

# Mo's Café

## Local contractors benefit from Mammoth project.

By Maurice Rees

Some people have a dream, some have a plan, others a vision. Some people are driven to provide for their community. Others have a knack

for getting things done. Occasionally a community is blessed with a philanthropist. Dick Lemon is all the above and Five Islands is the recipient.

What was recently known as Mel's Fine Food has been converted into Mo's Cafe, Downtown Five Islands - a café, pizza, hostel, reading area, books, art and a place to "get-away" in style and elegance.

A few years ago, Dick Lemon, a successful lawyer specializing in winery and vineyard mergers and acquisitions in California's Napa Valley, visited Nova Scotia and fell with love with the province. More specifically, he fell in love with the Five Islands area.

25 years ago back in California; Dick's life took a turn, when he ventured out as a one person legal firm. Lawyers in the area believed there was barely enough business for the existing 25 firms. 20 years later, his firm had expanded to 25 lawyers, because he studied and practiced "ethics in law" and on Mergers and Acquisitions of



The front deck sports a "Not Since Moses Banner", which is organized by Dick Lemon.

wineries and vineyards.

After discovering the Five Islands area, he first purchased an island, and then invested nearly \$2-million developing a retreat of sort, primarily for musicians and visual arts. Not comfortable at that stage in his life, he began looking for another project.

Approximately a year ago he purchased the vacant and

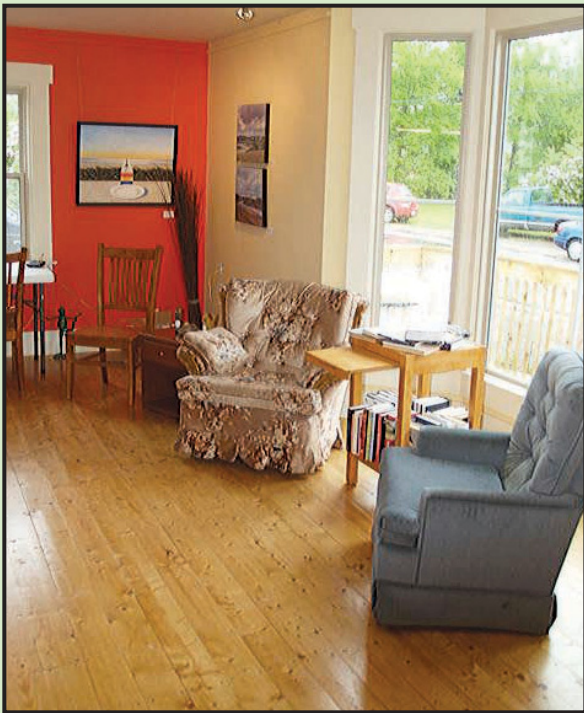
neglected property formerly known as Mel's Fine Foods. A vacant rundown building is no good, so Dick started on a year-long journey. With the assistance of engineers and architects, he developed a plan for what today is known as Mo's Café, Downtown Five Islands.

Dennis Ross was hired to manage the project, which

was already taking on a greater magnitude than originally conceived. The rock wall foundation was replaced with a concrete foundation, sills had to be replaced, the building leveled. Entire floors were replaced. The septic field was replaced, and a \$60,000.00 geothermal heating system installed. The entire building envelope was



During the past year major renovations have converted the building into a bright professionally decorated "must go to" destination.



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