performing at Kelly's Landing on February 8, 1994.)

(On the right is a picture of Bill Luffman with manager of Kelly's Landing on February 8, 1994.)



THE COMPASS, March 7, 2006

**Lieutenant Governor to  
attend Singin' Cobbler's  
birthday bash**

**BY LILLIAN SIMMONS**

The Compass

For Bill Luffman every birthday for the past seven years has been special. But this year will be even more so for Da Singin' Cobbler of Harbour Grace. In November, Luffman wrote the province's lieutenant governor, Ed Roberts, inviting him to attend his annual Harbour Grace Birthday Bash.

"I wrote him last year too," Luffman says, "but he couldn't make it. I heard on VOWR what a nice person he is and I decided to ask him again."

Unable to attend last year due to prior commitment, the Lieutenant Governor has graciously accepted this year's invitation.

The soft-spoken musician was born in Markland March 24, 1934. He was dubbed 'da singin' cobbler' by Wayne Rostad of CBC TV's On the Road Again, when Rostad paid a visit to Luffman's shoe repair shop on Harvey Street, Harbour Grace, several years ago.

Luffman retired from his shop in 1999, at the age of 65. It was at that time he began holding the annual Birthday Bash to raise money for the Community Handicap Association.

"The late Tom Slade (of Carbonear) asked me (to help fundraise) when I turned 65 and we used my birthday at the Daltonian Club, incorporating it into Tom's annual handicap fundraiser.

"When Tom died Mike Butt took it over from him, and became the coordinator."

Luffman usually raises about \$600 for the Community Handicap Association through the annual birthday bash.

This years bash will be held as usual at the Daltonian Club, March 25, the day after Luffman's birthday.

According to Harbour Grace Mayor Don Coombs, Luffman is involved in many other volunteer and fundraising activities, including raising money for the area's health



foundation.

"I think it's great," he said of the Lieutenant Governor's visit. "Bill does great work for charity."

The town has put a committee together to ensure protocols are followed during the visit and invitations have gone out to guests.

"The Lieutenant Governor will meet with the invited guests and the handicap group and then it'll be open to the public," said Mayor Coombs.

Meanwhile, Luffman admits he's a little nervous about putting off a smooth show with the Lieutenant Governor in the audience.

"I'm finding it a bit hard to sleep some nights-but I'm looking forward to it," he says with a smile.

**APPENDIX A**

**A Collection of Songs**

**Written, Composed and Sang by Bill Luffman**

## THE LIGHT & POWER BOYS

Them big blue trucks, them roll through town,  
them checking to see if any wire blowed down,  
them da Light & Power Boys.

Them rough and tough, them don't mind the cold,  
them driving along them checking every pole,  
them da Light & Power Boys.

Them come from far, them come from near,  
them gather every morning down in Carbonear,  
them da Light & Power Boys.

Them pass my place about quarter to nine,  
them gone all day, them checking the lines,  
them da Light & Power Boys.

Them have machines to dig a hole,  
it don't take them long to stick a forty foot pole,  
them the light and power boys

Them on stand by day and night  
to make sure we don't lose our lights  
them the Light & Power Boys.

Rain or shine, sleet or snow,  
twelve months a year there on the go,  
them the Light & Power Boys.

A thunder storm they don't mind that,  
they climb the poles like pussy cats  
them the Light & Power Boys.

Bill Luffman

## **HIBERNIA SONG**

The year was 1990, boys,  
fourteenth of September.  
They, the working force of Newfoundland,  
forever will remember.

That day we became an oil province,  
put us high up in the ranks.  
When we signed that giant Hibernia deal,  
to bring the oil in from the Grand Banks.

There's millions of barrels of oil out there,  
got five billion bucks to spend.  
Twenty thousand jobs or more it'll take,  
to bring that crude oil in.

The construction site for the big project,  
Bull Arm in Trinity Bay.  
There's roads to construct, a town to build,  
and they're starting it now right away.

Going to build a gravity base,  
structured thirty stories high or more.  
Thousands of tons of concrete and steel,  
they're going to stand on that ocean floor.

Atop of that mighty GBS,  
eleven hundred workers will dwell.  
where they'll pump all the oil from below the sea,  
from that mega Hibernia well.

**Bill Luffman**

## VIEW FROM A WINDOW

I was out again drinking, as usual I'm late,  
she'll sit by the window, she'll watch and she'll wait.  
Then one night she could take it no more,  
she put on her coat and walked out the door.

I know now it's my fault, I was to blame,  
I remember the night she walked out our lane.  
I watched from my window till she got out of sight,  
I thought she'd come back later that night.

But the weeks have gone by I'm still home alone,  
I really miss her, I wish she was home.'  
cause I learned my lesson, but is it too late,  
I sit by my window, I watch and I wait.

A view from the window could really be nice,  
if you stay home more often and sit with your wife,  
show her you love her before it's too late,  
'cause it's lonely at a window as you watch and wait.

Bill Luffman

## **BERT DOWNINGS'S BIG OLD TREE**

There's a big tree in Harbour Grace  
located in Downings Lane  
It's been there a hundred years or more  
Only now the people complain.

So the Council come to size it up  
said the Big Tree it may have to go  
it's in the way in the winter time  
when Gaget is clearing the snow.

But Bert Downing said "no way my man"  
that Big Tree is there to stay  
and the man who tries to cut it down  
Walt Pasha will take him away.

I played in that tree many years ago  
when I was just a small boy  
many nights I've a come home loaded drunk  
and beneath the tree I would lie.

It was planted by great-grand dad  
it's almost as old as our town  
and I promise while I'm alive  
There's nobody cutting it down.

Bill Luffman

## SAM THE SEAL

Harbour Grace has a pet  
Yes it is for real  
He's up there in Riverhead  
He's Sam the Arctic Seal.

He's attracting a lot of attention  
He's been there awhile  
Up there in Riverhead  
all summer with the Kyle.

He's trying to tell us something  
Like how the old Kyle feels  
How she's let down by the people  
But remembered by the seals.

Take heed ye liberal members  
Ye are the ones who said you ain't  
Gonna send us any scrapers  
Or send us any paint.

'cause soon the Kyle she'll be gone,  
and sorry you will feel  
You didn't heed the message  
From the people or the seal.

Now fate she works in funny ways  
'cause Sammy now is dead  
Too bad they didn't leave her alone  
Up on that Muscle Bed.

Bill Luffman



## FOREIGN OVER FISHING

Suppose you heard about Foreign Over Fishing  
on the nose and the tail of the Banks of Newfoundland.  
Yea the scientist say the stocks they are depleting,  
and foreign over fishing must be band.

Now to save the stocks, the Newfies are doing their part,  
closing plants and workers being laid off.  
While waiting for the fishes to do their mating,  
yea, tying them long liners to the wharf.

If the foreigners don't soon stop their over fishing,  
obey the rules and cooperate, soon there will be nar fish.  
to catch out on our Grand Banks  
and for our future fishermen it will be too late.

Now the claim we made to the Grand Banks  
was symbolic, when they left that dory out there all alone.  
But it is going to take a unilateral action  
to stop over fishing and drive the E.C. home.

Now John Crosbie, he went off to Cuba,  
Premier Wells he went to Germany.  
They were trying to find a diplomatic solution  
to the crisis the foreigners have caused to our fishery.

Bill Luffman

## S.S. KYLE

There's a boat in Hr. Grace harbour  
she's been there now awhile  
she was once the pride of the outports  
she is the old SS Kyle.

She once stood tall and mighty  
she mastered the mighty sea  
now she stands alone in Hr. Grace  
in shame for all to see.

She was brought to Newfoundland around 1912  
to serve 'round our native shore  
the people knew the sound of her whistle  
from Trinity to Nain, Labrador.

She travelled the coast of Newfoundland  
to most Coves and all the Bays  
serving the needs of the outports  
long before there were highways.

While serving the outport people  
at her the mighty Sea did pound  
She done her part she served them well  
but the people have sure let her down.

The people should rally together  
bring her back to her old style  
she'd attract the travelling tourist  
because of her name the Kyle.

Bill Luffman

## ALWAYS WATCHING FOR MOOSE

I travelled the highway so often,  
modern cars and trucks at my use,  
I thought I'd be superior  
if I come in contact with a moose.

But brother I sure was mistaken,  
from what happened a last Tuesday night  
A bull moose appeared out of nowhere  
in the beams of my headlights.

It all happened so quickly,  
no time to swerve or to brake,  
that big moose went clear over my bonnet,  
totalling my car in its wake.

I'm lucky my injuries were minor,  
but my car will be no more of use  
be warned when driving the highway  
and always be watching for moose.

'Cause there's too many car moose encounters,  
hear about them everyday in the news,  
they could make our highways more safer,  
if they declared open season on moose.

Bill Luffman

## NEWFIE TRIP TO P.E.I.

O this is the season for Newfies to travel,  
some will be driving and others will be fly,  
yea thousands of Newfies will leave our old island,  
most of them are heading for old P.E.I..

We are off to Argentia to get on the Ferry,  
we will dock in North Sydney in about a day and a half,  
While some will be driving across our island  
to get on the Caribou old Port aux Basques.

Whenever you travel you'll meet many Newfies,  
they're all heading out and your wondering why.  
Yea, their all on their holidays, they're each going their own way,  
most of them are heading for old P.E.I..

We all felt so eager when we left Argentia  
little did we know what we had in store,  
yea the sea got so rough nearly all of the tourists  
were lying and spuing all over the floor.

We all went to shore when we docked in North Sydney,  
we stayed there a minute for our friends we did wait.  
Then we headed for Pictou for one of the ferries,  
to take us across the North Cumberland Strait.

The P.E.I. premier he had done his homework  
at attracting the tourists to his little island,  
while our Brian got lost in among the cucumbers,  
and the big tourists trade just passed him on by.

Written, Composed & Sang By  
Bill Luffman

## CAPTIAN PETER EASTON

Captain Peter Easton and all his merry men  
they set sail from England around the year of 1610.  
They came ashore in Newfoundland and they didn't waste  
soon they built a pirates fort east of Harv D Grace.

From there they plunged the coastline  
robbed fish and salt by the tons.  
From Placentia back to Harbour Grace  
and over to St. John's.

They came into Old Harbour Grace  
they terrorized the town  
soon the mayor and the merchants  
were in the stockades securley bound.

They held them up for ransom,  
the town paid for them in pence.  
The pirates took all the pretty girls  
and made each one their wench.

One of Peter Easton's pirates  
was Lieutenant Gilbert Pike  
met Princess Shelia Nigeria  
and said I'll take her for my wife.

They held a pirates wedding  
lots of rum and ho ho ho.  
Took his Princess Shelia,  
settled in Old Mosquito.

Written, Composed & Sang By  
Bill Luffman

## **PAUL FOR MAYOR**

We must have Paul for mayor  
for another four good years  
So he can show the people in Riverhead  
Moriarty really cares,

We'll be having Paul for Mayor  
With Gord the next in line  
With Don and Bev, Kevin and Pat  
pending the people are not blind,

When we had Paul for Mayor  
Him we all did Thank  
for Marine Complex expansions  
and bigger quotas for the Plant,

We must have Paul for Mayor  
for another four or five  
If we want our roads done  
Like Alberta Drive,

When Paul becomes our Mayor  
Our boundaries they will spread  
from the lower end of Bears Cove  
to the last house in Riverhead,

And now that Paul is Mayor  
with his Councilors at his side  
they'll sit in the Council Office  
grinning, looking over to South Side.

Written, Composed & Sang By  
Bill Luffman

## CHRISTMAS SEQUEL TO BERT DOWNING'S TREE

Santa Claus is on his way again,  
Dropping off his gifts in every place.  
He called Mrs Claus at the North Pole,  
said it's so foggy here we can't find Hr. Grace.

He said could you send more power to brighten the nose of Rudolph,  
Through the fog some sign of Hr. Grace we'd see.  
There's something over there now that's looks familiar,  
Why's it's the top of Bert Downings's Big Old Tree.

So when the Hr. Grace children woke on Christmas morning  
they were all so happy and full of glee.  
But imagine all the children disappointments,  
Had they gone and cut down Bert Downing's Big Old Tree.

This year the people they are making certain  
that Hr. Grace Santa Claus will see  
to make sure the children's Christmas will be merry,  
ther'll be lights on the top of Bert's Downing's Big Old tree.

Written, Composed & Sang By  
Bill Luffman



## HARBOUR GRACE SOIREE '88

Come all ye good Newfies who have moved away  
We're inviting you back to a Newfie Soiree.  
It's an island wide party, but when you pack your suitcase,  
You plan for our Soiree on old Harbour Grace.

We'll be having a sing a song and an old lobster boil,  
Some fish and brewis in old Newfie style.  
You'll see the Regatta, our famous boat race,  
If your come to our Soiree in old Harbour Grace.

You'll meet some nice people, I'm sure you will like,  
There's such a person, and he's Gordon Pike.  
He's glad the Compass do allow him the space,  
To write about the history of old Harbour grace.

Our history runs back some 400 years,  
Of airplanes, sailboats and old privateers.  
It was once a city, a very big place,  
The Historical Town, now of old Harbour Grace.

Some of you Newfies been gone for awhile,  
I spose you remember the old S.S. KYLE.  
She hasn't a moved none, she's in the same place,  
On the mussel bank grounded in old Harbour Grace

When it's all over and you're gone on your way,  
I hope you'll remember this Newfie Soiree.  
We're sure glad you could come to help celebrate,  
The old Harbour Grace Soiree this Year '88.

Bill Luffman

## THE SHOE COBBLER

I have a shoe repair  
I work there everyday  
Repairing shoes for people  
All around Conception Bay.

### Chorus:

Stitch and a tack, Stitch and a tack,  
Stitch and a tack will do, Stitch and a tack,  
Stitch and a tack, Stitch and a tack is how I fix your shoe.  
(Children's part) Is how you fix my shoe.

I repair shoes for Children  
for women and for men,  
I go home in the evening  
Next day I start again.

### Chorus . . . .

I do my best to save your shoe  
I sew up every hole  
'cause cobblers are like ministers  
We like to save a sole.

### Chorus . . . .

I like repairing peoples shoes  
I do them nice and neat  
I wouldn't do 'em for earwigs  
'cause they got to many feet.

### Chorus . . . .

Now boys and girls your shoes are very important  
You should treat them all with care  
You be good to your shoes  
They'll protect your feet all year.

### Chorus . . . .

Now as you all grow older  
to all safety rules adhere  
Avoid accidents to your feet  
'cause your feet I can't repair.

Bill Luffman

## THE COMMON JOE (FEDERAL ELECTIONS 1988)

(Tune of Frankie & Johnny were lovers)

Johnny and Joe were Politicians  
O they did campaign  
the PC's they had Joe Gregory  
and the Liberals had Johnny Crane.  
You should see them go down the campaign trail,  
Yea, Johnny and Joe were good politicians  
O how they done politics  
they went around from door to door  
in the Hr. Grace district  
they were looking for votes everyone would count,  
Then came the nite of the counting  
to each our headquarters we did go  
the people they all wondered  
would it be Johnny or common Joe  
But Johnny got in the Liberals, said he would,  
yea, the Liberals made a clean sweep  
Tom Rideout said what have we done  
was it the sixteen weeks from Ottawa  
or was it Phillip Sprung  
ye the cucumbers is what done us in,  
Clyde Wells now is our premier  
he said every town got to get treated right  
as soon as I finish with Borassa  
I'll be dousing them Sprung lights  
cause the cucumbers, they gotta go.

Bill Luffman

## THE HARBOUR GRACE REGATTA

To all of you who may have work, put down your tools you better,  
take one day off come meet your friends, in at the Hr. Grace Regatta

It's a day fun for everyone, in at Lady Lake we'll gather,  
at this 127<sup>th</sup> running of the Hr. Grace Regatta

Everyone will be waiting on the guy who reads the weather  
then the clouds are clear there's a large crowd there  
in at the Hr. Grace Regatta

there's a concession here & a beer tent there  
everythings well put together  
a credit to the boys who run the Hr. Grace Regatta

the Downing's & the William's boys, are crews you won't find better,  
while searching through the records of the Hr. Grace Regatta

twas never cancelled over the years, except when the war was on they hadda,  
go help stop that Hitler guy, Yeh! They did cancel the Hr. Grace Regatta

'tis still an annual event, each year it's getting better,  
the boats & ground are much improved, in at the Hr. Grace Regatta

this year they've added something new, the crews will find the course much better,  
yeh they've added carbon-fiber oars, in at the Hr. Grace Regatta

this year Gord Pike now he's the boss, he may try to run it better,  
but over the years the other guys done good  
running the Harbour Grace Regatta.

running the Harbour Grace Regatta.

Bill Luffman