

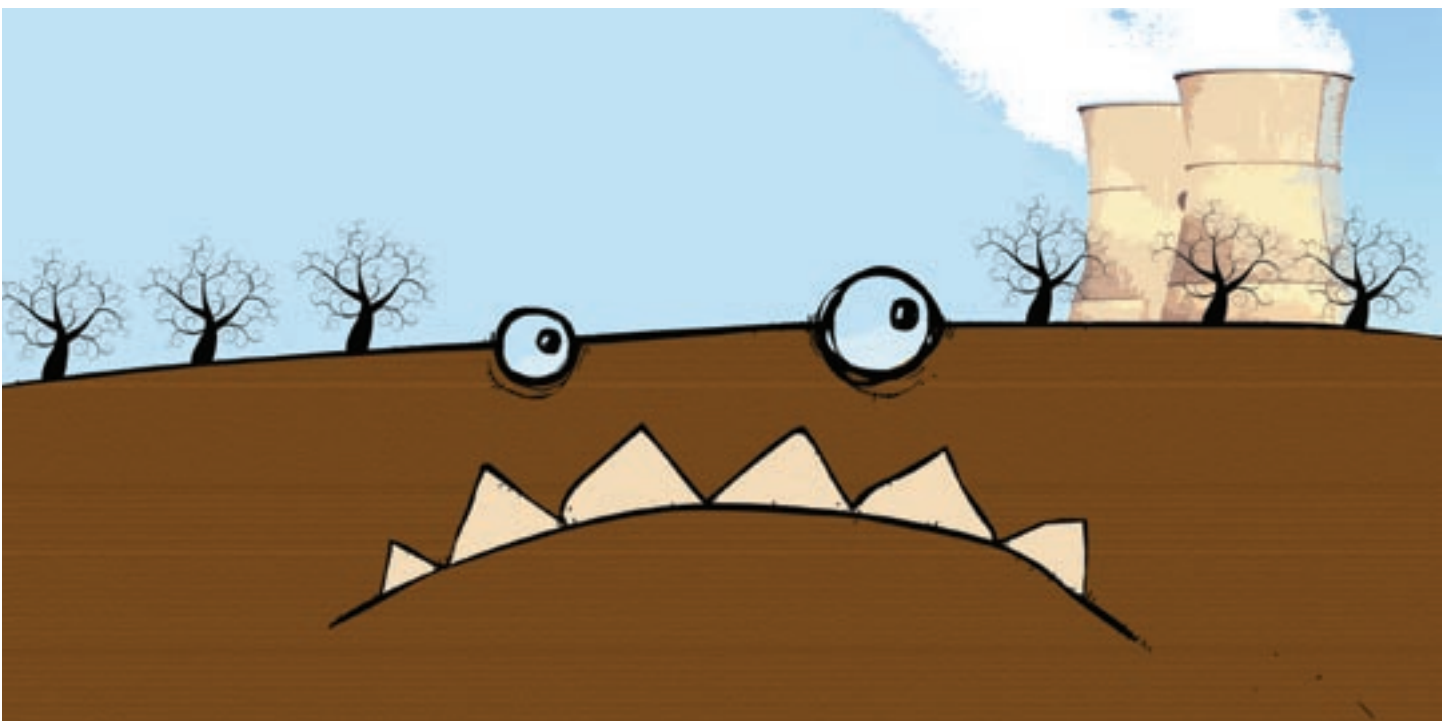
vol. 26:3 winter 2008

B E T W E E N T H E
i s s u e s

BETWEEN THE COVERS:

Georges Bank Jeopardy

Uranium Follies



Features

Georges Bank Jeopardy

/ 18



Uranium Follies

/ 10



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B E T W E E N T H E i s s u e s

an ecology action centre publication

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lettertothe centre

Dear Jennifer,

You have done an excellent job in the [Summer 2008] '*Between the Issues*.' We have shown this article to several people who share our concerns, and all agree you have well identified the many issues threatening our coastal environment. The major threat prevailing now [on the Eastern Shore] is the Evans development adjacent to Martinique Beach and Petpeswick inlet environs. We recognize similar situations all round the Province.

The key issue is the remarkable reluctance of our Provincial Government to provide a strict intelligent comprehensive coastal policy addressing all these issues. I would like to understand why our politicians and bureaucrats cannot get their act together on the protection of our most valuable asset and resource. We can attest to the major attraction for tourists which is undoubtedly our coast and coastal environment. We owned and operated the hotel at Port Dufferin with its prime location on Beaver Harbour for 13 years and listened to our guests' interests. We sent people to Taylor Head Beach Park for a day picnic and they stayed with us a week.

Presently our Department of Natural Resources are doing a less than adequate job admittedly with less than adequate funding (the road into Martinique is a disgrace). A local innkeeper suggests that provincial beach parks should be managed by the Department of Tourism. In the UK the town councils manage their own beaches which are major factors influencing their local economies and they are very serious about these issues.

So congratulations and keep up the good work, we are keen to keep in touch.

-Truly, Eve & Mike Concannon

letter from the centre



EAC Founders Reunion brought people together from EAC's past and present.
Back, from left, Pete Lavell, Jen Graham, Alan Warner, Jordan Gracie, Andrea Gracie, Ginny Point, Anne Martell, Elizabeth Greenhavens, David Roback, Steve Baskwill, Steve Hart. Front, from left, Mark Butler, Lee Seymour, Jane Hart, Laena Garrison, Charlene Boyce Young, Brian Gifford, Miranda McQuade, Maggy Burns.
Photo credit: B. Gifford

As we enter into a new year, it seems the question of resources, or more specifically, resource sustainability, be it monetary, natural or human, looms large. This issue of *Between the Issues* focuses on all of these resources, in one way or another.

Certainly for the non-profit sector, which relies largely on donations, memberships and granting agencies to provide valuable public service, the current economic downturn is of concern. As Nova Scotians provide input into a natural resource strategy for the province (see Jamie Simpson's article on page 22), the long term sustainability of our forests, mineral resources, parks and biodiversity remains inextricably tied to our long term economic sustainability. Fisheries resources, as explained by Catherine Muir on page 14, continue to be overexploited – even those about which we know very little.

Donna Smyth reminds us of the history of Nova Scotia's fight against uranium mining, and most importantly, reminds us to think long and hard about what it is we want when we imagine a sustainable energy future (page 10). Another moratorium that has been hard won is that on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, one of the most productive marine areas in the world (page 18). As we contemplate our future energy resources, so must we think about water, a resource we most likely take for granted in Nova Scotia with our countless freshwater lakes, rivers and streams (page 12).

Regarding human resources: Crystal Melville writes of the lessons we learn from cooking with others, and in celebrating our roots – both the vegetable kind and the human kind. And, just as natural and monetary resources can be depleted, so can human resources. In the past few months, Nova Scotia has lost two of its greatest advocates for sustainable forestry. Kermit deGooyer and Kim Thompson help us celebrate the lives and achievements of Wilf Creighton and Pam Langille (page 30).

Entering into a new year gives us time to think, to reflect about times past, and to create new visions for the future. What are the resources we need to fulfill this vision? A rather serious question, but one the EAC has put some thought into. Our most important resource is the people who support our work, and those who help contribute their time and energy towards protecting and valuing our natural resources.

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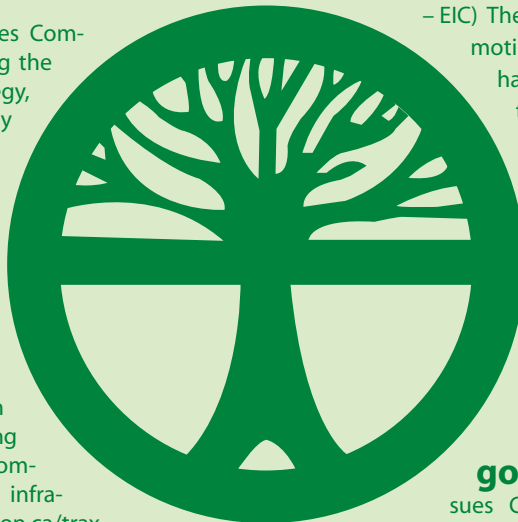
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more feet on the street (Transportation Issues Committee – TIC) International Walk to School Month in October got off to a great start during its first week (Oct. 6th – 10th). Over 110 schools registered for the event across the province. There was significant media coverage of events on October 8th at Park West School in Halifax as well as at Seton Elementary in North Sydney. For schools where students can walk to school, the event highlighted the environmental, physical activity and safety benefits of fewer cars and more feet on the street. For schools with many bussed students, the event focused on the physical activity benefits of walking. Thanks to all the fantastic parent volunteers and school staff members who make these events and other Active & Safe Routes to School projects run at the grassroots level!

making TRAX (Transportation Issues Committee – TIC) TRAX has been busy promoting the ideas outlined in the Green Mobility Strategy, launched in July. This comprehensive strategy is reaching a wide audience. It has been presented to all provincial political parties. It has also been presented at meetings with the office of the Premier, Service Nova Scotia, and the Minister of the Environment. Weekly newspaper articles are being submitted to community newspapers. Our intention is to move on to a freight strategy. This fall we will have launched a second year of the Green Mobility Capital Grants Program with the support of Conserve Nova Scotia. Funding will be available for creating or improving community-based sustainable transportation infrastructure. For more info see: www.ecologyaction.ca/trax



reluctant retirement (Transportation Issues Committee – TIC) This summer we bid farewell to Steer Clean, our vehicle early-retirement program. Over the past 3 years the program recycled more than 300 older, high polluting vehicles, combating air pollution and climate change. The lack of federal government funding forced an end to this successful program.

our latest engagement! (Coastal Issues Committee – CIC) “Exploring Issues, Engaging Partners – Risk Management, Climate Change, and Coastal Planning” is now available at www.ecologyaction.ca. This exploratory research project was carried out by Amber Nicol between June and September 2008 with funding from the Ocean Management Research Network’s Socio-Economics of Climate Change Working Group. The focus of the project was discussion climate change and risk management with the real estate industry, planners, insurance companies and developers.

clothing optional workshop?

(Coastal Issues Committee – CIC) Beach Researcher, Sadie Beaton is putting the finishing touches on “True Grit: Towards a New Vision for NS Beaches.” This discussion paper digs deeply into beaches and beach management in Nova Scotia and exposes an urgent need for action as well as potential collaborative approaches. The report will be the basis for a NS beach management workshop planned for November 27th at the Oak Island Resort in Chester. Contact beach@ecologyaction.ca for registration and more information.

shine on, solar gain

(Energy Issues Committee – EIC) The Solar Gain Project celebrates two years of promoting the use of solar energy in Nova Scotia. We have given helpful information about solar energy to thousands of Nova Scotia residents and over 50 businesses and organizations. Our work has led to the installation of more than 100 solar panels so far, and we are experiencing a rising tide of interest in solar energy. You can find us on the web at www.solargain.ca, by email at solargain@ecologyaction.ca and by phone at 442 0300. We are running on volunteers now, so be patient with us. Help and donations are welcome!

go with the flow

(Coastal Issues Committee – CIC) The EAC, Clean Annapolis River Project, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NS Chapter, and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability were splashing in the same pool recently when they hosted “Headlands to Headwaters to the Ocean: Exploring Collaborating for our Coastal and Water Future” – or H2O – on October 15th and 16th at Dalhousie University. Over 70 participants showed up to discuss how environmental groups, community groups, government, academia, scientists and industry could work together on coastal and water issues. Stay tuned for updates on collaborative projects flowing from this innovative event.

building and building

(Built Environment Committee – BEC) During October and November our Green Renovations Project has offered well-received workshops in Earthen Floor Construction, Green Building Professional Development, Green Home Renovations, and a popular series on Alternative Home Heating Systems. A thoughtful response to the HRMbyDesign task force was submitted by the BEC highlighting the lack of measurable sustainable goals set out by HRMbyDesign. The BEC has also gone through an extensive visioning exercise to determine a strategic direction for the committee.

looking back and looking forward

(Core Staff and Volunteers)
Does the name Brian Gifford mean anything to you? Brian was one of the students that invented a course at Dalhousie in 1971 called "Living Ecology", which led to the EAC's creation. In August, Brian reunited with fellow founders and pioneers and other family and friends, and a representation of current staff. An icebreaker quiz led to a lively and inspiring discussion of the successes, past and present, that have shaped the EAC, including the 1970s Quinpool Road development; the widening of Chebucto Road; the 1981 moratorium on uranium mining that is now being re-examined; protected places; demand-side management activism; and of course, the renovation of Fern Lane.

Thanks to Brightwhite Design and Shoreline Consulting we are about to unveil our wonderful new website, in conjunction with a spiffy new membership database. If you are due to renew, the time has never been better! In October a terrific turnout of staff, board, members and volunteers joined us in Musquodoboit Harbour for our annual organization-wide retreat. It was an inspiring gathering themed around "communication & community." Thanks to everyone for participating.

waiting... for the green energy shift

(Energy Issues Committee – EIC) The EIC, and many Nova Scotians continue to await the creation of a new administrator for electric energy efficiency demand side management (DSM), which is at a standstill at the political level. This is putting at risk all players involved and the future success of DSM in Nova Scotia. The energy team is working to move this initiative forward. There have been recent 'good news' announcements from the Government of NS. Increased spending for energy efficiency initiatives were part of the recent Heat Smart Announcement (www.gov.ns.ca/heatsmart/) and a process to change building code legislation has begun which will move to implement EnerGuide 80 by 2009 rather than 2011. Our Energy Issues Committee volunteers continue to do amazing work. The recent educational "Carbon Jargon" panel at Dalhousie University drew an audience of 90 people or more. The committee is working on a second panel for January. If you are interested in getting involved with the EIC please contact Cheryl Ratchford energy@ecologyaction.ca



EVENTS

**EAC Green Renovation Workshop
Geothermal Energy**
Nov 26th, 7pm – 9pm
For more information or to register
contact gogreen@ecologyaction.ca
or call 442-5051
Each session costs \$20

EAC Christmas Open House
December 3th, 4pm – 7pm
Please join us for some local food
and local holiday cheer!
2705 Fern Lane

EAC Christmas Tree Pick Up
December 13th, 9am – 12pm
Bloomfield Centre Parking Lot
(don't forget to order your tree!)

Winter Walk to School Day
February 1-30, 2009
Schools register at
www.taketherooffwinter.ca

Love the Environment
February 14th, all day.
Location: where ever you
happen to be.

shifting gears & seachanges

The staff in EAC's marine office have been busy over the summer and fall, with several projects coming to completion and a seachange in the works. Anna Magera and Sadie Beaton completed an excellent report entitled "SeaFood Traceability in Canada" that will be launched before Christmas. We are also excited to announce the completion of the "How We Fish in Canada" project, which has been a partnership with Living Oceans Society and the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. We will be launching the report in several Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) regions as well as in Ottawa in the new year. Susanna Fuller attended the annual meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in Vigo, Spain as part of the high seas work that EAC has been involved with for the past 4 years. While no measures were taken to protect deep-sea corals or sponges, this year, there remains commitment by NAFO to fulfill their obligations to the United Nations and protect the high seas from bottom trawling. Susanna also attended the International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Jen Ford has been working on several projects – with EcoTrust on assessing the life cycle assessment of salmon farming and with World Wildlife Fund Canada on determining possible management measures to reduce the bycatch of cod in Canadian and international fisheries. Marc Carrell returned from Alaska, with tales of salmon gillnetting and desires to buy his own vessel – we will see how long we can keep him on the east coast. On the sustainable seafood front, the first ever "Shrimp & Brews" event, celebrating Chedabucto Bay Trap Caught Shrimp and local beer will be held on November 20th. As for the seachange, Anna has started an MSc at Dalhousie, to expand her marine horizons, Jen Ford is crossing the harbour to take a position with Oceans and Habitat Branch of DFO, and Susanna will be starting her maternity leave in December. We have hired Rob Johnson to be the Atlantic Canada SeaChoice Coordinator, and hope to have a full slate of staff to work on large pelagic fisheries, spatial planning, assisting with Marine Protected Area consultations and working with coastal communities throughout Nova Scotia on sustainable fisheries, early in the new year.

ecobriefs

By June Hall

Dead zones

The Mississippi is a mighty river, and it carries a mighty load of dissolved fertilizer, washed from fields in its watershed. The result? Half the watershed's streams and rivers are polluted to the point where they are unsafe for swimming and drinking, and each summer there's a huge dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico (in 2008 it covered 21,000 km², almost a record).

Fertilizer-enriched waters lead to algal blooms and ultimately to zones devoid of oxygen and thus incapable of sustaining life. But the Gulf is not alone. According to a report published in *Science*, dead zones occur in more than 400 ocean systems, affecting over 245,000 km² of water, and thus are "probably a key stressor on marine ecosystems." Most at risk: fauna living on the bottom of the ocean, where oxygen deprivation tends to be worst.

Dead zones are typically associated with major population centres (where sewage contributes to the problem) and with rivers carrying heavy loads of nutrients. Not surprisingly, there's been an exponential increase in such pollution since the 1960s.

Guardian Weekly, 8 Oct. '08;
Science, 15 Oct. '08

Down there, too?

We've known for years that the so-called persistent organic pollutants — DDT, PCBs, etc. — reach, via global air currents, even the most remote areas of the globe, including the Arctic. We've also known that these chemicals become concentrated in animal tissues of predators such as polar bears, and have been identified in predatory marine mammals and even in some deep-sea fish. But somehow we still imagine the oceans' depths as pristine, or at least uncontaminated.

A recent study by a team of US scientists, however, puts paid to that notion. Their focus: nine species of cephalopods, snared at depths of 1,000–2,000 metres in the western North Atlantic. Cephalopods — squid, cuttlefish, octopus, nautilus — are important components of marine food webs, providing nourishment for a variety of other species.

The team's analysis revealed a stew of toxic compounds, including DDT, PAHs,

PCBs, tributyltin and toxaphene, some of them in "high amounts," surprising the researchers. Not a pretty picture at all.

Envir. Sci. & Tech. online, 25 Jun. '08

Now that's recycling!

Think Nova Scotia has a complicated recycling system? Well, think again. The 2,000 villagers of Kamikatsu, in south-western Japan, sort their trash 34 ways. Compost at home, then start sorting.

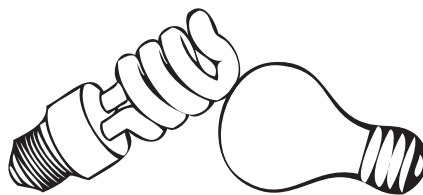
Much of it would be familiar to us: remove lids, wash containers and food wrappers, separate out batteries, and so on, but there they enforce the rules. You have to drop off your refuse at the recycling centre, where everything is inspected. (Yes, most people have to drive, some quite a distance.) Items deemed reusable (furniture, etc.) end up at the recycling store, where you can pick up what you like for free.

Why are they doing this? When new regulations in 2000 forced the village to close their incinerators, they set themselves a goal: within 20 years, to become their country's first zero-waste community. Daunting, and not without opposition, but they're getting there. Current recycling rate: 80%, up from 55% a decade ago, itself a respectable figure.

Guardian Weekly, 15 Oct. '08

Compacts and mercury

One of those cradle-to-grave stories. You no doubt know that energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury; small, but "enough to add up to an environmental problem" if people don't dispose of them properly — a worry, since some jurisdictions (e.g., Australia) are planning to phase out the trusty old incandescent bulb entirely.



Janet Wilson

Researchers at Yale University, however, have added a wrinkle to the story. Depending on where you live, an incandescent bulb (which contains no mercury) may be

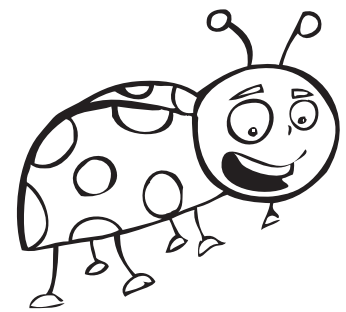
responsible for the addition of more mercury to the environment over its lifetime than is a compact. The X factor is the source of the electricity powering the bulbs, coal-fired powerplants being the culprit. CFLs, of course, consume far less electricity.

The study looked at mercury emissions from the two types of bulb in all 50 US states and in 130 countries. By 2012, says the report, the US could avoid 25,000 metric tons of mercury emissions a year by replacing all incandescent bulbs with compacts. Ideally, we'll find a way to eliminate mercury emissions entirely — with better CFLs and LEDs, for instance.

Envir. Sci. & Tech. online, 24 Sept. '08

Endangered species

It's relentless, the depressing news about biodiversity. Reports pour in, recent weeks being no exception. Since mid-September alone there have been major reports on the status of both birds and mammals, while — at a more local level — concern has been raised about the rapid decline of native ladybug species in New England.



Janet Wilson

No room for more here, but for gruesome details about the world's birds visit the BirdLife International website www.birdlife.org and search "State of the World's Birds" and "Globally Threatened Bird Forums"; about mammals, visit the International Union for the Conservation of Nature website www.iucn.org.

China's GM initiative

In the 11 years since China first allowed genetically modified (GM) crops to be planted commercially, the nation has "moved cautiously"; today, insect-resis-

tant cotton is the only GM crop planted widely (it covers 70% of the land devoted to cotton). But China's population continues to grow, and the nation faces a plethora of environmental problems. Where will the food come from?

From GM crops, if we're to judge from a US\$3.5 billion, 13-year initiative approved by China's State Council in July (an announcement is expected shortly). The council, which is led by Premier Wen Jiabao, is throwing its weight behind a huge push to expand the commercialization of GM crops. Likely on the table: attempts to boost yields in food crops, something China has till now been reluctant to do, especially when it comes to rice. The crops commercialized to date have been equipped only "with genes to resist pests, tolerate herbicides, or stay fresh longer" rather than genes that boost yields directly. Field trials of GM rice are said to be going well.

The types of protest experienced in Europe are not expected, but "there are currents of disquiet among the general population."
Science, 5 Sept. '08

It's all relative

Ambitious, to be sure, but with funding commitments of US\$3 billion, the newly launched Global Malaria Action Plan hopes to reduce deaths from malaria to near zero by 2015. Governments, NGOs and private sector players are combining to implement

a wide range of strategies, including proven tools such as insecticide-impregnated bed nets and new ones such as a vaccine that, although expected to give only partial immunity, will still save many lives. Malaria kills about a million people a year and sickens several hundreds of millions more.

So much to hope for, and so little money in terms of the sums tossed round in October's news. So step back a moment and consider alternative uses for the hundreds of billions (trillions?) of dollars involved in the bail-out of the world's financial community, or the war in Iraq....

Guardian Weekly, 3 Oct. '08



Janet Wilson



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Roots: Cooking Up a Collective Tradition

By Crystal Melville



Grapes were stripped, stomped and juiced at the community juicing and canning workshop at Red Fox Farm. Photo: Michele Haddal

In her book “The Self-Healing Cookbook” Kristina Turner writes, “Sometimes I think our own ancestors would laugh through their tears if they could see how we eat.” Turner further describes how modern agriculture and food processing have led us astray from our traditional roots of eating local, natural, whole food diets such as “whole grains, beans, locally grown vegetables and fruits, and small quantities of fish and sea vegetables, wild and range fed animals, and natural condiments.” In a recent article for the Earth Island Institute, Willow Rosenthal from West Oakland, California talks about how many of the “City Slicker Farms” urban garden participants, seek traditional knowledge because they either remember their grandmothers working in the garden or recognize the environmental, social, and economic benefits of growing and cooking with local food.

While researching for this article, I found it challenging to find cooking classes, that were accessible for all citizens of Nova Scotia. However, during the same time period, I’ve been in the company of many people cooking meals using locally produced, whole foods. Intrigued,

I started to explore how people have traditionally learned how to cook. During evenings like this, when we cook and eat together, we connect through our stories. Like many women I know, past generations of women have influenced my cooking. I grew up watching my mother, aunts and Nana in the kitchen, throwing food in great caldrons, telling the tales of their lives, and laughing with and at each other. My friend McKayuga tells me a similar tale, but instead she is a young girl growing up in Jamaica watching her Aunt Adele chase fowl in the yard for dinner. In Jamaica local food is readily accessible through fresh produce street vendors and fruit trees, and as a result, greatly influences the food choices of its citizens.

It takes a lot more creativity to eat healthily in cities, which are isolated from the roots of food production. Our separation from food production contributes to a lack of knowledge about how food is grown and harvested, and its nutritional properties. Contributing to this separation is the subsidization of imported industrial food (most food found at grocery stores that come in cans and boxes), which challenges

us to make affordable and healthy choices, when placed against full cost locally farmed produce and natural whole foods.

EAC’s Food Action Committee aims to increase individual and collective food access and self-reliance in Nova Scotia. Community projects such as community gardens are experiencing a resurgence across Canada as people recognize the environmental, health, economic and social consequences of our current food production system. Community kitchens are also becoming more popular, as a way of addressing food insecurity. The British Columbia Institute for Cooperative Studies defines community kitchens as “a group of people that prepare food collectively, usually in a cooperative manner.” Two EAC nursing interns, Anna Drapeau and Tawyna Fraser, are researching community kitchens in the HRM. Drapeau and Fraser have identified a handful of community kitchens at family resource centres, including St. Paul’s Family Resource Institute, Single Parents Centre in Spryfield, and the Mi’kmaq Childhood Development Centre, as well as at couple of elementary schools.

Community kitchens have been highly successful and as a result, are gaining popularity for addressing food insecurity.

They can bind communities together (as seen in many of the community halls throughout Nova Scotia) by using local food, preserving and sharing traditional knowledge, building cooperative skills, and empowering diverse participants through creativity and adventure.

Take Action

For more information on community kitchens, visit the British Columbia Institute for Cooperative Studies at www.bcics.org/node/77. Join the discussion at nova-scotia-community-kitchens@googlegroups.com or get involved with the Food Action Committee.



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Uranium Follies

By Donna E. Smyth



Rohun Joseph (Left) and Brady Hennigar. The banner is the thought creation of Rohun and proudly displayed on Brady's property on the New Ross road in Chester Grant. Photo: Nilanjana Das.

Now you see it, now you don't.

Uranium exploitation in Nova Scotia is one of those mysterious stories that surface from time to time in the media and then disappear again. Some are still surprised to learn that Nova Scotia even has uranium deposits while others may recall the early 1980's when the first Uranium Resistance Movement culminated in the 1985 provincial moratorium against uranium exploration and mining.

You might well ask, "So, if we have a moratorium, and it's still in place, what's the problem?" It's a good question. Part of the answer lies in the history of that first struggle.

"Uranium? We got uranium?"

(young man overheard in a Hants County convenience store, circa 1980)

In the late 1970s, the Women's Institute in Centre Burlington, Hants County, sounded the alert. People had found exploration stakes and survey tape in their woodlots and fields, markers left by geologists exploring for uranium. And not just in Hants County. All the granitic belts in Nova Scotia were staked by companies

looking for mineable deposits of uranium. Several multinational energy companies were involved: Aquitaine (France), Shell (in partnership with Ontario Hydro), Noranda, Saarberg International, Eldorado, etc.

When people began to understand the range and seriousness of this potential threat, opposition grew rapidly. Citizen groups sprang up across the province. Their concerns focused on the health and environmental hazards posed by uranium development but also on the end uses of uranium, including nuclear weapons.

By the time a provincial election was called, the whole issue had turned into a political "hot potato". In 1982, to soothe public concerns, the governing Tories under John Buchanan declared a moratorium on further uranium exploration until a public inquiry had been held. A one-man Uranium Inquiry was set up, with Judge Robert McCleave as Commissioner. Phase One of the Inquiry consisted of a series of 44 public meetings across the province and took a year to complete. Of 244 briefs presented, 211 were opposed to uranium exploitation. Championing development were the mining and nuclear industry professionals and a handful

of geologists in the NS Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

During the Inquiry's first year, most of the major mining companies left Nova Scotia. The only company left was Kidd Creek Mines (formerly Aquitaine), which had declared a significant find at their Millett Brook site near Vaughans, off Highway 14 between Windsor and Chester.

Phases II and III of the Inquiry were to involve "expert witnesses" and focus on more technical arguments. But Kidd Creek formally withdrew from the Inquiry, citing general economic conditions; in other words, the low market price of uranium made the low grade NS ore uneconomic to mine.

In 1985, the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Uranium was submitted to the government. Judge McCleave recommended the extension of the moratorium for the time being, with the proviso that, should another burst of uranium exploration/development occur in the province, then Phases II and III of the original Inquiry plan should be re-activated.

The McCleave Report gives summaries of the hundreds of citizen briefs submitted and is still a valuable document. Many people did their homework and presented cogent, well-researched scientific, technical, economic, environmental and health reasons for banning uranium exploitation in a small province like Nova Scotia. Some of the briefs included songs and plays, drawing on imagination and creativity to get their points across.

In the end the government decided to keep the moratorium in place. In 1990 and 1995 it came up for review. Despite strong pressure from DNR to lift the moratorium, successive governments decided to keep it.

A leaked story and a sorry tale

Just before Christmas 2007, those keeping a watch on the uranium front became aware of some disturbing activity. The more we dug into it, the worse it got. Under cover of the existing moratorium, a company called Tripple Uranium Resources, recently acquired by Vancouver-based Capella Resources, was exploring for uranium in Atlantic Canada, includ-

ing Nova Scotia. Spread over the length of the mainland, its 7,202 claims covered 115,312 hectares of NS land.

At that time, the main claim groups were: Wentworth, the Highway 14 area between Windsor and Chester (extending to New Ross), the Annapolis Valley, including Gaspereau and Melanson, a chunk south of Greenwood and one south of Annapolis Royal to Upper Clements, and north across the 101 to Clementsvale. There was also one in the Sissiboo River area abutting the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. Another junior mining company, Alpha Uranium Resources, with a head office in Liverpool, also had claims on the South Shore, Eastern Shore, and in Cape Breton. At that time, Alpha Uranium was actively exploring for uranium in Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador.

When this story surfaced, both companies denied they were exploring for uranium and insisted they were exploring for other minerals. DNR geologists and the Minister, David Morse, backed this story. They said the companies had general licenses to explore for minerals but the uranium moratorium was still in place. According to the terms of the moratorium, if the companies found uranium in concentrations greater than 100 parts per million, they must report those results and stop activity at that site.

Meanwhile, Premier Rodney MacDonald and David Morse had been musing aloud in public about having an “open mind” on uranium “prospecting” and about how “green nuclear power” may be an option for NS.

Follow the money

In February 2007, the uranium spot price on the market was 85\$ US per pound and still climbing. The official explanation for the surge in market demand was the expectation of major nuclear power expansion by countries such as Japan, China, India, Russia, and the UK. The “energy crisis” and diminishing supplies of oil fueled this nuclear frenzy.

Moreover, nuclear power was now being re-branded as “green” because nuclear power plants do not emit greenhouse gases during actual operation. However, the “nu-

clear chain” from mining through to reactor decommissioning consumes massive fossil fuel inputs. Nuclear’s “green” rebranding relies, of course, on public gullibility and anxiety over “secure” energy sources.

In Canada, the most intense uranium activity was, and is, the high-grade ore deposits in northern Saskatchewan. However, with the market surge, exploration companies swarmed into eastern Ontario and parts of Quebec, and into Atlantic Canada where low-grade uranium deposits were now deemed economically viable.

**Take Action:
E-mail Natural Resources
Minister David Morse
(min_dnr@gov.ns.ca)
and/or the Premier
(premier@gov.ns.ca)
to ask for a permanent
legislated ban on uranium
mining in Nova Scotia.
Or use one of the
pre-printed postcards
available from EAC.**

Follow the people

In Ontario, there is intense opposition to uranium exploration and mining. Native leaders were jailed for insisting that land claims must be settled before any kind of mining activity takes place. White “settlers” supporting the native protests initiated a Citizens’ Uranium Inquiry as well as successfully petitioning the city of Ottawa to call for a provincial moratorium.

Ironically, these citizens pointed to the Nova Scotia moratorium as a model to follow. In Nova Scotia, citizen groups sprang up again as it became obvious that, despite the moratorium, active exploration was going on. When pressed by these groups and by EAC, the Council of Canadians, and the Sierra Club, Minister David Morse confessed he was convinced that uranium exploration and mining could be done safely and economically. But he didn’t know if Nova Scotians were ready to accept it.

He suggested that citizens should direct their communications on this issue through the Voluntary Planning Natural Resources Strategic Review process held in May and June, 2008. Thus, the uranium issue got entangled in the much broader mandate of the Citizen Engagement process designed to give public feedback to DNR on its new ten-year strategy for forestry, minerals, parks and bio-diversity.

What actually happened during these community sessions held by Voluntary Planning is another story for another time. On the uranium front, it was clear from the sessions and the briefs submitted later (at least those posted on the Voluntary Planning website) that the majority of Nova Scotians are still opposed to uranium exploitation.

The citizen groups are focusing their attention on public education and lobbying of local councils and institutions. To date, the following councils have passed motions either supporting the existing moratorium or asking for it to become a legislated permanent ban on uranium exploration and mining: Chester, Lunenburg, West Hants, Cumberland District, Kings County.

On the other side of the country, BC has imposed a moratorium on uranium exploitation. The Labrador Inuit have imposed a partial, three-year ban and many towns in New Brunswick have called on their provincial government to stop exploitation in that province.

Back to the future

As everybody knows, the global financial crisis has altered many economic landscapes, including the commodities and resource sectors underpinning Canada’s economy. It may be that one bright spot on the horizon is the lack of easy financing for junior mining companies and the falling spot price of uranium, listed as of October 6th, 2008, at \$49 US per lb U3O8.

It may also come to pass that the Nova Scotia government is forced to call an election. Then, those running for office will have to tell us what is really on their minds.

Donna Smyth lives on an old farm in Hants County and has followed Nova Scotia’s uranium follies since the 1980s.

Trickles to Torrents: Building our Capacity for Action on Water

By Jocelyne Rankin



Aquatic Vegetation, Mersey River Watershed

Protecting the safety and security of groundwater is essential to our communities. When it comes to water policy in Nova Scotia environmental groups are taking strides to create their own community and build opportunities to work together. They are working to achieve practical, comprehensive water policies that will reach our desired outcome of healthy functioning ecosystems, clean drinking water and lakes and rivers that are safe for swimming.

The EAC, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NS Chapter, the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Initiative and the Clean Annapolis River Project recently organized a two-day meeting with participants from government, community groups, universities, real estate, the mining sector, fishermen and other organizations to explore the potential for collaboration in the development of water and coastal policies. Although not everyone shared the same viewpoint on the most pressing issues, areas for collaboration were established and teams bridging sectoral boundaries have committed to putting action to words.

The importance of a strong provincial water policy is increasingly becoming apparent. Several provinces in Canada, including British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, have water management policies

and Nova Scotia is in the process of developing its own. Public workshops and a call for submissions for input into the water strategy have yielded diverse responses that the Water and Wastewater team at the Department of the Environment have recently published called “What We Heard: A Public Feedback Report” available at their website www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/WaterStrategyHow.asp.

The report highlights the important messages from the public consultations. These include:

- the importance of ecosystem based management which considers the needs of the entire ecosystem and works to balance competing interests;
- land-use planning that does not exceed watershed capacity;
- coordinated decision-making;
- meaningful programs and policies;
- and shared stewardship between government, communities, stakeholders and the public.

There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on a draft provincial water strategy before it is completed and approved by Cabinet in 2010. This is a significant opportunity to help achieve a comprehensive policy to govern the management of all freshwater resources in the province and safeguard our water for future generations.

Recent provincial efforts are the key to unlocking the door but federal leadership on water policy is the hinge that allows the door to open. Canada’s Federal Water Policy is over 20 years old and badly outdated. Maude Barlow, best-selling author and National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians has been a champion for freshwater and has been strongly advocating for federal leadership to conserve and protect our water. The threat of bulk water exports to our thirsty neighbours to the south has been an alarm bell for many people, as is the threat of conflicts of water allocation between provinces. Although water scarcity and water conflicts in Nova Scotia may not be the first environmental issue that pops to mind, there is increasing pressure on our water resources from development, agricultural withdrawals, the mining sector and improper sewage treatment.

Both provincial and federal water poli-

cies are urgently needed to deal with the effects of climate change. Natural Resources Canada predicts that water resources will be facing increased pressure as climatic conditions shift and needs change. For the Maritime Provinces, we will see seasonal and yearly changes in precipitation, combined with higher levels of evaporation to induce drier summers. Limited water resources will affect municipal water supplies and challenge a range of sectors including agriculture, fisheries, tourism and energy. In NS we have limited knowledge of groundwater resources and a large proportion of residents rely on dug wells for their drinking water supply.

To protect Nova Scotia’s water we need strong provincial leadership for managing our freshwater resources, nestled within a federal policy framework with the strength to hold its own against a barrage of water demands from industrial, agricultural and residential water use. This includes shared water decision-making, watershed planning that balances ecosystem needs with human needs and investments in businesses and industries that value water and use it responsibly.

Jocelyne Rankin is the Water Coordinator for the Ecology Action Centre, the Gordon Foundation Water Policy Fellow and keen hydrophile.

Take Action

To get prepared for further consultations on Nova Scotia’s Water Strategy, here are a few suggested resources:
Council of Canadians – Working to protect Canada’s water and our right to water.
www.canadians.org

Canadian Water Resources Association – Promoting effective water resource management in Canada. www.cwra.org

Canadian Water Network: Federally funded network to support water initiatives with an active Student and Young Professional group. www.cwn-rce.ca

Canadian Water and Wastewater Association: Representing municipal water and wastewater interests. www.cwwa.ca

A Tool for Building Sustainable Communities

By Joy Woolfrey



The internet's potential as a tool to build more sustainable and equitable communities galvanized the founders of the Chebucto Community Net (CCN) to pioneer universal on-line access in Halifax. In 1994 CCN began providing reasonably priced internet access, free, text-only access and supporting internet skills building and outreach for community organizations, from its offices in the Chase Building at Dalhousie. Almost 15 years later, CCN is one of the few remaining not-for-profit independent community-run internet providers in Canada.

Access to the internet is still a luxury for many. As CCN's Andrew Wright says, "Just think about whose child will do better at school – the one with home internet access or the one who has to wait their turn on a public terminal?" This year, CCN hopes to explore ways to address the computer ownership obstacle to internet access. It wants the United Way to help it partner with organizations that provide free used computers for those on low incomes, like the Victoria Community Net does on the West Coast with the support of their United Way.

In addition to individual internet service, CCN hosts the websites of over 200 local community groups and small businesses including churches, multi-cultural organizations, hobby clubs, local history groups, sports associations, nature clubs, gardening groups and others. CCN's website links to the web sites of these organizations as well as an extensive and annually updated list of sites of other local NGOs (including the EAC), Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) departments and services, as well as departments and services of provincial and federal governments. A special feature of CCN is its webcam which sits atop Fenwick Place

Tower in Halifax's south end. During Queen Mary 2's first visit to Halifax, almost 250,000 people a day took a look at her via CCN's webcam!

All CCN members can vote for its 12-member Board of Directors and can stand for election to the Board. They can participate in the discussions of its priorities and its future at its Annual General Meeting. CCN provides IT specialists and others in the community with a wonderful opportunity to provide meaningful volunteer service. Volunteers are an important complement to CCN's financial strategy of funding itself through Chebucto Plus memberships. When power outages have threatened access, volunteers brought in a generator and helped staff keep CCN on-line around the clock. CCN also accepts donations and is federally registered charity.

Take Action

If you aren't already a member of CCN, become one. Spread the news of its wireless service. Print the poster at <http://chebucto.ns.ca> and put it up where others can see it. Sign up your organization. Make a donation. Organize a fundraising event. Fill in the form at <http://wifi.chebucto.net/> to be a node host in the new wireless network.

Since the party in the Halifax VIA Station that launched CCN almost 15 years ago, and since its heyday when it was *the* internet provider even for the municipal government, it has seen some difficult times. As Bernie Hart, one of CCN's founders and the current chair of the Board of Directors, says, "commercial high speed access has pushed Chebucto aside." CCN's membership fell to around 1000. Members who did not switch to commercial providers or who kept a parallel account have made it possible for it to continue providing free text-based access for those who would otherwise be off the Internet.

CCN approached the two providers of broadband in HRM and all three levels of government to get their support in providing low-cost wireless access. None of them were interested. So Wright came up with a plan for a network using wireless nodes, supplied by CCN and hosted in users' homes, to relay Chebucto's signal. Hosts receive a \$50 membership reduction to cover their power requirements. The wireless network provides free access to government departments and local organizations web pages and full internet access over a secure VPN (virtual private network) for those with Chebucto Plus memberships. Three nodes on a low-rise residential block can provide connections for everyone on that block and the facing block.

Dalhousie agreed to let CCN use the top of Fenwick Place to distribute its signal for the wireless network. With little budget for research and development, three CCN heroes experimented, buying the needed equipment themselves, counting on CCN to reimburse them later. Currently, the CCN wireless access area extends from Clyde St. to Morris St., and from Queen St. to South Park in Halifax. The plan is to spread the network from here to other inner-city neighbourhoods throughout the Peninsula and beyond. The biggest challenge for setting up the network now is not a technical one. It is letting people know about it. So please spread the news. With a recession looming this could prove a felicitous saving for everyone and an opportunity to do good for the community at the same time.

Joy Woolfrey, long-time EAC member and persisting CCN dial-up user in Purcell's Cove, is an international development consultant specializing in health and community.

CCN Membership Options

Text-based only annual membership: \$20/ yr plus assisted membership pay what you can.

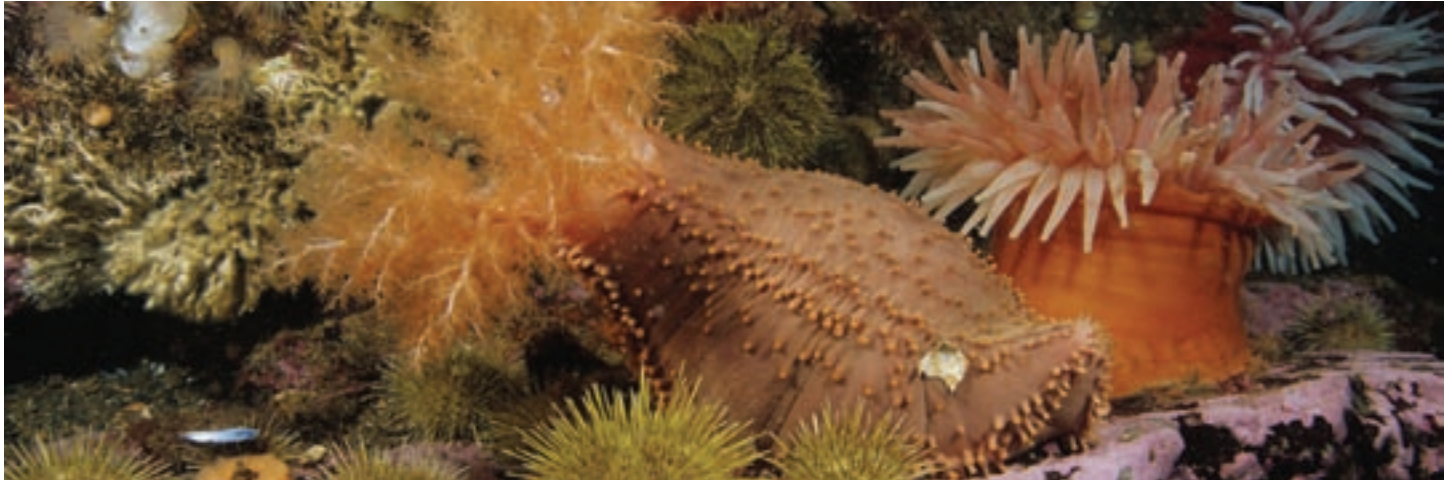
Chebucto Plus graphical access membership for \$125/ yr.

Non-profit accounts start at \$50/ yr; for a premium account \$145/ yr.

CCN waives account fees for NGOs with small budgets and no paid staff.

Fishing for Knowledge

By Catherine Muir



Sea cucumbers (*Cucumaria frondosa*) are one of the new species being fished in Atlantic Canada. They are the only sea cucumber species in the world that is harvested by a dredge. Photo: Andrew Martinez

Stories of the rise and fall of fisheries on the Canadian Scotian Shelf are nothing new to Atlantic Canadians. Since the first Europeans landed on these shores and found waters teeming with cod, right through to the last decades of the 20th century, it seemed that the fish stocks were inexhaustible. As we well know, this was not the case.

Following the depletion and subsequent collapse and closure of much of the groundfishery in 1992, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the fishers in Atlantic Canada turned their attention to other marine resources. Cod, haddock, halibut, herring, and flounder were once what filled our fishers' nets; now, species like snow crab, surf clams, shrimp, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers are the primary targets. In fact, a 2005 paper in *Science* by Dr. Ken Frank and colleagues from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography stated that in Atlantic Canada, the monetary value of shrimp and crab landings alone now exceeds that of the former groundfishery.

It seems that there are still lots of animals to fish in the sea, and many fishers are still managing to earn a decent living. However, before you happily scarf down uni (sea urchin roe) at your favorite Japanese restaurant, pause for a moment, and appreciate the ease with which it came to your plate. It might not come as easily in the future, if at all. If hindsight can teach us anything about the dynamics of fisheries, it is that fish stocks are not infinite. The collapse of the groundfishery proved

to us that unless we create and maintain sustainable fishing practices for what's left in the ocean, history might repeat itself and we could find ourselves suffering the consequences of a fishery collapse once again.

The matter of the future of Atlantic Canadian fisheries is explored in a scientific paper by local biologists to be published later this year in the "Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences" (CJFAS). Sean Anderson, a graduate student in marine biology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, along with Dr. Heike Lotze of Dalhousie University and Dr. Nancy Shackell of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), set out to explore one of the possible barriers to developing and maintaining sustainable fisheries: a lack of knowledge about the species fished, about the fishery, and about the marine ecosystem.

Two decades ago, when traditional groundfisheries in Atlantic Canada reached such low levels, one strategy employed by fishers and fishery managers was to target low-trophic level species (species that are lower on the food chain than the

groundfish that were previously coveted). Populations of some of these low-trophic level species may have proliferated with the collapse of the groundfishery and fewer predators to control their populations.

The *CJFAS* paper reports that fishing of low-trophic level species is rapidly increasing. As scientists have known for years, low-trophic level species play important ecological roles in the marine ecosystem. Not only do they act as prey for fish in higher trophic levels, but they also can provide habitat for many other species or filtering and nutrient storage functions for the ocean. Now questions are being raised about how to ensure sustainable development of these new fisheries and the conservation of our marine ecosystems.

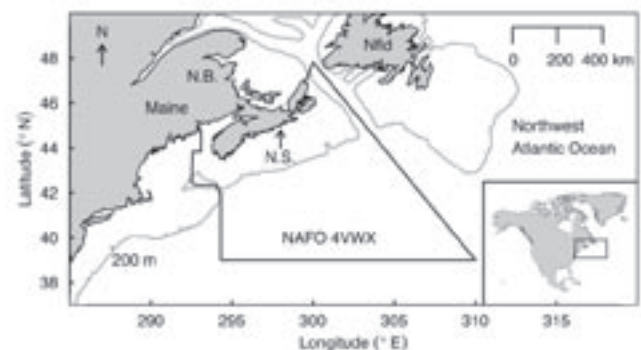


Fig. 1. Map of the study area showing NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization) Division 4VWX and the Atlantic provinces of Canada (N.S. = Nova Scotia, N.B. = New Brunswick, Nfld = Newfoundland). The 200 m depth contour is shown.

The answer to these questions lies in a serious examination of what we know about the species we're trying to conserve. Anderson and his group set out to see what is known about low-trophic level fisheries in Atlantic Canada and consider if it is enough.

In their research, Anderson and his group examined three types of fisheries: those that were established prior to the groundfishery collapse (established fisheries), those that existed before but were expanded after the collapse (developing fisheries), and those that started as new fisheries after the collapse (emerging fisheries).

Based on work by Dr. Ian Perry and others at DFO and the University of British Columbia, who developed a framework for acquiring information to successfully manage a developing invertebrate fishery, Anderson and colleagues evaluated the knowledge base for a set of low-trophic level fisheries on the Scotian Shelf. They aimed to uncover whether levels of knowledge varied between emerging and more established fisheries.

The scientists wanted to find out whether the fishing of emerging species is expanding more rapidly than knowledge can be gained and whether the existing level of available knowledge about these species is sufficient to enable sustainable management of these fisheries.

The researchers used recent DFO Stock Status and Habitat Status reports, as well as Canadian Stock Assessment Secretariat (CSAS) Science Advisory Reports and Research Documents to quantify levels of knowledge available for each type of fishery. Levels of qualitative and quantitative population, fishery, and ecosystem knowledge were assessed for each fishery type.

"We're not saying that every fishery should be at a 100% knowledge level," says Anderson. "We used the level of knowledge for the established fisheries as more of a baseline, to look at how emerging and developing fisheries compare."

Their work found that, for emerging fisheries, we have limited levels of knowledge for geographic range and current biomass levels as well as basic quantitative population parameters such as growth rate, fecundity at size, and lifespan. Overall, the odds of finding population knowl-

edge were between four and seven times greater in the developing and established fisheries than in the emerging fisheries. Anderson says a probable explanation for this trend is that, driven by the collapse of the groundfishery, DFO opened up new fisheries without establishing proper ways to monitor them. "At first this is understandable, but it's fifteen or twenty years down the road and we still don't know the biomass of many of these species. It's not a good picture."

Anderson and his group also aimed to assess how general scientific knowledge of the species has changed over time. They queried the Web of Science database (one of the most comprehensive databases of scientific papers worldwide, with over 10,000 journals) and CSAS documents. Their analysis of trends over time in available knowledge indicated that there were large increases in the publication rate for developing and established fisheries since the 1970s and '80s, but only a small increase for emerging fisheries.

The authors of the *CJFAS* article concluded that the lack of important population parameters for species caught in emerging fisheries might hinder a population assessment. Knowledge is important, says Anderson. Though collecting independent data on population parameters is both cost and labour intensive, these data are vital—"a stronger population knowledge base means less uncertainty in stock assessment, and a higher probability that long-term sustainable decisions can be made under political and financial pressure."

"Experience in other parts of the world with both sea urchin and sea cucumber fisheries suggests the potential for rapid

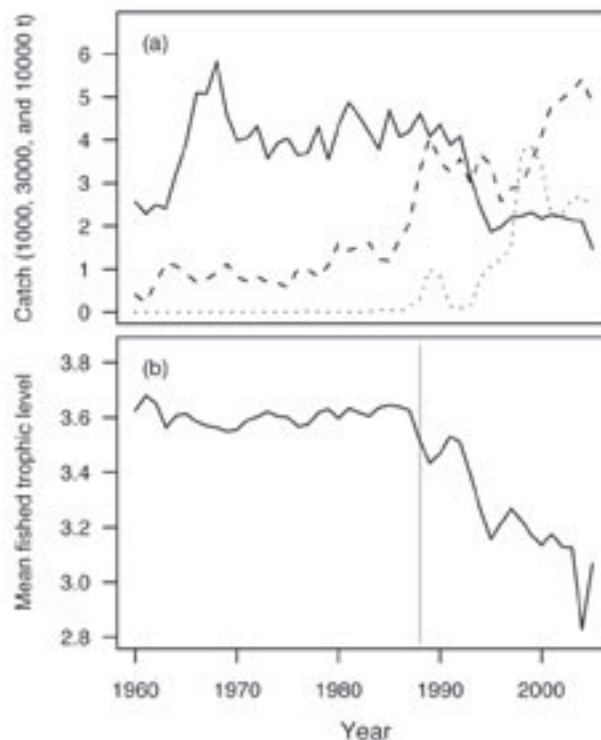


Fig. 2. (a) Mean annual catch of the investigated fisheries divided into established (solid line, 10000 t increments), developing (expanded since 1988, dashed line, 3000 t increments), and emerging (new since 1988, dotted line, 1000 t increments) categories. (b) Mean fished trophic level for NAFO Division 4VWX. The grey line represents the chosen cut-off year, 1988, for distinguishing fisheries groups.

boom-and-bust patterns in low-trophic level fisheries, which means the risk is real," says Anderson.

Of course, knowledge alone won't ensure well-managed fisheries in Atlantic Canada: knowing is only half the battle. "Knowledge itself is not sufficient, but it is a prerequisite for good fishery management," says Anderson. "Without knowledge, you might as well be fishing blind."

The paper discussed in this article, "Evaluating the knowledge base for expanding low-trophic level fisheries in Atlantic Canada", by S. Anderson, H.K. Lotze, and N. Shackell, will appear in the November or December 2008 issue of the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*.

Catherine Muir is the Project Manager and Education & Outreach Liaison for the Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP) project in the Biology Department at Dalhousie University, Halifax.

Following the Money: How Government Funding Influences Forestry Practices in Nova Scotia

By Jamie Simpson



Photo: Pam Langille

Forestry contractor Charlie Baird: “If I clear-cut, then I can get all kinds of money from the government. But if I do what I think is best for the woods and long-term economic value, then it’s difficult to get funding.”

One needn’t look far to see that our province’s forests and forest industry are in a rough state. The visible clearcuts, vast areas of young forest, loss of old forest, mills hurting for wood, and a decline in forestry jobs are all telling signs. According to the latest GPI Atlantic report on forestry (July 2008), Nova Scotia faces an economic and ecological crisis in the woods.

Improving this situation necessitates a look at root causes. To shed light on these, EAC commissioned a study to “follow the money” in the government’s funding of the forest industry. Perhaps not surprisingly, the study found a long history of provincial and federal government support – \$650 million over the past 30 years – that has encouraged an industry dependent on clearcutting, softwood plantations and herbicide spraying.

Entitled “Government Subsidy and Program Support for Nova Scotia’s Forest-based Industries”, the study was conducted by consulting firm Jozsa Management & Economics. The report reviewed 23 major federal and provincial government policy and program actions over the past century, supporting forest management based on clearcutting. This government support, the author concludes, has (1) contributed to the degradation of Nova Scotia’s native Acadian Forest, and (2) created a forest economy vulnerable to global competi-

tion and dependent on a limited number of products exported to a limited number of markets (largely paper and construction lumber to the United States).

As the author of the report points out, trade conditions appear to be turning against the pulp and paper industry as currently structured in Nova Scotia. It is possible that the tax, wage and power rate cuts handed out by the government may not be sufficient to compensate for the problems the industry faces: declining local wood supplies, more cost-efficient foreign competition and the rising Canadian dollar. Given the reality of the situation, it’s difficult to argue that public support to the forestry sector, as currently designed, is in the best long-term interests of the economy or forests of Nova Scotia.

So what to do? Rather than abandon public support altogether, the author of the report suggests that the prudent course of action for Nova Scotia is to use government support to favour a more diversified forest economy. Given that the current mode is deeply entrenched, support is necessary to achieve a fundamental shift in Nova Scotia’s forest economy. A specific and critical component of this shift is to promote industries that add value to harvested trees and that can make the best use of high-value lumber, not just waiting in the wings but operating and ready to fill gaps as traditional industries continue to decline.

“Rather than being radical,” the author concludes, “this approach is the ultimate in prudence and conservative management. Nova Scotia must try to influence forces that it does have some ability to affect if it wishes to improve its economic and ecological prosperity.”

Building on the results of this report, the EAC encourages the government to re-think how public money is spent on forestry ‘silviculture’ activities. A fact perhaps not widely known, some 95% of public silviculture funding dollars pays for forestry activities that depend on clearcutting. These include establishing softwood plantations, thinning post-clearcut tree growth, and applying herbicides. To correct this imbalance, the EAC actively encourages the Department of Natural Resources to dedicate more of its silviculture

budget for quality-improvement silviculture work that promotes high value trees, uneven-aged forests and selection-based forest harvesting.

The EAC is not alone in pushing for a shift in government silviculture funding. According to Paul Brison, secretary of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association (NSWOOA), “we need the government to put more money into practices that help to restore value to

Take Action:

Contact your MLA or the Department of Natural Resources and ask for more dedicated funding for quality-improvement silviculture for woodlot owners. Let them know that the public shouldn’t be picking up the tab for softwood plantations and herbicide spraying.

our forests, rather than perpetuating the clearcutting system. It shouldn’t be so hard to do the right thing.” Charlie Baird, a forestry contractor in the Truro area, echoes these thoughts. “If I clearcut, then I can get all kinds of money from the government. I get money for site preparation, money for herbicides, money for planting, money for thinning. As a contractor, this makes clearcutting look appealing. But if I do what I think is best for the woods and long-term economic value, then it’s difficult to get funding.”

Mr. Baird operates a tree harvesting machine and carries out selection harvesting for private land owners. “I am doing selection cutting every day and there is no funding available for some of the treatments we are doing. They don’t fit the tight criteria imposed on us, but we do them anyway, at our own expense,” he says.

Those opposed to herbicide spraying also challenge the current use of public money for silviculture. Hants County resident Barbara Gallagher, for example, is outraged that the public now pays the full cost for herbicides sprayed on private land. As president of the community group Citizens Action to Protect the Environment, she has lobbied to ban herbicide spraying

in the forest since 2001. “What better time to allocate a reasonable percentage to promote uneven-aged forest management, which would diversify our economy by growing high-value trees for value-added industries?” offers Ms. Gallagher. “Why are we putting money into a model of forestry that is obviously not working, and is definitely not sustainable?”

The government’s total silviculture budget is \$9 million. Last year, the Department of Natural Resources dedicated \$570,000 of this budget over two years towards quality-improvement activities such as selection harvesting. While spending 3% of the private land silviculture budget on alternatives to clearcutting is a step in the right direction, there’s still a clear lack of balance in how taxpayers’ money is spent in the woods. If a landowner

or a forestry company wants to clearcut their land, then that’s their choice, but, in our view, the public shouldn’t have to pick up the tab for the planting and herbicides that often follow clearcutting.

The “*Government Subsidy and Program Support for Nova Scotia’s Forest-based Industries*” report can be accessed on the Ecology Action Centre’s website at www.novascotiaforests.ca, along with a summary of main findings. The Ecology Action Centre promotes ecologically and economically responsible forestry, based on sound science and designed to restore Nova Scotia’s native and naturally diverse Acadian Forest and viable rural livelihoods.

Jamie Simpson coordinates the EAC’s Standing Tall Campaign. He occasionally cuts down trees, but hugs them first.



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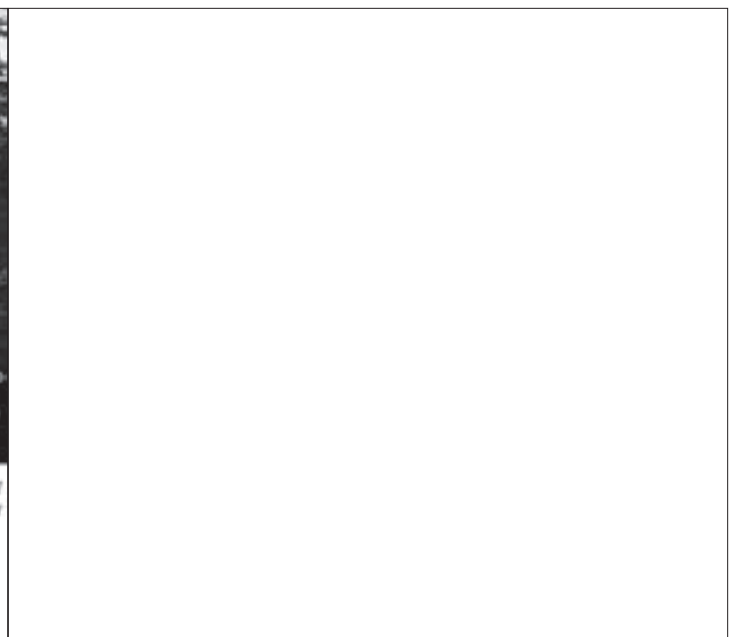
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Georges Bank: The Oil and Gas Moratorium in Jeopardy Once Again

By Susanna D. Fuller and Denny Morrow



Photo: H.R. Yao



“Some places are just too special.” This phrase is used to describe the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and other outstanding natural areas when proponents of oil drilling try to gain access.

Georges Bank – an offshore bank stretching from Cape Cod to the coast of Nova Scotia – is currently the only area in Atlantic Canada protected from oil exploration and drilling.

In 2000, fishing organizations and environmental groups from both the US and Canada led a concerted and successful effort, *No Rigs 2000*, to maintain a moratorium on oil and gas development on Georges Bank until at least 2012. That date is soon approaching.

Provincial governments are increasingly seeing revenues from offshore oil and gas production as a way to boost revenue, without raising taxes. The recent transition of Newfoundland from a “have not” province to a “have” province is testament to the rapid growth in extractive industries in that province. The Nova Scotia government sees similar potential in boosting provincial coffers with royalties. But that same government recently adopted the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act which legally binds the province to exploring environmentally sustainable development.

One of the major changes since 2000 is the growing public acknowledgement that

climate change is one of the greatest threats to our environment and by association our economy. Energy efficiency and alternative energy are once again household terms.

No Rigs 3 has replaced *No Rigs 2000* marking the third time that an alliance of large fishing companies and associations, small-scale longliners, and environmental groups has come together to protect Georges Bank.

We might do well to learn from other areas, where oil and fish have been shown not to mix. In Norway – where Statoil is a publicly owned enterprise with benefits going directly to the government and people of Norway – the government has set aside important fishing areas as permanently off limits to oil and gas development. They are unwilling to risk their fisheries.

Some say that the fisheries are gone; we’ve mismanaged them to the point of no return. But Georges Bank is the only area in Atlantic Canadian waters where we have seen a major recovery of haddock. Current catch rates of haddock on Georges now far exceed catch rates of groundfish species in any other area of Atlantic Canada.

Even cod seems to be holding its own and fishermen hold out hope that a large year class will soon appear. Yellowtail flounder is in a rebuilding stage and there is a large year class recruiting to the fishery in the next two years. Georges Bank offshore lobster and scallop fisheries are healthy

and both fisheries have applied for Marine Stewardship Council Certification.

On the US side of Georges, fishermen are targeting a healthy herring stock and much of the herring spawning area sits on the Canadian portion of the bank. Herring eggs settle to the bottom before hatching and might be particularly susceptible to risks associated with seismic testing, drilling and production.

Large pelagic fish like swordfish and tuna (which have declined by 90% in many of the world’s oceans) feed on the bank during the summer. Endangered right whales, leatherback and loggerhead turtles feed on the abundant plankton found on Georges. Georges Bank, it seems, is far too special to offer up to oil and gas.

The primary threats to the marine life on Georges from the oil industry include impacts of seismic testing, drill wastes, produced water and oil and gas spills. Contrary to the information from the oil and gas industry, spills still occur during offshore drilling and production. A recent study from Memorial University debunked industry projections. Drilling wastes and “produced water” from older production wells are dispersed on the bottom and in surrounding waters. The risks are multiplied on Georges due to the circular gyre current and the fact that at least one commercial species is spawning on Georges every month of the year.

The Canadian portion of Georges Bank represents about 20% of the total area. It is seemingly a beacon of hope in restoring once vibrant fisheries and coastal communities in Southwest Nova Scotia. The irony is that while governments are considering jeopardizing the naturally productive and recovering area of Georges Bank they are investing in aquaculture development as a replacement for our wild fish stocks.

To add insult to injury, it is pretty much guaranteed that all oil and gas from Georges will be sold directly to the United States. Putting at risk important and recovering fisheries through oil and gas exploration could be seen as an exchange of oil for food. But in this case, we're not even getting the oil.

By considering lifting the moratorium, the provincial government is sending the message that its Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act is nothing but lip service to the concerned public. We've hardly begun reducing our energy consumption, increasing efficiency or exploring wind, tidal and solar energy. Indeed, anything but a commitment for protection, in perpetuity, for Georges Bank is a short-sighted view for Nova Scotians. Let's hope that No Rigs 3 is successful, and that elected officials come to their senses.

Susanna Fuller is EAC's Marine Conservation Coordinator and Denny Morrow represents the Fish Packers Association of Nova Scotia.

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Protection of Ship Harbour Long Lake Enters Home Stretch

By Raymond Plourde



Photo: Raymond Plourde

Head of Ship Harbour Long Lake

It's been a long time coming. For almost 10 years, environmentalists, forestry companies and the government have been fighting over the future of the proposed Ship Harbour Long Lake wilderness area in the forested interior along the Eastern Shore.

At 14,000 hectares of public (Crown) land it is one of the last large, relatively pristine natural areas left in mainland Nova Scotia. It is a place of remarkable beauty, healthy wildlife habitat and intact Acadian Forest. It's also a critically important area for biodiversity conservation. Studies have identified the Ship Harbour Long Lake candidate wilderness area as having high conservation value because of its roadless natural areas, representative landscapes, old forest stands, major wetlands and river corridors, more than 50 lakes, areas of high scenic value, and wilderness recreation and ecotourism potential. It's also a great place to hike, camp, fish and hunt. Large wild spaces like this are part of our shared natural heritage but unfortunately they are becoming increasingly rare in Nova Scotia.

Ship Harbour Long Lake is now winding its way through the final bureaucratic and legislative hoops towards legally protected status along with two other "candidate" Wilderness Areas – Shelburne River in Queens County and Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes on the outskirts of metro Halifax. Following an exhaustive public consultation process and a socio-economic

study all three should be formally designated by the Province before the end of the year.

The effort to gain legal protection for Ship Harbour Long Lake has been a long and protracted battle. Few other areas have received as much attention or required as much effort. At nearly ten years it is one of the longest sustained nature conservation campaigns in recent memory. By comparison, the famous battle for Jim Campbell's Barren in the late 1990s took only two years.

The big breakthrough came in the spring of 2007 when, after months of direct negotiations between the environmental groups and Neenah Paper Company – which held a long-term lease to harvest the area – a joint agreement was signed with the government to put the area forward for protection. The agreement allowed for a very small harvest along the edge of two existing roads and Neenah then agreed to leave the area in exchange for a lesser amount of less sensitive land. Negotiations were not easy and at times it looked like talks might break down. However, in the end, and with the support of the government, they were successful.

Many groups and organizations under the collective banner of the Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition have worked hard to see this day come. At the forefront of the effort were Ecology Action Centre,

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Trout Nova Scotia and the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia.

But the real eco-heroes in this hard fought victory are without a doubt the dedicated and tenacious members of the Eastern Shore Forest Watch who campaigned tirelessly for the protection of the area and for better forestry practices everywhere else on the Eastern Shore. Like a dog with a bone they refused to take "clearcut" for an answer and never gave up on the dream of saving this precious place in their own backyard. Forest Watch members Kim Thompson, Pam Langille, Joyce Lachance, Patricia Egli, Jim Turner and Barbra Markovitz led the charge in the local community – including enlisting the support of nearly 2,000 residents and 150 businesses. Sadly Pam Langille and Joyce Lachance passed away before seeing the dream realized. But when it is finalized it will be, in large part, a tribute to their dedication and spirit.

Take Action:

One final round of input from the public is now being solicited before Ship Harbour Long Lake is protected. We strongly encourage all EAC members to visit www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas/ and voice your personal support.

Once the Ship Harbour Long Lake area is legally protected it will link two nearby existing Wilderness Areas, White Lake to the west and Tangier Grand Lake to the east, forming a protected wilderness backbone along a huge swath of Eastern Shore backcountry. Together they will total over 58,000 hectares of forestlands, lakes and rivers preserved for present and future generations – of people, trees and wildlife.

Ray Plourde is the Wilderness Coordinator at the EAC.

For the Public Good: EAC Submits Recommendations on Nova Scotia's Natural Resources

By Jamie Simpson



When I sit down in solitude to the labours of my profession, the only questions I ask myself are, 'What is right? What is just? What is for the public good?'

The quote above by Joseph Howe graced the front page of the Ecology Action Centre's recent submission to Voluntary Planning. Covering five topics – forestry, mining, parks, biodiversity and coastlines – the 85-page report details the issues and problems surrounding the use of Nova Scotia's natural resources, and puts forth detailed recommendations to move government policy in the direction of the public good.

Voluntary Planning is an arm's length agency of the government that conducts public consultations on behalf of the government. According to Voluntary Planning, over 2,000 Nova Scotians attended the public meetings held across the province, and over 300 submitted written comments. Voluntary Planning will present a final report to the Department of Natural Resources by the end of the year, which will help shape a new 10-year Natural Resource Strategy for the province, affecting policy on how forests are managed, how mining is regulated, what is done to protect biodiversity, and how provincial parks are used.

Ecology Action Centre staff attended several of the 23 public meetings, and reviewed many of the written submissions. The concern and frustration of participants was palpable: the status quo is not an option. On the forestry front, people called for less clearcutting, less plantations and less herbicide use, while promoting alternatives to clearcutting and encouraging value-added forest products and the employment this generates. With respect to mining, an overwhelming majority of folks called for a permanent moratorium on mining uranium.

Throughout the EAC's submission, we encourage the Department of Natural Resources to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to the use of natural resources, be it managing coastal development, cutting trees, or extracting our mineral supply. We stress the need to use peer-reviewed science, coupled with full cost-benefit accounting, to guide the Department's decision-making. We state the obvious that climate change and its impacts must be a constant reference for those developing the Strategy.

The EAC's complete report, including dozens of specific recommendations on each of the topic areas, can be viewed at www.novascotiaforests.ca. A taster of the report follows – a summary of advice we gave to the Department on the process of developing the new Natural Resources Strategy.

1) Accountability and Transparency

The new strategy must incorporate the wishes of the majority of participants and clearly explain how and why recommendations and decisions were made.

2) Leadership

This is not a process of trying to please all, but rather of making wise choices for the future. To achieve this end, the panel members must draw on science and recognize the profound public concern about the environment.

3) Urgency

There is urgency in these deliberations, be it because of climate change, rising fuel

Take Action:

Check out Voluntary Planning's interim report, and let them know whether or not you're happy with it.

Visit Voluntary Planning at <http://vp.gov.ns.ca/projects/resources>.



prices, or the rapidly changing economics of the natural resource industries. The Government will have to make decisions about natural resources in Nova Scotia before the strategy is complete. They should use the public's input into this process as a gauge or guidance for interim measures.

4) Collaboration

The EAC values collaboration with other stakeholders to resolve conflicts over natural resources. We encourage government to include formal mechanisms for multi-stakeholder collaboration in the next phase of the strategy review.

5) Commitment to Change

As the public's values change, it is key that the practices and culture of the Department also change.

6) Environment and Sustainability as Economic Development Drivers

In 2007 the Nova Scotia Government enacted the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. One of the Act's principles is that the health of the environment, the economy, and the people are all interconnected. In practice, this means that acting in an environmentally sensitive manner usually makes good economic sense.

7) Aboriginal Engagement

The EAC supports the 'Made in Nova Scotia' process and encourages a resolution

of the conflict between the Mi'kmaq and the Nova Scotia and Canadian Government over their use of natural resources.

8) Climate Change and Energy

The impacts of climate change, as well as a rapidly changing mix of energy sources, must be central to the panel's deliberations. The panel must consider the Government of Nova Scotia's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and the advice of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change that greater reductions are needed to avoid catastrophic climate change.

9) Ecosystem-based Management

Simply put, ecosystem management means understanding, respecting and protecting the relationships and components of ecosystems when engaging in resource use. Peer-reviewed science, particularly the science of ecology, should inform and guide decisions about the natural environment and our use of natural resources.

10) Policy Integration

Integration of policies across government and between levels of government is crucial.

Jamie Simpson coordinates the EAC's Standing Tall Campaign. He occasionally cuts down trees, but hugs them first



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By *EcoHead*



henry mac

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-Burning to Know

Dear Burning,

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Once you have chosen a stove, be sure to maximize your stove's efficiency and save yourself money by having your stove installed, as well as inspected and cleaned once a year, by a Wood Energy Technical Training (WETT) technician. Ideally, you should buy your sustainably-harvested wood in the spring so that it can dry out over the summer – dry wood burns much more cleanly and efficiently than fresh wood. Conserve Nova Scotia offers more wood heating tips at www.conservens.ca or by phone at 1-800-670-4636.

If you buy the right stove and follow sensible usage and maintenance practices, you should find wood heating to be an enjoyable, environmentally-friendly alternative that saves you money. Then you and your girlfriend can spend the winter clinking glasses of rich local wine and feeding each other fair trade chocolates in front of the fire.

With Warm Regards,

-EcoHead

thankyou

From The EAC

The Ecology Action Centre would like to extend a special thank you to the following folks who have gone “above and beyond” to support our work:

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The hardworking staff from InterfaceFlor who helped to create an earthen floor in our basement.

The owners, staff and customers of The Black Market in Halifax who donated a portion of the sales on their 20th anniversary to the EAC.

Brian Gifford, for everything... but more recently for inspiring and helping organize our Founders’ Reunion.

La Creperie Mobile at the Halifax Farmers’ Market for working to phase out plastic cutlery (and for asking customers who request plastic cutlery to make a donation to the EAC).



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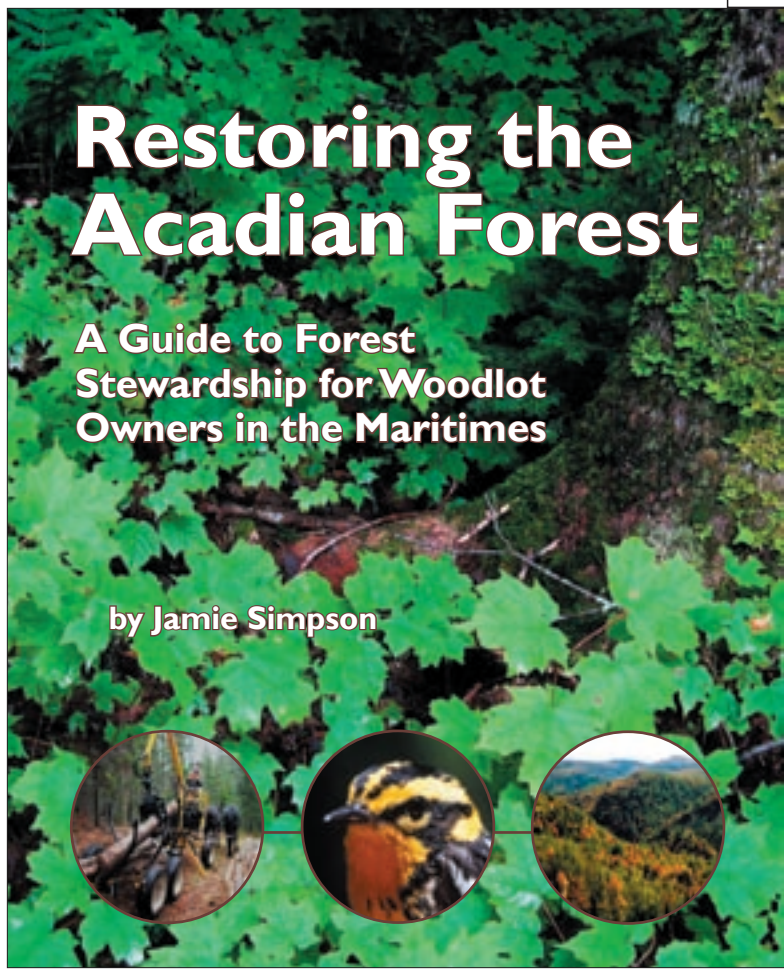
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*– Harold Clapp,
retired silviculture contractor and woodlot owner*

artandtheenvironment

By Charlene Boyce Young



"TREES is a gallery of fine arts and crafts that tell the story of our forests." Photo: Lynn Feasey

Mahone Bay is a nexus. That's the secret to the good energy of the place, according to Mike, a fellow attendee at the opening of this exhibit. He's talking about this spot at the head of the Bay, how there is a meeting of three roads, right where the Trees Gallery is located. He might well be referring to this event, though, the unveiling of the book "Silver Ghost." The book, too, is a nexus, a triumvirate product of the writing of Harry Thurston, the photos of Thaddeus Holownia, and the craftsmanship of Anchorage Press.

"Silver Ghost" is weighty, gorgeous, a bibliophile's pillow of a book. The thick pages of photos whisper an echo of lapping water. The rhythm of the words inscribed is reflected in the cool, spacious design.

Trees Gallery is at once a boutique art palace and a warm altar on which to celebrate forests and their offerings. I am distracted by the wood and the tactility of so much in the gallery. When I arrive my mind is cycling around concepts of renewable energy and energy within a closed system. In fact, Thurston uses these words in his reading, citing as an example how salmon DNA was found in trees inland from spawning rivers. Bears had carried the salmon there to eat, and the leftovers were then absorbed by the tree. This beautiful image of the interconnectedness of all things hangs in my mind as I peruse the photos.

A series of three powerful photos are grouped together, one compressed shale type rock that looks a bit like coal, another of a wide field of waving grasses in sunlight, and the third a water pool reflecting rocks that ripple soft like sand dunes. As I look at them, I think of wind energy, so-



lar energy, tidal – and coal, also from this closed-system planet we inhabit.

"Salmon rivers are non-conformists." Rivers featured in the exhibit and book include the Pinware in Labrador, Humber in Newfoundland, the Margaree in Cape Breton, the Miramichi and Restigouche in New Brunswick, and River Philip in Nova Scotia.

My eyes slide through these haunting images of rivers and riparian areas, soothed by their tone, searching out the hints that people exist in this landscape, that co-existence is possible. A path through the grasses could be human... but could be animals as well. A boat is solid evidence and yet almost jarring in this context. My mind is constantly drawn upstream to question our presence and place in nature.

"Silver Ghost" contains six lyrical essays, linked by different perspectives on salmon rivers. A fly fisher, a biologist, a conservationist, Thurston explores the meaning of the river, the metaphor of the salmon's drive that endlessly resonates with humankind. "Life within the river, if left alone, is a self-renewing source of fertility." Now my mind is flashing down a different stream, swimming around

post-apocalyptic science fiction conventions that explore the loss of human fertility as a consequence of our lifestyles. I wonder how we can balance in our ecosystem when our philosophy is based on perpetual growth?

After the reading, I approach Mr. Thurston and Mr. Holownia. We discuss printing and bookmaking, and a bit about writing process. I forget to ask about the gorgeous huge camera Thaddeus has brought along, his “signature, large-format 7 x 17” view camera,” as the Anchorage Press site states. Around the edges of the discussion, the passion these men have for the natural world and for their art manifests like barely visible waves on the horizon. The two men, generous, deferential to the EAC’s mission, donate a book to the Centre. I am humbled, thrilled, starstruck.

Driving home through dark trees, away from the nexus of light, and art, and laughter I have inhabited for a few hours, my mind is slowing finally. Trees Gallery will soon be seeking a new home, as their prime location has been reclaimed by the buildings’ owners. It is a shame, and owner Lynn Feasey laments the loss of location. But even forests cycle – trees fall and nourish new trees. I am sure the gallery will find a new roost, sure as salmon reach their upstream homes.

Charlene Boyce Young is the Ecology Action Centre’s Outreach Coordinator and a lover of the arts.

“Silver Ghost” is available through the Anchorage Press

www.anchoragepress.ca

Thaddeus Holownia is a teacher, visual artist, letterpress printer and publisher. Currently he is a professor and head of the Fine Arts Department at Mount Allison University. He has won awards for his art and teaching, including being elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 2000.

Harry Thurston is an award-winning poet, playwright and freelance journalist. Originally from Yarmouth, he holds a Biology degree from Acadia University. He lives with his wife on the banks of the Tidnish River in Cumberland County.

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Being Green

Nova Scotia loses forestry icon and activist: Wilfrid Creighton 1904-2008 & Pam Langille 1950-2008



Wilfrid Creighton with cook James Begin at a woods camp at Stanley, 1958. Photo: taken from 'Forestkeeping,' a NS gov't publication authored by Dr. Creighton.

Wilfrid Creighton: Forestry Icon

By Kermit deGooyer

Nova Scotia lost a forestry icon in August. Dr. Wilfrid Creighton was 104. For those who didn't know him well, Wilf Creighton was synonymous with two things that had nothing to do with each other: forestry and the Halifax Explosion. A reflection on Dr. Creighton's passing, even in a conservation publication, can't be complete without mentioning the latter. He held the distinction of being one of the last witnesses to the Halifax Explosion who was old enough when it happened to remember that day in all its horrific detail. Dr. Creighton's radio interview on "As it Happens" last winter, ninety years to the day he lost six relatives, was plainly difficult for him to get through. It was a subject that, according to his daughter Beth McGee, he rarely spoke of until his later years. But share his stories he finally did, providing us with a valuable link to our past.

Take Action:
Donations in memory
of Wilf Creighton
can be made to the
Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness
Heritage Trust,
2 Woodens River Rd.,
Seabright, NS, B3Z 3E2.
The Trust's mission is to
protect public lands
on the Chebucto Peninsula.

Nova Scotians who share Dr. Creighton's conservation ethic are remembering his own remarkable story. Wilf Creighton graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a forestry degree in 1929 and studied in Germany during the Depression, learning the best and worst of European forestry. Appointed Provincial Forester in 1934, he later ran the Department of Lands and Forests, serving as Deputy Minister between 1949 and 1968. His underlying philosophy was that Crown lands needed to set the example for good forestry. In the latter part of his

retirement, Creighton grew increasingly alarmed by the logging practices he witnessed in Nova Scotia and became more outspoken. Right up until this summer, he continued to amble about his woodlot in the hills above the Musquodoboit Valley.

I first heard Wilf Creighton speak at a public forum on forestry at Dalhousie in the late 1990s. Over the next decade I would hear him speak many times. Several things struck me: he had an incredible memory for detail, he still really cared about forests, and people listened when he spoke.

On this occasion Dr. Creighton was first in line at the open mic. He told the audience about the Province's purchase of 40,000 acres near Stanley in Hants County in the 1930s and 40s. His predecessor wasn't allowed to pay more than 25 cents an acre, but "we were allowed to go with a dollar an acre". Over the next few decades, the Department patiently and painstakingly restored the degraded forests there to grow big trees with good quality wood, using a truly sustainable model. "It was a place you could take a European forester and show it to him with pride," he reminisced. "There were two local, nice little sawmills. That area would have kept those two sawmills going forever." But much more recently, he explained, the government "let the folks from Upper Musquodoboit go in and rape it in five years."

It is difficult to comprehend what an old man feels when part of his lifetime's work is destroyed through a younger generation's shortsighted idea of progress. His daughter Beth feels that, while events like this one "upset him greatly", he remained an optimist – "he always hoped for better things." Thankfully, much of Dr. Creighton's legacy remains intact, including the nearly half million acres of land he brought into public hands. And good programs, like the popular extension service that Creighton ushered in to educate woodlot owners, are poised to make a comeback after years of neglect. In the coming months, the Province will overhaul its forest strategy. If they can rediscover the conservation ethic from their own famed pioneer, our forests might yet be in good shape.



Film still from Honour in the Woods. Produced by the Eastern Shore Forest

Pam Langille: Forest Activist

By Kim Thompson

Pam Langille was a pioneer, and an activist in the best sense of the word. Her gentle passing this summer in her Halifax home, at the age of 58 from cancer, deeply impacted her many friends and family but the legacy of her life's work, particularly with forests, touched the whole province.

Pam's integrity and spirit were well known among friends and co-workers, as were her thoroughness and determination in the many committee rooms she placed herself in to instigate change. These were qualities that garnered her respect and success in the varied projects she undertook. For the last twenty years her tenacious energy was largely focused on advocating for the protection of the Acadian Forest, wilderness areas, and sustainable forest practices – generally raising awareness about the state of Nova Scotia's forests, particularly within the forest industry.

Her approach to this work was collaborative and she became known as an environmentalist who took on forestry issues in a spirit of cooperation, and who was able to bring to light common goals among woodlot owners. Her intuitive astuteness "knew the difference between a reason, and an excuse."

Pam's work was integral, in conjunction with Eastern Shore Forest Watch, to the successful ten-year campaign to bring Ship Harbour Long Lake forward as a Candidate Wilderness Area. Pam also worked closely with the Ecology Action Centre's Standing Tall Campaign, especially in the area of low impact forest management.

"Pam's integrity and spirit were well known among friends and co-workers, as were her thoroughness and determination in the many committee rooms she placed herself in to instigate change."

Prior to her work with the forests Pam was a social worker and Director of Volunteer Services at the Nova Scotia Hospital for 10 years. She also worked with Bedford Institute of Oceanography, the Ability Network Magazine, and was involved with the New Democratic Party of Nova Scotia for many years.

As well as being a passionate and tireless worker for causes, family played a huge role in Pam's life. Especially as an activist mother of two children, much of her time was spent nurturing a wealth of creative, nature-based experiences from which they

could draw inspiration. She shared Nancy Newhall's belief that "the wilderness holds answers to more questions than we yet know how to ask."

Pam left us all another, very special legacy, her vision of what a green burial might be, and how we can become more involved in our own dying process. As with everything she did, Pam informed herself and took action. A natural or green burial ground is a cemetery where the body is returned to the earth to recycle naturally. Pam, together with her friends and family undertook these arrangements and a simple, beautiful celebration was held on the Eastern Shore. Even in her dying Pam remained the visionary, pioneer and activist.

Some of Pam's passion for change was captured on camera late last fall, when she was interviewed, along with Dr. Wilfrid Creighton, as one of thirteen Nova Scotia woodlot owners and activists for a film produced by the Eastern Shore Forest Watch titled "Honour in the Woods." The documentary's title is a phrase coined by Pam, which she intended to use on a book or other resource material. It was a fitting match for the project, and happily Pam was able to see the film in a final edit before she passed away.

Take Action:

Donations in Pam's memory can be sent to the Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association, Comp 10, Site 2 R.R. 1, Head Jeddore, NS B0J 1P0, to support continuance of her forest work. Memories of Pam and messages of condolence may be e-mailed to: forestwatches@yahoo.ca All messages will be passed on to Pam's family.

"Honour in the Woods"

Clear cutting has been, for the last fifty years, the predominant method of forest management on both public and private land in Nova Scotia. However, there are remarkable individuals who have recognized the damage being done through massive clear cuts, and who have opted for more sustainable forestry practices.

"Honour in the Woods" introduces us to thirteen woodlot owners and forest activists from Nova Scotia in conversation about their vision for healthy and sustainable forests. Each describes methods they have used to restore and protect the biodiversity and richness of the Acadian forests in their care.

The film captures the wisdom of extraordinary people such as Dr. Wilfrid Creighton who brings more than 100 years of experience living and working in the woods; Pamela Langille, a woods worker and passionate activist; and forester Jim Drescher who has championed sustainable forestry for years. This film inspires, and points toward the kinds of changes that will one day bring genuine honour to the woods and to all who spend time in them.

Honour in the Woods is dedicated with gratitude to Dr. Wilfrid Creighton and Pamela Langille, both of whom passed on as the film was nearing its final form. For more information about "Honour in the Woods" see: www.forestwatch.ca



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