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October 4 to October 17, 2010

Victoria County, Cape Breton

Council to decide

Clear bags for waste collection?

by Jim Morrow

In an effort to further reduce the amount of solid waste the Municipality must truck to the Generation II landfill site in Guysborough, Victoria County is considering having residents use clear garbage bags.

Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works for the Municipality spoke to County Council on September 27th. "What would go into a black or dark garbage bag would go into a clear bag," he said.

The reason for the change is to ensure all recyclables go into a blue bag and organics into a green bag.

Chief Administrative Officer, Sandy Hudson, said, "by properly separating household waste the costs of transporting waste from our transfer station can be reduced."

Mr. Hudson reminded Council the Municipal Transfer station is simply that - a transfer station. No waste stays in Victoria County anymore. It is all separated and transferred out of the County. What can be recycled is, while the material that cannot be recycled or composted is separated and trucked to Guysborough at a considerable expense to the Municipality.

The majority of other Municipalities in the province have moved to clear bags for waste collection.

Mr. Dauphinee pointed out that the cost of clear bags is decreasing as demand for them increases.

Clear bags allow the waste collec-

see It is, page six

In the middle of the action

Mass casualty exercise gets real with wild weather



Team 3 Casualties from the Search and Rescue Mass Casualty Exercise safely back on the Baddeck Wharf are (L-R) Mike Smith, Mona Anderson, Mariah McCooey, Conrad Swetlikoff, Amy Tuck and Dale Deutekom.

by Mona Anderson

For me, it started on Monday, September 20th, at a media briefing at the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney. When a Search and Rescue exercise is in the offing notification to the public is crucial to avoid causing alarm amongst local citizens and a mass casualty exercise was being staged in the Bras d'Or Lakes near Baddeck the following day. I was there representing *The Victoria Standard* to help get the message out

Ray McFadgen, Maritime SAR Coordinator for the Marine Search and Rescue Unit, filled us in on the scenario. A simulation of a collision involving a tour boat and a pleasure boat would be staged just west of Baddeck, with 30+ survivors, some trapped inside a capsized vessel, the rest, castaways, on remote locations in the sur-

rounding area. The task was straight forward: rescue all the casualties and bring them safely home.

The primary purpose of the exercise is training, to prepare for a real disaster, that hopefully will never come, but may; to practice, test communications, get feedback from the partners, learn how Search & Rescue can help develop better procedures. This is also an opportunity for the various partners to meet and work together, which is a bonus should a real disaster take place. The amount of planning in such an exercise, with upwards of 100 personnel involved, is mind boggling.

All vessels were launched from the Baddeck Wharf while command posts were set up around the Village, the main one located at the Inverary Inn, with mobile units posted along the Trans Canada Highway. Air Force

scheduled a Cormorant helicopter to airlift casualties from the water while a Hercules aircraft would drop canisters containing life rafts, survival gear, and rations in a SKAD - Survival Kit Air Drop. The casualties were to be played by cadets from the Coast Guard College and students from Baddeck Academy and the media.

The stage was set. Everything was in place. But the weather had some tricks of its own to play in the form of Hurricane Igor. Big winds out of the north built quickly to over 30 knots, whipping the lake into a frothing monster. Meanwhile, the Hercules and the Cormorant were diverted to the Gaspe area to aid in a real search operation, a lone sailor overboard. CASARA couldn't make it and the student casualties from Baddeck Academy were canceled

see Rescue, page two

Follow-up workshop

Sustainability themes for County's future

by Henry Fuller

On Monday September 20, 2010, Gordon McIntosh, principal of the Local Government Leadership Institute (LGI), facilitated a day long session on sustainable community development and leadership. This was a follow up session to a December 2009 two day long program lead by Mr. McIntosh which brought members of the Victoria County Council and interested county residents together to discuss and formulate sustainable economic development needs and leadership capacity for enhancing the economic future and well being of Victoria County. A docu-

ment summarizing the results of the December 2010 session provided the background for the current meeting.

At the September 20, 2010 session close to twenty-five individuals representing the various districts of the County participated along with several members of the Victoria County Council and the CAO of the county, Sandy Hudson. Also, present was the newly selected Victoria County sustainable development officer, Nona MacDermid, who celebrated her first day on the job as a key participant in the forum.

see No priorities, page three

Money Point Light

Ruined structure spoils hikers' trek

by Jim Morrow

During the Hike the Highlands Festival hikers who took the exceptionally beautiful trek into Money Point were shocked and aghast at what they found at the end of the trail.

The wooden light house was cut in half and lying on its side with debris blowing in the wind.

For the local guides and sweeps it was not only emotionally upsetting but embarrassing to have the visitors to the area see the destruction and seeming disregard for local history and the otherwise pristine environment.

Lisa Dixon from Smelt Brook who

was participating on the Money Point hike was especially distraught as her family members had been light keepers at the the original Money Point light.

Hike leader, Bay St. Lawrence's David Rasmussen made the salient point that, "when the Government of Canada took the original Money Point light out to be preserved at the Museum of Science in Ottawa in 1981 it was removed stone by stone with no debris or destruction left behind."

When contacted, Robert MacDonald, Regional Director Real Property, Safety and Security, DFO Maritimes

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