



Burns Hall concert — — — —> B7

Pond hockey, floods, wayward bees, hospital cutbacks, wind farms and border security all made the Victoria Star headlines in 2008

Victoria County residents will ring in the New Year this week and reflect on the triumphs and tragedies of 2008. In keeping with tradition, the Victoria Star took a look back at its front pages and the stories that captured the headlines.

Jan. 2, 2008

Valley paramedics were reporting a smooth transition in the operation of ambulance services to Ambulance NB under the management of Blue-Cross Medivie. The change meant EMS staffers were switched from private operators to become provincial employees.

Jan. 9, 2008

A Drummond family lost their home to fire on the Undine Road. The family of Bertrand Lagace escaped with only the clothing they were wearing but nobody was injured.

It was a week full of fire news as the Victoria Star/Cataract offices also received smoke damage in a Dec. 31 incident. The Dixie Lee was also damaged. In another fire on Jan. 3, a small dog was credited with saving the life of his owner Lawrence Labossiere of St. Andrew after his home filled with smoke.

Jan. 16, 2008

The Victoria Glen Manor's oldest resident celebrated her 104th birthday on Jan. 9. Elsie Grant was also the county's oldest resident.

School children found the body of a 78-year-old man who had been missing for five days in Plaster Rock. Donald Cox's body was discovered in the rear part of a residential lot near Donald Fraser Memorial School on Jan. 9.

Jan. 23, 2008

The daughters of Plaster Rock resi-

dent Donald Cox publicly lashed out at the RCMP over the circumstances regarding their father's death in a snowy back yard five days after he went missing.

Jan. 30, 2008

Provincial officials were optimistically hoping Calgary-based Alton Gas would be bringing natural gas to New Brunswick with a pipeline running through Miramichi, Plaster Rock and Edmundston.

Feb. 6, 2008

Tobique First Nation resident Stewart Paul who had been selected as the Liberal candidate for the next federal election resigned at the beginning of February. Sally MacGrath, then Tobique-Mactaquac riding president, was eventually chosen as the candidate.

Melissa Briggs, 16, of the Grand Falls Malabiannah Skating Club won a silver medal at the BMO Skate Canada Junior Nationals held in Ottawa from Jan. 30 to Feb. 2.

Feb. 13, 2008

It was World Pond Hockey Championship time in Plaster Rock and everything was perfect. Good weather and great crowds combined for a fantastic weekend with the Wheat Kings of Quispamsis featuring hometown boy Dave Myles eventually hoisting the coveted wooden trophy.

Feb. 20, 2008

A huge igloo constructed during the Grand Falls Winter Carnival broke the Guinness Book of World Records title for the largest self-supporting igloo on Sunday, Feb. 17.

The igloo was built by the Northwestern Branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick and measured

25.9 feet with a height of 13.8 feet.

Feb. 27, 2008

Obstetrical services at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Perth-Andover were temporarily shut down by River Valley Health forcing women to go to the Upper River Valley Hospital in Waterville to give birth. The move was made because only one of the hospital's two surgeons was fully trained in obstetrics, including C-section deliveries.

March 5, 2008

The Grand Falls Town Council again delved into whether to replace its town police force with the RCMP. The motion to consider the issue passed with four councillors in favour and three against.

March 12, 2008

Kincardine native Kate LaFrance had the opportunity to audition for the role of Maria in the CBC Television reality show *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?* Two hundred young women were selected to audition from among thousands of entrants.

March 19, 2008

The District Education Council in School District 14 had recommended Aroostook Elementary School close in the fall of 2008 and its students attend Andover Elementary School. However, the controversy over changes to the French immersion program meant Education Minister Kelly Lamrock never acted on the DEC's recommendation and the school continues to operate.

March 26, 2008

Record snowfalls had river watchers keeping their eyes on the snowy St. John and hoping it wouldn't be a disastrous spring thaw. While the bulk of the ice melted without major

problems, heavy rains later in the spring did lead to large-scale flooding.

April 2, 2008

An issue which continues to dominate the headlines got its first major attention in April when US border officials told the family of Nicholaj Pedersen of Four Falls only Canada Post, fire trucks or an ambulance would be able to reach his home which is accessed via a road which swings onto the US side of the Maine-New Brunswick border before turning back onto Canadian soil.

April 9, 2008

Grand Falls natives Roland and Carol Cyr were planning a trip to Belgium to compete in the World Dance Championships. The couple won the Canadian Amateur Ballroom Dancing Championships in Halifax in March.

April 16, 2008

Everyone was looking ahead to the May 12 municipal elections with local towns and villages sporting full slates of candidates for mayor and council seats.

April 23, 2008

The federal government told Jim Baird he'd have to give up his job at the Canada Border Services Agency if he wanted to run for a municipal council seat. He was seeking his fifth term in office. It was a sacrifice he decided he couldn't make.

April 30, 2008

Members of the Grand Falls Community Health Committee were calling for a full-time surgeon and an anesthesiologist to be hired for the Grand Falls General Hospital. They were also concerned with the lack of progress in designing a new surgical unit and central steriliza-

tion facility at the hospital.

May 7, 2008

"A soggy mess" read the headline and it was. Heavy rain and warm temperatures pushed the St. John River and its tributaries above flood level long after the ice had melted away. Residents of the region said they had never seen the water rise so fast. Many roads and properties were submerged and there was significant damage to the NB Power hydroelectric facility at Grand Falls.

May 14, 2008

A landslide forced a Grand Falls couple out of their Main Street home on May 5. Ron and Gisele Pyne fled after fearing their house may slide down the slope and end up in the St. John River.

May 21, 2008

Mount Carleton Provincial Park saw its renovation schedule get back on track after heavy winter snows slowed things down a bit. Extensive work continued throughout the summer to return this former jewel to its former splendor.

May 28, 2008

The SONG or Strengthening Our Next Generation project got its start in First Nation communities, including Tobique. The 15-month project will look into mental health and addiction problems in First Nation youth.

June 4, 2008

The Seventh annual Gathering of the Scots in Perth-Andover was a success despite a weekend of soggy weather. The event featured everything from Scottish back-hold wrestling to tossing the caber.

PLEASE SEE —> 2008 Headlines, B4



Torch to arrive

Grand Falls Mayor Marcel Deschenes announced in November that the Olympic Torch will visit the community in November 2009 enroute to the Vancouver Olympics.



The border goes here

Steve Leitch, golf pro and manager of Aroostook Valley Country Club, points out the United States-Canada border marker to Mike Allen, left, Tobique-Mactaquac MP, and Stockwell Day, Conservative Minister of Public Safety during a July visit. Security concerns between the Canada-US border continue to threaten the future of the historic golf course. (Mark Rickard photo)



World's largest igloo

This igloo constructed by the Northwestern Branch of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick was named the world's largest igloo by the Guinness Book of World Records.



Bees close road

The Trans Canada Highway was closed for a day in St. Leonard after a truck carrying 12 million honey bees overturned. Specialists from the Department of Agriculture and seven professional beekeepers worked to calm and recover the escaped bees.