

~ FUNDY TIDINGS ~
*The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)*

July 2007 ~ Summer Issue

For up-to-date information about BoFEP meetings and other events visit:
www.bofep.org/calendar.htm

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A. BOFEP and its activities

1. Barry Jones steps down as BoFEP Chair

In a June 6th e-letter to the BoFEP Management and Steering Committees Barry Jones announced his resignation as Chair of BoFEP effective immediately. He noted *"I have served as Chair for almost three years, and been with BoFEP on its executive since its inception over a dozen years ago. Though I have very much enjoyed my time with BoFEP, my heart is no longer in it; there is no longer any "fire in the belly" which BoFEP needs at this time in its development."* He goes on to explain that *"Although it may seem as such, this is not a hasty decision. I have recently come to the conclusion that I want to spend my time more involved with my family, my friends, my home and my little farm."*

Barry offered to continue to assist the BoFEP Executive as needed, in particular *"I will stay on the Finance Committee to assist the Treasurer in managing current and future funding possibilities, and in particular, the 2007-08 Environment Canada funding application. In spite of our recent past disappointments with EC funding, I still have hopes that this year will be more successful."* He concluded by expressing *"My thanks for your past support, and good luck."*

According to the BoFEP Constitution the Vice Chair, Peter Wells, automatically assumes the role in an acting capacity until confirmed or replaced by the Steering Committee at a meeting called for this purpose. Peter has agreed to accept this challenge and is actively involved in pushing forward with a number of BoFEP initiatives.

In an e-letter to the BoFEP Management and Steering Committees on June 18th, Peter expressed appreciation to Barry for his efforts on behalf of BoFEP. *"I would like to thank Barry for his long and outstanding service to BoFEP as Treasurer, Chair, and continuing member of the Finance committee. His many day to day contributions to the running of BoFEP over the past few years as Treasurer and Chair, conducted with great skill and humour, have been and are greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Management Committee and all his friends in BoFEP, I wish Barry all the best and every success in his future endeavours."*

2. BoFEP Steering Committee meeting planned

As a result of budget restrictions eliminating funds available for travel, the BoFEP Steering Committee has not met for an unacceptably long time. A number of important issues (funding, programs, new initiatives, next steps, AGM planning etc.) need to be considered by the SC without further delay. Therefore, there will be a SC meeting on Wednesday, July 25th, 11 am – 4 pm. (the date most convenient for the majority of committee members). To accommodate both NS and NB members the meeting will be held at a central location; namely, the Board Room of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, NB. As there are no funds to reimburse travel costs, members will have to make an effort to carpool as much as possible.

3. BoFEP funding/activity update

The acting Chair of BoFEP notes that the BoFEP-EC application is steadily moving through EC and may be successful this year. As well, the Strategic Development and Funding Committee has been very active in developing ideas and actions for more diversified funding, and in making presentations on our behalf to potential funders. This

extra effort by Marianne Janowicz, Owen Washburn, Hugh Akagi, Peter Fenety and others is very much appreciated. We remain optimistic that the current funding challenges will be met and overcome, with everyone contributing whenever and wherever they can to BoFEPs funding envelope and its programs. BoFEP continues to operate, thanks to the hospitality and patience of ACER (site of our Secretariat) and the continued work of Jon Percy on the web site, newsletter and fact sheets on important issues confronting the Bay of Fundy.

4. BoFEP 7th Science Workshop Proceedings available

The Proceedings of the 7th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop held in St. Andrews, NB in October 2006 is now available for download in PDF format on the BoFEP Website at: http://www.bofep.org/bofep_workshops.htm. A gallery of photographs taken at the workshop is also available for download. The site also features a brief overview of the workshop and information about the winners of the Environmental Stewardship Award and the award recipients for the best papers and posters presented by students. CD copies of the 2006 Workshop Proceedings are being prepared by Bounty Print, along with a report cover with a CD sleeve (budgetary restrictions preclude the possibility of a paper version of the Proceedings at this time). The CDs will be sent to all those who participated in the workshop as soon as they are available. Sue Rolston deserves a very special thank-you for her dedicated effort to complete the Proceedings in a timely manner.

5. BoFEP 8th Science Workshop in Spring 2009

The 8th BoFEP workshop to be hosted by the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research in Wolfville, NS has, for a number of reasons, been rescheduled from the autumn of 2008 to May 26-29, 2008. The theme for the Workshop is "*Resource Development and Its Implications in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine*".

Session topics currently being considered include the following:

- Fisheries, coastal and offshore
- Aquaculture
- Mining, coastal and land-based
- Resource development and sustainability of coastal communities
- Tidal power
- Oil and gas
- Watershed issues
- Cross-border issues
- Impacts on coastal wildlife
- Environmental monitoring and indicators
- Education and public awareness
- Information and knowledge integration
- First Nations and community-based programs

Suggestions for other session topics are always welcome and can be sent to communications@bofep.org

6. Report on GOMCME-BoFEP Cooperation Agreement available.

Pat Hinch, BoFEP's principal liaison to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment has prepared a three-year summary report of progress under the 2004 - 2007 GOMC-BOFEP Cooperation Agreement. This agreement provided funding for a variety of innovative projects in the Fundy Region, including:

- Mapping persistent features in SW New Brunswick for use in habitat and diversity conservation.
- Developing an information and knowledge repository for Fundy
- Preparing historical digital mosaics of changes in the intertidal habitats of Minas Basin
- Evaluation of salt marsh habitat around the Annapolis Basin
- Measuring vegetation distribution and production in relation to hydrology in a recovering salt marsh.
- Development of a Fundy tidal barriers GIS database

A copy of the full summary report is available online at:

www.bofep.org/gomcme_bofep_agreement.htm

7. New BoFEP - GOMCME Agreement signed

Pat Hinch also reports that the GOMCME has recently signed an agreement entitled "*Statement of Support for the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership*". A firm "pat" on the back to Pat for her dedicated efforts in working closely with the Council to achieve this agreement. This agreement states that:

"We affirm our commitment to work with and seek counsel of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership. Through consultation or contractual agreement, BoFEP will work with Council Committees in three areas:

1. *Advice on ecosystem science issues* – The Council will work closely with BoFEP in identifying and pursuing priority ecosystem science issues.
2. *Stewardship of the Bay* - The Council will work in close partnership with BoFEP to enhance local stewardship of the Bay of Fundy by facilitating regional communication and cooperation about the Bay's ecological resources; and
3. *Social well-being and economic sustainability of the Bay's coastal communities* – The Council will work with BoFEP, local communities and others to ensure the Bay's communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive.

Signed this 14 day of June 2007

Byron James, Council Chairman

NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture"

A copy of the full agreement is available on the BoFEP website at: _

www.bofep.org/GOMCME_support.htm

B. Partners and other organizations

8. EAC announces return of "Coastlines"

The Coastal Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre is pleased to announce the return of "Coastlines". This popular natural history column about beaches and the critters that love them will appear monthly in weekly and biweekly papers around the province. You can also read past and current Coastlines articles at: www.ecologyactioncentre/coastlines

9. Salt Marsh Workshop Proceedings available

The Coastal Issues Committee (CIC) of the Ecology Action Centre is please to announce the release of two workshop reports.

a) "*Six Years in the Mud. Restoring Maritime Salt Marshes: Lessons Learned and Moving forward*". Proceedings of the Salt Marsh Restoration Workshop, Dartmouth NS, Feb 1-2, 2007. (Interactive CD).

b) "*Changing Climate, Changing Coasts: Report from the June 6th 2007 Learning Circle on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Nova Scotia*". June 2007. This workshop was organized jointly with the Coastal Communities Network and the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia. To view the keynote presentation from the workshop by Gary Lines (Climate Change Meteorologist Environment Canada): "[Nova Scotia Coastal Impacts and Adaptation Issues](#)" visit the CCN's website: http://www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca/hot_topics.php

A Summary of "*Six Years in the Mud*" and the full workshop report of "*Changing Climate, Changing Coasts*" are available in downloadable form from the Ecology Action Centre's Website: http://www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal_issues/coastal_publications.shtm

If you would like the full workshop proceedings (interactive CD) for "*Six Years in the Mud*" contact the Coastal Coordinator coastal@ecologyaction.ca or call 902-442-5046.

10. Nature Canada Conference " Time and Tide"

A reminder that the Nature Canada Conference and Annual General Meeting is being held at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS from August 1-5, 2007. This conference will bring together naturalists from all across Canada and features a wide range of speaker presentations and field trips with an upper Bay of Fundy focus as well as a goodly round of social events with a Maritime flavour. Nature Nova Scotia is organizing the conference, with assistance from the Blomidon Naturalists Society and other naturalist groups. Details about the Conference program as well as the registration forms are available online at the conference Website: www.nature2007.ca .

C. Fundy/GOM and other News:

11. Whites Point Quarry hearing winds up.

The public hearing portion the joint Federal-Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment on the controversial proposal for a mega quarry at Whites Point on Digby Neck came to end on Saturday, June 30th. The 13-day review hearing at the Digby Pines Hotel featured a plethora of passionate presentations by those for and against the quarry (overwhelmingly weighted in favour of the latter group) as well as by dozens of scientists and other experts commenting on various details of the proposal. Transcripts of all the presentations made at the hearings, as well as written submissions, can be viewed on the Canadian Environmental Agency Website at: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/010/0001/0001/0023/hearings_e.htm

The Public Registry for the EIA closed on Friday July 13th and no new information will be accepted for consideration. The three-member panel has 90 days from the Registry closure to submit its report and recommendations to the Federal Minister of the Environment and the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment and Labour.

Jon Percy's presentation to the review panel can be downloaded at:
<http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/010/0001/0001/0023/001/WP-1784-055.pdf>

and an opinion piece based on this presentation entitled "*Whites Point Quarry Hearings - Shed a tiny tear for Bilcon!*" can be viewed at:
www.bofep.org/jons_blog.htm .

12. Resource guide for sustainable tourism available

The "*Resource Guide for Sustainable Tourism in Down East Maine and Southwest New Brunswick*" covers the marine environment, water conservation, building design, energy conservation, air pollution prevention, ecological landscaping, waste management and recycling, green purchasing and information on certification and membership programs. The guide, which includes several case studies, is available at:
<http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastcom/sustour.htm>.

13. Whale protection paper by the late Ransom Myers

A paper by Ransom Myers *et al* entitled "*Saving endangered whales at no cost*", published in *Current Biology* Vol 17 No 1, concludes that right whales as well as fishermen in the American side of the Gulf of Maine would benefit from seasonal closures and lobster trap limits at or below Canadian levels.
http://myweb.dal.ca/bworm/#_Publications.

14. NB climate change action plan available

The New Brunswick climate change action plan 2007-2012 focuses on actions to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions; adaptation strategies to address the economic, social and environmental effects of the Province's changing climate; and engagement with communities and individuals to implement adaptation and GHG-reduction efforts. The Plan also includes actions in renewable energy and efficiency; transportation; waste reduction and diversion; industrial sources; adaptation; and implementation and

accountability. A copy of the plan is available at:
<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0369/0015/0001-e.asp>.

15. EIA guidelines for NB oil refinery available

The final guidelines for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed construction and operation of an oil refinery and related facilities and infrastructure in east Saint John (Red Head area), New Brunswick are now available at:
<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0377/0002/0029-e.pdf>.

16. Right Whale Website launched

Moira (Moe) Brown, with the New England Aquarium and the Canadian Whale Institute recently announced the launch of a Canadian bilingual Website for right whales. This website was made possible with funds from the Habitat Stewardship Program of Environment Canada, New England Aquarium and Canadian Whale Institute. You can access the site through:

www.rightwhale.ca
www.baleinenoire.ca
www.baleinefranche.ca

It is also accessible through the new Canadian Whale Institute Website:
www.canadianwhales.org

D. ADMINISTRIVIA

Fundy Tidings is circulated Quarterly to all registered members of BoFEP and other individuals who have expressed an interest in BoFEP and its activities. If you know of others who might like to receive Fundy Tidings or if you would like to be removed from the Fundy Tidings mailing list, simply e-mail a request to communications@bofep.org.

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

If you would like to post an item in Fundy Tidings pertaining to BoFEP, its partners or the Bay of Fundy send it along to communications@bofep.org.

The submission deadlines are: January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, October 1st.