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 Publications Mail™
 #40048924 - VOL. 16 NO. 3

MARCH 2012 **\$1⁹⁵ + HST**

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS March 2012

ACOA Minister Bernard Valcourt has announced more than \$670,000 to renew two initiatives that support Aboriginal economic development in Atlantic Canada. Both initiatives are administered by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat, an organization which represents Aboriginal communities in Atlantic Canada.

The first project, the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, is being delivered in partnership with 12 Atlantic Canadian universities. Its main purpose is to improve knowledge of Aboriginal economic development opportunities. The second project, the Professional Development Training initiative, will provide Atlantic Aboriginal economic development officers with the skills needed to address the unique challenges of Aboriginal communities and businesses in Atlantic Canada.

The figures issued from last year's national census show Truro, Bible Hill and Truro Heights reached a population of 23,261 people last year. That's a 4 per cent increase from 2006, which means almost 900 people moved into the Colchester's central urban core over the 5 year period. The rest of Colchester County also gained population, with preliminary numbers showing the strongest rural population growth in West Colchester, followed by steady growth in the region which includes North River, Valley and Tatamagouche. Colchester's population as a whole is now just shy of 51,000 people.

The Shoreline Journal is still accepting names of those who have or will become 90 in 2012. These people will be invited to attend the 2nd Annual 90/90+ birthday party to be held in Economy in May. Send name, address, birthdate and phone number to: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com or call Maurice at 902-647-2968.

The Parrsboro Relay For Life event will be Friday, June 8th at the Parrsboro Lions Arena. Currently there are 14 to 15 teams participating. Stephen O'Regan is serviced his second year as Honorary Chair. Steve Butler and Hypnotist Rick Adshade will be providing some of the entertainment for evening. There are several fundraisers taking place in March and April. "Shar's Stars" will be holding a dance on Saturday, March 10 at the Parrsboro Fire Hall at 8:00 PM starring Paul Randy Mingo. Price is \$6.50. "Cougars for the Cure" will be holding a Maple Supper at the Southampton Community Centre from noon to 5 PM on March 17th. The Annual Gospel Music Concert on Sunday, April 15 at 7 PM at the Trinity United Church in Parrsboro. Free will donation at the door. Proceeds split between the church and Relay for Life.

The Annual Village Follies Dinner Theatre will be as follows: Friday, May 4th; Saturday, May 5th; Sunday, May 6th; Thursday, May 10th; Friday, May 11th and Saturday, May 12th. The performances of "Island in the Sun" will take place at the Debert Hospitality Centre, complete with a full course meal (choice of chicken or salmon). Tickets will go on sale at the end of March.

Creative Voice of Truro, a Women's Performance Group will present a concert celebrating International Women's Day on March 3rd at St. Andrews United Church, Truro commencing at 7:30 pm. Admission price is \$15/person, 12 & under free. Tea, coffee and sweets are included in the ticket price.

Masstown Market's Seafood Pie Awarded National Top Prize

By Linda Harrington

The Masstown Market "Catch of the Bay" Fresh Fish Market has been getting lots of media attention, including coverage on CTV's Live at Five, after winning first prize in the Baker's Journal Ultimate Pie Contest.

The three finalists in the

competition were a cherry blossom pie from Madeleine's Cherry Pie and Ice Cream, Toronto, a raspberry sour cream pie from Tartine Bread and Pies, Vancouver, and the Atlantic seafood based pie, from the Masstown Market.

The Market's Atlantic

continued on page 20

Instrument Concepts Passes Through 2nd Round

On February 3, Scott Armstrong Member of Parliament (Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley) on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose,

Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, announced the Government of Canada's pre-qualification for Instrument Concepts Inc.'s

new innovation, iListen, through the second round of the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program (CICP).

MP Armstrong said, "Our

Government is putting its support behind their innovation designed right here in Great Village and bringing them one step closer in moving their innovations into domestic and international markets."

Instrument Concepts Inc.'s innovation, iListen is a "smart" hydrophone that can listen for, detect and notify border security personnel of any boat activity by being trained to listen for specific sounds in a marine environment.

The CICP is a \$40-million pilot program launched as part of the Economic Action Plan. Successful companies may see their pre-commercial products and services tested within government operations, and will be given relevant feedback from participating departments.

In total, 27 innovations from Canadian companies pre-qualified for funding under the CICP's first round and 36 innovations under the second round.



Ski Wentworth is the only ski facility in Nova Scotia which has a "magic carpet" to whisk people to the top of the bunny hill. There's lots of winter to come and the magic carpet will be very popular during March Break. Learn more of the 'magic' in Leslie Wilson's column on page 20. (Photo Submitted)

Angel Hearts Chapel To Open in Debert

By Linda Harrington

Some people may question why anyone would open a new spiritual centre when many are now closing their doors but Andrew King feels the time is right to give it a try.

The Gospel Hall at 1217 Plains Road was built as a church 111 years ago, in 1901, by the McCulloch family. It remained as a

church until early in 2000 when it was made into a private residence.

Andrew King says he and his wife Kimberly had often thought about establishing a community centre with a spiritual component in the Debert area. "We met with CoRDA, MLA Karen Casey and gathered information from Sue Taylor about the demographics of the area. We decided it was going to be a huge monetary challenge to make this project sustainable and at this point we became rather discouraged," says Andrew. "And then one day Kimberly saw the former Gospel Hall up for sale, right across from the Debert Post Office. It was a perfect location, one we had actually thought about before. We thought and prayed about it and decided maybe it was something we could handle."

Kim and Andrew belong to the musical ministering group called Higher Ground, Andrew is a lay pastor and they both belong to the Debert Baptist Church. They hope to find multiple uses for the renovated building. "We want this setting to be non-traditional, not a formal church. We do not want to compete with the 3 other Churches in the area but are hoping to add an additional spiritual component, perhaps filling in gaps where there may be a need," he says. "There have already been people dropping by, offering suggestions for various uses, and we are open to all ideas."

They had originally thought a good name for their not-for-profit organization would be "Angel Hearts Serving Community" but once they found their home at the former Gospel Hall the name was changed to "Angel Hearts Chapel".

Andrew works full time but he has spent every spare moment, since they took ownership a little over a week ago, completing extensive renovations, while keeping the main parts of the building intact. "We want to keep it humble and as original as we can, to present an intimate atmosphere," says Andrew. "And I have been doing all renovations as economical as I can, reusing nails and gyprock and utilizing donations such as paint whenever possible."

The main room, with original hardwood floors, will be used as the sanctuary, with perhaps a raised stage area at one end. One of

continued on page 3



Kimberly and Andrew King display the logo for the new Angel Heart's Chapel, which will be opening for use this spring at 1217 Plains Road, Debert. (Harrington Photo)

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