

# Improvements recommended



Victoria County Councillors who are also volunteer fire fighters are pictured with members of Marathon Human Resources Consulting Group who did the Fire Service Study on the 12 volunteer fire departments in the Municipality. L-R are Councillors Paul MacNeil (Iona VFD); Merrill MacInnis (North Shore VFD); Brian Duggan (Marathon); Warden Bruce Morrison; David Donovan (Neil's Harbour/New Haven VFD); Deputy Warden Fraser Patterson (Ross Ferry VFD); Brian Smith (Marathon); Mike Eddy (Marathon).

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also felt the radio system could be improved to support joint efforts.

Marathon recommends that each department be provided with a base level of equipment; that each response zone be clarified; and to focus on priorities for fire response versus medical (first response) and traffic control.

In the area of training and recruitment the report suggests establishing and supporting training standards and formalizing new recruit mentoring. A new member recruitment and retention strategy should also be developed.

In regard to facilities it is recommended that a long range infrastructure and priorities plan be developed as well as reviewing community hall ownership where fire service is negatively impacted.

As for record keeping it is suggest-

ed that the accountability for accurate and current registration of documents be improved which could be done with the introduction of a common data collection system. As well a fire scene accountability system should be established.

To improve the organizational structure of the 12 departments within the Municipality it is recommended that a Fire Service Coordinator be hired who would report to the Municipal CAO. The Fire Service Coordinator would also work with the Fire Chiefs Association on planning and budgeting and follow up on the Fire Study recommendations.

Marathon hopes to have feedback on their recommendations from the volunteer fire departments, Fire Chiefs Association and the municipality by the end of the first week of February to prepare its final report.

# "Canada Summer Jobs"

Special

As the application period for the Canada Summer Jobs program started February 1st, Sydney-Victoria MP Mark Eyking is encouraging employer applicants to apply online.

"While not a requirement Service Canada indicated employers should apply online to ensure that all the questions in the applications are answered," said Eyking.

Canada Summer Jobs provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students and is designed to focus on local priorities. Not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are eligible to apply.

When MP Eyking met with Service Canada officials they discussed local priorities which include annual summer

events, areas of high unemployment, remote and rural areas. Eyking also says the program will focus several sectors including not for profits, tourism and culture related businesses, health care, and information technology.

The Budget for riding of Sydney-Victoria this year is \$728,399 unchanged from last year.

"It would be nice to see more money to take into account increased minimum wage and other employer costs," said Eyking. Employers will know if they were successful and begin hiring students in May.

Applications for employers are available at: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca>

For further information contact Mark Eyking at 902-565-3912 or 902-578-0762.

# Levy to get the word out

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The Municipality is not charging Destination Cape Breton a commission for collecting the levy.

Scott MacAulay of Cape Breton Resorts told *The Victoria Standard* it took his accounting staff person one day to make the required changes in his automated billing system.

Mr. MacAulay is very much in

favour of the levy recognizing that Cape Breton Island is competing with hundreds of other destinations world wide.

Mr. MacAulay said, "We have to realize that what we have here can compete with any other destination in the world. What is lacking is the ability to let people know what is here. Non-political destination marketing for Cape Breton is what is needed to get people here."




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## Baddeck Lions Club

### LOST! LOST! LOST! The Kidston Island Float

*A very important aspect of the infrastructure equipment of the Lions Beach Program!*

**The Baddeck Lions Club is soliciting the public's help in locating the Kidston Island Float, which was set adrift during the recent storm the weekend of January 20-22, 2011.**

**This float is an important part of the Summer Beach Program. We ask that the public check any waterfront on the lake to see if it has washed ashore.**

**Anyone locating this float is asked to contact one of the following Lions members:**

**Allen Anderson - 295-0511  
Shane MacFarlane - 295-7119  
Bill Smith - 295-1933**

**or any other Lion member you know.**

### We Thank You For Your Help!



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