



## Strive for five

### National Communities in Bloom Judges Visit New Glasgow

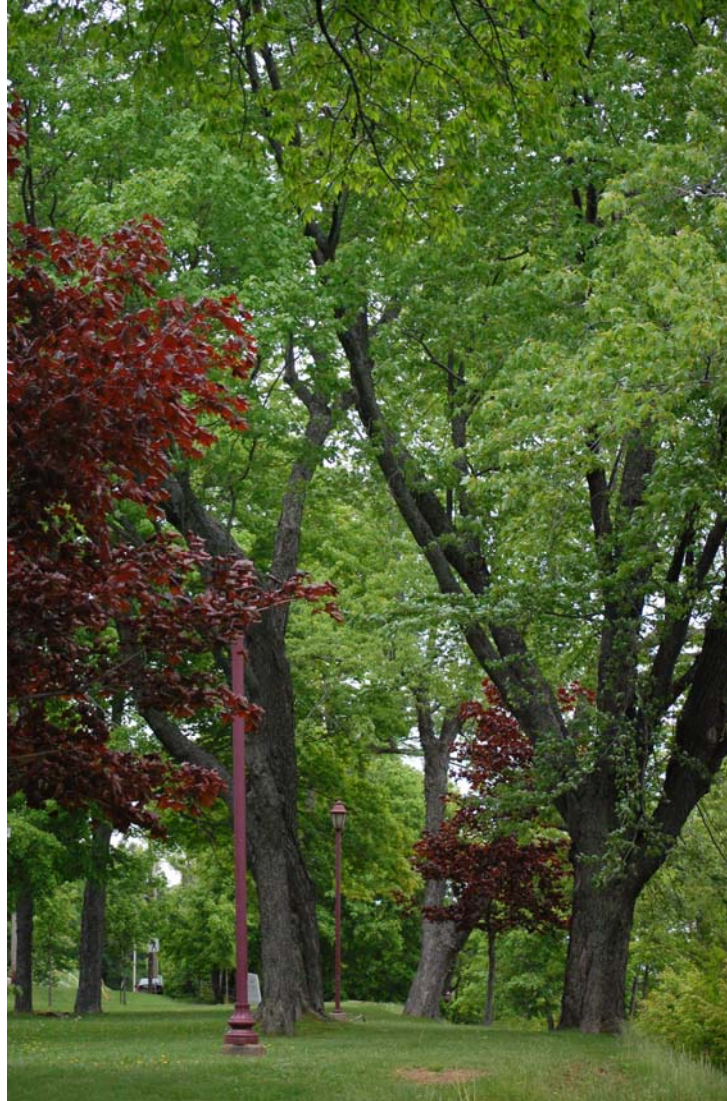
As residents know, New Glasgow is a town in full bloom, and New Glasgow Communities in Bloom set out to prove it to national judges who visited the community from August 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Judges Lorna McIlroy, a retired teacher and horticulturalist from Grand Prairie, Alberta, and Gaetan Deschenes, a retired Radio Canada journalist and writer from Saint-Bruno-de Montville, Quebec, are two of the Communities in Bloom judges who traveled across Canada to evaluate the beautification efforts and civic pride displayed by Canadian municipalities. By the end of their trip in late August, the judges will have visited Amherst, Nova Scotia; Dauphin, Manitoba; Winkler, Manitoba; Hinton, Alberta; Minto, Ontario; and Weyburn Saskatchewan, all participants in the 8,001

to 10,000 population category in which New Glasgow is featured, as well.

As part of their visit to New Glasgow, the judges not only viewed the town's efforts at municipal beautification but also took in the entire community of New Glasgow. Communities in Bloom, in fact, considers eight categories in its judging, including heritage, community involvement, environmental stewardship and urban forestry. In addition, each municipality was asked to choose two categories in which they feel they are strongest for special consideration by the judges and New Glasgow Communities in Bloom felt confident that the dedication of its community's involvement and exceptional environmental standards set it apart.

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# New Glasgow Now

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# New Glasgow

*flourish*

### What's inside...

Mayor's Report: Budget 2008-2009  
The Jubilee  
National Communities in Bloom Judges Arrive  
New Glasgow's Own  
and more...



# New Glasgow

## by the numbers

### Town Council releases 2008-2009 budget

The Town of New Glasgow is increasing its residential tax rate by 5 cents from \$1.72 to \$1.77 per \$100 assessment for the 2008-09 fiscal year. This 2.9% increase reflects a balanced and moderate response to the revenue instability caused by the cap on residential assessments, which will place a ceiling on assessments throughout the province this year at 2.3%. Town Council is pleased to maintain a residential rate that still remains nearly 3% lower than 2006-07 and that of several preceding years.

The commercial tax rate will increase from \$3.79 to \$3.92 per \$100 of assessment. With this increase businesses will pay the same as last year since the rate is being adjusted to offset the decline in revenues resulting from the loss of the Business Occupancy Tax. With several planned and proposed developments on the horizon it is clear that New Glasgow continues to flourish as the commercial service centre for North Eastern Nova Scotia. Town Council is committed to providing a climate for business and level of service that stimulates continued commercial growth.

The Town's sewer rate will remain stable at \$3.11 per 1000 gallons.

These fair and moderate increases in residential and commercial rates for 2008-09 will enable the Town of New Glasgow to continue to service our residents and our community well while offsetting demands placed on the budget by increasing operational costs.

The Town of New Glasgow will operate on a budget of \$14,466,800, compared to \$13,813,800 in 2007-08. This accounts for a 4.73% increase on the total budget.

The majority of the budget increase can be attributed to the following factors:

- significant increases in costs for products and services including fuel,

- which has affected transportation, paving and asphalt costs
- meeting obligations for salary and wage increases under union contracts
- continued capital and infrastructure investment requirements and improvements
- decreasing revenues caused by loss of "grants in lieu" (of taxes) due to changes in provincial legislation
- increases in levies from outside agencies

In light of the continuing effect of the elimination of the Business Occupancy Tax and the cap on residential assessments, Town Council remains committed to structuring the Town's operations in order to stabilize rates for rate payers over the long-term.

"New Glasgow will continue to advocate for changes to the funding formulas of shared and regional services; a more equitable user pay system will help us achieve greater ongoing stability in our operational costs for budget purposes," says New Glasgow CAO, Lisa M. MacDonald.

Town Council has made exhaustive and carefully deliberated budget decisions as well as responsible allocations in order to ensure sound fiscal management. The 2008-09 rate adjustments will ensure a sustainable and progressive future for the town.

Council was pleased to uphold its commitment to creating citizen positions this year on the Town's Budget Committee. "I would like to thank those committee members for their careful, objective and open participation and I extend my thanks to all members of Council and Town staff for their vision, leadership and efforts to provide financial accountability, build zero based budgets and sustain continued progress for the Town", says Mayor MacLean.

## Take a look>>

How the Town of New Glasgow is making the community a competitive place to live and do business

	Pop. (Based on 2006 Census)	Tax Rate* (Per \$100 of assessment)
New Glasgow:	9,455	R: \$1.77 C: \$3.92
Amherst:	9,505	R: \$1.65 C: \$4.06
Truro:	11,765	R: \$1.72 C: \$3.92
Bridgewater:	7,944	R: \$1.63 C: \$3.55

\*Based on most recent available rates.

# Company's coming



(Strive for Five continued)

The judges had the opportunity to meet some of the many special volunteers and residents who contribute to the spirit of the town, being treated to its many unique gardens, including Lillian Bryan's garden that features her famous Day Lillies, the tastes of Margie and Roy Beck's garden from the herbs grown straight from their backyard, and a tour of George and Pauline He-naut's property, which recently won the national Miracle Gro In-Ground Garden contest. The judges also met representatives of the Town's many dedicated volunteers, including Relay for Life, the Rotary Club and Race on the River.

Town of New Glasgow departments came out to show their work, including Town Engineer Bob Funke, who explained the efforts the Town of New Glasgow goes to achieve superior water quality standards at Forbes Lake. Recreation and Leisure Services Coordinator Norma MacLeod and Chelsea Mattatall, the Town of New Glasgow's Grounds Supervisor, showed the Samson Trail and Carmichael Park, viewing the work of Mattatall's team of workers who tirelessly maintain the town's grounds.

Their stay also incorporated vintage New Glasgow through visits to the Vimy Ridge monument, local museums such as Carmichael Stewart House Museum, heritage sites such as The Dock and a walking tour with costumed guides of

Pioneer Cemetery by Ships and Spirits Walking Tours.

Under the motto of "strive for five," New Glasgow Communities in Bloom has worked throughout the year to achieve its personal best, and it is this element of a friendly competition, in fact, that attracted members to form their own edition of Communities in Bloom edition for New Glasgow. After six years of participation, the committee believes the impact is perceptible, and it is a testament to the pride of place New Glasgow residents demonstrate that has allowed the program to grow.

"Over the years our rating has improved due to the combined efforts of our citizens, our municipality, businesses, the CIB committee and the many community groups, events and organizations," says Committee Co-Chair Kimberly Dickson. "Entering the national stage has raised the bar and it is a challenge New Glasgow is ready for."

Since first entering the provincial level in 2003, New Glasgow evolved consecutively, receiving three blooms in 2003, four blooms in 2004 and the top rating of five blooms in 2005 and 2006, winning its provincial category in both years. It was at this point that the committee felt ready to increase its challenge through the national test. In 2007, its first year of judging at the national stage, New Glasgow came 1.4 points from receiving the highest possible rating of five blooms, earning four.

New Glasgow will learn of the results of the judging at the National Communities in Bloom Awards Ceremony in Lethbridge Alberta, on September 19 and 20.

## Meet the judges



**Lorna McIlroy**

Lorna is a lifelong gardener and a lifelong learner. Over the years, she obtained her BEd and MEd from the U of A in Edmonton and enjoyed 25 years in the classroom. She completed the horticultural judging courses at Olds College under the Alberta Horticultural Association and has been judging at Agricultural Fairs, yards and gardens throughout northern

Alberta and B.C. for over 15 years. In addition to her interest in horticulture, she also enjoys travel, volunteering with her local museum and the Highland Games Association. She and her husband Don live in Grande Prairie with their two daughters and two young granddaughters nearby.

**Gaétan Deschênes**

During his 30 years career for Radio-Canada as a reporter and news editor, Gaétan always maintained a passion for gardening and horticulture. He has written six publications, including *Quebec's History of Horticulture* and *How to Manage Your Garden Without Poisoning Yourself* as well as articles for various specialized magazines such as *Québec Vert*, *Côté Jardins* and *Fleurs, Plantes et Jardins*. His passion led him to research and host the TV channel *Évasion's Jardins Secrets* or "Secret Gardens", a 26-episode show celebrating the work and love of plants of 26 gardeners across Quebec. Gaétan Deschênes was also an active member of the beautification committee for his municipality, Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, on the south shore of Montreal.



Our involvement in Communities in Bloom is about more than planting flowers.

New Glasgow is judged on eight Communities in Bloom criteria

> **Tidiness Effort** Everything from vacant lots to medians.

> **Heritage Preservation and stewardship** of heritage ideas.

> **Landscaped Areas** An environment where plants form an essential element of the overall surroundings.

> **Environmental Stewardship** Sustainable development, including policies and bylaws on waste reduction, sewage disposal and water treatment.

> **Community Involvement** Projects for the betterment and enjoyment of the community.

> **Floral Displays** Arrangements of flowers and plants in an original distribution that complements the regional diversity.

> **Turf & Groundcovers** Municipal and private grounds, sports fields and athletic parks.

> **Urban Forestry** New plantings, main street programs, preservation of heritage trees.



of the Riverfront Jubilee Society and chair of the organizing committee, Valerie Ryan, believes that the Jubilee continues to attract such diverse performers, from the up-coming to the established, rock to soul to country, because of the singular quality of the production and the support of the community.

“The performers always report they feel treated very well by the organizers,” Ryan explains. “The local artists enjoy performing for larger capacity audiences than they are perhaps used to.” Indeed,

key to the success of the weekend and we are so lucky to have them, many of whom return.” Each volunteer will receive a t-shirt, free admission on the evening they volunteer and a beverage ticket. Prizes are drawn every night for volunteers.

The event and the all-around community support, Ryan feels, is what distinguishes Pictou County and is bringing the region greater profile for its caliber of music entertainment.

Indeed, when the Riverfront Jubilee Society successfully earned Music Nova Scotia’s Music Week, she believes these elements made their bid the strongest. “The Jubilee further defines Pictou County as a music destination with a rich heritage. When we put forth our bid, the strength of the organization and its volunteers made us a strong candidate.”

The New Glasgow Riverfront Jubilee is a three time Music Nova Scotia Event of the Year Recipient and an East Coast Music Association Event of the Year nominee. Please visit [jubilee.ns.ca](http://jubilee.ns.ca) for more information about the Jubilee and to watch for news about next year’s event.

The New Glasgow Riverfront Jubilee has evolved into a summer signature event for not only New Glasgow but the province as well, attracting a diverse cast of performers and local entertainment to the shores of the East River for a four day celebration of music.

This year’s event saw appearances from The Trews, Matt Mays and El Torpedo, July Black, Faber Drive, country singer Deric Rutan, The Stampedeers as well as local stars such as Steven Bowers, Alert the Medic, Dave Gunning, Beyond Ash, and Ferrona. President

attendance numbers, Ryan reports, were consistent and exceeded previous years and advance ticket sales were high than the several past years despite intermittent weather conditions and competition with other music events taking place in the region, including a concert by the Eagles in Moncton.

Not only does the community support the event through its attendance, however. Ryan also commends the Pictou County residents who turn out each year to run the totally volunteer-run event. “The 350 volunteers are the

# hot spot

the New Glasgow Riverfront Jubilee attracts diverse musicians & music lovers from across the region, province, country and world





# making waves

who believes the attraction of the race comes from both its aim to raise awareness as well as the fun participants have.

The Race on the River has raised over \$600,000 from funds contributed by businesses and residents since its inception, increasing its participants and its fundraising each year. In addition to the races and the Pink Carnation Ceremony, the two day spectacle also includes live entertainment and the traditional dotting of the dragon's eye during the opening festivities that is said to awaken the dragon and bring good luck to the festival. Proceeds are shared by Women Alike Abreast A River, Nova Scotia Amateur Sports Fund, Pictou County Special Olympics and the Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association.

This year's winners included the Pacemakers, who won the Festival Grand Final with time of 1:492 minutes; as well as Mac Attack, a team representing Mac Mac and Mac Law Firm, who won the Corporate Grand Final; the Northumberland Nighthawks, winners of the Youth Final and Tit Bateau of New Brunswick, winners of the Breast Cancer Final.

"We, as a team, have been directly affected by cancer, particularly breast and prostate, and affected deeply," says Joyce Diamond, Captain of Mac Attack, explaining why teams are attracted to the event and often

return year after year. "It is a very important cause to this firm as well as a way to show support for the community and raise money to work towards a cause. It's also team building because of the nature of racing is working in sync so it effectively brings all of us closer together."

This year also saw the appearance on the waters of the East River two MacKay Magic teams, entered by the Honorable Peter MacKay; the Dream Green, Elizabeth May's Green Machine; and MLAs Clarrie MacKinnon and Charlie Parker aboard the Rogerson's Raiders. Each boat can hold 20 paddlers, one cox and a drummer, and teams typically begin training the Monday before the races. Teams such as Women Alike Abreast A River (featured left in photo), however, train year round. In fact, they arrived fresh from the Bosom Buddies event in Halifax in which they placed first in the contest's fifth division and won their final race.

In its 7<sup>th</sup> year, the annual summer New Glasgow event has become an anticipated summer attraction, garnering participants from across Pictou County and the business community not only from the region but across the Maritimes. Please visit [www.raceontheriver.com](http://www.raceontheriver.com) for a re-cap of events or information on how to become involved in next year's races.

Race on the River not only transforms the East River into bustling attraction of graceful dragon boats, spectators, games and activities, but also strives to transform the lives of victims and survivors touched by cancer.

Held from August 8 to 9, the 2008 Race on the River dragon boat festival raised over \$110,000 with 42 teams participating. The outpouring of community and corporate support was made additionally significant given more funds were raised with fewer teams. For organizers of the event, such support is not surprising given what they describe as the tremendous giving spirit of the community, but it is always moving.

"Everyone is quite overwhelmed by the event and moments like the Pink Carnation ceremony [a remembrance ceremony held for those lost to the deadly disease] and the outpouring of kindness always touches survivors, victims and their families," explains Cora Lee Boyle, Vice President of the Board of Directors,

# treasured traditions

The Festival of the Tartans is a Pictou County highland tradition that unites treasured traditions reenergized by new participants and spirit. As the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition opened on August 7, the support of the community proved this tradition would continue to be cherished and upheld.

This year's festivities kicked off on Thursday, August 7, with a tee-off, bringing 21 groups with four players per team to the rolling grounds of Linacy Greens for the Kilted Golf Tournament. One of the most anticipated highlights of the four day festivities, the tournament attracted golfers even from Antigonish, including Clan Campbell, who captured the Lord Provost Trophy as overall champions, and the Antigonish Highland Society team, who won the K-40 Service Club Trophy. In addition, Bob Curley won the Jim Baillie Memorial trophy as the person who best embodies the Scottish spirit and provides devoted service to the festival.

Friday saw the festivities and fun move to Glen Haven Manor for its annual Garden Party. This year's event had special meaning for the manor's staff and residents as well as guests, who joined together to celebrate the beautiful front grounds of the manor which faced development as a parking lot earlier this year. Instead, the front grounds were enjoyed by all - including Mayor Ann C. MacLean, MLAs Pat Dunn, Clarrie MacKinnon,

and Charlie Parker - during the relaxing picnic that featured assorted treats, live entertainment and dancers under canopies.

Despite intermittent weather, Tartan Field was ready for the Scottish Heavy Events, piping, massed pipe band concert and the Concert Under the Stars, and drew spectators as well as some well-known names. Jamie Peppard, Canada's former Strongest Man, competed in the Scottish Heavy Toss, whirling a 28 pound weight for a throw that spanned 64.6 feet. For the school principal in Middleton, it was being able to lead and motivate his students through his example of good sportsmanship and dedication that brings his latest sense of achievement. Susie Lajoie, a 16 year old student of Peppard, was the only female in the competition. A Haggis luncheon, tea with New Glasgow Town Council, and genealogy workshops were also featured on the field.

Sunday's events concluded the festival with the Kirkin' of the Tartan performed at the First United Baptist Church by Reverend Donald Sutherland, marking the end to another successful festival that organizers are eager to continue to build upon for next year. Please visit [festivalofthetartans.ca](http://festivalofthetartans.ca) for more information about the festival and its history.





# New Glasgow's OWN

**profiling outstanding citizens who make the community**

## Executive Decisions

*As the new owner of the Maritime Building, rising entrepreneur Cohen MacInnis is glad he chose to stay local*

"Change is good," explains Cohen MacInnis as he sits in his office in the Maritime Building, the New Glasgow landmark that has seen much change while overlooking the bustling New Glasgow downtown core since 1915. Under MacInnis, founder and owner of Highland Place Group - which purchased the tallest building in the town several months ago - the building is now about to undergo changes itself.

"I didn't realize the Maritime Building had so much historical significance. I knew it would make an impact on the street but little did I know what it's meant to people. We're working on making people know there are businesses and apartments upstairs, adding new windows and new signage, all which will improve building's look and appeal. The new façade restoration will be completed in the Fall, you can hold me to it. It will all look fantastic."

MacInnis has reason to be positive as his plans come to fruition: the Maritime Building's occupancy has grown from 30% to 80% occupancy seven months after he took ownership. The interest he has generated already, he believes, is also part of the exciting energy in the downtown. "Downtown New Glasgow is right on the verge of a big up-swing. There are a lot of new and exciting projects and retailers and it has an effect on everybody's properties. Most towns would be jealous of a resource like the New Glasgow Development Commission. I see the downtown and community with a fresh outlook and see change dramatically for the better. The possibilities are endless."

As the downtown core of New Glasgow undergoes a major revitalization, the historic Maritime Building is experiencing its own re-ignition under ownership by Highland Place Group, the real estate investment firm founded and managed by Antigonish-native MacInnis. Though a newcomer to New Glasgow, MacInnis says the enthusiastic reception he has received by businesses and citizens has already made him feel welcomed and encouraged as he integrates into the community. It is this key, MacInnis explains, that has been important to the growth of his business and is an asset to any business.

(Continued on page 7)

Pictou County is well-known as a community that is community-centered: organizers of major events, service groups and charities remark at the dedicated network of volunteers and citizens who generously donate their time and resources for every event, every year. As diverse as the region itself, the Pictou County Progress Group is one of the many organizations that contribute to and embody the Pictou County spirit of generosity.

In the past year, members of the Pictou County Progress Club contributed over 1,427.5 hours of service to events such as the New Glasgow Jubilee, Race on the River, Go Clean- Get Green, Dress to Impress, Special Olympics Pictou County, the Shepherd's Lunch Room, Trenton Elementary Home & School and United in Friendship. With only 15 members during that year, in fact, their hours made up over one third of the 4000 volunteer hours contributed by Progress Clubs of the eastern region - including New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec - earning the group the Community Service Award for Eastern Region Community Service.

Treasurer Darcy Fraser also won the award for Eastern Region Progression of the Year.

Canadian Progress Clubs, both male and female, began to form throughout the country 38 years ago in the aim to "enhance the quality of life for all Canadians through community service in the spirit of fellowship." Each club is required to contribute a minimum of 300 hours of community service per year. Formed in 2001 as part of the national body of clubs, the Pictou County Progress Club also strives to set itself a part by supporting local causes in addition to the Canadian Progress Charitable Foundation. Combining fun and fellowship, charter member Lesley Sobey adds, is also part of their motto.

"We have a great representation of the special women of the area," describes Sobey. The club has now grown to 17 members who, Sobey explains, come from all walks of life in Pictou County and

(Continued on page 7)

## Wonder Women



(Executive Decisions continued)

“New Glasgow has a great sense of community when welcoming someone new to New Glasgow. Before I came, I knew one person. I don’t think I’ve had one person be negative. All have given me their best wishes, stopped me on Provost Street and go out of their way to meet me,” MacInnis explained. “Any community involvement is a positive experience. I worked for hours at the Antigonish Highland Games and handed out more cards than I ever expected to people I would never have known. Each has the potential to grow into a business relationship. The number one thing to do is to network and help grow the business and community.”

The impact of a personal touch has been a feature of MacInnis’ own reputation. MacInnis is available to his clients 24 hours a day by phone, recruited his friends to help give the Maritime Building a fresh coat of paint, and lives in one of his own residential units. By extending his business duties to beyond the usual, the entrepreneur is making a name for himself as an innovative

and rising business leader in three counties in which he owns properties. Begun in 2006, Highland Place Group now operates 70 units in total, including 28 000 feet in commercial space, and 16 000 feet in residential units.

Forging personal ties, MacInnis believes, not only allows his business’ profile and clients to grow, but also means he has a wealth of experience to draw on from his fellow businesses. When establishing his company, the resource of advice from experienced businesspeople has been invaluable. “I’ve had many experienced regional and provincial people help me. I am really thankful I can get them on the phone at any time and ask them a question, ask about anything, and I’ll get an informed and honest answer. I can take the best of their experience along with my own combined with gut and initiative to make sure I am not stuck making inexperienced decisions.”

And MacInnis already has several credits to his name and has earned the moniker of “the Whiz Kid” in local media because MacInnis has accom-

plished these milestones by age 20. In addition to building a real estate firm, MacInnis previously managed Homeward Inns, the Chateau Motel and an Avis Car Franchise. He currently sits on the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce, the New Glasgow Downtown Development Commission and the Executive of the Antigonish Junior A Bulldogs hockey team; and is a charter member of the Nova Scotia Come to Life campaign, an exciting opportunity, he explains, that speaks to both the potential in New Glasgow (also a charter member) and Nova Scotia, alike.

“Nova Scotia is a great place to live, work and do business and New Glasgow is part of that. There is a certain lifestyle and way of life in Nova Scotia that is second to none and you’re not going to get in Calgary or Fort MacMurray. Our youth need to know that jumping on the next West found flight is not the answer to all problems. It’s possible to look at Nova Scotia and says it’s just Nova Scotia and we’re bad for it too. We’re more than a lighthouse and fishing; we have all kinds of entrepreneurial spirit.”

(Wonder women continued)

includes dynamic leaders of the community. “We do things individually or as a group but we are always about supporting one another and having fun doing it.”

In addition to contributing to the community’s events and charities, the group has established its own signature fundraisers. Featuring local artists who painted original and memorable chairs, the *Chair Fair Chair-ity Event* was a sold-out event held for four years to support the Pictou County Special Olympics and Big Brothers Big Sisters in-school mentoring program. Their new major fundraiser, *Survivor Pictou Island*, is now a summer staple. And with a playful declaration of “no boys allowed,” *Girl’s Night Out*, brought together women aged 19 to 80 - including radio host Ann MacGregor of East Coast FM, who acted as master of ceremonies - for a night in November to don feather boas and enjoy dancing, draws, and belly dancing demonstrations. Having fun at such fundraising events, Sobey believes, is but one aspect of the positive experience of giving that continues to bring volunteers out to every event.

“Volunteers make a huge impact on communities and societies as a whole. A helping hand to somebody makes the value of the hours you contribute priceless as well as the friendships you get out of it yourself,” Sobey adds.

Anyone interested in becoming a member is invited to attend one of the monthly lunch or evening meetings of the club and encouraged to contact Debbie Kampen by phone at 752-5311 for more information.

# Duty Bound

## New Glasgow’s own Jennifer Mason serves with pride



New Glasgow’s Own features outstanding residents who contribute to their community out of dedication and pride of place to enhance New Glasgow’s quality of life. Many citizens, however, also display this selflessness through their contributions to the national community by servicing in the Armed Forces.

Raised in New Glasgow and living in Alberta, Jennifer Mason will soon be returning home after serving in Canada’s mission in Afghanistan. As part of her service, Mason was deployed in the Panjwayi dis-

trict - a volatile region that was the birthplace of the Taliban - as part of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. Life in Afghanistan for those serving in the

Armed Forces, Mason explains, is a balance between intense danger and coordinating community outreach programs to rebuild and reenergize a country plagued by 30 years of war and strife.

Patrols of the Panjwayi district were conducted in 55 to 60 degree heat amidst frequent attacks that engaged insurgents. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are used extensively by insurgents as a means of targeting heavily armored vehicles while small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades also posed constant

threat of danger. As Mason prepares to leave, in fact, the forces are embroiled in the “fighting season” as poppy production, a component of opium and heroin production that fuels the insurgency, completed in May. Despite the treacherous work and living conditions, however, Mason believes they have completed great strides towards reconstruction and development. “Many projects are underway, employing hundreds of local and increasing their quality of life through infrastructure improvements such as roads, canals, wells, governance structures, schools and medical facilities. The weekly District Shura, which brings elders from all the far-flung villages to discuss important matters, continues on undeterred by the insurgents.” Through support of the Afghan police and army, the Canadian Forces have helped to enforce security to the extent that there are now over 220 shops open in the main bazaar, compared to only two shops last year.

(Continued page 8)



**Blooming good job!** New Glasgow residents should be on alert for a little sign that is getting around town; they may soon notice it on their own lawn. New Glasgow Communities in Bloom's new Bloomer of the Week program recognizes a residence, business and an organization each week for the dedication and pride they display in the care of their property. Award winners include Cathy and Alistair MacDonald (top left), John Carter (bottom left), McKean's Flowers (top right), Zelda's Flower Studio, Glen Haven Manor and the New Glasgow Riverfront Jubilee.



**The great outdoors.**

Glen Haven Manor hosts its annual Garden Party, a traditional Festival of the Tartans event, upon its beautiful front lawn. It was important to showcase their green space, explains Glen Haven Manor CEO Lisa Smith, because of how close it came to being made into a parking lot earlier in the year.

**(Duty Bound continued)**

Mason's own service has grown to include special interest in women's rights, an immense issue for a society that, Mason explains, "has been terrorized by the Taliban to keep their women inside their compounds." Fear and cultural practices continue to present obstacles to Mason in her community work. There are no female translators available and women are forbidden to speak to men outside their families. Despite these barriers, Mason has developed a positive working relationship with the district leader who has promised to open the girls' school in Panjwayi for the first time since 2001, an accomplishment she is proud of since "it has taken me about three months of work to even talk to females." The district also recently hosted their first Women's Shura, a meeting for local women to discuss their problems and potential solutions, something, Mason says, would never have been allowed under the Taliban regime. Mason's other projects include trying to arrange a female doctor to visit the district and organizing literacy programs started with the help of World Food Program.

According to Mason, there are still many obstacles the Afghan people face as she prepares to complete her mission and return home. Many Afghans that defy the insurgents or choose to work for the Government of Afghanistan or the ISAF coalition are terrorized, threatened or assassinated by the Taliban. Three of the men Mason worked closely with her were killed in the past previous weeks alone. Rooting out government corruption is also a major task, Mason believes, that must be completed before Afghanistan can begin to gain the upper hand in the effort to smother the Taliban. Yet, Mason says, "for every IED that explodes in the road, there have been several successfully identified and removed thanks to information received secretly from local villagers."

Jennifer bravely serves both New Glasgow and Canada and we are proud to have her as one of New Glasgow's own.

