



Baykeeper LOG #3

Fall - Winter 2003/04

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Fundy Baykeeper moves to Kennebecasis Bay in Saint John

In mid-September, we moved "Baykeeper" from its mooring in St. Andrews to the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club in Saint John (Millidgeville) where it was launched last May. From there the Baykeeper began his investigation of environmental quality in Kennebecasis Bay and lower St. John River. After conducting a total of 42 patrols over the summer and fall, "Baykeeper" was taken out of the water on October 17 for winter storage. Watch for our launch date next spring when the Fundy Baykeeper begins his second patrol season.



We all hate them, but acronyms do save space especially when government department names get longer and longer. Those used in this log are: DELG - Dept. of Environment and Local Government; DNR - Dept. of Natural Resources; DAFA - Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture; DFO - Dept of Fisheries and Oceans (federal)

Case File #9: Kennebecasis Bay Development

Kennebecasis Bay/River area of Saint John is one of the fastest developing residential areas in the province, with the shoreline over the past few years becoming the site of many new large homes and subdivisions. Patrols along the Kennebecasis estuary from Gondola Point to Millidgeville and the North End of Saint John found many examples of environmentally destructive and illegal development carried out in recent years. Evidence of clearcutting to the water's edge, alteration and infilling of the shoreline, and building houses within 30 metres of a watercourse was common, apparently having been ignored by government. The Baykeeper wants to make sure this stops. Currently, roads and services are being built for a new residential housing development in Drury Cove. This is one of only two sections of shoreline along the south side of the Kennebecasis which remain undeveloped. Dave has contacted both the City of Saint John and DELG to insist that environmental standards be enforced with this development. **File status: open.**



Many homes are built within the 30 metre buffer zone required on watercourses and land is cleared right to the shore.

Case File #10: Irving Oil Proposed Multi-purpose Dock, Mispic Point

Irving Oil has plans to build a multi-purpose dock at Mispic Point and the environmental impact assessment of this project is underway. The Baykeeper has participated in residents' meetings as well as EIA meetings to raise issues and ensure all aspects of the project are considered in the EIA. The dock would be used to unload Orimulsion® fuel for the Coleson Cove generating station which will arrive in very large tankers. It will also be the unloading site for liquified natural gas which Irving would import to a re-gasification plant the company intends to build nearby. The Baykeeper's concern about this site for off-loading such hazardous and volatile substances has to do with the fact that the dock will not be within the confines of a protected harbour, but will be open to the Bay of Fundy winds, currents, tides and storms. **File status: open.**



The multi-purpose dock will go in adjacent to the existing Irving Canaport facility at Mispic Point.

Case File #11: Conversion of Coleson Cove Generating Station to Orimulsion®

The environmental impact assessment for this project was completed last year and, although the project was vigorously opposed by the Conservation Council, local residents, Saint John doctors and others, the Province approved the \$750 million capital project to convert this 1,000 megawatt oil-fired power plant to burn Orimulsion®, a bitumen-water slurry from Venezuela. The construction is over half completed and the second stack is visible from Route 1 as you drive east towards Saint John. As a condition of approval, former Environment Minister Kim Jardine ordered NB Power to set up a community liaison committee to make sure local concerns are taken into account as the project proceeds. Fundy Baykeeper David Thompson and CCNB director Sharon Flatt sit on that committee. Because of the Baykeeper's intervention on that committee, NB Power scrapped plans to build a landfill for sludge from the pollution scrubber right on the headwaters of a brook which flows into the Musquash estuary. The Baykeeper and local residents on the committee have also demanded additional air quality monitoring stations, but as yet air monitoring plans are woefully inadequate. NB Power no longer intends to offload the fuel on the west side of the port of Saint John, proposing a pipeline from Mispic instead (case file #10). It also now plans to land huge volumes of limestone for the scrubber right in the city center, requiring 100 trucks a day to cross the new harbour front walkway in the vicinity of the cruise ship dock. Neither the pipeline nor the city center limestone operation were part of the EIA.

File status: open.



The Coleson Cove Thermal Generating Station on the shores of the Bay of Fundy between Lorneville and the Musquash estuary, a proposed marine protected area. A second huge stack has been erected to the left of the original stack as part of the Orimulsion conversion.

Case file #12: Illegal dumping at Black Beach

Following on a complaint, the Baykeeper discovered that approximately 50 five-gallon drums of sewage-laced soil and sludge, as well as other debris, had been illegally dumped on a height of land at Black Beach near the mouth of the Musquash estuary, a proposed marine protected area. With assistance from NB Power personnel and equipment from the nearby Coleson Cove power plant, the material was cleaned up and properly disposed of. An environment inspector from the Saint John regional office of DELG visited the site but no investigation was launched to track down the perpetrator. **File status: Closed.**



Five gallon drums of sewage contaminated sludge and other debris dumped near Black Beach, Musquash estuary.