



On May 25th, much later than usual, workers at Balamore Farm, Great Village were busy planting perennials. The farm uses GPS technology to keep the rows straight. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



With the use of modern technology strawberry plants were already blooming at Balamore Farm. On May 25th were removing the layer of straw which had protected plants from the harsh winter. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

## GPS Keeps Rows Straight at Balamore Farm

By Lawrence R. Nicoll

Between Great Village and Glenholme are the vast farmlands of Millen Farms operated by Curtis and Ann Millen and Balamore Farm a thriving enterprise of Joe Cooper and family. Both have become very successful and major contributors to the local economy. The vast amounts of fruits and vegetables produced by the farms has been a major component to the increasing "Buy Local" initiatives being organized around the province.

A cold harsh winter and late spring has played havoc to all farming operations. On Monday, May 25th the crews at Balamore Farm were out in full swing planting perennials and preparing the strawberry beds.

Farming is a challenging business with lots of technology being used by the more

successful operations. Balamore Farm uses GPS tracking to keep the rows straight and above embedded water strips.

Although I wondered if we would see strawberries before late summer, many of their plants are already flowering thanks to today's techniques in modern farming in full swing.



## New Community Signs Erected

By Maurice Rees

It has taken a few years since the original plan was conceived to erect community signs along Highway #2, from Glenholme up through West Colchester. However in the last week, signs in various communities along the shore have been erected.

In the beginning Anita MacLellan, a driving member of the West Colchester Community Development Association (WCCDA) and a committee submitted a proposal to the provincial government in 2007 at the urging of Karen Casey, MLA, who thought the signs would improve community spirit and also be helpful to tourists.

MacLellan and her committee struggled to get community consent and confirmation of what should be included on each unique sign.

Two years ago Karen Casey asked that another committee be put together to move the project forward.

Finally...after 8 years the association has acted and the signs are in place.

Communities who have signs erected are: Glenholme, Londonderry, Highland Village, Portaupique, Bass River, Economy and Five Islands. The Five Islands sign is located on the side of Economy Mountain.

At the time Great Village Community Council opted out as they had just had their "welcome" signs redone.

They asked for an interpretive sign on Station Road overlooking the new bridge, river and centre of the village. (aerial view of the Village). Art Haskins is working on a new Great Village sign.

Yet to be completed is a sign for Masstown. The WCCDA committee has yet to receive a high resolution picture or provide the committee with information on Masstown's boundaries.

It seems communities and Department of Transportation do not agree on boundaries.

## Kent Homes Facility

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two available former fabrication and manufacturing facilities, Casey was also heralding the area's existing workforce. He said, there are experienced trades people from the steel fabrication facilities in the area. The Nova Scotia Community College has schools in Amherst, Springhill and Truro which would be prepared to work with your

firm to ensure that you have the quality workers you require to produce ship components in either one of these buildings. The NSCC in Truro boasts highly skilled graduates who could supply your technical expertise requirements, further enhancing Irving's commitment and reputation of providing high-paying jobs for well-qualified Nova Scotians.

## SCCCC Emergency Department Closures

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Northern zone, covering Colchester, East Hants, Cumberland and Pictou county areas, of which encompasses the Parrsboro area. Eileen MacIsaac, lead communications staffer for the Northern Regional Zone, who works out of the New Glasgow office was not readily available, but did return the call shortly thereafter.

Her response is as follows, "Most of the closures at the Parrsboro Collaborative Emergency Centre over the past few months were due to an unexpected lack of physician resources that started in March. We have been able to stabilize the service with the use of locums (temporary physicians). Overnight access was not affected during the closures".

She continued, "Physician coverage is expected to improve this month (June). Parrsboro residents continued to have access to the primary health care clinic in Parrsboro (with same day/next day access) that remained in place 7 days a week".

All 19 closures were for a 12 hour period from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm with the exception of May 26th when it was closed

for 3.5 hours from 8:30 am to 12 noon. The emergency department at SCCC was closed three days in January; five instances in March; seven in April and a total of four instances in May.

Specific dates of the 19 closures are: January, 2, 5, & 7; March 4, 18, 20, 27 & 31; April, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21 & 23. In May the emergency department was closed from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm on May 1, 11, 15 and from 8:30 am to 12 noon on May 26.

## Volunteers Collect 151 Bags of Highway Litter



This DOT truck shows only a small portion of the 151 bags of highway litter collected by a group of volunteers from Glenholme to Highland Village in their newly accepted Adopt-A-Highway program on May 23rd. (Submitted)

A group of volunteers from the Glenholme to Highland Village area members care so much about the appearance of West Colchester they have joined the Adopt-A-Highway program to clean up the ditches in a designated area. In their first year they covered a larger area to include all the way from Glenholme to Highland Village, including all side roads along the way, a stretch on the # 4 as well as the beach at Spencer's Point.

Giving up an evening or during the day on May 23rd, members collected a total of 151 bags as well as various large items including car parts, etc.

Items included fast food, household garbage and building renovation materials (i.e. buckets of tar) which continue to be a huge part of the problem.

In addition to thanking the volunteers to took part, the organizing members have asked everyone wait till they

get home to get rid of coffee cups, etc, and to please cover their garbage when it is put out for collection so that it does not get carried away by the wind or other means.

They also suggest to keep the area cleaner, it would be helpful if residents could just take a few minutes every now and then to pick up the litter in front of their own property. Last month's issue of the Shoreline encouraged people to clean up along the highways in their area, particularly in front of their property. Anyone who collected three bags would receive a free t-shirt compliments of the Shoreline Journal and tshirtsrus.ca.

The Shoreline Journal's initiative was to clean up areas along Highway #2 from the Onlows to the County line for areas which were not included in RASCALS Adopt-A-Highway area and community efforts in Bass River and Great Village.

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