

The Chronicle Herald

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 2011

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1824

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA



March for leadership / B1



Beefing up piers
Terminal renos get rolling / C1



Huskies dominate / D1

Glimmer of light in dark woods

NewPage, province kick in to help forestry contractors

By **AARON BESWICK**
Truro Bureau

PORT HAWKESBURY — Former woods contractors for NewPage Port Hawkesbury are crunching numbers to figure out whether

they'll be able to keep operating while a buyer is sought for the company's Point Tupper pulp and paper plant.

On Friday, NewPage Port Hawkesbury agreed to put \$1.35 million into a forestry

workers' reserve fund as part of a Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruling granting it protection from creditors. By some estimates, NewPage owes over \$4 million to trucking and logging contractors for about 10 days of deliveries.

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"It means that we will have a percentage of our money," said Claude Bourgeois, spokesman for the Northeastern Pulp Truckers Association.

"It is definitely going to help, though for some it may not be enough."

See **WOODS** / A2

Offshore storm creates surfers' delight



A surfer tucks into a barrel while taking advantage of the swell brought on by hurricane Katia near Lawrencetown on Friday. The storm, which has veered well offshore, is making wave watchers and surfers alike very happy. (TIM KROCHAK / Staff)

NewPage granted creditor protection

By **JOANN ALBERSTAT**
Business Reporter

The NewPage Port Hawkesbury pulp and paper mill has been granted protection from its creditors while it tries to find a new owner.

Justice David MacAdam agreed to the company's proposed restructuring plan during a hearing Friday in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax. The ruling allows the plant to begin idling its operations, starting today, while the insolvent operation is on the market.

"It's pretty clear from the evidence that's been given that we've got a very big fish and a very thin line," Bill Stewart, the mill's director of woodlands and strategic initiatives, said outside court.

"But our job is to try and land that fish for the benefit of all Nova Scotians."

Mathew Harris, a managing partner with court-appointed monitor Ernst & Young, said NewPage has been talking for months to companies interested in buying the Point Tupper plant. More possible buyers have come forward in the last several days, he said.

"We've got a plant that is losing, frankly, a huge amount of money on a monthly basis," Harris told reporters. "We've got a plant that currently doesn't have a set of customers because those have gone with NewPage Corp. in the States."

"It's a tall order but it's certainly realistic that this (sale) could happen."

John Stringer, the mill's

See **NEWPAGE** / A2

Last plank, last spike: Bluenose II shipshape

Vessel to set sail next summer after \$15-million restoration

By **BEVERLEY WARE**
South Shore Bureau

LUNENBURG — The last of more than 11,000 galvanized steel spikes was driven into the final plank in the hull of the Bluenose II on Friday, four months to the day after the first plank was laid.

"It's just incredible to see the skills being used here and the fact that we can still do it," said Wayne Walters, director of operations for the ship, and grandson of the original Bluenose captain, Angus Walters.

The \$15-million restoration



Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister David Wilson drives a spike in the last plank of the hull of Bluenose II in Lunenburg on Friday morning. (BEVERLEY WARE / South Shore Bureau)

is on budget and on schedule, Walters said.

The rebuilt vessel is to return to the sea next summer.

"I'm looking forward to it and it will be very, very exciting," Walters said.

Communities, Culture and

Heritage Minister David Wilson heaved a sledgehammer and drove one of the last spikes into the hardwood plank. Lunenburg MLA Pam Birdsall and Lunenburg West MLA Gary Ramey also tried their hands at it.

"This is a tough job," Wilson said afterwards. "I think the workers should be proud of the techniques they're using to do this refit."

The original Bluenose was built in 100 days with no power tools.

While the team of 10 men from Snyder's Shipyard Ltd. in Dayspring drove each of the spikes in by hand, they did have the benefit of power tools to drill the holes and cut each board to size.

The hull is made primarily of Angelique, a tropical wood that's so hard it has to be cut with carbon-tipped blades.

The first board laid on the hull, called the garboard plank, was seven metres long. The plank laid Friday was 5.6 metres long. It was called the shutter board because it "shut 'er up," meaning it enclosed the hull.

See **BLUENOSE II** / A7

REACHING 299,900 NOVA SCOTIANS DAILY

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WEATHER

HALIFAX: Sunny with a few afternoon clouds. High 17.
NEW GLASGOW: Sunny in the morning. Isolated showers in the afternoon. High 15.
Details / B8



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