

BEST OF

# CORNWALL

## Best left hook in the city

**Tony Luis** - now here's a guy who walks the walk and talks the talk. You'd never know that a man who makes a living beating people up is one of the most gracious, well-respected people outside the boxing ring. Regardless of what the future holds for Luis in boxing (and we're sure it's going to be something special) the city has found itself an ambassador we can hang our hat on - and we're lucky to have him.

## Best soup in town

They may be famous for their coffee and donuts, but you people really love the soup at **Tim Hortons**. Be it chicken noodle, beef and barley or clam chowder, the savoury aroma of soup bubbling away at Tim Hortons takes the top spot.

## Best local cheese

They're the best in Cornwall and area - and even the world. Hailing from Lancaster and produced at **Glengarry Cheesemaking**, aged Lankaster took top prize at the annual Global Cheese Awards last fall. Our favourite story, that is probably total bunk, is that after it won the award the cheese ran on to the stage, stripped off its top and began rubbing itself in olive oil. That'll show those hoity-toity cheese freaks.

## Best ghost story

Apparently **the ghost of Bishop John Strachan** still haunts the hallowed grounds of Trinity Anglican Church in Cornwall. In 1803 Strachan was ordained a priest with the Church of England and he moved to Cornwall shortly thereafter. If you believe the rhetoric, apparently he hasn't left.

## Best outdoor rink

**The skating rink created for Winterfest is our favourite.** It might not be the smoothest rink in the world (thank you stupid winter weather) but it's often the busiest for a few days in February when all of Cornwall leaves the warmth of their homes for the outdoors.



Cornwall's Tony Luis

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Favourite area of town to enjoy a bike ride

While we were looking for a place in Cornwall to enjoy a leisurely ride on a bicycle, many of you, including Linda Phillips, Jenelle Malyon and Janice Jodoin decided to think outside the box and went with the **Long Sault Parkway**. Fact is, you people are correct. Who can argue with the picturesque scenes that dot the landscape? Just watch out for the goose poop.

Best corner in the city to people watch

Many of you chose Pitt and Second streets, again, but our favourite place to people watch has to be the **northeast corner of Wal-Mart**, adjacent to the main entrance. Is it just us, or has this become the centre of the universe? There are often more people per square foot in this densely packed nexus of commercialism than anywhere else in the city – except, of course, the breakfast line at Spinners Diner on Pitt Street.

Best patio to enjoy a summer cocktail

Some of the regulars appeared on our list this year: Schnitzel’s Truffles, Lola’s Pub and Grub and even the back deck at the RCAFA Wing 424 made the list. But the nod this year goes to the patio alongside **Kelsey’s** on Brookdale Avenue. Our favourite time of “patio season” has been the Friday afternoon before a long weekend when the mass of traffic looking to head south to the United States often meant motorists were just a stone’s throw from Kelsey’s patrons. The opening of the new low-level bridge means we’ll have to combine our love of frustrated motorists and tasty beverages in some other way. We’re just weird.



Most colourful city councillor past or present

**Korey Kennedy** still turns heads whenever his name is mentioned. Love him, or hate him, Kennedy was never one to shy away from controversy or offering his opinion. Our favourite story, though we are unsure of its validity, includes the time Kennedy entered the office of a top city manager and plunked himself down in a chair. “What are you doing here?” asked the manager. “Oh, I’m just here to see what you do,” was the reply. We love it.

Favourite police officer

The voting suggests that **Const. Matt Lemire** is your favourite this year, who beat out Sgt. Bryan Snider and Chief Dan Parkinson by just one ballot – which makes us think he voted for the right person. In all seriousness Rob McGillivray and Carole Poirier were among the masses (\*cough\*) that voted for Const. Lemire. We encourage you to point that out to him, should he ever pull you over for speeding.

Best server in town

**Mary, a waitress at Riverside Pizzeria** on Montreal Road in Cornwall, is tops on the list as far as reader Keri Cholette is concerned. She gets those pies quickly, and still piping hot, to your table in short order. But how she navigates the piles of empty pizza boxes is still a mystery to us (wink).

Best regular customer at a local coffee shop

You people love coffee. **So many of our respondents suggested that THEY are the best regular at a local coffee shop that we had to close down voting.** Our personal favourite, **“Wiener”** was provided by Heather Bazinet. We’re not sure who “Wiener” is, and perhaps Bazinet is getting confused with Billy K’s, but we admire her passion.

Best bartender in town

**Oh Maggie, your customers love you.** Not enough to provide us with your last name of course, but as the barkeep of choice, that hails from the RCAFA, you have more than a few fans of your work. Keep up the good work.

Best feel good story of the year in Cornwall

It has to be the way the community has rallied around **Stephanie Grady and her family** as she battles a rare form of cancer. Spaghetti dinners, bake sales and sporting activities have been organized by volunteers to help raise money for the family as Stephanie begins experimental treatments for her disease. Take a bow everyone, you’ve done a great job.



Best place to enjoy a glass of wine

Truffles, Table 21, Bar-Q, Ramada Inn, the Best Western Parkway – the list goes on and on. If it wasn’t for your love affair with coffee, we would suggest many of you enroll in a 12-step program because of your desire for a rich glass of red, or a sparkling white. **But Laurel Henderson’s choice is our favourite this year – only because she sips wine in her “just-renovated basement.”** The wine rack is also home to the fabric softener, so make sure you know which bottle you’re grabbing.

Best place for some late-night snacking

Yet another example of a vast array of responses. A variety of fast-food operations were included on the list this year. But the top vote-getter for 2014 is **Napoleon’s Delicatessen** on Montreal Road. Where else can you explore choices that include everything from poutine to fish sticks and bacon and eggs at 2:30 in the morning? Ok, probably lots of places, but none of them have the character and tradition of Napoleon’s – which includes the kitsch that is their namesake.

Best sandwich in town

Once again your choices ran the gamut this year. Riley’s (you have a special place reserved in heaven), Dish Café and Food Shop (hello, comrade), Subway (extra pickles, please) and Quizno’s (more delicious turkey) were all included in the voting, but the best this year goes to **Moustache Joe’s** on Pitt Street. The owners may be different, but people still love your sandwiches.

Best locally produced wine

**Cornwall Fine Wines** made it to the top of the heap. They’re located on Ninth Street and have a metric tonne of different wines available. Our favourite has to be the Vieux Chateau du Roi, only because it feels like molasses dripping out of your mouth when you say it. Ask them about it when you stop in. Molasses is optional.



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Favourite downtown business

**Life's Little Pleasures** tops our list this year. It's not because of the products they provide (though they are great) and it's not the name (but it is kind of catchy, right?) but instead we look to the smile that greets us every time we walk through the doors from owner **Chris Munro**.

Best Pinterest page from a local user

**Valerie Lihou's Pinterest page is tops this year.** Not because she's Seaway News editor Todd Lihou's mom (though that probably helps), but instead we're pretty sure it will lead to a divorce of her husband Terry, who is convinced the website is burned into his wife's Ipad. "That damn thing is going off with Pinterest beeps all night. I can't sleep."

Favourite local writer

**Joan Levy-Earle** made it to first place in 2014. She has made a lifetime of offering us her unique perspectives on all things Cornwall. But our favourite is her latest novel, 'Train Ride to Destiny.' She's also John Earle's mom, but as you can see by some of this year's slate of winners, moms have become a running theme.

Favourite local teacher

**Rory Blackadder** is not only a great English teacher, but a pretty fine coach too, according to our readers. Our hat goes off to teachers who not only have to hold court several hours a day in classrooms, but also go above and beyond when it comes to extra-curriculars like sports teams and theatre performances. Guess it makes up for getting the whole summer off...and two weeks at Christmas...and a week in March...and four days at Easter...and...

If you could be in the Cornwall Sports Hall of Fame what would it be for

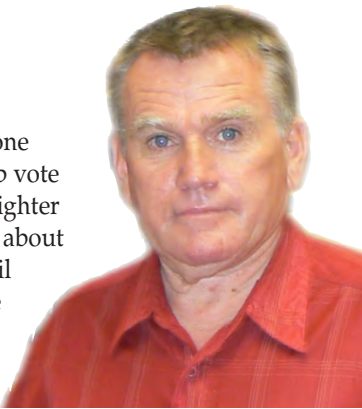
**Lori Delgreco** takes top spot. Apparently she loves **marbles**, and would love to be immortalized for this "sport" that was once the focus of every schoolyard students in the city. We're pretty sure marbles have gone the way of the dodo, but Lori wants that to change. Way to go, Lori.

Best beer on tap in Cornwall

Is it cold? Is it wet? Is it right in front of me? *That, dear readers, is the best beer on tap.*

Best person to ever hold public office

Is it a coincidence that not one person voted for anyone CURRENTLY holding office? Weird. Anyway, the top vote getter is **Mark MacDonald**, a former Cornwall firefighter turned community activist who has his finger in just about every pot out there. He wants to return to city council in this fall's municipal election – in the meantime we hope he can explain the name "Archibald" that is attached to nearly every one of his emails to this office.



Favourite local sports personality

If Jesse Winchester ever plays for a team that wins the Stanley Cup there will be a municipal holiday. That hockey player, who used to play for the Cornwall Colts before graduating to the NHL, is universally-loved in this region. Too bad he plays for the Florida Panthers – don't old your breath on that Stanley Cup.

Favourite place to exercise outdoors

**The bike path and Lamoureux Park are tied for top spot.** Fortunately one runs through the other, so we can overlook the log jam atop the standings. It was also suggested – again this year – that many like to head out to the sanctity of the backyard to do their exercises, presumably so they won't be ridiculed. We know what you're doing...and it's hilarious.

Favourite Facebook page

**Judge James O'Reilly** is by far one of the most popular pages to come along since – well, 2007. That's when Facebook went gangbusters. But in the last year or so the O'Reilly page, which is operated by local historian Sara Lauzon, has been offering up old pictures and historical tidbits that readers have a real appetite for. Check it out.

Favourite local DJ

Who the heck is this **"Georgie"** you all love so much? Corus' Darryl Adams got some love in our polling, but it was nothing compared to this phantom named "Georgie." We even Googled his name and came up empty. Our good friend Dan Allaire from CJSS was likewise stumped – so we're going to trust you people know what you're talking about.

Your favourite way to mass communicate

Some guy said he enjoys shouting at the end of his street, but your favourites remain **Facebook** and **Twitter**, with a liberal dose of e-mails. Keep it up, Cornwall.



Favourite local garden

You people must think you're pretty funny. *Almost everyone who answered this question wrote "my garden."* Hard to argue with that logic. So we picked our own from our archives ... **Ethan Henstock-Major** age 5, planted these GIANT sunflowers for his Granddad, Joseph Henstock and some for his Grandmother Joanne, and some for himself. He said the tallest one would win. WOW!! Ethan was the WINNER, his flowers grew the tallest.

Favourite national sports personality you love to hate

**Don Cherry** once again got mentioned more than once, but you people really have something against U.S. Olympic hockey team. While we wouldn't exactly agree the team is a "personality" the vehemence with which you dislike the squad our boys beat (again) at the Olympics has certainly taken on a life of its own. Sooner or later we're going to lose a game to that team - fortunately we'll all be too old to care, by then.

Best story from Ice Storm '98

Our favourite is the one where the guy (we forget his name) wounded himself while chopping wood out in the boonies. The wood was being used to heat his home that was without power for days and days. The cut was deep enough to require stitches, but instead of going to the hospital (which would have taken him away from wood-chopping) he took it upon himself to stitch the cut up on his own. Then he smashed a beer can on his head and 'rastled a grizzly bear. Everything is true...except for the beer can (it was a paper towel) and the bear (we're pretty sure it was just a puppy).

Best place to toboggan

Toboganners (is that a word?) love **the hill at the Long Sault Parkway**. How could one argue otherwise, with the steep incline and dips at the bottom that often send sleds rocketing into the sky. It's best if you wear a helmet – this hill is not for the faint of heart.

Best urban legend about Domtar Papers

Our favourite this year was the time, apparently, a pair of Domtar employees scaled the fence at the mill during the evening hours to catch a hockey game at a nearby watering hole. Things went great until they hopped the fence to get back in. A passing motorist saw them and called the cops - mistaking the duo for a pair of thieves. The police nabbed the fellows, who had to be brought back to the gate house to identify themselves. The only thing that kept them from the unemployment line was the union.

Best seat to watch a hockey game at Cornwall Civic Complex

Apparently if you want to enjoy a Cornwall River Kings game, and get the full effect of the experience, try sitting in Section E at the Cornwall Civic Complex. It's known as **"Cell Block E"** because the fans that sit there are known for being more vocal than the average hockey fan. Don't say we didn't warn you.

Best performance at Lift Off

**It has to be the performance of all the volunteers** from one year to the next. Name another huge event, like a hot-air balloon festival, that runs as well as this one on the strength of dozens of volunteers. There have been plenty of on-stage performers, like Kim Mitchell and Burton Cummings who have entertained the heck out of us – but all the songs mean nothing without the people who do the heavy lifting.



## 5480290



## Best song by a local artist

**Hurry Up and Take it Slow**, from The Shiners, is our favourite this year. The local band with a bunch of guys who look like they've been together since high school (probably because they have) is well-known for its up-tempo numbers that get hands clapping and feet tapping during live performances.



photo by Bob Peters

## Best Twitter account from a local resident

**We love the Cornwall Community Police Service's Twitter account.** Not only is it a source of information on everything from police blotter items to safety tips, but it gives Const. Dan Cloutier a chance to acquaint himself with even more technology. We love Dan...but we're pretty sure he still carries a pocket pager (wink). By the way, Cornwall police can be found at @CCPSmedia.

## Best place to enjoy the big game

We're not sure how many "big games" have taken place at the **Benson Centre**, but you guys sure love that facility. Fact is, the Benson Centre is a first-rate facility and we're lucky to have such a jewel in Cornwall.

## Best local sporting venue for children

Is it against the rules to have something win twice in the same year? No...because who could argue with the **Benson Centre** taking home top honours again in this category. Fact is, the Benson Centre is a first-rate facility and we're lucky to have such a jewel in Cornwall...you may have read that somewhere before.

## Favourite local blog

No...it's not what you might think. Our favourite this year is **marchhockey.com**, which has been put together by local writer Ashley March. She's no stranger to the sporting world, and has become an accredited journalist at a variety of hockey levels. We won't hold it against her that she cheers for the Philadelphia Flyers.

## Favourite place to view the St. Lawrence River

**Mocktails**, the newest addition to Lamoureux Park, is the winner this year. Not only are the owners solid community-inspired people (we loved their Halloween spectacle) but they make the best darn riverfront smoothies this side of Cornwall Island. The fact that you can enjoy one while the river flows on by is a bonus.

## Best shipwreck on the St. Lawrence River

The **Conestoga** lies a short distance upstream from Cardinal. The old girl was a 2,008 ton double-planked propeller vessel. She was launched July 6, 1878 and sank May 22, 1922. The bow is upstream and near shore with the vessel angled out into the river. Conestoga lies in about 30 feet of water, with a very swift current, and her stack still protrudes from the surface of the water.

## Favourite chip man

Chip men (how does one explain that on a resume?) were synonymous in Cornwall, with their white vans and ringing bells. How one was able to safely navigate city streets in a vehicle with boiling grease and a pair of propane tanks (isn't that basically a rolling bomb?) still confounds us. But there are a variety of stationary chip wagons throughout Cornwall and Grandpa Bill's Fries on Eleventh Street tops our list in 2014. City staffer Kevin Lajoie loves Grandpa's fries so much we're pretty sure he has shares in the company.

## Best pizza in town

King George, Louis, Riverside, Sub Bay, Philo's, North End, Olympic, Pizza Hut, Pizza Pizza, Dominoes...**the fact is if we choose just one then we will alienate the rest of you** (and we're all about smiles in this office). Let's just say that even when pizza is bad, it's still pretty good...enjoy it where you can.

## Most famous Cornwallite

We were initially thinking historical-type people, but decided to go in a different direction with the selection Hollywood heart-throb **Ryan Gosling**. Is there anyone on the planet from Cornwall more famous than Gosling? We've heard the arguments that Cornwall is not his real home town - but everyone in the Seaway City knows that's not true.

## Best place for a picnic

**Guindon Park** tops our list in 2014 - again. It's far enough out of the city centre to get away from it all, but not far enough to be considered irritating. Bug repellant is a must.

## Best golf hole in Cornwall

People still love the clown face at Archie's MiniPutt, but we agree with the golf die-hards who selected **number 18 at the Cornwall Golf and Country Club** as their favourite. Is there anything better than sinking that last putt at the Cornwall club, knowing a frosty beverage is the next priority?

## Best street name

**Nick Kaneb Drive** in Cornwall is our favourite for so many reasons. We loved Nick's passion for municipal politics, and he was a fixture at the Cornwall Curling club for years. But the biggest reason we like this street is it pays tribute to one of our own - and more of that should be done in the Seaway City.

## Best quote by a local politician

We're pretty sure **Coun. Gerry Samson** was kidding when he suggested, in open council, that "gassing" local pigeons would be an effective way to control their droppings. But let's for a minute pretend he was serious. (SHUDDER). Ok - let's not do that again. We hate pigeon droppings too, but gassing our feathered friends might be just a tad over the top.

## Best locally produced fruits and veggies

**The Farmer's Market** that takes place every weekend in the summer in the parking lot at The Brick on Pitt Street has some of the freshest locally-produced produce around. Our favourite item from the market has to be the pickled mushrooms produced by a little old lady who refuses to give us her name - maybe because we might steal the recipe.

## Best local garden

Lots of you enjoy the tranquillity of **Marlin Orchards** in Summerstown. The rows of apple trees, and the beauty of the St. Lawrence River, combine to make it a mainstay during the summer months. It's a shame winter is so long in our region.

## The best sports team to ever represent the city

We have had reams of hockey talk on this one, but how about some love for the **2009 Cornwall Black Sox** that did our city proud by advancing all the way to the Senior League World Series? The Black Sox, a name synonymous with minor baseball glory in Cornwall, defeated the host Saint John All-Stars in the final of the Canadian championships to advance to the world series. We still look back on them with fondness.

## Best name of a local hockey team

**The Cornwall Royals** - bar none. They're one of just seven major junior teams to win consecutive Memorial Cups and they were a hockey mainstay in Cornwall until William Wise got his hands on the team. Check next year's most nefarious Cornwallite section for our tribute to Willie.

## Favourite local singer

Our nod this year goes to our local contributor **Roxanne Delage**. Sure she works for us, and her smile is like something out of a Robert Frost poem, but you'll agree with us that she backs up her positive personality with a voice that can't be beat.

## Your favourite place to catch fish

While Lancaster is famous for its perch, many of our readers enjoy a trip west to **Long Sault** to spend a few hours relaxing with a fishing line in the water. Thumbs down to the wag who answered with "my bath tub." Sigh.

## What little known sport is Cornwall famous for

Believe it or not...**badminton**. There are still leagues in Cornwall where badminton players take to high school gyms and bat the birdie around. In fact, Arthur Crewson is in the Cornwall Sports Hall of Fame for badminton - he won the Cornwall and District Championship, and Provincial Championship on six occasions.



## The best local web-based business

**Neo-Vintage Furniture** gets the nod. They ship items all across Canada, our personal favourite is the “factory cart coffee table” which is exactly what the name implies. We’re still trying to find a toilet seat Frisbee but we’re pretty sure they’re just out of stock. In all seriousness, Neo-Vintage, while still operating a storefront, has embraced the world of e-commerce.

## Best Canada Day fireworks display

We took some heat last year for not selecting the annual display in Lamoureux Park - so you’ll forgive us again for going in a different direction. The little village of **Morrisburg**, west of Cornwall, has one of the best fireworks displays around. The display is shot off right on the river’s edge, and lasts more than 15 minutes (which Cornwall fireworks fans will appreciate). Check it out this year.

## Best snack at the Cornwall Motor Speedway

If you’ve never had a **hamburger** at the Cornwall Motor Speedway then you’ve never lived. Maybe its the flame-kissed artistry at the grill, the fresh toppings you can add yourself, or the smell of exhaust wafting from the pits. Whatever it is, a speedway burger is hard to beat.

## Favourite rink to play hockey on in Cornwall

**King George Park on Seventh Street** in Cornwall is a great place to lace up your skates and enjoy a game of shinny. Maybe it’s because it makes you feel like you’ve gone back in time, or maybe it’s because it’s one of the few outdoor rinks in the city to offer lighting at night, but we love hockey at the King George.

## Favourite local brewery

**Beau’s All Natural Brewing** takes the cake. To be honest, though, we’re not sure why. With offerings like Lug Tread, Ellsmere’s Regret and Hogan’s Goat it sounds more like someone is about to cast a spell instead of enjoying a delicious beverage (and they are delicious). Crack open a bottle of Beau’s the next time you have the chance – you won’t be disappointed.

## Favourite local art piece

The versatile and talented **Dave Johnston** moved to Cornwall from Toronto just a few weeks ago to be closer to his family. He brought with him a talent for creating 3D art that is already turning heads in the Seaway City. He’s already had his work displayed at The Art Gallery – Cornwall. You should have a look.

## Most nefarious Cornwallite

Ask former cop Thom Racine who the most nefarious Cornwallite is and we’re betting he has just one answer – **James Slavin**. We’re suggesting Slavin who killed Const. John Robert Davey back in 1892 is the worst of the worst. Unarmed, Davey was attempting to apprehend Slavin who had just shot two men. While wrestling with the suspect, Davey was shot in the chest at point blank range and killed – on his first day on the job.

## Best way to entertain kids for a couple of hours

A large collection of people suggested an afternoon at Galaxy Cinemas or The Port theatre is the best way to kill a couple of hours with the kids, but our favourite has to be those who went with...wait for it...**karaoke?!?** Yes, even the youngsters like nothing more than to kickoff their shoes and belt out “I Will Survive” with a couple of dozen of their closest friends. Only in Cornwall.

## Most challenging hole at Archie's

**The one with the cannon.** We forget the number, but you have to fire your golf ball out of a cannon and onto an upper level that contains a pair of holes. After sinking your ball in one of those two holes it slinks down to a lower level where you have to once again drop it into another hole. One reader suggested he sunk the ball in just one shot – but we think he’s fibbing.

## Best bridge in Cornwall

How about a round of applause for **the new low-level bridge** that connects the city to Cornwall Island. It’s still got that new bridge smell. But in all seriousness, it provides a much quicker route to and from the city and the fact that it is not yet riddled with potholes makes us forget all about its pockmarked predecessor.

## What road do you avoid in the winter

For some reason winter motorists really have a hate-on for **Cumberland Street**. We’re not sure why, but we’re hardly in a position to argue. The next one on our list goes to the gentleman that suggested “the road to my office.” We’re guessing he takes a lot of sick time.

## Iphone or android - GO

We asked this question again this year, hoping it would once again turn into a free-for-all with computer geeks and tech wizards doing battle. We were wrong. For the record the Iphone beat the Android by just a single vote – but only because one of the Android guys forgot to charge his phone. Until next year...

## Best plane on a post

We’ve been here before. It’s a tie between the only two “posted-planes” in the city – one at the **RCAFA Wing 424** and the other outside **Nav Canada**. If a third one is ever erected we could have the first air-to-air combat that took place 10 feet off the ground.

## Your favourite place on the Internet that you don't tell your friends about

You people are disturbed. Let’s move on...

## Worst pothole in the city

We’re pretty sure there’s a Buick at the bottom of the potholes created by the **reconstruction of Brookdale Avenue**. More than a few west-end Cornwall residents have told us about this work that created a bunch of headaches for motorists and commuters last year.



## Favourite summertime event

We’ve tried to stay away from repeat winners this year, but if we don’t select **Ribfest** as the top summertime event we’re pretty sure you’ll come down to our offices and beat us to death with rib bones. Fact is this young event has become a favourite, nearly overnight. Lift-Off still holds a special place in our hearts, as does Waterfest and nearly every community fair in the region. But Ribfest has, well...ribs. Case closed.

## Best local band

**Switchgear** has moved to the top of our list. These Cornwall lads have been living an breathing music since they were young people - and it shows with the emotion they carry with them on the stage. Whether its before hundreds at a venue like Lift-Off, or dozens at a local bar, Switchgear leaves it all on the stage.

## Best name for a pet in Cornwall

Who names their goldfish Scott? **Scott the Goldfish**. We overheard this little item while walking through the Benson Centre the other day and just had to mention it here. It’s kind of akin to **Ralph the Iguana** and **Barbara the Parrot**, but we love the originality.

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