

Midway Motors Ltd
Our 85th Year in Business
Middle River N.S.
(902) 295-2290
Port Hastings N.S.
(902) 625-3641

The Victoria Standard

Victoria County's Own News & Entertainment Journal

BURNS VISION CENTRE
Optometrists: Doctor Barry Burns
and Doctor Anne Marie Brière
NOW PROVIDING...
• Eye Examinations •
• Spectacle & Contact Lens Fitting •
• Laser Vision Consultation •
503 Chebucto Street, Baddeck
Call for an Appointment
295-1796 • 1-877-669-6683

P.O. Box 629, Baddeck, B0E 1B0

January 10, 2010 to January 23, 2011

Victoria County, Cape Breton

Weighing their options

Used ice plant for Cape North

by Jim Morrow

A short term solution to a long term problem at the Northern Victoria Community Centre in Cape North may arrive in January.

A used artificial ice plant has been offered to the Cape North community from the community of Berwick.

Northern Victoria Community Centre's Duncan MacKinnon said, "It is a generous offer and we are weighing our options carefully.

"Perhaps the used plant can get us through a couple of years until something better comes along or we can add on to it to make it meet our needs."

Mr. MacKinnon is hopeful that he and a few other volunteers can get down to Berwick in the next couple of weeks to pick up the plant and some of the other materials that may be available and usable in Cape North.

Victoria Fisheries Co-op manager Osborne Burke has donated the use of one of the fish plant's trucks and drivers to pick up the compressor and other materials when they are needed.

Mr. MacKinnon is very appreciative of the generosity he is finding in the community.

Northern Victoria Community Centre has been after artificial ice since 1987 when the Canada Winter Games expanded the facility as a base for its cross country skiing events.

With the concrete and piping in place the facility needs an ice plant and an extension to the roof to have artificial

see Great, page two

Ingonish polar bears



The 8th Annual Polar Bear Dip held in Ingonish on January 1st at 1 pm had nine brave participants ranging in age from 13 to 74 years of age. The eldest was Anita MacLeod who is the founding member of the group. She started the local tradition on New Year's Day 2004. As in previous years participants and spectators alike were asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the local food bank and with the beautiful weather this year, a great crowd of supporters was on hand and a wonderful outpouring of generosity was shown. Several of this years participants were "newbies" and described the experience as one they were thrilled to be part of and they will definitely be returning to do it again next year with an even greater number of participants.

Wagmatcook still reels from the John Simon tragedy

RCMP holding results of investigation

by Jim Morrow

"They will take their own sweet time," said Patsy MacKay regarding the release of the Chair-Initiated Complaint and Public Interest Investigation into the shooting death of her common law husband John Simon by the RCMP.

The Chair-Initiated Complaint and Public Interest Investigation report has been turned over to the RCMP but the time required to prepare a response is dictated by the "potential complexities of any recommendations and findings, the volume of relevant material to be reviewed and the research required, as well as other factors," says the RCMP media line, so the federal police department will not immediately release the results of the investigation to the family of John Simon.

Mr. Simon, a diabetic and off his insulin for some days as well as drinking heavily and threatening to take his own life was in the bathroom when Constable Frenette came in through a window. He became tangled up in the curtains as Mr. Simon emerged from the bathroom with a rifle (later to be determined to be unloaded) causing Constable Frenette to fear for his own life and shoot Mr. Simon three times.

The Chair-Initiated Complaint and Public Interest Investigation was precipitated when the RCMP let a year go by without investigating Constable Jeremy Frenette's actions. The administrative error which allowed Constable Frenette to elude internal investigations as to why on December 2nd, 2008 against orders from his commanding

officer, he entered, through a window, John Simon's home in Wagmatcook First Nation.

"I don't have a lot of faith in what the RCMP will come out with," Ms. MacKay says.

"I have nothing against the RCMP. One officer made a mistake. But they have no idea what the fallout has been from this."

From what is going on now in Wagmatcook Ms. MacKay believes the RCMP cannot do their job. "The RCMP respond to a call and the first thing that is said is, 'Don't shoot me like you did Big John.' It is not good for the RCMP. Sometimes when they should be there they are not. They have gone from being over-aggressive on the reserve to

see RCMP, page three

Inspecting storm damage

MP Eyking tours ports in northern Victoria County

by Jim Morrow

Sydney-Victoria MP, Mark Eyking, travelled to Northern Victoria County on January 5th to see first hand the damages which occurred to ports and harbours during the ferocious storms and gales of December.

"We need to get an assessment done right away so the damages done to the breakwaters can be fixed. If we wait too long another storm can make the situation even worse," he said

Meeting with Municipal councillors and fishermen in Cape North, Neil's Harbour and Ingonish, MP Eyking believes that a few million dollars

spent now will save hundreds of millions dollars later if the spring storms breach the breakwaters. Quoting the adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," Mr. Eyking said he will do what he can to find funds to get the work done.

Osborne Burke, Chair of the the Six Ports Harbour Authority agreed saying the breakwaters are the first and sometimes only line of defense from the Atlantic Ocean.

"We always lose a few rocks from the breakwaters but this year we have lost a lot more than a few," Mr. Burke

see Money, page two

They desire a better country

Member of the Order of Canada for Ron Caplan

by Jim Morrow

Wreck Cove's Ron Caplan has been appointed to the Order of Canada for his contributions to the protection of Cape Breton Island's history and culture as a writer, editor and publisher.

The Member of the Order of Canada recognizes a lifetime of distinguished service in or to a particular community, group or field of activity. The Order of Canada's motto is *DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM* (They desire a better country).

As editor and publisher of *Cape Breton's Magazine* and more recently Breton Books Publishing, Mr. Caplan

said, "It was a nice surprise and a great way to end the year!"

Mr. Caplan came to Cape Breton in 1971 and as he was casting about looking for meaningful employment a friend sent him a copy of the *FoxFire* series, a compendium of students' interviews with local people about aspects and practices in Appalachian culture. At the same time Stewart Brand was publishing the *Whole Earth Catalogue* in a large scale format (11" x 14").

But rather than use students to do the research Mr. Caplan took on the task himself and used a *Whole Earth*

see Devoted, page three