



Baykeeper LOG #22

April 28, 2008

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(Note: Email is checked on Mon-Tues only. Please call (506) 694-8780 for all urgent matters)

Tidal Power Meetings

Baykeeper representatives attended the strategic environmental assessment meetings on Tidal Power, held by the Province of New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy Eco System Partnership (BOFEP), in St. George on April 9 and Saint John on April 3rd.

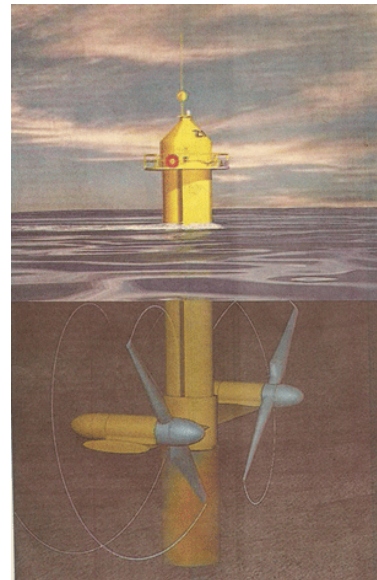
The general consensus of those who attended the meeting in Saint John was that any proposal or tidal power project in the Bay of Fundy should proceed very slowly with extensive public participation and transparency, before the government makes any decisions or commitments. At the St. George meeting concern over location, size, scale and control of future tidal projects was strongly voiced by those who attended.

Baykeeper's position is that very detailed underwater studies of the sea bed need to be carried out before any further planning or activity on tidal projects occurs. Tidal power projects must not interfere with environmentally sensitive areas, fish movements or existing commercial fishing activities. No large-scale tidal power farms should be permitted at any location, and the public must be provided with resources to effectively participate in all decision making processes.

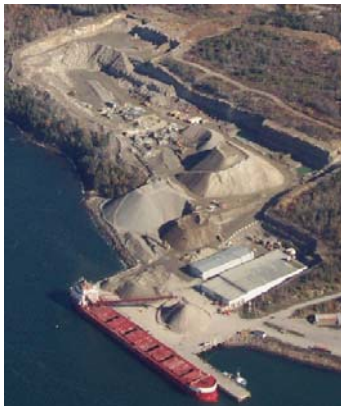
If you want to submit your views in writing, contact the Bay of Fundy Eco System Partnership (BOFEP) which is holding the consultations. You may submit online through the BOFEP website: <http://www.bofep.org> or by mail:

NB Sea Project
626 Churchill Row
Fredericton, NB
E3B-1P6

Attached is the questionnaire from the BOFEP consultation meetings – [View](#)



Bayside Quarry Monitoring Ordered



For years, residents of Bayside, Charlotte County, have had to put up with the effects of blasting, dust and noise from the rock quarry and crushing operation at the Port of Bayside. Meanwhile, the natural landscape along the St. Croix estuary has been decimated. Sediment has run into the estuary, and ground water has been put at risk.

After meetings with the Minister of Environment and his department and complaints from various groups and local residents, the Department of Environment has ordered the quarry operator, Jammer Materials Ltd., to carry out a monitoring program to address community and environmental concerns. Some of these concerned groups include the Bayside LSD committee, the St. Croix International Waterway Commission, the Town of St. Andrews, Fundy Baykeeper and the Charlotte County Conservation Council Chapter. The monitoring program will include the monitoring of air quality, dust, noise, and ground water. The Quarry operator has also been ordered to submit a monthly monitoring report, which will begin in July.

For monitoring program details – [Click Here](#)

New Baykeeper Program

Baykeeper hopes to start an exciting new program with kayaks and canoes to involve people in discovering, participating and learning about our Fundy coastal environment while becoming involved in projects and activities to monitor and protect the Bay.



- ▶ Do you have a Kayak or Canoe that you no longer use?
- ▶ Do you want to help protect our coastal and estuary waters?
- ▶ Do you want to help people develop skills and learn about the natural environment?

The Conservation Council Fundy Baykeeper Project will be starting programs to acquaint people with our coastal environment and carry out monitoring and training in an effort to protect and preserve our natural heritage. The success of this program will depend on public support to obtain kayaks and canoes. We are also looking for donations of life jackets and paddles. All donations of boats and equipment should be in good condition and readily useable.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact us:

Fundy Baykeeper

Phone: (1) 506-721-5169

(2) 506-635-1297

(3) 506-694-8780

Email: fundybaykeeper@conservationcouncil.ca

Website: <http://www.fundybaykeeper.org>



Fundy Baykeeper is a program of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick which is a registered charity. ConservationCouncil.ca

Red Flags Raised at Beaver Harbour

Five years ago, Baykeeper joined with the communities of Beaver Harbour and the Pennfield local service district to win a major environmental victory for the Bay of Fundy. JD Irving had proposed to build a marine terminal in the small fishing village of Beaver Harbour to ship huge amounts of gravel by barge to aggregate markets in the New York area. The gravel was to be strip mined in the Pennfield area, just north of Beaver Harbour, and delivered to the docks at the barge loading terminal by long conveyer belts.

The community of Beaver Harbour - Pennfield seemed well on the way to being converted to a noisy, dusty industrial sea port and strip mine. Ground water for the community and local fish plants would be at risk, and commercial activities would be displaced by ships, tugs and barges. Whales would also be at risk from ship traffic, and tourism would end.

Residents did not like JD Irving's plan for their community and began to organize against the proposed projects. Meetings in local halls were filled to overflowing, and community resistance to the projects was unanimous, loud and vocal both at meetings and in representations to local MLA's and government officials.



A clause in a long forgotten local planning statement prohibiting this type of industrial development was unearthed by Baykeeper. JD Irving applied to have the planning statement amended; however, the application was turned down by the environment minister as a result of huge opposition and a re-election campaign just about to begin in the province.

Recently, officials from the rural district planning commission held open houses in Beaver Harbour and Pennfield to obtain public feedback for a new proposed rural plan which they are designing to replace the existing planning statement. The planning officials have said the public hearing on the proposed new plan will be held later this spring. Residents of Beaver Harbour and Pennfield want to ensure that any new rural plan would still not permit a gravel strip mine operation or a marine terminal. Baykeeper will keep a close eye on this situation.

Bay of Fundy Stewards Program Starts

Fundy Baykeeper hopes to establish a core of volunteers to watch over beaches and shorelines along the Bay of Fundy between St. Martins and St. Stephen. Stewards will observe and document activities and



changes occurring along a section of shoreline they will adopt and regularly visit. When threats to the environment are observed which could potentially contaminate the bay or endanger species, stewards will immediately contact the Fundy Baykeeper. These threats could include incidents of oil spills, wetland or habitat destruction, dumping of large industrial debris, or fish kills. Stewards will also watch for unnatural or unusual changes in the environment. They will document their observations through notes, photographs or video while visiting their adopted section of shoreline.

We are currently seeking to recruit Bay of Fundy Stewards. If you are interested, you should plan to attend one of two training workshops in early May.

The first workshop will be held in St. Andrews on Saturday, May 3rd, at 10:30am. The location will be Clarke House is at 62 Princess Royal Street.

The second workshop will be held the following day, Sunday, May 4th, in Saint John, at 1:30pm. The location will be 199 Chesley Drive, Linden Place Building Second floor, above the bus station.

A lunch will be provided at the St. Andrews workshop and refreshments at the afternoon workshop in Saint John. Weather permitting; we will plan to visit a beach during the workshop.

For More Information on the Bay of Fundy Stewards Program – [Click Here](#)

Fundy Baykeeper- Registered Intervener, Alternate Pipeline River Crossing Hearing

The work of Fundy Baykeeper and other Saint John groups has convinced the National Energy Board to hold a public hearing on Emera Brunswick Pipelines' plan for an alternate pipeline crossing of the St. John River at Indian Town. This could happen if their attempt to drill a tunnel in bedrock under the river for the pipeline fails. The alternate river crossing would trench the river bed in an area of contaminated sediment. Tidal currents would, in turn, spread the released sediment into our endangered Bay. Over a dozen species of fish, including Atlantic salmon, two species of sturgeon, and striped bass, must pass through this area to spawning grounds. Their migrations could be disturbed during construction. A pipeline at this location could also interfere with an emergency anchorage location just a short distance above the Reversing Falls.



Update: Proposed Aquaculture Site Adjacent Marine Protected Area

The proposed aquaculture site at Little Musquash (adjacent the Musquash Marine Protected Area) that we covered in our last Baykeeper Log was registered for a Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Screening on March 10, 2008. We are encouraging everyone to write, phone or email the Hon. Greg Thompson, MP, and the Hon. Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to tell them it is unacceptable to establish this aquaculture site adjacent the Musquash Marine Protected Area(MPA). It was proclaimed an MPA a little over a year ago and is the only Marine Protected Area in the Bay of Fundy. Tell them to stand up for the MPA and reject the approval of this aquaculture site.



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Working Group Meetings on Environmental Law

The Fundy Baykeeper office in Saint John is proud to host a series of working group sessions on environmental law. These sessions are being taught by Joan Pierce and Janice Eldridge-Thomas on Tuesday evenings for the next few weeks. If you are interested in participating, contact Janice Eldridge-Thomas at (506) 635-0514.