

March 16, 1991.
Site 21 B Comp B-5
RR 12 Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 6H7

Dear Thomas:

Thought I'd drop you a line just letting you know that we are settling into our new home in Fredericton. As I told you we would move on January 30th..a beautiful day in Halifax. But we moved in in Fredericton in the midst of a snowstorm...more like a blizzard. It seems whenever we've moved into a new home, the weather has been terrible!

At any rate, we are settled in comfortably now. I am trying to find a full-time job, but they are scarce everywhere I guess. I have been lucky enough to get some part-time work at the CBC. And although I don't like the CBC's politics, it does give me the opportunity to keep my hand in in journalism. The alternatives to the CBC here in Fredericton are very limited. The local newspaper is the Daily Gleaner and it doesn't offer much in the way of local news. The only other paper is the Telegraph out of St. John and it's not much better.

I also wrote my N.B. Real Estate Exam and am now fully qualified to sell real estate here. I did do quite well at that in Nova Scotia, but it's alright for a side-line, but I'd much rather stay with my chosen field. Once the economy brightens up a bit, there may be more opportunity for television work...the kind of documentary work I prefer. But right now it's extremely limited.

I should take the off-time to write in earnest, but I still have a lot of doubts about writing anything like a short story or novel, although that's always intrigued me. I should just stop thinking about it and do it I suppose.

I do think of you often and the determination you had to write what you wanted. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to visit with you as often as I have...just to listen to your stories. It's amazing to me that you can remember the words you wrote so long ago so clearly. But I guess when you took such pains over every word, you don't forget so easily! And even though I'm a lot further away from you now, I can pick up one of your books and when I read the words, it's almost like you telling me the story yourself!

I feel very privileged to have been the one to do the Sable Island Documentary with you. You have always reminded me a lot of my own father, and since his passing, you have made me feel that much closer to him. That may sound like I have been "using you" but I wasn't. I love you for you. But you have helped to fill in a bit of the void left by my own Dad's passing.

I hope to be able to see you this summer when we get back to Nova Scotia. I don't know exactly when we'll be coming, but once I know, I'll give you a call and see if it's alright to stop by for a visit. But I will write again before then. So take care.. no more falling down the stairs okay?

All the Best
Healy Johnson