

ACTUALITÉS

"I can't wrap my head around what they may have gone through." LAUREN GODDARD

Last two-lane portion of Rte. 2 to be twinned

SHAWN BERRY
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

FREDERICTON – The last two-lane section of the Trans-Canada Highway in New Brunswick is set to be twinned.

The provincial government has awarded a contract for a 2.7-kilometre section of Route 2 between Edmundston and the Quebec border.

The work is expected to be complete by the fall of 2014 and will involve grading and paving Route 2 from the Quebec border to the existing four-lane highway. That will eventually see the four-lane highway in New Brunswick connect with a planned four-lane highway in Quebec.

The section of the Trans-Canada Highway from Edmundston to Rivière-du-Loup, Que., has the only remaining two-lane portions of the highway between Halifax and Toronto.

Edmundston Mayor Cyrille Simard welcomed word that the process is moving forward.

Several years ago, residents of Madawaska County and neighbouring areas of Quebec pressed for the highway to be twinned, following a number of fatal crashes along two-lane stretches of the Trans-Canada.

"For a long time we had a deadly highway, so anytime we build a four-lane section, I think it's good news," Simard said.

Simard said many sections of highway in Quebec have been twinned and others are underway.

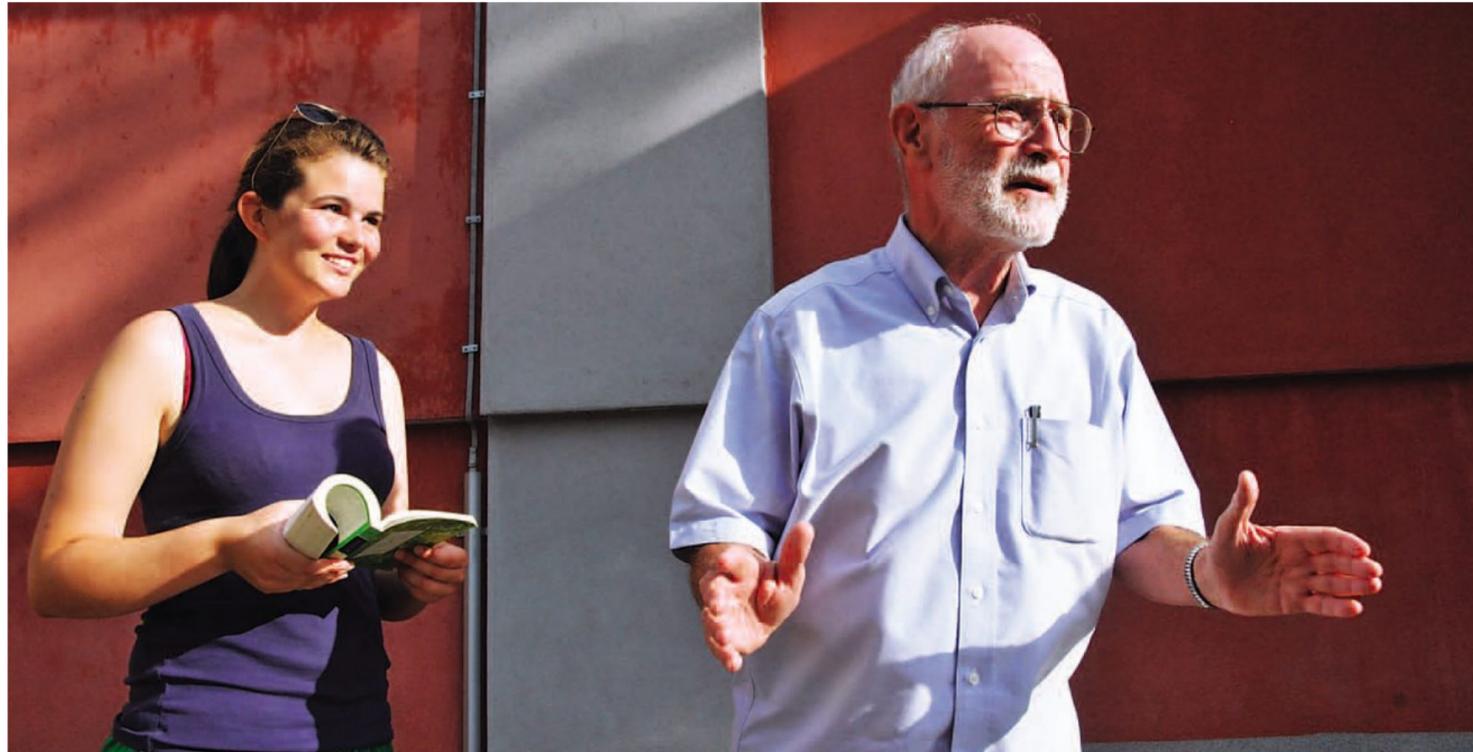
He said it's his understanding that the bulk of the work should be done by 2014.

A call to Quebec's department of transportation about the planned completion of twinning of sections of Route 185 between the New Brunswick border and Rivière-du-Loup was not returned Thursday.

Restigouche Construction Co. Ltd. of Grand Falls, one of five bidders on the contract, was the successful company with a bid of \$6.8 million.

Over the next two years, further work will be tendered to build an underpass and complete interchange connections.

Once complete, the twinned Trans-Canada Highway will run 513 kilometres from the Quebec border to the Nova Scotia border.



Lauren Goddard, text in hand, listens as Andrew Garrod addresses participants of the production 'As You Like It' in Mostar, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Teachers mending bridges in Bosnian city

KATE WALLACE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

In a Bosnian city whose river separates its two main ethnic groups, the former head of Saint John High School's English department is building bridges.

Andrew Garrod uses Shakespeare to span religious and cultural difference with kids who inhabit the same city, Mostar, but live in different worlds. Professor emeritus of education at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, Mass., he founded Youth Bridge Global, a non-profit organization, to "make ethnicity redundant," as its website states.

The Bosnian War began 20 years ago, but memories of it have been awakened with the recent burial of more than 500 victims of the Srebrenica Massacre and the ongoing war crimes trials at The Hague of General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. While Bosnian teenagers may not remember its violence, they know its after-effects. Mostar used to have the highest rate of inter-ethnic marriage in the country. Today, schools are segregated, and the two main ethnic groups – Bosniak Muslims and Catholic Croats – live on opposite sides of town.

As You Like It is Youth Bridge Global's fifth production in Mostar. It opens Tuesday, and will have a two-week run, playing different cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Montenegro and Croatia.

All froth and fun, the comedy is a

deviation from the heaviness of last year's *The Tempest*, with its themes of cruelty, vengeance and forgiveness, or *Romeo and Juliet*, the organization's first production, in 2006, and its explicit dealing with inter-cultural animosity.

As You Like It "isn't a play that resonates quite so powerfully with the particular Balkan conflict," Garrod said recently by telephone from Mostar. But comedy can be just as effective as tragedy at bringing together youth, apparently.

"It probably doesn't matter what the play is," he says.

The demands of the text and the time commitment of the program – all day, five days a week for eight weeks – means the cast spends a lot of time working together, using their own experiences to relate to Shakespeare's characters.

The production values are high, with crew members from Canada, the U.S. and Britain offering intensive training. A Youth Bridge Global show is a big production, complete with song and dance.

"We aim at excellent youth theatre," said Garrod, who directed some 40 shows at Saint John High School.

Production co-ordinator Lauren Goddard is a Rothesay native who recently graduated from Wheaton College, in Norton, Mass. Interested in television and film, and having acted in numerous student productions at Rothesay Netherwood School, "I was looking for someplace to get involved and understand a little bit more of what goes on

behind the scenes," she said from Mostar.

She heard of Youth Bridge Global through an aunt who had attended Dartmouth College.

"I was really interested in this particular project, because it was not just for entertainment purposes ... it also had the bigger purpose of bringing people together. I just love that whole idea of mending bridges."

At 22, she's in the same age bracket as many of the actors, who range from 15 to 25.

"I think it's very interesting, because for me I can't wrap my head around what they may have gone through." She has found Bosnian youth very supportive of one another, and intensely social, too, whiling away hours at Mostar cafés.

For many of the actors, the play is the first time they will have made friends with kids from the other group. There are few extracurricular events in Mostar. This is one of the few opportunities to mingle. And yet, conflicts are few.

Garrod has wondered if the program attracts kids who are already integrationist, or if the play helps them become that way. He would love to think it's the play, but suspects it isn't so pat.

"The kids seem almost apolitical," he said. "They're really cynical of their national leaders. They mock the fact that their leaders are unbearably nationalist."

He said the friendships last after the program ends even if, back home, they face pressure to stick to their own.



Rosalind (Dea Catela) and Celia (Šima Šimi) find merriment before they are banished to the forest of Arden in a Bosnian youth production of 'As You Like It.'

PHOTO: SUBMITTED/LAUREN GODDARD

"I think many of our students think that what we are doing is right and their parents and grandparents are shortsighted," he said, "and that Bosnia's only hope is to have a country that's far more sensitive to ethnic and religious differences."

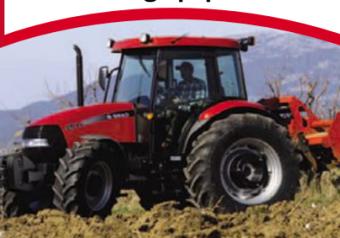
WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE
Our flyer distributed on July 25 - 27 and effective July 27 - Aug. 2: Page PO2: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2-Person Boat (#971971) will not be available in all stores.
We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

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Mortgage broker, partner accused of investment misconduct

DON MACPHERSON
THE DAILY GLEANER

A Nackawic mortgage broker charged with fraud and forgery has also run afoul of the New Brunswick Securities Commission for unauthorized investment transactions, as has his partner.

William Watson Priest-Phillips, 49, of 10 Old Bridge Rd. in Nackawic and his mortgage brokerage company, Priest Phillips Management Corp., were each charged earlier this month with defrauding Scotiabank of more than \$5,000 and uttering forged documents.

Priest-Phillips and the business, of which he's the director, have yet to elect mode of trial or enter pleas to the charges.

The charges allege offences between Jan. 1-Nov. 1, 2011, and arose as a result of a five-month investigation by the RCMP's commercial crime section in New Brunswick.

Cpl. Guy Paul Larocque of the commercial crime unit told Brunswick News this week the charges capture several different instances of alleged mortgage fraud.

That investigation was conducted with the assistance of the Fredericton Police Force and the New Brunswick Securities Commission.

A review of recent decisions and alerts issued by the commission reveal Priest, his husband/business partner, his company and other businesses they own have been sanctioned by the provincial investment watchdog organization for investment activity.

The commission issued a temporary cease-trade order in November for Priest-Phillips, Christopher Raymond Phillips, 613247 N.B. Ltd., Priest Phillips Management Corp., DLC Priest Financial, Priest Financial Group, Priest Phillips Professional Corp. and Centum Home Mortgage Corp.

All of the above companies are linked to Priest-Phillips and Phillips, who's also known by the married surname of

Phillips-Priest.

"The order prohibits Priest, Phillips and the companies listed above from soliciting money from anyone for any investment-related activity. The order also prohibits the respondents from relying on any exemptions to New Brunswick securities law," the commission said in a news release last fall.

"Priest and Phillips are prohibited from becoming or acting as a director or officer of any issuer, registrant or mutual fund manager."

The cease-trade order is to remain in effect until otherwise ordered by a commission panel.

The news release noted no hearing was held to give Priest and Phillips a chance to respond to allegations because they agreed to the terms of the order.

The grounds for the cease-trade order were detailed in a motion dated Nov. 2, available on the commission's website.

In that document, the commission said Phillips, who was registered as a mutual-fund salesman, and Priest, who wasn't, and their companies engaged in financial and investment transactions that violated commission rules and guidelines.

It said the numbered company, Priest Phillips Management Corp. (PPMC) and Centum (CHMC) have never been registered with the commission and never made any filings with the commission.

"It appears there is comingling of funds between 613247, PPMC and CHMC ... Priest traded in securities with New Brunswick residents without being registered," the motion stated.

"613247 failed to pay investors pursuant to investment obligations entered into by it and it now appears that the money provided by investors is gone."

The commission maintains Priest made misrepresentations to investors.

"The personal financial situation of the individual respondents is such that they may remain strongly motivated to continue to solicit funds from New

Brunswick investors," the motion stated.

"The conduct of the respondents warrants that they be removed from the capital markets of New Brunswick pending completion of the investigation."

The commission said its investigation into alleged violations of the Securities Act by the listed parties is ongoing and may result in staff taking further action.

Reached at his Saint John office Wednesday, commission executive director Rick Hancox said its investigation of Priest, Phillips and their companies is ongoing and will likely take another few months.

"This is more of a long-haul thing," he said, noting there's an extensive paper trail commission staff needs to follow to get to the bottom of things.

In general terms, Hancox said, when the commission finds people or firms have violated the provincial Securities Act, it can proceed in different ways, depending on the circumstances and seriousness of alleged breaches.

"The Securities Act gives us a variety of options when it comes to taking enforcement actions," he said.

The first is for the commission to impose professional and/or financial sanctions on its own. Hancox said individuals can be limited in or banned from certain financial activity or from sitting on corporate boards, or it can fine transgressors up to \$750,000.

"Option number two is to go to a Crown prosecutor and go through the court system" with charges under the Securities Act, he said.

In those situations, those found guilty can be fined up to \$1 million or even face some jail time, Hancox said, and that would happen in more serious circumstances.

The third option is to present the commission's findings to police and have them pursue a traditional criminal investigation.

He said it was too soon to say what

option the commission would pursue in the Priest/Phillips matter, if any.

Hancox acknowledged, though, the allegations aren't just of a technical nature and related to alleged instances of misconduct.

In a news release, it urged New Brunswickers who have been approached by or has provided money to Priest or Phillips for investment purposes to contact the commission by calling 1 (866) 933-2222 toll-free or by emailing information@nbsc-cvmbn.ca.

Legal counsel for Priest, who operated in Nackawic and Fredericton, appeared on his behalf in court July 12 on the fraud and forgery charges, and the matter was set over to Aug. 24.

Phillips hasn't been charged with any criminal offences, and Larocque said no further charges are expected as a result of the investigation at this time.

While the RCMP acknowledged the provincial securities commission assisted in the investigation, into alleged mortgage fraud on Priest's part, the commission has no involvement with mortgages.

Larocque said he wasn't at liberty to detail how the commission assisted in the probe.

Hancox also said he couldn't discuss the commission's role in the RCMP probe into alleged instances of mortgage fraud.

Priest-Phillips's business, Priest Phillips Management Corp., was at one time a franchisee with Dominion Lending Centres, Canada's largest mortgage-brokering firm.

However, Dominion terminated its link with the company and Priest-Phillips in April.

Calls to Priest Financial Group in Fredericton weren't returned, and neither was an email inquiry sent to Priest-Phillips' email address.

No number was listed for either man in Nackawic, and a telephone number for Priest in Fredericton has been disconnected.