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# The Victoria Standard

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Victoria County's Own News & Entertainment Journal

P.O. Box 629, Baddeck, B0E 1B0

December 13 to December 26, 2010

Victoria County, Cape Breton

## ECBC Funding

# \$46,817 matched in County projects

### Special

Enhancements will be made to 29 community centres across Cape Breton thanks to investments from the Government of Canada through Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation (ECBC).

ECBC's community centres initiative provides funding on a cost-shared basis to a maximum of \$20,000 for a wide range of capital improvements to community centres.

"Our government is pleased to work with local not-for-profit groups across Cape Breton to help communities build on their strengths, improving economic opportunities and the quality of life of residents," said Senator Michael MacDonald on behalf of the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway. "Through this initiative, our government is improving local infrastructure while stimulating the economy and creating jobs."

In Victoria County the projects supported were:

Englishtown Community Hall Association – \$5,900;

North Highlands Community Organization (Cape North) – \$20,000;

Washabuck Community Centre Association – \$4,815;

Friends of the Big Bras d'Or Fire Hall Association – \$16,102.

## HO HO HO is coming to town



The Baddeck Lions Club brought Santa Claus to town for the Baddeck and Area Christmas Parade on December 4th. The jolly old elf took time from his busy schedule to meet the good little boys and girls at the Yacht Club after the parade.

## If an aboriginal had shot a Mountie...

# Just questions and no answers for John Simon's relatives and friends

by Jim Morrow

Family and friends of John Simon held an information picket on the trans-Canada Highway in Wagmatcook on the 2nd anniversary of his death.

Mr. Simon was shot in his home by an RCMP officer on December 2nd 2008.

Stopping traffic to pass out a pamphlet entitled "Remember John Simon Murdered on December 2nd 2008 by the RCMP" family members believe there are basic questions that must be truthfully answered before any justice can be said to have been done in the case of the murder of John Simon.

John Simon, a diabetic who was off his insulin, was drinking and contemplating suicide was shot in his home when an RCMP officer entered through a window confronting Mr. Simon who was wielding an empty rifle.

The pamphlet states that since December 2008 the Wagmatcook Band and John's family have only seen lies, incompetence and cover-up from the provincial and federal governments and the RCMP.

The Band and family members want the answers to questions they have been asking for two years.

Questions such as: Why did the RCMP decide to enter John's home and start shooting when he clearly posed no threat to anyone?

Why didn't the RCMP wait for their own crisis intervention team which was enroute?

Why did the RCMP delay an internal investigation until they could no longer legally pursue discipline against John's killer?

Why were the RCMP permitted to take a dominant role in the investigation

of Mr. Simon's death when it was obvious they were responsible for his death?

Why did the Premier (and Aboriginal Affairs Minister) of Nova Scotia allow an ex-RCMP officer to make decisions on the Premier's behalf that the Province would not create an inquiry into the murder of John Simon?

Why are the RCMP obstructing the release of the Public Complaints Commission Report into Mr. Simon's death to his family and community?

Patsy McKay, widow of Mr. Simon said, "If John were not aboriginal we might have some answers, but the fact is he was. It is obvious that there are different degrees of justice at work here: one of protective self interest within the RCMP and one of complete disregard for the victims and his family, see Results, page two

## Northern Victoria Community Centre

# MP and MLA both search for solutions

by Jim Morrow

Duncan MacKinnon speaking on behalf of the Northern Victoria Community Centre said, "We want to know why we are continually turned down for funding.

"We want to meet with ECBC and find out what the problem is."

Northern Victoria Community Centre has been after artificial ice since 1987 when the Canada Winter Games expanded the facility as a base for its cross country skiing events.

With the concrete and piping in place the facility needs an ice plant and an extension to the roof to have artificial

ice.

Thousands of dollars have been spent on strategic plans and a facility audit but no money is available to make the centre a viable winter recreational facility.

Mr. MacKinnon said there is a great deal of support from health professionals, the Municipality of the County of Victoria and the RCMP but no money.

The natural ice is made with a great deal of volunteer effort hauling snow and the ice lasts only a couple of weeks. Skaters and hockey players have to travel to Baddeck or Cheticamp to get ice see The wait, page two

## Petition gets great support

# Residents fed up with state of West Side Road

by Jim Morrow

A petition with over 350 signatures has been submitted to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to voice concern with the state of the West Side Road in Middle River.

The petition points out that the West Side Road is in desperate need of re-paving. The petition's preamble states, "In its current condition it is nothing short of a hazard for our school buses to be transporting children to and from school and a danger to any motor vehicle."

Petition organizer Angela Darocha

said, "As a home owner and business operator in Middle River residing on the Middle River West Road I have brought forth the attached petition to re-pave the entire stretch of Middle River West Road. From the research I have conducted with regards to the existing state of disrepair and notably dangerous stretch of 'non-pavement' other than annual futile patch work, this particular section of public road has not been paved or addressed in any way since 1982."

Ms. Darocha had the petition forwarded to Victoria County Council and see Dangerous, page three