

# Foster father remembered for generosity

LAURA MACINNIS  
KINGS COUNTY RECORD

**MCDONALD'S POINT** • John Jackson was well-known by friends and loved ones for his generosity and dedication to his children, including those who he cared for fleetingly.

Jackson passed away at the Sussex Health Centre at 87 years old on July 6.

He was remembered in his community as a loving father to his two children, as well as the many foster children who lived with him and his wife Bertha over the years at their homestead in McDonald's Point.

"We had been seeing these ads in the newspaper all the time looking for foster parents," his wife of 59 years recalled. "We got to talking about it one night and we were looking at our oldest son, and we just said, 'They could use our help, let's give it a try.'"

She said it was the best decision they ever made.

"He loved all those children so much. He loved having a house full of kids over the years."

In a small community, their kind act became well known. Family friend Judy Hill described him as one of the kindest people she had ever known.

"He was an amazing man taking in all those children," she said.

Over the years, they took in a total of seven children. The two who stayed the longest became known as his chosen children.

"They truly are our family now – Paul and Robert," she said of the boys they took in.

She said others they lost touch with and were unsuccessful in trying to track them down over the years, but they all held a special place in his heart.

Jackson was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland on March 21, 1929, the son of the late John and Beatrice (White) Jackson. He immigrated to Canada with his family in 1931, when he was two years old.

Bertha said her husband cherished his roots to his family and they lived in the same homestead he grew up in for 85 years.

In 1992, he retired from his work as road supervisor for the Department of Transportation of Transportation in Wickham.



John Jackson PHOTO: SUBMITTED

"He loved his work and made so many great friends. He was always full of great stories," Bertha said.

Retirement gave him more time to work in his garden and enjoy his beloved horses.

On July 16, Jackson's sons and grandsons arranged to have a horse and carriage carry his ashes to the funeral service and then on to the burial grounds at Day's Point Cemetery not far from his homestead.

Jackson is also survived by son John and Beth of McDonald's Point; daughter Margaret and Richard Keirstead of Midland; chosen sons Paul and Heather Lockhart of Joliff's Brook and Robert and Melissa Noel of Jeffries Corner; grandsons John Eric (Terese Preston), Shawn (Sharlene), Justin Jackson, Garrett Keirstead (Taylor McLean) and Dylan Noel; granddaughters Lauren Keirstead, and Rebecca and Shannon Lockhart; great grandchildren Kyla, Brody and Shealyn Jackson; sisters Minnie Whittaker of St. George/Kars, and Jean Gooding, Christina Jackson and Janet Wotypka all of St. Thomas, Ontario; brothers David and Thomas (Linda) both of St. Thomas, Ontario. Jackson was predeceased by his sister Beatrice Ferris; brothers-in-law Ken Whittaker, Dick Gooding, George Ferris and Mike Wotypka and sisters-in-law Marion (Jones) Reicker and Evelyn Jackson.

A family service was held at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Carpenter. A public celebration of John's life was held at the Midland Hall, July 16, with arrangements entrusted to Sherwood's Funeral Home.



The Law Courts of Saint John PHOTO: TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL ARCHIVE

# Judge gives 28-year-old thief 'one last opportunity'

## Matthew Melvin sentenced to six months in jail for three counts of theft

SARAH SEELEY  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

**SAINT JOHN** • A 28-year-old Waterloo Street resident will spend six months in provincial jail after being given one final opportunity from a judge.

Matthew Melvin was accused of three counts of theft that occurred in January and failing to comply with conditions of a previous sentence.

Judge Andrew Palmer sentenced him to a six-month concurrent sentence and 12 months of probation following his sentence, as well as a counselling and treatment program.

"I hope you're sincere and actively participating in it," said Palmer after the sentencing.

On March 18, Melvin was supposed to be sentenced for four theft charges, but Palmer decided to only give him a sentence for one of the thefts. He was sentenced to six months of jail in the community with three months being served under house arrest in the residence of

his father. He was asked to abstain from drugs and attend counselling sessions. Palmer said he had served two months of his sentence before he committed another offence.

When he appeared for his sentencing on Wednesday, he also set a trial date for a new charge. He was accused of concealing a kitchen knife on May 17. Melvin will appear in court again on Oct. 13.

"This is the last opportunity you'll get from me," said Palmer.

The theft that Melvin was sentenced for in March happened on Jan. 29. A worker renovating the Dooly's at Prince Edward Square had stepped away from his truck to open up the worksite, and when he returned, his hunting knife and compass were missing.

Security footage caught Melvin in a truck outside Dooly's in Prince Edward Square.

Melvin was arrested after a witness on St. Andrews Street saw him check a door handle on a truck parked along the street. Officers were dispatched and located Melvin. He was found with the stolen items in his possession.

Melvin had a number of other stolen items on him when he was arrested, including a gardening kneeling pad from a car on Germain Street and vehicle documentation belonging to another

car owner. In February, Melvin was also charged for the theft of two pairs of sunglasses, change and other items from a vehicle on Cranston Avenue. The cops weren't able to catch him, but the fingerprints on a pair of sunglasses left at the scene

**Palmer said he had served two months of his sentence before he committed another offence.**

pointed to Melvin. This isn't the first time Melvin has been charged with theft. In 2013, he was sent to prison for two years after a series of thefts from cars. He was arrested when police set up an unlocked car with a laptop inside. These matters were addressed at Melvin's previous court appearances.

# FOOD TRUCK WEEKENDS



East Point Shopping

**ON SITE FOOD TRUCK VENDORS**  
11am to 8pm

**The Smoked Grenade**  
July 22, 23, 24

**Parking Lot Pizza**  
July 22, 23, 24

**Check Point Germany**  
July 22 & 23

**The Funky Monkey**  
July 22, 23, 24

## LIVE MUSIC

12 noon and 6pm

Friday, July 22

Matthew Martin (12 noon)

Wayne Hansen (6pm)

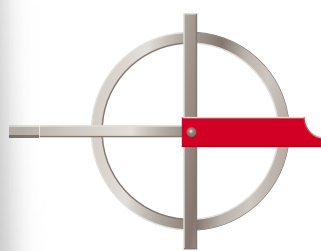
Saturday, July 23

Eloie Richard (12 noon)

Clinton Charlton (6pm)

Sunday, July 24

Hilary Ladd (12 noon)



East Point Shopping

COSTCO WHOLESALE Sobey's

ALCOHOL & LIQUOR Indigo THE FUTURE MARKET

le chateau GAP Moores

Mr. Big & Tall SALLYBEAUTY

ana banana AVEDA SPA

roots 73 FAIRWEATHER

TIPTOP Tailors Fyidocitors

wicker emporium

MR. LUBE PRINCESS AUTO

TD Hampton's MONTANA'S COOKHOUSE

goji's STARBUCKS COFFEE

WOK BOX

f East Point Shopping

Food Trucks will be located between GAP Factory Store and Le Chateau. See you there.

## Greater Saint John journal

### Man arrested for driving well over speed limit

**SAINT JOHN** • A 23 year-old man was arrested Wednesday night for travelling 120 kilometres per hour on Loch Lomond Rd., which is marked between 50 km/h and 70 km/h, according to Sgt. Lori Magee. The vehicle was clocked at 120 km/h while passing another vehicle on a solid line. The driver was stopped and arrested for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle. He was later released and will appear in court.

### West side road closed for next 90 days

**SAINT JOHN** • Construction began Wednesday on a phase of Saint John's Safe Clean Drinking Water Project will involve the closure of Pipeline Road West for 90 days. The project involves installing infrastructure and the road will be closed to through traffic from Cullinan Avenue to Gault Road. Access will be maintained at all times for local residents only, through traffic will be detoured through Westgate Drive onto Downsview Drive until the construction is complete.

### City market pedway closed until Monday

**SAINT JOHN** • The final renovation phase of the city market pedway is underway, and the entrance will be closed until next week. The closure will be in effect until Monday, July 25, to allow installation of flooring in the atrium, which is required before inspection of the area. Anyone who wants to use the market during this

time can enter from Charlotte Street, or North and South Market streets. "This is one of the final key milestones of this highly anticipated project," said Lisa Caissie, spokesperson for the city in an emailed statement. On Monday, July 25, the Germain Street entrance and the pedway through Brunswick Square will reopen once again so Saint Johners can use the market without hassle.

### Three arrested after reports of shoplifters

**SAINT JOHN** • Police arrived at the Superstore on Somerset Street in the city's north end at 7:17 p.m. Wednesday night for reports of three shoplifters leaving in a vehicle. Shortly after, police located the vehicle to arrest a 58-year-old man and 29-year-old woman for theft. While they were released on conditions and will appear in court at a later date, the third suspect was arrested on different charges. "A third person, a 42-year-old female, was arrested for theft and violation of a court order, part of which stipulated she was not to be in the Superstore," said Sgt. Lori Magee, spokesperson for the Saint John Police Force. The woman was held in custody for a court appearance.

### Van collides with car containing mom and kids

**QUISPAMISIS** • At 11:14 a.m. Wednesday morning fire crews responded to a motor-vehicle accident involving a Purolator van. The van collided with a "private vehicle" containing a mother and two kids by Millennium Drive and Route 119. Police and ambulance also arrived on scene. "The Purolator van driver was complaining about neck pain, but I'm not sure whether he was transported to hospital but he was assessed by medics on scene," said platoon Chief Kevin Clynick of the Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department. Crews left shortly after at 11:40 a.m.

**PLUS:** Check out GREAT SPECIALS at participating East Point stores.