

# County volunteer recognition awards presented

by Jim Morrow

At the 29th Annual Victoria County Volunteer Recognition Night on April 14, 2011 at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's, Tom C. Wilson, Director of Recreation & Tourism for the Municipality of Victoria County said that there are 12.5 million volunteers in Canada providing \$64.9 billion worth of services.

He pointed out that the top 25% of volunteers contribute 78% of all volunteer hours.

A 2010 study by Volunteer Canada called *Bridging the Gap - Enriching the Volunteer Experience - to build a better future for our communi-*

*ties* highlights such issues as brief volunteer experiences, volunteers for group activities, flexibility, different tasks and personal goals, and shows that volunteering changes through our life cycle.

There are 453,000 volunteers in Nova Scotia.

The number of volunteers increased by 7% from 2004 to 2007.

Sixty-five per cent of Nova Scotia's youth volunteer while forty-four percent of Nova Scotia seniors volunteer.

Volunteers contributed \$1.8 billion in services through the 5,820 registered non-profit organizations in

Nova Scotia.

In Victoria County the Community Achievement Awards went to Englishtown Community Hall, North Highlands Community organization, St. Ann's Bay & North Shore Communities, and Ski Cape Smokey Society.

Adult volunteers in the County included Linda Davis Flynn, John Dicker MacDonald, John Sedgewick,

Tommy Fazekas, David Burchell, Mary MacDonald, Bill Marchant, Sharon Matheson, Rob MacDonald, Lisa Holt-Jones, David Green, Shaune Warren, Wendy Breyfogle and Stephanie Kirste (Stephanie was one of the few volunteers in the history of the County's Volunteer night, nominated by more than one organization in the same year).



Pictured above are some of the Victoria County volunteers who were recognized for their efforts at the 29th annual Volunteer Recognition Night held at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's. Back L - R are Sharon Matheson, Rob MacDonald, Councillor Merrill MacInnis, Mary MacDonald, Dave Green and Wendy Breyfogle. Front are L-R are Tom Fazekas, Ruth Schneider, Lisa Finney, Caitlin Bennett, and Linda Flynn.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Be sure trawler is moved to proper site

The Editor

The old, sunken and abandoned trawler at the head of Sydney Harbour near Sydney River Bridge, is among other things a solid reason or justification for local interests to establish ownership, control and management of the Sydney Harbour bottom and associate near high water zones. The fact that this old hulk or manifestation of the fishing industry past is allowed to scar our landscape testifies to our collective inability or capacity to deal with the issue to this point. Hopefully the matter will be resolved soon.

In the meantime, the initiative taken by Ken Jardine and his associates to have the relic removed is commendable. Of course, the financing of such a project will be the challenge. Nevertheless, it has merit. While encouraging and supporting the initiative in general, I must disagree with his choice of a dumping ground. There are many relatively nearby ocean sites subject to necessary approvals that would be equally suitable and likely less cost burdensome. There is no economic, ecological, environmental or managerial justification to dump derelict vessels in the Bras d'Or Lake, as a matter of principal.

The work of a number of committed agencies over the past fifteen years has served to improve the ecology of the Lake and establish restrictive rules on the dumping and discharge of sewage, limits on discharge of ballast water, protection of wet lands including serious recommendations and studies on the

future need for better land development practices on near shore properties of the Bras d'Or Lake. The list of agencies and community organizations committed to the long term protection of the Bras d'Or Lake has grown over the past decade and need not be mentioned here. Safe to say their collective good work will likely be recognized soon by the awarding of the United Nations Biosphere Designation.

It should be noted that all three levels of government have in various ways assisted in supporting Bras d'Or Lake protective measures. Support measures range from new and more rigorous enforcement of rules governing discharge of contaminants to financial assistance for establishment of marinas with pump out facilities for removal of sewage from pleasure craft.

Currently, ECBC is promoting an ecofriendly economic development program for festivals within communities surrounding the Bras d'Or Lake, a set of activities that will be suited to a cleaner and better managed Lake system.


In conclusion, the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society supports Ken Jardine's efforts to have the old trawler refloated and removed from Sydney. However, as a matter of principal, that ship or any other derelict or any other ship or vessel should not be deliberately dumped in the Bras d'Or Lake. The likely most possible option is to have the derelict trawler refloated and barged to a ship scrapping facility.

Pat Bates,  
Sydney, Nova Scotia

## The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society


Saturday, April 30th • 2:00 pm  
in St. Michael's Parish Hall

Guest Speaker: Bill Danielson  
Retired Professor of Meteorology and author of  
"Cape Breton Weather - Watching for the Naturally Curious"



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