

Ingonish in vote-off

Vote for Ski Cape Smokey July 22/23

by Jim Morrow

A \$25,000 Community Award would make a difference in any community, especially if it was spent on healthy and active lifestyles. Ingonish Beach is facing off for such an award.

Represented by Ski Cape Smokey, the community has made the top 20 in the *TSN-Kraft Celebration Tour*. Ten of the twenty entries will be awarded \$25,000.00 and host a live TSN Broadcast from their community.

Ingonish Beach's Ski Cape Smokey is paired against Port Hood's Al MacInnis Arena in a vote-off for the award.

On July 22nd and 23rd both communities will face off, with the community that receives the most on-line votes being declared the winner.

TSN SportsCentre will celebrate the successful competitor with a live broadcast from the winning Community.

In the first judging round, eligible entries were judged by representatives of the sponsors. Judging was based on the following criteria:

Depiction of actions and events that illustrate the Community's commitment to sports, recreation and active living (35%); Description of the impact and benefit the submitted Community Project will have on sports, recreation and active living in the Community (35%); Examples of individuals or groups who demonstrate Community spirit and home-town pride (20%); and Creativity and overall effort in submission (10%).

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Ocean Cruising Club



Pictured are some of the 25 yachts belonging to members of the Ocean Cruising Club moored in Baddeck Harbour prior to their voyage to Newfoundland. Established in the United Kingdom, OCC membership has spread to many countries with the UK members forming slightly less than 50% of the total, which is steadily growing and now numbers over 1,500. There is a strong element in the USA, particularly on the eastern seaboard. National Rear Commodore organise local events in Australia, Canada, Ireland, UK and the east and west coasts of the USA. With these events and a significant number of members on passage, the blue and yellow burgee with its Flying Fish motif is carried proudly throughout the cruising waters of the world. One of the objects of the Ocean Cruising Club is to foster and encourage ocean cruising in small craft and the practice of seamanship and navigation in all branches. Another is to encourage by any means social intercourse between the members and to provide amenities for the use of the members and their guests. While in Baddeck OCC members did their best to accomplish both objectives.

Victoria County and CBCEDA

MoU signed to improve immigration services

by Jim Morrow

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) took place during the July 4th meeting of Victoria County Council, to officially declare the intentions of Cape Breton County Economic Development Authority, (CBCEDA) to work in collaboration with Victoria County in the Cape Breton Newcomers Program.

A Newcomer, as defined by CBCEDA, "is an individual from other Countries outside of Canada, an individual from other Provinces of Canada outside of Nova Scotia, an individual from main-

land Nova Scotia, and a Cape Breton Expatriate." In addition to settlement services, the Navigator meets with immigrants in the local community to determine if these individuals meet the criteria for the Community Identified Stream of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP). Through a partnership with Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, CBCEDA, as the mandated organization, is responsible for providing letters of identity to qualified applicants of the Community Identified Stream of the NSNP.

The Community Identified Stream of

the NSNP is aimed at individuals who are employable, have strong established connections to a Nova Scotia community and can contribute to the labour market and economy of a specific community.

CBCEDA and the Municipality of Victoria County will continue to work in full cooperation to foster welcoming communities and retention of newcomers within the region.

"CBCEDA is pleased to expand Navigator services to the Municipality of Victoria County. The goal of this partnership is to continue to provide a central

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Parks Canada and National Geographic

Bell Museum perfect site for book launch

by Jim Morrow

On July 5th, 2011, representatives from National Geographic Society joined Parks Canada at Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site in Baddeck, Nova Scotia for the launch of the Society's newest guidebook. The 352-page *Guide to the National Parks of Canada* showcases Canada's national parks and national marine conservation areas.

The launch of National Geographic's guidebook not only celebrates the country's most treasured places, it also shines a spotlight on the historical connection between the Society and one of Parks Canada's historic sites – Alexan-

der Graham Bell National Historic Site.

"It is appropriate that the launch of this guidebook is taking place in Baddeck at Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site because Bell was a co-founder, former president and senior trustee of National Geographic Society," said Senator Michael MacDonald who spoke on behalf of the Honourable Peter Kent, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada, on the occasion of the first ever collaboration between Parks Canada and National Geographic Society.

Bell's story is just one of many that Parks Canada preserves and presents on

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UNESCO designation official!

Bras d'Or Lake now a Biosphere Reserve

by Jim Morrow

When UNESCO's Man and Biosphere International Coordinating Council met in Dresden, Germany at the end of June, they made the unanimous decision to designate the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed as a Biosphere Reserve.

The Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed join Southwest Nova as Nova Scotia's second Biosphere Reserve.

This prestigious designation carries no regulatory powers or land use restrictions, but provides a platform for voluntary collaboration on interdisciplinary approaches to management, research and education in ecosystem conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

"It is a thrill to have our magnificent lake take its rightful place among the world's ecological and cultural treasures," said Dr. MacNeil, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association, who led the eight year campaign for designation along with Jim Foulds, a retired professor of biology at Cape Breton University, and the 20 member volunteer board.

The process included scores of public consultation meetings, endorsements from the province, all five Cape Breton First Nations, and all but one municipal council on the Island. That work led to a

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