

CONTRIBUTORS



Paul Daly
Canada's Irish tiger

Did you hear the one about the Irishman living in St. John's who traveled to Ireland to photograph the Newfoundland living in Dublin?

I am from Dublin, and have been living in Newfoundland for more than 10 years, working as a photojournalist. I had photographed Loyola Hearn on several occasions while he was a federal cabinet minister. Given Newfoundland's historical ties with Ireland, I thought it was a smart move by Stephen Harper to appoint Mr. Hearn as Canada's ambassador to Ireland.

It was different photographing a Newfoundland/Canadian politician in my city, on the streets of my youth. I photographed him on Baggot Street Bridge. The newspaper where I got my start, the Tribune, was on Baggot Street. I remember the day in 1998, when I went to the Canadian Embassy to pick up information on Newfoundland prior to my first visit to the home province of my fiancée. These days, information on Newfoundland is much more abundant!



Rob Antle
Grape expectations

ABM's outgoing associate editor/investigative reporter Rob Antle took on an onerous task for his final feature in the magazine — heading to the Annapolis Valley last fall to talk wine. He met with producers in Nova Scotia's burgeoning industry and, according to sources, may have even had a sip or two. (Solely in the interests of research, of course.)

Rob's year at ABM was marked by investigative stories on the circumstances behind a multi-million-dollar real-estate bankruptcy on Prince Edward Island, and the Atlantic Lottery Corporation's search for business opportunities in places like Albania. He has since departed these pages for a job as reporter/editor with the CBC, but can still be found amongst the Italian reds and Californian whites carrying out "research" in certain St. John's establishments.



Alec Bruce
New Brunswick special report

Contributing editor Alec Bruce won two Golds for Atlantic Business Magazine in the 2010 Atlantic Journalism Awards — one for Best Magazine Article and one for Commentary.

He likes to say that as a nomad, he's a darn good homebody.

Born, raised, educated and employed in Toronto, southeastern Ontario, Ottawa, Halifax and Port Shoreham, Nova Scotia, he settled in Moncton. That was 16 years ago and, for the most part, he's loved every minute of his life in The Hub City.

"I don't complain about places I don't care about," he says. "Despite the garden-variety laziness, prevarication, incompetence and sheer stupidity that occasionally afflicts my adopted province, you couldn't drag me away from here for long."



Stephanie Porter
After hours

If those walls could talk ... Imagine, in 1862, 15 of Halifax's most distinguished gentlemen scheming to build a posh private business club — an oasis away from the daily grind. A place literally fit for entertaining royalty. That club, and that building, are still around today.

In between, there's been 150 years of business banter; decades of old boys-only camaraderie, long lunches, cognac, cigars, billiards ... and the first phone in the city.

There's something to celebrate when an operation reaches 150 years and is still a hub within a fast-paced community. Since the first female member was allowed in — in 1985(!) — the Halifax Club has caught up with the times, emerging as a vibrant meeting place for all ages. Other private business clubs, like the Union Club in Saint John, are learning from their example.

I'm not one for exclusivity, but I do believe in getting away from the desk to connect properly with others and to reward yourself — that's what After Hours is all about.

Predictions for the year ahead...

Given the economic downturn in Ireland, and the upturn in Newfoundland, I predict that in 2012 there will be many more Irish people coming to Newfoundland.

Editor's Note: Rob will continue to set news agendas, uncover corruption, spark widespread social change, and have his achievements feted with a Pulitzer. OK, that may be a bit too ambitious for one year — but whatever he does, it's sure to be exciting and we wish him all the best.

"I predict the fiscal crisis will worsen, the bond market will downgrade the province's credit rating, there will be a plague of locusts and frogs, and people still won't care," he says. "On the other hand, a two per cent hike in liquor prices and a new, two-dollar toll on a provincial highway will cause riots in the streets."

In 2012, I think we'll see more Atlantic Canadian companies emerge as stewards of our beautiful environment. It's also the year I will qualify for the Boston marathon.