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September 5 to September 18, 2011

Victoria County, Cape Breton

Hike the Highlands

Increase in festival popularity

By Jim Morrow

The 8th Annual Hike the Highlands Festival, September 9th through the 18th, will feature 24 guided hikes, evening activities and much more.

The festival is a Nova Scotia Signature Event with hikers from across Canada and United States registered to attend and participate in the 10 day fall hiking festival held in Northern Cape Breton.

One of the highlights of the festival is the hiker distance award where hikers hike 25, 50 or 100 kms during the festival. At the closing ceremonies, hikers are presented with their lapel pin for their accomplishment. "Their faces certainly tell an amazing story and how proud they are in achieving this award," says Tom Wilson, Volunteer Chair, Hike the Highlands Festival Society.

"The festival is becoming an economic generator with most hikers staying six or more nights for the past 2 years," added Mr. Wilson.

Evening activities planned for this year's festival include a haunted full moon hike, an evening on the beach with a campfire, presentations on the St. Paul's Lighthouse, 75th Anniversary of Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Hiking in Ireland, a social evening at Parks Canada Cheticamp Visitor Centre, and opening & closing ceremonies.

Hikers have the option of hiking a short or long hike each day and more if
see Hiking, page five

2nd Annual Historical Picnic



photo courtesy Helen MacLeod

The Baddeck & Area Historical Society held its 2nd annual picnic on Saturday afternoon the 27th August in Baddeck on the site of the first Baddeck Academy on the Shore Road. The day, weatherwise, was absolutely made to order for the event. It was well attended with approximately one hundred picnic goers from the local communities and tourists which included a Caravan Tours group of ten people from Ohio.

Members of the Society put together a most interesting display featuring people from the past and present who played and play important roles in Baddeck and surrounding areas. This display was very well received by those in attendance. Afternoon tea and lemonade were available along with dainty treats which were thoroughly enjoyed.

Trickling down to Victoria County

Mill closure will affect us all

By Jim Morrow

The decision to take downtime at the NewPage mill in Port Hawkesbury has thrown the socio-economic stability of Eastern Nova Scotia into disarray.

With 600 unionized workers at the mill looking at being unemployed starting September 10th and an untold number of woodworkers, contractors and truckers, all losing work, the opposition parties and local governments are calling on the Provincial government to step in to soften the blow for all of those affected.

"Here in Victoria County, we will see the trickle down affect of the shut down," opines Warden Bruce Morrison.

"It will be the supply and service industries which will be most affected - everyone from the contractors to the welders will see the affects of the shut down."

The decision to shut down the PM1 newsprint machine on September 10th and PM2, the supercalandered machine on September 16th, is based on a combination of factors. These include unfavourable exchange rates between the U.S. and Canadian dollars, high utility rates and shipping costs.

Unfortunately the affects of the shutdown will reach much further than the job losses associated with it. The Point Tupper mill is also Nova Scotia

Power's largest customer, consuming nearly 13% of all of Nova Scotia Power's electricity.

The loss of this market to NSP is also bound to affect the cost of electricity to all Nova Scotians.

Government subsidies for either NewPage or NSP so that the mill can stay open will cost Nova Scotians even more.

Victoria-The Lakes MLA Keith Bain, said, "We cannot afford to lose the trained work force. The work force in itself is an incredibly valuable asset. When they are forced to relocate to find work they will probably never be replaced."

Rebecca Blakeney

Ingonish representative Miss Teen Cape Breton

Sherry Mulley MacDonald

The stage was set for an evening of entertainment unlike any experienced in Cape Breton in quite some time.

On Friday, August 26, 14 young ladies between the ages of 14-18, representing communities all over the Island took the stage at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre to vie for the title of 2011 Miss Teen Cape Breton.

A high energy dance number performed by the delegates opened the show wowing the almost sold out auditorium filled with proud parents, family members and close friends of the participants.

In addition to being introduced to

some of the Island's brightest and best young teens, those in attendance enjoyed the talent portion of the program that included solo vocals, instrumentals and contemporary dance. A parade of evening gowns followed the talent portion of the show adding to the pageantry feel of the evening's festivities.

Tasked with the difficult job of judging the event were Tashia Lee, of the pageant's official radio station 101.9 The Giant; Christopher MacDonald, owner and Creative Director of Iwebwork.com; and Emily Gray, Recreation Director for Cape Breton North Division.

see Stage, page two

Annual Moose Harvest

Reporting sought from harvesters

By Jim Morrow

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

For the Mi'kmaq, moose harvest season approaches.

In the spirit of transition, now is the time for harvesters to consider the importance of hunter reporting to help strengthen Mi'kmaq management initiatives around one of our most valuable natural resources: moose.

Over the past number of years, Mi'kmaq harvesters, community members, Elders and youth alike have expressed a desire for more community input into the management of their hunt-

ing activities; management of moose ecosystems; and the overall management of the herd. These initiatives, successfully garnered through a series of community meetings, spirited discussion, and a renowned Mi'kmaq Symposium on Moose, have led to more involvement in management practices. This has led to a renewed Mi'kmaq re-emergence in natural resource management at a time when Mi'kmaq are naturally retaking their roles as stewards over our natural resources, especially as it pertains to moose and moose habitat.

Harvester reporting is the next big step. Mi'kmaq information around the
see Strengthening, page three