

North Highlands Community Museum scores top grade



The North Highlands Community Museum during one of its functions.

by Bill Danielson

In results recently released by the Nova Scotia Community Museum Assistance Program, The North Highlands Community Museum in Cape North scored the highest grade in the 2010 evaluations of Nova Scotia Community Museums.

Twenty-one community museums across Nova Scotia were evaluated this year. Scores ranged from 41.1% to 89.5%, with a mean value of 68.4. The North Highlands Museum received the 89.5% score.

Each museum is evaluated every three years or so, on topics including the museum's actual collections and exhibits, its relations with the community, the condition of the facility, its policies and procedures, governance, and marketing. Within these categories, 200 specific topics and issues are assessed.

During the past winter and spring, the North Highlands Museum assembled a team to prepare for the evaluation and the site visit, which occurred in July. Deidre Fraser, Darcy Kimmet and Rebecca Daisley inspected over one thousand artifacts in the museum's col-

lection, re-mounting many objects to meet current standard, checking the accession information for each, and entering this information for each object into a database at the Passage Project database, a Nova Scotia Community Museums initiative, with many other Museum volunteers assisting.

The effectiveness of the team's preparation was evident in the overall score of 89.5%, as well as in comments by the visiting evaluation team, such as:

"A great group of volunteers who take this responsibility very seriously."

"Excellent collection handling and treatment."

"Great garden with hand carved signs for each theme in the garden."

"Obvious care and pride."

"The best and cleanest floor I have ever seen in a museum."

"This was an exceptional site. The staff and volunteers are to be commended."

The Nova Scotia Community Museum Assistance Program (CMAP), which conducts the evaluations, is a unit of the Heritage Division within the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

Communities' response essential to successful plan

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which should become obvious from the information collected and analyzed.

When quizzed by Council on the plan, Ms. MacDermid said the hardest part will be getting the data in. She suggested a number of different ways to approach the community to get the information and emphasized that there was no one sure way to get residents to

respond. Nor did she see any value in lengthening the time lines for the information gathering process.

Council did agree believing that people are anxious to see the Municipality move forward on supporting development issues.

Council did endorse the plan as presented and asked Ms. MacDermid to establish the task force.

No supplementary salt storage this year



Victoria-The Lakes MLA Keith Bain (L) and Transportation and Public Works Area Manager Stephen MacDonald (R) address Victoria County Council.

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Mr. MacDonald said he spoke with the Director regarding the salt storage issue in the area, who informed him there will be no supplementary salt storage on the North Shore this year.

However Mr. MacDonald said, "the area will be getting a new six wheel drive truck which will carry 12 to 13 tons of salt whereas the regular salt trucks carry five to six tons. So there will be two units on that route which will be able to salt and plow and hopefully the new equipment will increase the level of service. I will also

stress the importance of the cycle time (to and from the salt storage in the Park) and monitor the North Shore and I know what to watch for."

There will be two private contractors doing the plowing in the side roads and streets north of Smokey.

One weak area will be the loading of the salt as a back-hoe will be brought in to do the work. Mr. MacDonald agreed it was not the best machine for the job and that a loading ramp will probably have to be constructed for the back-hoe to do the work required.

Where are your hands when driving?

OPTION A

OPTION B

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