

Successful efforts

Lighthouse comes home

by Jim Morrow

The efforts of local politicians, the relentless advocacy of the St. Paul Island Historical Society and residents in Dingwall have paid off in that St. Paul Island's lighthouse is being repatriated to the Historical Society's museum in Dingwall.

"Years and years of hard work have been put in by the Society and the communities north of Smokey to bring home this historical treasure they lost decades ago," said Victoria-The Lakes MLA, Keith Bain. "Everyone who has been involved in this venture is feeling a sense of pride today. The lighthouse is an essential part of the history of St. Paul's Island and I hope it will take its rightful place as the centrepiece of the museum."

The lighthouse is currently on display in Dartmouth at the Canadian Coast Guard Maritime base. However, Bain and MLA Cecil Clarke have been working with Gail Shea, the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to bring the lighthouse back to Cape Breton.

"I met with Minister Shea on Parliament Hill and I was pleased to hear that she understood the importance of having the lighthouse back in the community," said Cape Breton North MLA, Clarke. "I would like to thank the Minister for her part in ensuring the positive resolution of this long standing issue. I can say with certainty that the federal government will be bringing St. Paul Island's lighthouse home."

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Another consultation process

Looking for economic prosperity for CB Island and Mulgrave



(L-R) John Murray of Economic Growth Solutions Inc. leads the discussion on regional issues and opportunities among Suzanne Sawler from the Cape Breton Partnership; Angela Steves, manager Keltic Lodge; Dan White of Dan White and Associates; Heather Dixon, Parks Canada's Cape Breton Highlands National Park; Graham Hudson, manager Parks Canada's Highland Links Golf; Jim Gunn, Land Surveyor; and Kurt Hussey, President, North East Highlands Chamber of Commerce and owner of Ingonish Home Hardware

by Jim Morrow

The adage "if you fail to plan you plan to fail" is being tested profoundly on Cape Breton.

Victoria County has within the last year had a strategic plan, a sustainability plan and an economic development strategy developed to help lead the municipality towards a viable socio-economic future.

The Cape Breton Partnership, an amalgamation of business people and Chambers of Commerce, are also in the process of developing a strategic economic framework for Cape Breton Island and Mulgrave that clearly defines a critical path for economic growth.

The consultants for this *Cape Breton-Mulgrave Strategic Framework for Economic Prosperity* met with a few members of the Northeast Highlands

Chamber of Commerce on October 26th at the Keltic Lodge in Ingonish.

Initially concern was expressed regarding the short 24 hour notice for the consultation. North East Highlands Chamber of Commerce (NEHCoC) member Jim Gunn, said "with enough lead time we would have this room full of people who would like to participate in these consultations," However, with the few people who did attend a good discussion ensued.

NEHCoC president Kurt Hussey briefed the consultants Dan White of Dan White and Associates and John Murray of Economic Growth Solutions Inc. on Victoria County's various plans and strategies and suggested they contact Nona McDermid the municipality's sustainability officer.

The tourism industry was represent-

ed by Parks Canada personnel Heather Dixon, Marketing and Information Officer at Cape Breton Highlands National Park and Graham Hudson, golf course manager at the Park's Highland Links. Angela Steves manager at Keltic Lodge was also in attendance.

There was some discussion about the potential of the area's assets, such as the Cape Breton Highland National Park, Highlands Links, the ski hill, marina and the Cabot Trail, which itself was a detriment to tourism this year because of the road construction in the area.

Mr. Murray, in his introduction to the consultation process suggested one of their goals was to find ways to tie into the global economy. Some of the discussions for sustainable development in Victoria County suggested the approach

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District 8 by-election

Three candidates offer for council seat

by Jim Morrow

When nominations closed on November 26th at 5 p.m. three candidates had officially filed nomination papers to contest the Victoria County Municipal by-election for District 8.

Johnny Buchanan of South Ridge Road, Kenneth (Brother) MacKinnon of Cape North and Bernie Vassallo of Dingwall have all offered to represent the area of Victoria County lying north of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park including Effie's Brook, South Harbour, Dingwall, Cape North, Big Intervale, St. Margaret's Village, and Bay St. Lawrence.

The by-election is to fill the seat left vacant by the late Robert MacLellan who had ably served as District 8 councillor for 19 years before he passed away at the end of August.

Approximately 775 voters are eligible to vote with advanced polls scheduled for both Saturday, 13th November and Thursday, 18th November. Election day is Saturday, 20th November.

Residents of Victoria County, otherwise qualified to vote, but not on the final lists of voters, may vote on Saturday, 20th November by presenting evidence of identification and residency to the Deputy Returning Officer at the poll.

Highland Manor

Waiting on funding for deficiencies

by Jim Morrow

The Fire Marshall was at Highland Manor on October 19th meeting with Administrator Esther Blakeney.

Their discussions centred on the deficiencies the Fire Marshall has been finding at the 19 bed seniors home in Neil's Harbour. Last summer he told the Highland Manor Administration he needed written assurance from both the Department of Health and the Highland Manor Board that the deficiencies must be addressed and dealt with or he would be forced to close the facility at the end of October, 2010.

Ms. Blakeney was pleased to be

able to tell the Fire Marshall all of the issues are being addressed although no funding has come forward.

"Engineers from the Cape Breton District Health Authority have been very supportive in helping us determine what we need for the required improvements at no cost," Ms Blakeney told *The Victoria Standard*.

The major issue facing Highland Manor is the limited space in its common room. Presently only able to accommodate 10 people, the space needs to be doubled in size to serve the facility adequately and meet the Fire

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