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is not so friendly: "When protecting her calf from an invader, (she) will attack a man on foot or horseback. The cow moose with a calf not old enough to travel, will stand her ground. She will permit approach to within 20 yards of her offspring. Continuation of the approach causes her mane to rise and one ear will drop down on her neck. When the other ear is dropped, she will charge and strike with both front feet." (Couey in Peterson, 1948) Seton says the calf can follow the cow on the second or third day and is often forced early in life to follow the cow into icy water. Moose are good swimmers (though an important cause of death is drowning) and while crossing wide waters the calf is often seen resting its nose on the back of the cow as they swim. Calves usually stay with the cow the full year, even during the rutting season, when the bulls accept the company of the calf with the cow. They try to stay with the cow even beyond the arrival of a new calf • though the cow tries to discourage the yearling. "There is no other wild animal that grows so rapidly as the moose." (Stone in Peterson, 1924) A newborn calf weighs between 25 and 35 pounds and will gain 1-2 pounds a day the first month, 3-5 a day the second. The Alaskan moose grow to around 1800 pounds while other North American moose don't reach more than 1400. The size decreases eastward, and the moose of Nova Scotia probably average about 800 pounds. In the first year the male develops "buttons," so small they are rarely seen and are lost the first winter. As a yearling he develops his first set of "spikes." After that they grow to the well-known palmated form • though there is no established criteria for determining the bull's age from the antlers. Manly in Peterson, 1941: "Maximum body development comes after the sixth year when the antler material formed in the period of a few months is greater than that developed in a lifetime by the other even-hoofed mammals (of Minnesota). Their annual formation is as much a drain on the system of the male as is the production of young to the opposite sex." Antlers begin as knobs covered with velvet that contains blood vessels that carry and deposit calcium • thus the antler is formed just beneath the velvet by accrual. Size and shape can be determined by many factors, including genetics, climate, the lime content of the soil, etc. Seton: "In 3 months the antlers are finished and the velvet is shed. Where Better Service Costs No More MacLeod's FINA Baddeck INGONISH Deervale Cottages Phone 285-0073 Bonnell Furniture Limited SYDNEY AND GLACE BAY, N.S. 50 Years Serving Cape Bretoners with Fine Furniture and Appliances CENTRAL & NOVA SCOTIA TRUST COMIWNY 225 Chorfolte Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia. P. O. Box 307, BIP 6H2 Telephone (902) 562-5596 Estate Planning . Mortgages and Real Estate • Savings & Chequing Accounts . Guaranteed Investment Certificates • Investment Management Cape Breton's Magazine/19