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Independent



**SAYING GOODBYE**

*Chester Times Monthly calls it a day*

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**A LORDLY ESTATE**

*Historic home reopens to the public*

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**THE RACE IS ON**

*Annual event kicks off this week*

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## Big Tancook takes step toward independent fire service

By **STACEY COLWELL**  
[scolwell@southshorenova.ca](mailto:scolwell@southshorenova.ca)

**BIG TANCOOK ISLAND** — Big Tancook Island may be on the verge of establishing an independent firefighting service for the first time in decades.

"This unique small community solution is

important to the future of our community," said Mary Beth Hay in a recent presentation to Lunenburg Municipal Council.

The island has historically relied on outside agencies for help in the event of fire emergencies.

"Our inadequacies came to light on October 9, 2009, when we were hit with a major fire. It

became obvious to many on that day that we must pull our heads out of the sand and do something positive," said Ross MacKenzie, chairman of a committee trying to implement the new service.

See **FIRE**, 4



**IN THE RAIN**

It was off to a rainy start but Graves Island Provincial Park went ahead with its Family Fun Day on July 16. Here Lee-Ann Olmstead, age seven, takes part in the egg and spoon race. Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the event was part of Canada's Parks Day celebrations.

PAULA LEVY PHOTO

## Community Wheels needs help to keep rolling

By **ADAM JACOBS**  
[ajacobs@southshorenova.ca](mailto:ajacobs@southshorenova.ca)

**CHESTER** — Community Wheels, a four-year-old community-based public transportation organization, is looking for \$6,000 to help keep residents mobile.

Municipality of Chester Transportation Society spokeswoman Sandra Meister attended a council meeting on July 14 seeking a grant needed for operational costs to run the

Community Wheels program.

"Our donation amounts have dropped off and we're not sure why," Ms Meister said in an interview. "We're not sure if it's the economy or because there is this thought we are completely government funded, because we're not. We have to raise enough money to keep the bus going."

A recent appeal to the public has started to pay dividends, she added.

"Things are looking up," Ms Meister said.

"But we're not where we need to be yet."

Ms Meister said the 2010 14-passenger bus is being used by more people than ever before all over the municipality, making the drop in donations all the more puzzling.

Last year the service logged over 21,000 kilometres while providing 2,245 one-way trips to residents.

See **WHEELS**, 4

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