

OPINION

A bridge TOO FAR

With the Wood Islands ferry at a standstill a month now, the financial loss is overwhelming for eastern PEI businesses.

It is a blow to trucking companies that trickles down to the drivers and their families.

It is a blow to the hundreds of eastern PEI businesses relying on visitors to drop in to shops and eateries, or stay a while at accommodations.

The income from the tourism shoulder season is essential for operators during the lean months of winter when bills still have to be paid with little to no income.

And just like trucking companies and drivers, tourism operators have families to look after.

There is absolutely no doubt the bridge is no solution for drawing people to the eastern end of PEI.

But there is a great personal toll for many ferry users as well.

The ferry service has been a bridge (pun intended) for countless families and friendships between people in eastern PEI and Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

And what extra burden has the cancelled service brought to people heading to Halifax for medical appointments?

No doubt this year's fall splendor of the Cabot Trail has been witnessed by far fewer Islanders than in years past. And that means another tourism destination has suffered at the hands of inept management of a vital service.

One wonders where it will all end.

Talk of the PEI government



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taking the service over as a crown corporation is promising, but going in with eyes wide open needs to be the first step.

And of course a project such as that can't be implemented overnight so a look ahead to the 2025 ferry season is rather bleak.

Which brings to mind the people who make their living running the ferries - more families whose livelihoods are in constant flux.

The hope is the Fanafjord will make it to this side of the Atlantic sometime in the near future, but even when it arrives there will still have to be dock adjustments made.

Here's a thought. Why not start working on those dock adjustments now while the terminals sit empty?

Charlotte MacAulay is editor of The Eastern Graphic. She can be reached at editor@peicanada.com

Searching for photo of fallen soldier Kevin Delorie

Island historian Pieter Valkenburg is looking for help to find a photo of a World War 2 soldier from eastern PEI who was killed in action on December 20, 1943.

The service file of Kevin Joseph Delorie states he was born on Newport PEI on June 30, 1921.

His parents are listed as Eugene and Catherine (Katy McDonald) Delorie.

Mr Valkenburg of Borden-Carleton has been volunteering for several years with ongoing work to further honour Canadian soldiers buried in Canadian War Cemeteries overseas.

His research on Kevin Delorie (also spelt Delorey and Delory in some cases) has led Mr Valkenburg to several siblings, but as yet has been unable to connect with any descendants.

From searching various obituaries he has found possible connections to Norbert and Anthony Murphy in Montague and would greatly appreciate being contacted by one or both of these individuals, or anyone who has information on the Delorie family. He has also found family connections in cemeteries and census records in Georgetown, Sturgeon and Charlottetown.

Over the years Mr Valkenburg and his wife Daria have acquired pictures of soldiers from not only PEI, but across the Maritimes and the country.

The Valkenburgs also document the stories of as many service personnel as they can through their blog.

"It is important that they shouldn't be forgotten," Mr Valkenburg said. "Whether it is in France, Belgium, Luxembourg or Germany even they were still men and women who went overseas and they served and they liberated countries and that should be remembered."

He said the project began in the Dutch cemeteries where community members strive to put faces to the names of every soldier buried there.

"They want to create a virtual memorial so people in the future can go see their (relatives) without having to visit," he added, noting the care of the cemeteries is passed on to younger generations as time passes.

The Valkenburgs can be reached at 902-437-6411 or through email at casapiedar@gmail.com



Private Kevin Joseph Delorie of the 48th Highlanders of Canada is buried at Moro River Canadian War Cemetery in Italy. The Newport, PEI native was 19 years old when he was killed in action.

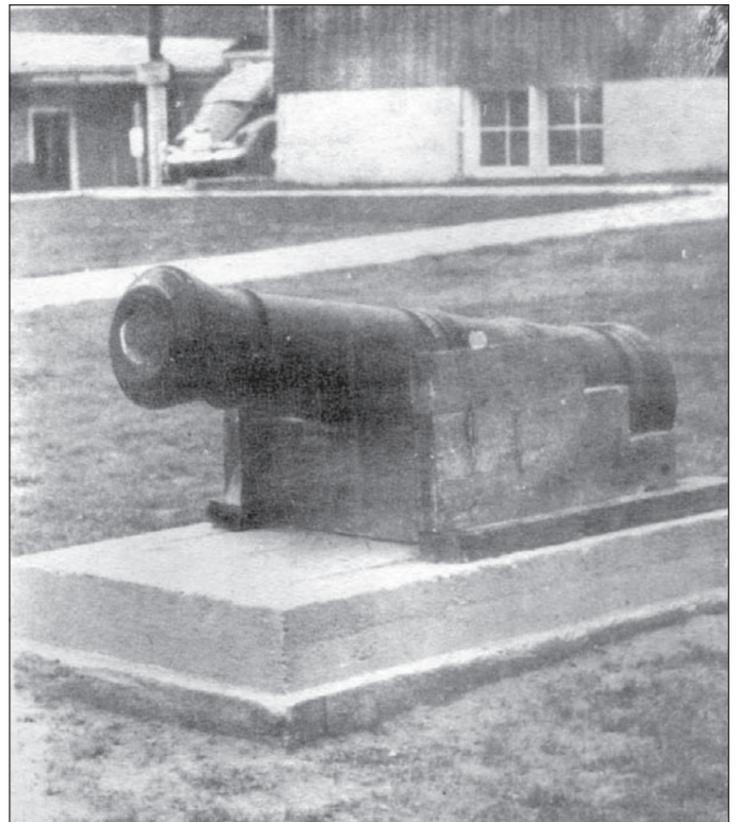
Veterans Affairs Canada photo

Familiar Faces

Old cannon

1965 - This old cannon was recently erected in front of the Montague Legion Home. It is believed the gun comes from DeRoma Settlement at Brudenell Point where the first permanent French settlement was made on PEI.

Graphic file photo



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THE LIVELY ONE

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