

John Simon shooting

Band submits evidence

by Jim Morrow

Wagmatcook Band Council and John Simon's widow, Patsy MacKay have submitted their evidence to the Chair Initiated Complaint and Public Interest Investigation into the shooting death of John Simon on December 2nd, 2008.

Both the Band and Ms. MacKay asked the Commission to recommend in its conclusions that the shooting "be investigated by way of a properly enabled commission of enquiry" recognizing that the Commission for Public Complaints (CPC) is conducting an investigation, not a hearing or public inquiry.

The Band welcomed the news that the Commission for Public Complaints had self initiated an enquiry into the circumstances of the shooting of John Simon. "This is an unusual step, and one that reinforces the Band's position that the Burns Report is an inadequate response to the tragedy," the submission states.

The Band and Ms. MacKay contend the joint RCMP Halifax Regional Police investigation (the Burns Report) is flawed on many fronts. One of which, was the RCMP's and HRP's focusing on the justification for the shooting. "This evidences a bias," they believe as it "gives rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias," which is the same sort of problem that concerned the Commissioner of Public Complaints when he issued a statement in *see Flawed, page two*

The square's the thing!



The North Highlands Elementary School grade 5/6 class enjoyed a square dance lesson recently, thanks to volunteers from the North Highlands Community Museum in Cape North. "Allemande Left" everyone!

Public consultations

Rural Health Care being neglected by federal gov't

by Jim Morrow

Health care in Victoria County is facing some serious challenges.

With an aging and declining population Victoria County is moving into a time when the numbers of seniors in its population will be increasing rapidly.

The cost to the health care system for a senior averages in at \$18,000 a year while the Federal government allocates only \$762 per person regardless of age or health, for health care in transfer payments.

Cape Breton District Health Authority (CBDHA) manages most health care services in Victoria and Inverness Counties and presently the Health Authority is

in the process of developing policy regarding Rural Health Services within its jurisdiction. Recently the Health Authority held two Rural Health Consultations in Victoria County which included public meetings and group workshops.

With meetings and workshops in both Neil's Harbour and Baddeck, the Health Authority presented data gleaned from their own studies and from Victoria County's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Chief Administrative Officer for CBDHA, John Malcolm, explained to the participants at the workshops which numbered close to twenty in both Neil's Harbour and Baddeck, that the purpose

of the meetings was to invite comments on the priorities for the Health Authority in regard to the issues facing communities, the health challenges in rural communities and to set health service priorities.

It was not surprising that the answers to the most important issues facing health care in Victoria County communities related to the trends already identified in the data collected. A declining and aging population topped the list of important issues facing communities in Victoria County.

Transportation and communication issues were high on the list of challenges *see Discussing, page two*

In Lobster Fishing Area 27

Sustainability key in management planning

by Jim Morrow

The lobster season has been open for over a month now in Area 27 and fishermen have seen a 50¢ increase in prices from buyers, but \$4.25 a pound is still not enough to meet most fishermen's expenses.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has recently allocated \$50 million to be invested over five years in Atlantic Lobster Sustainability Measures (ALSM) to help restructure the industry and to support those in the industry who develop and implement long-term sustainability plans. The program supports industry efforts to maintain healthy lob-

ster stocks in all Lobster Fishing Areas (LFAs), and improve lobster abundance in areas where stocks have declined. It also supports economic prosperity by helping to set the conditions for commercial success. For the Canadian lobster fishery to respond to new global market preferences, DFO has stated that industry restructuring is required along with strong conservation measures to maintain and enhance lobster stocks, address ecosystem impacts and to improve catch monitoring and fishing effort reporting.

The Lobster Fishing Area 27 Management Board was established by a *see Governance, page five*

Annual meeting June 30th

Three vacancies on Village Commission

by Jim Morrow

When the Village Commission for the Village of Baddeck has its annual meeting on June 30th there will be three Village Commission positions up for grabs.

Village Commission Chair Eddie Keeling said there are 2 commissioners resigning for personal reasons and one commissioner whose term has expired is willing to re-offer.

The business of the Village is presently concerned with the unexpected costs of fire protection.

This \$55,000 expense was previously covered by the Municipality of

the County of Victoria. But in February 2009 a motion by Warden Morrison, and seconded by Councillor Donovan, deemed that the \$55,000 invoice for fire protection from the Village of Baddeck be paid and effective April 1, 2009, the Village assume the cost of fire protection. The motion was carried.

The Village, not having made financial alterations to accommodate the new expense, will have to negotiate with the Municipality to cover some of these costs.

Added to the work load on a commissioner's plate is the estimated \$6 *see High, page two*