



## ACROSS NOVA SCOTIA

### New doctor joins Meteghan Centre clinic

METEGHAN — Dr. Joey Deveau has arrived to work at the Centre de sante de Clare (Clare Medical Centre) in Meteghan Centre for a temporary period, says a news release from Southwest Health.

Deveau is from the region originally. He will not accept new patients but will take on the patients formerly cared for by Dr. Tharini Ganeghran.

Deveau is also expected to working in the Digby General Hospital emergency department, which will help reduce ER closures there, said the news release.

### Veggies for sale at Yarmouth hospital

YARMOUTH — The Southwest Nova district health authority is operating a farmers market until Oct. 21 in the cafeteria of Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

The project is a joint effort of the district health authority and the Tri-County Local Food Network, said a news release.

The market is geared toward serving district health authority staff but members of the public are welcome, the release said.

The market will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 19, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and Oct. 21.

### NDP appoint MacSween as provincial secretary

There's a new top administrator at the New Democratic Party office.

Mike MacSween started as provincial secretary on July 26. He replaces Ed Wark, who resigned in February after a union donation controversy that resulted in Elections Nova Scotia fining the NDP \$10,000.

MacSween, a native of Leitch Creek, outside Sydney, beat out 15 other applicants for the job. He had been Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister Ramona Jennex's executive assistant, a post now filled by caucus staffer Nat Smith.

MacSween, 31, was part of the NDP's transition-to-power committee after last year's election. Prior to that, he was the executive director of the Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce.

He ran in the 2003 election, coming a distant second to Liberal Manning MacDonald in Cape Breton South.

### Acadia launches master of arts program

WOLFVILLE — Acadia University has a new master of arts program in social and political thought.

The new program is one of only four of its kind in Canada and the first in the Atlantic region.

Drawing on students from Vancouver to Nova Scotia, the first group in the course brings with them primary degrees in anthropology, geography, philosophy and political science and research interests in diverse areas such as war, corporate power, human rights, cultural studies and environmentalism.

The new program is designed to offer students a supportive and personalized environment, with small class sizes and a high degree of student-faculty interaction.

Inquiries can be made to Marc Ramsay, program director, by email at [mr Ramsay@acadiau.ca](mailto:mr Ramsay@acadiau.ca) or by phoning (902) 585-1261.

### Museum tour to feature old Yarmouth homes

YARMOUTH — A late-summer tour of five of Yarmouth County's historic or unusual homes will take place Aug. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Amazing Yarmouth County House Tour is a fundraising event for the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives, said a news release.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available at the museum on Collins Street.



Children gather outside one of the new Ekwendeni Community Development Project buildings in Malawi, Africa. A fundraiser for the village will be held in Halifax on Friday.

## Event targets \$16,000 for Malawi project

### Money to finish village mills

By GLEN PARKER

MOUNT DENSON — Efforts to complete a maize mill and livestock feed mill in a small village in Malawi will get a much needed boost from a fundraiser held in Halifax later this month.

"We need to raise about \$16,000 to complete these two (capital) projects," said Nova Scotia-Malawi Association spokesperson Christie Hartlin of Mount Denson.

"Once they are both up and running, I estimate it will take about two years for the project to be able to sustain its daily needs."

The association is holding the fundraiser, a retro dance party with DJ Tommy Knuckles, on Friday at the Coconut Grove Lounge. There will also be a silent auction.

All of the money raised that day will go directly to the Ekwendeni Community Development Project in Malawi, Africa.

The project also supports 75 orphans, their guardians, 50 people living with HIV-AIDS and many other community members. It costs about \$15,000 annually to keep that part of the project running, she said.

"It is less than a week away from our fundraising event and I



Christie Hartlin, putting up a poster for Friday's fundraiser, says she hopes to raise \$16,000.

(GLEN PARKER)

really need to get as many tickets sold as possible for the event to be successful," Hartlin said.

Tickets for the event cost \$20.

"I have been working on this project in Malawi since 2005 and I continue to go there every year," Hartlin said. "The project is getting so close to being sustainable, that raising money now is even more important than ever."

The Nova Scotia-Malawi Association is a non-profit devel-

opment organization working in partnership with Malawi, Africa, to pursue initiatives that promote sustainable development, gender equity, orphan care support, education and improved health care services.

For more information on the project as well as the charity event, email [christiehartlin1@yahoo.ca](mailto:christiehartlin1@yahoo.ca) or visit [www.novascotiamalawiasociation.com](http://www.novascotiamalawiasociation.com).

([gparker@herald.ca](mailto:gparker@herald.ca))

## Workers to start on speed skating oval

By MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE  
City Hall Reporter

It may be the dog days of summer but city hall officials are gearing up for a major winter project in Halifax.

Work on the Canada Games' \$2.1-million speed skating oval at the Halifax Commons should begin by early September, municipal staff said Saturday.

Paul Dunphy said the tender competition for the project closed recently and construction will start soon on the outdoor site at the North Common. The job should be finished by the beginning of December, he said.

"Which date it actually opens will be dependent on the weather and the temperature," said Dunphy, Halifax Regional Municipality's director of community development.

The refrigerated speed skating oval will be used for a long track speed skating testing event in January and for the 2011 Canada Winter Games the following month. Dunphy said it's to be open for public use before and after the Games.

He said the site, which will have lights for night skating, will be supervised by municipal staff during public skates.

Metro and its environs are hosting the Games, February 11-27. The Halifax skating oval will be closed to the public during the event.

According to the city's website, playing fields affected by the skating oval's construction "will be reinstated over the summer of 2011 and are scheduled to be back, new and improved and ready for use in the fall" of that year.

Once the Games are over, the city intends to leave the oval open to the public until sometime in March.

"We'll be programming some events there as well," Dunphy told The Chronicle Herald.

These are to include music to skate by, he said, and some of it will include live performances.

Dunphy said the track will be dismantled after public skating ends in March. He said much of the equipment is to be used later at a permanent skating venue in the municipality.

Surplus gear will be sold to other municipalities, he said.

Dunphy said a permanent skating site in HRM hasn't been identified yet.

([milightstone@herald.ca](mailto:milightstone@herald.ca))

## Halifax Harbour — much lies below surface

On an overcast August day, Haligonians glance up as a refitted Lark V American military vehicle called the Harbour Hopper drives into the world's second-biggest natural harbour.

Sailboats blow down the Narrows, site of the world's largest man-made explosion before the atomic bomb, while the world's oldest continually operating saltwater ferry service criss-crosses the grey waves.

Nova Scotia has a lot of boastful claims, and Halifax Harbour is surely the epicentre. I've kayaked the Northwest Arm, sailed the Bedford Basin and even swam off Black Rock Beach in Point Pleasant Park, but feel I've only scratched the surface. I need to talk to someone who can give me a deeper take, so I call Bob Chaulk.

Chaulk, author of *Time in a Bottle: Historic Halifax Harbour from the Bottom Up*, has scuba dived the harbour more than 500 times since 1987. He agrees to meet me at Deadman Island, a peninsula on the Northwest Arm. We walk over the old, unmarked graves of hundreds of prisoners from nearby Melville Island and take a rocky seat at the harbour's edge.

Chaulk describes a changing landscape that can only be seen

### BIGGEST & BEST



JON TATTRE

in Persian carpet-sized chunks because of silt clouds and weak sunlight. The islands poking out of the harbour hint at dozens more hills that don't break the surface. Huge boulders dropped by glaciers mix with piles of trash tidied together by the tide. There's not much of what would normally be called treasure but there are plenty of bottles, and Chaulk has a fine collection covering 200 years.

A long, deep trench cut under the bridges reveals the path of an ancient river. It's crossed by the rails and stone cribwork of the two bridges that previously connected the Dartmouth and Halifax shores before falling into the water more than 100 years ago. Divers hover over the seabed looking for disintegrated wrecks, buried at times in mud so deep it would come up to your waist if you stood on it.

Chaulk says it's a strange,

often creepy world down there.

"And what about the . . . you know," I say, unable to make eye contact. Chaulk bristles at the suggestion the lumpy brown substance might not be mud.

The sewage floatables are so-called for a reason, he says, and don't trouble those beneath the surface.

I pepper him with questions about legends of the harbour. Is it truly home to a submerged parking lot? Chaulk confirms that in the 1960s, a ship's cargo of Volvos suffered damage en route to Halifax. With permission, it dumped the cars into the Bedford Basin, where they sit today, though at 60 metres it's too deep for divers to see firsthand.

How about the hole blasted by the Mont-Blanc in the 1917 Halifax Explosion? The bottom of the Narrows is half museum basement and half scrapyards, so it's hard for divers to know what they're looking at. Chaulk has seen an iron plating he suspects was part of the ship, a strange bank moving away from the shore that may have been created by the blast, and a collection of ocean liner trash that may have been swept together by the water forced away from the ship.

Some divers say the 250-year-old ferry route is visible in the form of hundreds of pop bottles and cans thrown overboard, but Chaulk says that describes the entire harbour.

The water is sparsely populated, but Chaulk has seen the notoriously ugly wolf fish, a few sharks, an Atlantic torpedo ray, a sunfish and plenty of seals. A bull seal swam slowly past him once, casting a lecherous eye, as if he was considering adding Chaulk to his harem.

While most of the ships wrecked in the harbour over the centuries are now in small, silt-buried pieces, one stands out. The Russian Kolkhosnik sank just outside the harbour near Sambro in 1942 and is a stunning sight today, with its cargo of Second World War tanks toppled over on the seabed.

Chaulk's passion is infectious. In his book, he sums up his love of the underwater world as the thrill of "flying over a garden" and exploring outer space in your own backyard.

Plus, there are some nifty bottles down there.

*Jon Tattre is a freelance journalist and the author of Black Snow and The Hermit of Africville.*