

## Paving failure

# Petition on Big Baddeck Road

### Big Baddeck

A petition is being circulated to all residents and frequent travelers of the Big Baddeck Road regarding the section formerly known as South Side Baddeck Road.

The petition reminds people that in late fall of 2009, the remaining 5 kilometers of Big Baddeck Road (South Side Baddeck), was paved. It explains that Dexter Construction used Portland Cement mixed with existing aggregate for the substrate under the new pavement. This method was used a number of times before around Nova Scotia with a high failure rate. Within two months of completion, cracks began to appear in the surface of a significant amount of the new pavement.

MLA, Keith Bain, was notified and he told residents the cracks would be repaired and chip seal applied. An attempt to repair the cracks (namely filling the smaller ones with tar and cutting out sections of larger areas and filling with asphalt) was not completed until late November, early December 2010. No chip seal was applied.

Now, the road, just 18 months after being paved, has developed an uncountable number of new cracks and the sections that were cut out and patched have large spaces around them.

"Tax dollars have been wasted on a substandard paving job. Someone has to be accountable. This section of road has to be repaved properly so that there is a sound road surface for years to come."

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## The Big Crunch



On March 3rd, North Highlands Elementary students participated in the "Great Big Crunch". This is a kick-off to Nutrition Month and moving toward healthy eating. These students were among the thousands who participated within the Cape Breton Regional School Board. Way to go!

## One of four communities in NS

# St Ann's/North Shore win Community Spirit Award

### by Jim Morrow

St. Ann's Bay/North Shore is one of four communities in Nova Scotia to receive the 2011 Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

The communities of Town of Berwick and surrounding areas; East River Valley, Pictou County; and Woodville, Kings Co., were also selected from 10 nominations, all of which showed a high degree of community collaboration and strength.

Spokesperson Ruth Schneider said, "The St. Ann's Bay/North Shore community is delighted to have been one of the winners of the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award this year! We're already planning a celebration for July 29th/30th to accept the award and to introduce Her Honour, Mayann Francis, Nova Scotia's Lieutenant Governor, to our community. It's a great privilege and a won-

derful time to celebrate who we are!"

A list of the community organizations in the St. Ann's area which joined together to put forward the nomination gives an indication of the breadth and depth of the commitment to keep the area healthy and vibrant.

They include: St. Ann's Bay Community Health Centre, St. Ann's Bay Development Association, North Shore and District Volunteer Fire Department, North Shore Fishermen's Coop, Harbour Authority of Little River, Victoria County North River Recreation Committee, North Shore Gaelic Heritage Society/North Shore Gaelic Cultural Centre, Gaelic Film Festival Committee, St. Ann's Bay Players, The Arboretum Society, North River Community Hall, Stewards of St. Ann's Harbour Association, St. Ann's Bay United Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Some of the Selection Committee's comments included: "This nomination could easily serve as a model for success for this award. The stories shared were strong, impressive and heartfelt. It was so easy to fall in love with the true community spirit."

Catherine Woodman, chair of the Selection Committee, who is also President and CEO United Way Halifax Region, host of the award program said, "We were delighted with the diversity, breadth and high caliber of the nominations. We are excited for the communities who were chosen and look forward to celebrating their achievement over the summer months."

The award, launched in 2007 by Mayann E. Francis, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, recognizes up to four communities annually that demonstrate

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## East Coast Credit Union

# Members to vote on amalgamation

### by Jim Morrow

The Boards of Directors of East Coast Credit Union and Heritage Credit Union have agreed to amalgamate their respective organizations which will create a significant credit union presence in Nova Scotia with 30,000 Members and \$310 million in assets under management.

If approved by the membership of both credit unions by the end of March, and required regulatory approvals are received, the amalgamation will position East Coast as the largest credit union in Nova Scotia and a leader in the provincial co-operative movement.

The amalgamation includes all 13 East Coast Credit Union branches and all 7 Heritage branches. All 20 branch locations would be maintained and there would be no staff layoffs.

"This is good news for members of both East Coast and Heritage Credit Union as well as the credit union movement in Nova Scotia. We will have additional resources to improve products and services to our members and offer Nova Scotians an increasingly competitive, co-operative option for mortgages, loans, wealth management and other financial services," Don Pottie, Chair of East

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## RCMP Public Complaints Commission

# Report on John Simon shooting slams RCMP

### Ottawa

The Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (Commission) has released its independent investigation report into the December 2, 2008, shooting death of Mr. John Simon in Wagmatcook, Nova Scotia.

The RCMP was alerted to reports that Mr. Simon was intoxicated, suicidal, and had access to firearms. One of the responding members entered Mr. Simon's residence and, when Mr. Simon continued to raise his rifle towards the member, fatally shot him.

The Commission's report examined all RCMP member conduct associated

with the tragic incident itself and subsequent investigations.

Our report reveals that the intentions of the RCMP members who responded to the Wagmatcook 911 call that day were clearly aimed at peacefully defusing the situation. However, errors in judgment and poor decision-making played a significant role in how the incident ultimately cost Mr. Simon his life.

One area of profound public concern related to this case was the application of the RCMP disciplinary process, or lack thereof. The Interim Commission Chair, Ian McPhail, Q.C., considered it

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