

District 5

New Alderwood one of the finest facilities in Nova Scotia

by Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden and Councillor for District 5

First, I would like to wish residents of District 5 and for that matter, all residents of Victoria County a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

2010 saw many events unfold in our county. These include the opening of the new Alderwood, the hiring of a Development Officer and many unusual weather events.

It is becoming apparent that we and most of the rest of the world are suffering through more and more extreme weather events. Individually and collectively we must plan and prepare for more of these in the future.

The opening of the new Alderwood was the culmination of many years of work by many people. It can be said without fear

of contradiction that Victoria County has one of the finest facilities of this kind in Nova Scotia. The final work will be to dispose of the old property. Developments are still taking place on this front.

Our new Development Officer recently visited District 5 to get an overview of the area and to visit some of the business establishments. Time was limited so if you were missed and you would like to speak to her contact me at 674-2703

I would like to welcome everyone who has moved to District 5. I have met many of you and I invite you to become involved with our community organizations. To all the volunteers, in these organizations a very sincere "Thank You". The county will continue to provide support to these organizations.

As we know, all is not perfect and the

condition of our roads is a daily topic of conversation. I will continue to work with Transportation personnel, and our MLA Keith Bain to press for much needed

improvements.

Finally, again I would like to wish you all the best of the Season and a great year in 2011.

The Book Nook

by Kate Oland

After the gifts have been opened and enjoyed, it's traditional to write your thank you notes. Here at Baddeck Library, we are surrounded this year by generous gifts, large and small, that have contributed to making our library a good place to be. Sending individual notes would have me writing until next Christmas - so I'd like to take the opportunity to give some "thank you's" via the Book Nook.

First, a thank you to the Baddeck Library Society for its ongoing encouragement, and for its generosity in providing beautiful new curtains this year. The Society also pays for cleaning services, and we have Lenora Crowley to thank for keeping the space looking bright and clean.

Many people gave us their time and energy this year, including Winston Cameron and Graham Fownes of the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department (who keep the building in good repair), Gordon MacRae (our "go-to" man for technical challenges), Linda Holmes (who saved me from my meagre sewing skills), and Pam Morrison (who helped iron the new curtains).

Morgans Brook Landscaping donated some muscle power and created a garden bed for us to plant this spring, and Marian Whitcomb has offered to create a landscaping plan (watch the library for new blooms!).

Our Summer Welcome Program Series was made possible by the generous contributions of many local presenters who shared their time, knowledge, and talent - and by the efforts of our volunteers - Kendra Donovan, Virginia Duffield, Allison Holmes, and Chrissie VanderGiessen - who helped host the programs.

Baadeck Yarns and its talented owner, Pat Fields, donated time (and yarn) to our annual Knit-a-Thon. Many people donated yarn, needles, and other materials - and, of course, our local knitters donated their skills and created over 40 knitted items for families in need.

A big thank you to the many local businesses who donated prizes for the annual Summer Reading Program. Thanks to you, local children were encouraged to keep up their reading skills over the summer months - and were rewarded for their efforts.

A special thank you to Sarah Beck of

Wildfire Pottery, who undertook a couple of fund-raising efforts to benefit the library. Her generous (and creative!) fund-raising is directly responsible for the addition of dozens of new and valuable books to our shelves.

Thanks also to the many patrons who purchased new books for the library through Adopt-a-Book, donated books for the shelves or for our book sales, or purchased used books from our book room. We are so fortunate to have such amazing support! Our collection is increasingly a reflection of our patrons' interests, and it's great to be acquiring books that so many people wish to borrow. Financial donations from many patrons have also been much appreciated.

A major thank you to the Youth Advisory Group, who rolled up their sleeves to help paint the new Youth Space. This energetic group of teens also got together for an "after hours" Christmas potluck and decorating party - so the community can thank its youth for the cozy Christmas atmosphere at the library.

A huge thank you to the members of the Learning Disability Society. This non-profit organization completed its work this past year and chose to turn its remaining funds over to the library. This thoughtful donation planted the seed of an idea that should bear fruit in the upcoming year, in the form of a project to support literacy in Victoria County. Stay tuned for details!

There have been so many acts of kindness - donations of useful items, kind and encouraging words, helpful actions, great ideas brought forward, offers of help. In our bookmobile schools and communities, we've been greeted, fed, helped, and made to feel so very welcome. Every kindness and contribution - large and small - is meaningful, and truly makes the library a great place to work and a welcoming place for the whole community.

I am absolutely certain I'm forgetting to thank someone - which means we are blessed to have received such an abundance of gifts. Thank you, everyone!

Kate Oland, Baddeck Branch/Victoria County Bookmobile - 295-2055
Leona Stockley, Victoria North Regional Branch (Ingonish) - 285-2544

District 2

Watch for future economic development in our County

by Keith MacCuspic, Councillor for District 2

Once again, the councillors of Victoria, are wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in our *Victoria Standard* message. I can't speak for my fellow councillors, but I'm sure they will agree, as a councillor I truly enjoy the time working on behalf of the people of district 2 and for all of Victoria County. The old saying is "time flies when your having fun" and I can't believe another year has gone into the history books.

I must start by saying Victoria County suffered a terrible loss in the passing of Robert MacLellan. He was one of those great men that stood up for what was right and wasn't scared to say something that had to be said. My memories of Robert are one of a humble man, who, because he didn't graduate from high school or have a university degree, sometimes would tell presenters in council "don't be using those big words". Some people confuse education with intelligence, Robert was one of the most intelligent and compassionate men I have had the pleasure of knowing.

I would like to welcome John Buchanan to council in District 8. You have big shoes to fill!

There are new garbage trucks servicing Victoria County this year, along with the trucks, 6 new employees from Victoria County and seems to be a very successful venture. The new Alderwood rest home opened this year and is a beautiful building that we all can be proud of. This year

we hope to resolve the problems north of Smokey, with improvements to Highland Manor.

We can all be excited with the future of Victoria County with Nona MacDermid joining our team as Economic Sustainability Officer. There is much work to be done and I have faith in her ability that we will move the county forward with Nona's expertise. Just as building a house, before you see anything tangible, there is a lot of planning and design work that takes months and possibly years, because a person wants to build it the correct way. The same can be said of our Economic Development in the County, with all the information gathered over the last couple of years and finding the proper person to work in the department, we now feel that council can move in the right direction on a number of different areas. When working to improve something, change is inevitable and sometimes change will meet resistance and criticism, but a positive community spirit can overcome many obstacles. Victoria County has a strong spirit, which I feel will bring good things in the new year.

As always we will continue to lobby for improvements in the counties infrastructure of roads, power line maintenance, funding for water and sewer projects and broadband improvements.

In closing I can't say it enough, "Many wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year"



Midway Motors Ltd.
Midway Motors · Established 1926 · Our 85th Year in Business

**WINTER'S HERE! WHEEL, TIRE & STUD PACKAGES!
DON'T SEE IT ON THE LOT? WE CAN FIND IT FOR YOU!**

2499 Cabot Trail, Middle River, Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0
Baddeck • 295-2290 Port Hastings • 625-3641







From my family to yours:
Enjoy the holidays with loved ones & friends!

Here's wishing you a very happy and prosperous new year.

Mark Eyking
MP for Sydney-Victoria

facebook
facebook.com/MarkEyking



Phone 567-6275 or Toll Free 1-866-707-9800