

Victoria County information on...

Funding, programs and reports

Special

Victoria County's Director of Recreation and Tourism, Tom C. Wilson wants the public to know of three items of County interest. They are:

Festivals & Events Funding

The Victoria County Recreation and Tourism Department will be offering funding assistance to help community (non-profit) organizations with providing musical entertainment at your festival in 2010-2011. Community Groups will only be allowed to apply once per year. The maximum amount of funding assistance is \$500.00 per organization. This must be matched by your organization. Apply early as funding is limited. For more information visit <http://www.victoriacounty.com> and download memo to community groups and application form.

Youth Programs Funding

Applications are now available for youth programs funding for 2010-2011 with the Victoria County Recreation and Tourism Department. This program is to assist community groups for Youth programs (18 and under) and include

sports, youth programs, and culture. Programs that promote physical activity and active lifestyles are a priority. For more information download Youth Programs Funding Memo 2010-2011 as well the application form on county's website <http://www.victoriacounty.com>.

Deadline for applications is Friday, June 18th, 2010.

Recreation and Physical Fitness Report for Victoria County

The Ispo Reid Recreation and Physical Fitness report for Victoria County is now available online. This report was made possible with the assistance of Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection and the Municipality of Victoria County. On many categories, the report provides information on how our county compares with Nova Scotia and Canada. There is certainly room for improvement and this report provides an important tool in helping the County develop a Physical Activity and Active Living Strategy. The document is available to download or view online in pdf format (31) pages from county's website <http://www.victoriacounty.com>.

High costs associated with Village responsibilities

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million water line from wells to be drilled in Big Baddeck.

The money for this project has already been allocated through an infrastructure program that sees the costs shared by the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments and it has to be spent by 2014. However, the Village will be responsible for any cost overruns, maintenance and depreciation

The Village also owns and operates the sewer system. A tax is exerted on sewer line users which is presently set at \$2.06 per cubic meter of water consumed. All water line users are metered and all Baddeck water line users pay a base rate for their water. This rate is set

by the Public Utilities Review Board.

The Village also looks after the Baddeck Community Wharf, which Commissioner Keeling says has seen significant repairs over the last couple of years.

The Village boundaries are expanding and responsibilities for beautification and street maintenance are also part of the Village mandate.

Commissioners are paid a minimal stipend for their efforts. They are elected for one, two and three year terms.

Commissioner Keeling is hopeful residents will attend the annual meeting on June 30th and all are encouraged to participate in the managing of the Village's affairs.

Discussing rural health



Pictured are participants at the Baddeck consultation on Rural Health which Cape Breton District Health Authority conducted to invite comments on the Health Authority's priorities in regard to health issues facing communities in Victoria and Inverness Counties.

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given the County's geography and light population density.

Access to services are largely available in the County and those services not available require significant travel time and expense.

Recruitment of health care professionals is also a concern for Victoria County. The age of the doctors and nurses is requiring an intensive recruitment program to ensure health care professionals will be available for the residents when retirements take effect.

Victoria County does have some excellent assets with two new hospitals and friendly welcoming communities which Mr. Malcolm said he uses in his

recruitment packages, along with the excellent quality of life to be found in Victoria County.

The public consultations did offer some potential improvements for the Health Authority within its rural jurisdiction.

One idea was the concept of mobile clinics which could attend to communities without access to hospitals or health care professionals.

The sharing of personnel from other health authorities and the implementation of cross agency personnel and resources could also be of benefit.

Mr. Malcolm said he will be sharing the results of the public consultations with Municipal Council in the fall.

Flawed report requires inquiry

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2009 warning against police forces investigating themselves.

"The Burns Report's analysis of the 'defense of property', 'justifiable use of force', 'peaceable possession', and 'acting in the course of his duty' scenarios are all deeply flawed," the submission contends.

The band believes the RCMP "were tailoring their position on discipline not to any actual, actionable infraction, but to the media narrative it was crafting."

The mis-leading and inflammatory fax sent in the spring of 2010 "was nothing less than an attempt (successful as it turned out) to interfere with the Band's efforts to bring the Cape Breton Regional Police Department on to the Reserve. The Band reasonably infers from this public violation that the RCMP was likely also involved in political lobbying of the funding partners for Reserve policing agreements, specifically, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia.

How independent was the Burns Report the Band and Ms. MacKay wonder

when the RCMP investigators outnumbered the HRP investigators; when the RCMP conducted crucial early interviews entirely on their own, and used them to create a wrong impression of John Simon as a violent man; when the RCMP took the lead in providing various services in the investigation, and when the legal analysis, such as it was, was not referred to out-of-province counsel, their submission wonders.

The submission concludes that "although the Band welcomes the investigation by the CPC, that investigation does not eliminate the need for a full and public inquiry into this tragedy. There are unresolved elements that are simply beyond the jurisdiction of the CPC. There is a broad cultural, social and political context to the killing of John Simon, and frankly of biased and shameful aftermath of biased and inadequate investigation, and negligent (or non-existent) efforts to establish the fundamental accountability that John's family and community have demanded and so clearly deserve."

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