

*"Old" home sold*

## MacLeod Group buys Alderwood

by Jim Morrow

The "old" Alderwood Rest Home on the corner of Chebucto and Jones Streets in Baddeck has been sold to MacLeod Group Inc. of Antigonish.

Brian MacLeod of MacLeod Group Inc. has confirmed that they intend to renovate and redevelop the property to accommodate senior housing.

The existing building which was built in 1971 accommodated 75 residents until May of 2010. Residents are now in the new state of the art Alderwood on the Shore Road.

The "old" Alderwood included a full kitchen and dining area as well as laundry facilities.

How much of the existing structure the Macleod Group will use remains to be seen.

Mr. MacLeod said he will have more information on the details of the programs to be offered at the renovated facility and construction time frames.

Deputy Warden Fraser Patterson who Chairs the Alderwood Corporation Board, said, "I and the Board are very pleased that the old Alderwood building and property have been sold. We are also pleased that it has been sold to the MacLeod Group who plan to renovate the building and use it for some form of senior housing.

"Victoria County Council has decided to make our communities  
*see Perseverance, page two*

*Thanks to the volunteers*

## Ski Cape Smokey effort impresses skiers, investors and community



The smiles were as wide as the lift lines were long at Ski Cape Smokey as skiers enjoyed the poma lift hill access at the community based asset which has been idle for far too long.

by Jim Morrow

By the will of great volunteers and the whim of nature Ski Cape Smokey has had two wonderful weekends of downhill skiing.

Abundant snow and freezing temperatures have ensured the recreational facility in Ingonish Beach could be opened to the public. And skiers are responding with over 90 skiers using the runs Saturday, February 12th.

Chair of the Ski Cape Smokey Society, Larry Dauphinee could not be more pleased.

"It has been very successful," he said. "The lodge is open and we are getting lots of compliments."

Ski Cape Smokey, which has been closed for the last four seasons, has had a turbulent recent history. Two seasons of no snow, followed by a lack of operational funding, high power rates, and a

fractious board of directors resulted in a For Sale sign being posted on the icon of Ingonish's winter tourism attraction.

Today a new sense of optimism prevails.

Rumours of new investors are hard to ignore. The show of community solidarity and an excellent work ethic may just turn the tide for any potential investor or purchaser.

Ross Kennedy of Nova Scotia Economic Development says he is very encouraged by what he is seeing at Ski Cape Smokey.

"The leadership of Larry Dauphinee and the volunteers of Ski Cape Smokey Society have taken a very pragmatic approach looking at the assets and making the best use of them for the benefit of the community," he said.

The Province owns the land and the Lodge while the Ski Cape Smokey

Society pays a mortgage on the equipment.

When all of the lifts and runs are operating the highest slope in the Maritimes employs close to forty people.

This year it is the poma lift, the most cost effective lift which is running.

Mr. Kennedy also mentioned that the Province through its infrastructure renewal funding will be putting in another \$10,000 for necessary property maintenance again this year.

The Municipality of the County of Victoria has also pledged funding to cover the insurance costs.

With one of the best snow seasons in some years, having Ski Cape Smokey complimenting the excellent cross country and telemark ski trails in the County, winter tourism does not seem such an elusive dream.

*East Coast Credit Union*

## Rebate program gives back to members

Baddeck

East Coast Credit Union is pleased to announce its members will receive \$1 million through the credit union's Patronage Rebate Program.

"Payment of the rebate is the result of continued strengthening in the credit union's overall financial position and the highly successful operating results experienced during fiscal 2010," explained Doug Hastings, President & CEO of East Coast Credit Union. The rebate will be paid out to members before the end of April 2011 and payment will be made via a direct deposit to the members credit union account. The minimum amount

of rebate has been set at \$5.00. A personal letter will be distributed to each member indicating the amount of rebate they will receive as well as a calculation indicating how the amount was determined. The more business a member does with East Coast, the greater the Patronage Rebate.

This member rebate is the first to be paid to its members since the formation of East Coast Credit Union in January of 2003.

However, it is important to recognize that during this seven year period, more than \$850,000 has been distributed by the  
*see A million, page two*

*Breakwater damages assessed*

## Harbour authorities need to know costs

by Jim Morrow

Sydney-Victoria MP Mark Eyking questioned Fisheries Minister Gail Shea on the status of funding to repair breakwaters damaged by storms late last year.

Mr. Eyking believes that money must be made available to repair breakwaters that were damaged in Northern Cape Breton. He would also like to see funding to repair the wharf in Englishtown.

"I'm not impressed with the progress," said Eyking. "The Minister's department has been assessing wharves since after the New Year. The time for assessment is over, its time for action. While the Minister's department did fund wharf improvements

under the infrastructure program there is a need to repair these vital breakwaters now."

Osborne Burke, Chairman of the Six Ports Harbour Authority said, "Our breakwaters are our first line of defense."

Harbour Authorities are anxious to know what kind of funding will be available for repairs.

The Canadian Association of Harbour Authorities is meeting the first week of April and Mr. Burke is hopeful the funding assessments will be made known then.

Serious storm events are expected to worsen as climate change progresses. The costs of damages will also increase in the future.