

local

REUNION

Column brings father, daughter together

FROM PAGE 16

"It was going to be his ticket to a fortune.

"And that's the last I heard from him."

In the end, it is Suzanne Taylor's own children — Brit-tany, 19, and Jacob, 17, — who got her thinking once again of her father, and new computer skills that had her searching online for clues of his whereabouts.

"But, there are thousands of Jim Taylors out there," she says. "Which one of those thousands is he?"

"I've got two wonderful chil-dren, and I want him to meet them — wherever he is, what-ever he might be up to."

April 26

Less than one week after publication of the first column, James Taylor, now 75, was found.

No question about it, he's a 5-foot-5, made-for-TV movie kinda guy — still full of the kind of energy that had him, at the age of 40, capturing the attention of the world.

Doubt any of his exploits, and he'll pull out an old pho-tograph to prove the veracity of his tale. Personal pilot to fabled Newfoundland politi-cian Don Jamieson when he first ran for Parliament back in 1966? Well, here's a picture.

And here's another of him with iconic Newfoundland Premier Joey Smallwood, the man who brought the Rock into Confederation back in 1949.

"Those were the days," says Taylor.

He smiles at the memories.

"Chasing treasure. That's what happened back then," he says, explaining how he lost touch almost 20 years ago with his only two children — daughter, Suzanne, and older son, Don — and how he left for Florida to sell a vintage yacht he had restored and how, with

“He was fun to be around. He was exciting. He was always heading off to another adventure — scuba diving in Australia, or Barbados, or wherever.”

Suzanne Taylor, on her father Jim

\$37,500 suddenly in his pocket, he went scuba diving for sunken treasure in Aus-tralia, the Bahamas and Barba-dos.

"I was chasing a dream I couldn't catch," he says. "I was long divorced. I wasn't think-ing.

"And, to be honest, I just lost track."

Almost before the newsprint ink was dry on the April 19 column, the phone was ring-ing with Jim Taylor informa-tion and sightings. But, most informative of all, was an e-mailed newsletter for the Bra-malea Radio Control Flyers club showing a little man in a ball cap looking at one of his radio-controlled scale-model airplanes.

"Check out attached," says the reader. "Guy in blue shirt could be your Jim. Past stories I have heard — age, size — complete with a phone number where he could be reached.

It was almost too easy. By the end of the following day, once the shock of such quick closure had ebbed, Suzanne Taylor was finally on the phone with her long-lost father, plotting a face-to-face reunion so he can meet the grandchildren he has never known.

"I didn't sleep much (in anticipation of making that call)," she admits. "It was all so crazy — but my dad is well, and we talked for over an hour.

"The old fart still rides a motorcycle," she says, laugh-ing. "He's pushing 75."

Jim Taylor, still at work as a security consultant — with over 100 commercial and resi-dential clients — says he has never not had thoughts of his children over the last 17 years.

"When their mother remarried, I lost track," he says. "I didn't know (my ex-wife's) new married name, and I didn't know she had moved away from Barrie.

"Whenever I was in Barrie, though, I would cruise all the shopping malls, hoping I'd run into her," he says. "She used to be in the children's clothing and furniture business, and so I would check out the malls to see if she had a shop there.

"But, I couldn't find her any-where."

Looking back, Jim Taylor remembers the mother of his children as a "great lady and a great mother."

"It just didn't work out for us, that's all," he says.

He remarried 12 years ago, to a woman he met at a seniors dance, but who now has serious medical issues that he wishes to remain private.

"You know how it is when you get older," he says. "I was getting closer to dying, I guess, and I didn't want to be alone any more ... and there was a lot of loneliness.

"And, when I met this woman at a dance, I knew it felt right. It was like chasing treasure and finding it.

"A man has to slow down sooner or later," he says — all while laying out plans for a little road trip on his new cruising machine, a Suzuki 800 motorcycle.

It's the same make, but obvi-ously not the same model, that he attempted to ride to the North Pole 34 years ago.

"I still think it can be done," he says.

"Even by me."
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COURT: Preliminary hearing for second accused begins May 25

Trial date due soon for youth charged in Barnoski murder

GALEN EAGLE
Sun Media

PETERBOROUGH — The trial date for a 15-year-old boy charged with the second-degree murder of Warkworth's Michelle Noella Barnoski should be set this month, a Peterborough court heard yesterday.

Cobourg Crown attorneys

David Thompson and Nancy Rae met with the boy's lawyer Howard Goldkind and Mr. Justice Barry MacDougall for a judicial pretrial in Peterbor-ough's Superior Court of Jus-tice.

"I thought it was a fruitful pretrial," Thompson told the court.

MacDougall adjourned the case to May 22 in Whitby to set

later, police said.

Barnoski, 33, was last seen May 27, 2008 and was reported missing by her family two days

later, police said.

Her car was found in a remote location in Warkworth and her body was later discov-ered buried in the backyard of her Concession Street home.

Marc Vickers of Warkworth also faces a second-degree murder charge.

The 35-year-old's prelimi-nary hearing starts May 25 in Cobourg's Ontario Court of Justice.

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TODAY

NORTHUMBERLAND

NEWS

TRIBUTE: Public invited to remember fallen officer

Garrett memorial barbecue today

COBOURG — May 15 marks the fifth anniversary of the death of Cobourg Constable Chris Garrett. In recognition, the Cobourg Police Service is holding a barbecue at the Chris Garrett Memorial Park on Birchwood Trail 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 15.

The public is invited to attend. Hamburgers, hot dogs and salads will be available at no cost. LeBlanc Enterprises is sponsoring the event. Garrett, 39, was murdered in the line of duty after respond-ing to an alleged robbery call in the early hours of May 15, 2004. He was posthumously awarded the Star of Courage, the second highest bravery medal in Canada, last Decem-ber.

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