

Our taxes at work

Draft report shows surplus

by Jim Morrow

"The Municipality's finances are, overall, in good shape," Grant Burgess told Municipal Council on July 25th.

The draft financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2011 which Mr. Burgess presented to Council showed \$25,721 in excess revenue over expenditures.

Bank indebtedness is down, cut almost in half, which is good news, while revenues from the landfill and recycling continue to impress.

There is a fairly substantial payable of \$1.7 million to the operating reserve for the Municipal water utility.

The auditor mentioned there was an account of \$50,000 for volunteer fire departments. He also pointed out that the deed transfer tax has over the last few years has been increasing. The municipality collects 1% on every \$1 million of property sold.

Mr. Burgess did want to highlight an improvement of \$70,000 in tax collection and suggested they continue to pursue their receivables, but "there is nothing hiding, nothing unexpected to surprise you," he said referring to the draft financial audit.

"Of course one could always be in better shape," Mr Burgess opined but when pressed by Warden Morrison, Mr. Burgess agreed the County was in "pretty good shape."

Bettering their own record!



For the second year in a row, the Boularderie MammoWarriors earned the 1st place award for most funds raised in the annual dragon boat festival in Sydney Harbour. Twenty-five teams took part in the July 24 event, raising a total of \$26,000 for the Cape Breton Cancer Centre. The amount includes the MammoWarriors' impressive \$10,805. Team captain Michelle Symes said that the win belongs to the entire community for their generous support throughout the year. "We're thrilled to bring the trophy home again," she said, "and it's thanks to people coming together for a cause they believe in." In addition to donating over 200 personal pledges, the community supported the team's numerous fund-raising activities, such as fall and spring luncheons, a concert, plant sales, bake and yard sales and the many local businesses that helped out.

North Victoria Community Centre

Screaming Eagles' 'Goal to Assist' in fundraising

Sydney

A group of well-known local junior hockey players will ply their skills in an exhibition game in support of the North Victoria Community Centre.

The game will take place Friday, August 12, 2011 at the new Northside Community Civic Centre, in North Sydney. Among those lacing their skates for the cause will be former Cape Breton Screaming Eagles captain Chris Culligan, former Eagle and Pittsburgh Penguins prospect Joey Haddad, Memorial Cup winner Michael Kirkpatrick of the Saint John Sea Dogs, Jarrod Struthers of the Rimouski Oceanic, former Eagle Stephen Horyl, and current Eagles Brad Cuzner, Logan Shaw and Morgan Ellis.

Since 1987 the community has been trying to complete construction of an indoor ice rink. Presently, the North Victoria Community Centre, in Cape North, houses an unreliable natural ice surface and the building is only three-quarters complete.

The board of directors that runs the arena can't afford to install an artificial ice surface and finish the building. Although it has raised over \$100,000 it has been unsuccessful in securing additional funding. That means young athletes who want to play organized hockey must travel 70 kilometres through the Cape Breton Highlands, to Chéticamp.

"We heard about the situation and we're aware of how difficult it can

sometimes be to play minor hockey under the best of circumstances, let alone with a geographic disadvantage," Chris Culligan said on behalf of the players. "We thought it would be a great idea to get an event up and running to raise some money and awareness to get the rink finished."

North Victoria Community Centre board chair Ken (Brother) MacKinnon said the community is extremely appreciative of the hockey players' the gesture.

"It's expensive to take our kids to play hockey in Chéticamp, not to mention the dangers of moose on the road and the fact that the mountains are often blocked in winter," MacKinnon said.

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New curbside collection services

Seamless transition and under budget

by Jim Morrow

The new Municipal Collection Services has its first year of operations under its belt.

The transition from private contractor to Municipally owned and operated solid waste collections went seamlessly and came in under budget.

Director of Public Works, Robert Dauphinee made his report to County Council on July 25th.

The collection services budget for the 2010/11 year was \$444,895 while the actual costs came in at \$352,868.

The costs include two one time expenses (\$20,641 for radios for the trucks and \$29,995 for curbside collec-

tion services during the interim weeks between the private contract until the County's trucks and personnel were ready to roll) which will not be incurred again.

The budget for fuel was set at \$100,900 but in actuality was \$59,945. "which was much less than we anticipated" Mr. Dauphinee said.

"From our perspective it was a very good year," Mr Dauphinee said. "There were very few interruptions in our operations. Our calls and complaints were nil. Rarely do we get a call about service. We have good staff which can interact with the community

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Working together

CB Partnership's Framework imminent

By Jim Morrow

The Cape Breton Partnership's Executive Director, Keith MacDonald made a presentation to Victoria County Council on July 25th to explain the Partnership's proposed implementation strategy for its strategic framework.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the rationale for a strategic framework is to create a road map for the steps required to increase Cape Breton-Mulgrave's economic prosperity; to establish the development of priority activities in Cape Breton-Mulgrave's industry sectors; to assist in the development of sub-regional strategies; to regulate decision making and improve the focus of eco-

economic development initiatives; to regulate leadership behaviours at all levels of the economic development spectrum; to develop a set of economic performance indicators to guide investment; to help ensure that organizations recognize the requirement to align their activities to the framework and to provide a go forward plan for the Cape Breton-Mulgrave economy that provides a vision for the future.

Mr. MacDonald was accompanied by three year board member Sue Phelan of Superport Marine Services, who said that all of Cape Breton has benefited from the hard work that the Cape Breton

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