

FUNDY TIDINGS

Quarterly Newsletter of the

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

Issue #4 Winter 2004 [All issues archived at: www.bofep.org/tidings.htm]

HEADLINES:

- 1. State of the Minas Basin Forum Held in Wolfville**
- 2. Progress of the Bay of Fundy Biosphere Initiative**
- 3. New Fundy Issue just published**
- 4. Minas Basin Working Group hires coordinator**
- 5. New Coordinator for BoFEP Secretariat**
- 6. Eelgrass Workshop Sackville, NB December 17-18, 2003**
- 7. Fundy's Phalaropes** (article *by Christine Callaghan*)
- 8. Establishment of Coastal Zones Research Institute at UNB**
- 9. Report on Environmental Progress in New Brunswick**
- 10. Huntsman Training Workshop on Multivariate Analysis**
- 11. Canada Ratifies UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**
- 12. Marshes, Tides and Crossings in Colchester County, NS**
- 13. Final Synthesis reports on Minas Basin Community forums available**
- 14. Researchers Find Evidence of Biotoxin in Georges Bank Humpback Deaths**
- 15. Valley Watershed Stewardship Association newsletter**
- 16. Fact Sheet on Contamination of Coastal Water around GOM**
- 17. Article Highlights Cheverie Creek Saltmarsh Restoration Project**
- 18. Report Presents Vision for Aquaculture in Canada**
- 19. New Report on Aquatic Invasive Species in Canada**
- 20. New Report on Significant Coastal Areas in Bay of Fundy**
- 21. ADMINISTTRIVIA - Removal from list; submit material; BoFEP Website**

1. State of the Minas Basin Forum Held in Wolfville

On October 28th, 2003 a Forum on the State of the Minas Basin was held at the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville, NS. It's objective was to discuss the state of the environment of the Minas basin and its watershed. The results from this forum will feed into similar initiatives taking place in each watershed tall around the Gulf of Main, and will culminate in a Gulf of Maine Summit in the fall of 2004, which will produce a comprehensive State of the Environment Report for the entire Gulf of Maine region. More.....

2. Progress of the Bay of Fundy Biosphere Initiative

The Fundy Biosphere Initiative is continuing in development phase; the partnership is steadily being built, a strategy plan is being developed and information is being gathered to aid n the development of proposal to be submitted to UNESCO for designation as world biosphere site. The planning committee is in the process engaging communities, resource sectors, government departments, economic development agencies, universities, conservation groups, and businesses

within the proposed area through a series of personnel contacts and information meetings with larger groups where it can be organized. We are making them aware of the progress to date and by encouraging municipalities and community groups to participate in the planning process and to participate in deciding on the activities that will take place in the biosphere initiative. The rate of progress has been influenced by the availability of operational funds, resources, and the amount of volunteer effort that has gone into the process to date. At present there are thirteen active biosphere sites in Canada and several more are in various stages of development and each has taken anywhere from six to nine years to develop before designation was achieved.more
Report by Peter Etheridge, October 2003.

3. New Fundy Issue just published

Fundy Issue # 24 entitled *"Living Lightly on Land and Water: Native People and the Bay of Fundy"* has just been published. It looks at 11 centuries of resource use by humans in the Fundy region and concludes that: *"We would do well to recognize that the Native peoples of the region, with their ancient traditions founded upon knowledge, respect and appreciation for the natural world, have much to teach us about caring for the land and water, and using its plants and animals wisely. If we heed their counsel, appreciate the fundamental truths of their age-old wisdom and work constructively together, future generations may yet continue to reap the benefits of Fundy's diverse and productive natural resources, as the Native people of the region successfully did for many thousands of years."* Copies are available from:

communications@bofep.org .

It will also be appearing on the BoFEP Website shortly.

4. Minas Basin Working Group hires coordinator

Lisa McCuaig has been hired by the Minas Basin Working Group to work with community groups within the Minas Basin watershed to develop and implement Action Plans to address issues identified by the communities in a recent series of forums. It is hoped to secure additional funding to continue the contract beyond its present 6-month period (15/07/2003 - 15/01/2004). Her objectives in order of priority are:

to develop Action Plans by working closely with a wide variety of community groups and organizations in the Minas Basin Watershed

to organize workshops and meetings in order to bring interest groups together to develop Action Plans and discuss issues

to network and liaise with community groups and other interested parties to keep relevant interest groups and individuals informed and involved in Action Plan progress and Minas Basin Working Group Activities

to seek funding for future projects by researching and writing proposals for funding through existing programs as well as from individual government agencies.

Lisa looks forward to discussing her work and assisting in the development of action plans with any interested groups in the Minas Basin watershed. She can be reached at either of two locations:

Mon, Wed, Fri (902) 585-1311 lisa.mccuaig@acadiau.ca

Tues, Thurs (902) 865-9646 mccuaiglm@eastlink.ca

(Note based on Lisa's letter of introduction)

5. New Coordinator for BoFEP Secretariat

In the September issue of Fundy Tidings it was reported that Nancy Roscoe-Huntley had stepped down as BoFEP coordinator and to take a position in the Biology Department at Acadia University. Amanda Tree has been hired to take Nancy's place as both BoFEP coordinator of the BoFEP Secretariat and the Administrative Assistant at the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research. We wish Amanda every success in her new position(s) and look forward to working with her to advance the interests of BoFEP. She is based at the Estuarine Centre and can be contacted at:

Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research (ACER)

23 Westwood Avenue, Box 115, Acadia University

Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 2R6

Tel: (902)585-1113 Fax: (902)585-1054

E-mail: amanda.tree@acadiau.ca or secretariat@bofep.org

6. Eelgrass Workshop Sackville, NB December 17-18, 2003

A Workshop on the Status, Trends and Conservation of Eelgrass in Atlantic Canada is scheduled to be held in Sackville New Brunswick on December 17 and 18, 2003. The workshop will be held at the Coastal Inn. Rooms are \$ 75.00 night. Call 1-888-704-7444 , or 506-536-0000 and mention the Eelgrass Workshop to receive this rate and reserve your room. For more information or to join the mailing list for the Workshop please contact Dr. Alan Hanson, Wetland & Waterfowl Ecologist Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic Region.

7. Fundy's Phalaropes (article by Christine Callaghan)

Whales and High Tides - they're probably the most visible evidence that the Bay of Fundy is one of the world's truly unique places. Tourists by the thousands come to see for themselves the mighty surge of the water, and the majestic creatures that journey here every year. But one of the vital links in the chain that makes up the whole Bay of Fundy ecosystem isn't quite so readily apparent. To see it you would have to look closer. a lot closer. And that's what a group of scientists who spent a week here (Freeport, Long Island, Digby County) in late August were

doing. They had come in search of a tiny creature called Calanus finmarchicus. Never heard of it, you say? We'll let head scientist John Chardine, of the Canadian Wildlife Service, describe it:

"It's a large copepod, it's not the biggest one, but it's large. It's about three millimeters long. And it's energy rich; it's got a big oil sac in it. It's the main source of food for Right Whales. Herring eat it, lots of different fish species, important commercial species, eat Calanus finmarchicus. It is almost the most important animal in the system, in one sense, because it's so abundant and so many things feed on it." Among the many animals that depend on this little beast is a kind of bird called the phalarope. And it's phalaropes that are the focus of Chardine's current work.
Complete article (text and pictures).

8. Establishment of Coastal Zones Research Institute at UNB

The Coastal Zones Research Institute (CZRI) is being established at the Shippagan campus of the Université de Moncton in New Brunswick. The Institute's main objective is to foster sustainable development of the resources found in coastal zones, mainly in eastern New Brunswick and the Atlantic Provinces. For information, access: <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/rdc/2003e0934rd.htm>

9. Report on Environmental Progress in New Brunswick

New Brunswick's first Report on Environmental Progress entitled "Air, Land and Water - Reporting to New Brunswick residents on Environmental Progress" reports on air quality, land planning and management, and water quality. The report is available at:
<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/elg/2003e1048el.htm>

10. Huntsman Training Workshop on Multivariate Analysis

Huntsman Marine Science Centre, St. Andrews, New Brunswick will be presenting "Analysis of Multivariate Data from Ecology and Environmental Science" This will be a four day hands-on workshop on statistical analysis and interpretation of community structure data for environmental analysis. It will be held 26-29 April, 2004 with instructor: Dr. K. R. Clarke. More.....

11. Canada Ratifies UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

Canada has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Convention provides the framework for international oceans law, governing many aspects of oceans affairs, from fisheries and navigation to marine pollution and scientific research. UNCLOS entered into force in 1994. Canada's ratification brings the number of parties to 144..... more.

12. Marshes, Tides and Crossings in Colchester County, NS

The Ecology Action Centre and the Municipality of Colchester County have produced a report entitled "Marshes, Tides and Crossings: Colchester County Tidal Barriers Audit Report 2002". The report presents the results of the tidal barriers audit which was performed during the summer of 2002. It also provides an overview of some of the consequences for fish, wildlife and the integrity of coastal ecosystems resulting from the loss and degradation of productive salt marsh habitat. To obtain a copy, email coastal@ecologyaction.ca

13. Final Synthesis reports on Minas Basin Community forums available

The following two reports arising from the work of the Minas Basin Working Group in convening a series of Community Forums around the Basin are now available:

Willcocks-Musselman, R. 2003. Minas Basin Watershed Profile. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Technical Report #2. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS. 160 pp.

Willcocks-Musselman, R., Orser, J., Brylinksy, M. and P.R. Hinch. (eds). 2003. Planning for Action in the Minas Basin Watershed. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Technical Report #1. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS. 116 pp.

A limited number of paper copies are available from the BoFEP Secretariat. Electronic versions (in PDF format) are available on the BoFEP Website at: Watershed Profile/Action Plan.

14. Researchers Find Evidence of Biotoxin in Georges Bank Humpback Deaths

Woods Hole, Mass. -- Researchers examining samples taken from five dead whales on Georges Bank this past summer have discovered domoic acid in some of the samples. Domoic acid is a toxin produced naturally during some harmful algal blooms. It has been associated with marine mammal deaths on the U.S. West Coast.More

15. Valley Watershed Stewardship Association newsletter

The August 2003 newsletter of the VWSA newsletter is now available on the BoFEP Website in PDF format at: VWSA Newsletter. Subsequent issues will also be posted as they are received.

16. Fact Sheet on Contamination of Coastal Water around GOM

The Gulfwatch regional monitoring program of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has released a fact sheet on its findings about contamination in coastal waters over

the past decade. The fact sheet is available at:
<http://gulfofmaine.org/council/publications/gulfwatchfactsheet.pdf>

17. Article Highlights Cheverie Creek Saltmarsh Restoration Project

The fall issue of the Gulf of Maine Times features an article on the Cheverie Creek salt marsh restoration project. If successful, the project will become the first community-based salt marsh restoration in Nova Scotia. For complete article go to:
<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/fall2003/index.htm>

18. Report Presents Vision for Aquaculture in Canada

The Commissioner for Aquaculture Development, Yves Bastien, has released his report entitled "Achieving the Vision". The report describes the socio-economic benefits that aquaculture has brought to Canada; concludes that aquaculture is an environmentally sustainable method by which to produce fish; describes a 15-year vision; and outlines a role for the federal government to collaborate with the provinces and all stakeholders. The report is available at:
<http://www.ocad.gc.ca/enewsreleasesbg031030.html>

19. New Report on Aquatic Invasive Species in Canada

The Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans has produced a report entitled "Aquatic Invasive Species: Uninvited Guests", available at:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/InfoComDoc/37/2/FOPO/Studies/Reports/foporp04-e.htm>

The Government of Canada has reviewed the recommendations contained in this report and has provided responses to each recommendation, available at:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communic/reports/aquaspec-espagua/index_e.htm

For background information on invasive species in the Bay of Fundy refer to:

Fundy Issues # 23. "Alien Invasions: Introduced Species in the Bay of Fundy and Environs"

20. New Report on Significant Coastal Areas in Bay of Fundy

Buzeta, M-I., R. Singh, and S.Young-Lai. 2003 Identification of Significant Marine and Coastal Areas in the Bay of Fundy. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aqua. Sci. 6473: xii + 179 pp + figs.

Abstract

21. ADMINISTTRIVIA ~

If you would like to be removed from the *Fundy Tidings* mailing list, simply e-mail a request to communications@bofep.org .

If you would like to post an item in ***Fundy Tidings*** pertaining to BoFEP or the Bay of Fundy send it along to communications@bofep.org . The deadlines for submissions are: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, December 1st.

For more news items about BoFEP, the Bay of Fundy and beyond periodically check the BoFEP's Fundy news clips page at: <http://www.bofep.org/fundynews.htm>. You can also check out back issues of ***Fundy Tidings*** that are archived there.