

# Coast Guard plans to burn off their debris



The remains of the Money Point Lighthouse as it was discovered during the Hike the Highlands Festival.

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Region said in an e-mail to *The Victoria Standard*, “The Cape North lighthouse became unstable after it was damaged in a storm in January 2009. It was a significant safety risk to Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) personnel whose job it is to service the light for navigation.

“It was determined the most feasible option was to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a steel tower. It was also determined the most cost effective and environmentally sound option to get rid of the leftover materials was to burn them in a controlled manner on site.

“The first two phases of the project are complete: demolition of the existing tower and securing of material on site; and replacement with a steel tower. The final phase is the incineration of refuse material, which will be carried out soon. This phase has been delayed slightly because the burning season for the area was closed at the time of demolition.

“The Department plans to return to the site in the coming weeks when the burn season reopens to complete all the outstanding work in one trip. An excavator will be used to break up the toppled structure and then the remaining debris will be incinerated. All debris from the demolition will be disposed of

properly.

“This structure was built in the 1980’s and had no heritage status. The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society were aware of and did not object to departmental actions on this structure.”

Ms. Dixon was also concerned that the new metal tower did not have functioning light, but CCG says this light is on a sunswitch which allows the light to only operate at night. The power for the LED light comes from solar panels. Sunswitches are common among solarized lights to save energy during the day.



David Rasmussen at the Money Point Lighthouse before its unsightly demise.

# No priorities set but strategies identified

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The session was a round table discussion on the future needs of the Victoria County high-lighting both concerns and themes as to the future needs of the county. The format allowed for good discussions as the group worked towards setting priorities to be reviewed by council as council members are to lead the way in implementing a sustainable economic development strategy for the county.

A significant number of topics were enumerated from which the facilitator, Gordon MacIntosh, helped ‘boil down’ the themes to a manageable list that could then be embraced by the Victoria County Council as they work to chart the implementation of a strategic development plan for the Municipality.

Through a discussion process the themes that evolved that were deemed most important to pursue were as follows:

1. Develop a comprehensive communication strategy for county residents.
2. Pursue potential RDA affiliation.
3. Complete a business analysis of county businesses.
4. Promote and develop land use strategies.
5. Gain a better understanding of education and literacy needs.
6. Continue broadband access

improvement demands.




7. Examine forms of alternative and renewable energy strategies.
8. Establish a volunteer advisory committee to work with council.
9. Examine the need of a sustainable strategy for the local fishery.

There were no priorities set, but from the discussion the most important theme that resonated across the board was the need for a well thought out communication strategy to get information out to the residents of Victoria County. It was suggested that the first place to start was a total reconfiguration of Victoria County’s web site to provide good information to local residents and those from afar who show interest in the County. Information management is the key to providing a high level of county based knowledge about local events, government programs, and local government to highlight the assets of the county which make it one of the best in Nova Scotia.




The challenge for the Victoria County council will be to engage the local citizenry to become involved and assist the implementation of a sustainable economic development strategy. Now that a sustainable economic development officer is on the county payroll progress towards realizing the need for planning and cooperation at all levels should start the process of “eating the elephant!”

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