



# Baykeeper LOG #4

## Spring 2004

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**BAYKEEPER BOAT LAUNCH – May 8, 2004,  
~ 4:00 pm (tide dependent) at the St.  
Andrews public boat launch area.**

The Fundy Baykeeper will launch the Baykeeper patrol boat this coming Saturday in St. Andrews, as part of the annual Paddlefest festivities in that town. Conservation Council staff and the Fundy Baykeeper, Dave Thompson, will be on hand in Market Square all day to talk about the program and meet supporters. Come on down and give us a hand as we get our second patrol season underway!!



*Last year's launch of the Baykeeper boat at the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club in Saint John. David Suzuki, our special guest for the event, was blown away by the enthusiastic and very wet push we got from members of the Saint John group, Act Aware.*

**PRESS CONFERENCE – Monday, May 31,  
2004, 12:00 pm Saint John Public Library, Market Square, Saint John, Multi-  
purpose Room.**

Attend our press event in Saint John where we will review the highlights of last year's patrol season and talk about the Fundy Baykeeper's priorities for the coming months. We have some special presentations and announcements to make there, so bring a bag lunch and be part of the action! More details to come.

### Waterkeeper Alliance President Robert Kennedy Jr. in Moncton

The Petitcodiac Riverkeeper hosting the annual board retreat for the Waterkeeper Alliance meant that Alliance President Robert Kennedy Jr. made a visit to Moncton and Shediac last weekend. Fundy Baykeeper David Thompson was on hand to hear Mr. Kennedy's awesome lecture at Moncton High School, and to meet him and several other waterkeepers - San Diego Baykeeper, San Francisco Baykeeper, Cook Inletkeeper (Alaska), Casco Baykeeper (Maine), New York-New Jersey Baykeeper, former Neuse Riverkeeper (North Carolina) - following the event. CCNB Executive Director Krista Morrissey, Science Advisor Inka Milewski, Marine Conservation Director Janice Harvey, and board members Sharon Flatt, Beth McLaughlin and John Crompton also attended. In Shediac on Saturday where the Alliance board met, we taped about 20 minutes of video with Mr. Kennedy, as he addressed several issues of concern to the Bay of Fundy. We will use this in a video we are putting together for public release this summer. Stay tuned!



*Bobby Kennedy with Greenpeace founder Bob Hunter at the 2003 Waterkeeper Alliance annual conference in Toronto.*

Mr. Kennedy repeated his commitment to accept a standing invitation from the Fundy Baykeeper to participate in events in Saint John and St. Andrews. We hope to schedule this next year.

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## **Anonymous Donor Makes the Baykeeper Cleaner and Greener**

The Baykeeper will enter the water this year newly decked out with a low pollution, high efficiency motor, thanks to a committed donor. A new 50-horsepower 4-stroke Yamaha outboard motor has been installed and a trial run has been done, with top notch results. The motor runs smoother, quieter, and more efficient than the 85-hp Yamaha it replaced, and is plenty powerful for our use. Best of all, it is less polluting than the old 2-stroke, so we will have less of an impact on the waters the Baykeeper patrols. These motors are expensive and beyond our means to purchase, so we are very grateful to the donor who made this retrofit possible.

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## **Thanks to the T. R. Meighen Family Foundation**

The Fundy Baykeeper has received the second of a three-year funding commitment from the T. R. Meighen Family Foundation, headquartered in St. Andrews. The \$30,000 grant covers the cost of the program until late fall.

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## **Friends of Fundy Baykeeper Needed!**

CCNB is actively fundraising to build the Baykeeper budget to cover a full year of activity. Even though the boat is out of the water, the problems don't take a winter break and need the ongoing involvement of our Fundy Baykeeper. Individuals can support by becoming a Friend of the Fundy Baykeeper. A minimum contribution of \$35 includes periodic Baykeeper Logs like this one (electronically or by mail or fax), opportunities to volunteer for and be involved in Baykeeper events, and a Conservation Council membership which includes EcoAlert, our quarterly newsletter on all environmental issues in the province. Charitable tax receipts are issued for additional donations.

**Contact Janice Harvey to sign up! Phone - 506-466-4033 or e-mail - [ccnbharvey@nb.aibn.com](mailto:ccnbharvey@nb.aibn.com).**

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## **Update: Case File #10: Irving Oil's multi-purpose dock, Mispec Point**

As everyone knows by now, NB Power's plans for burning Orimulsion® fuel in the Coleson Cove power plant have apparently gone up in smoke (see below). The fuel was to be unloaded at a multi-purpose dock being built by Irving Oil Ltd. in Mispec. The original purpose of the dock was to offload liquified natural gas (LNG) for a new plant that Irving plans to build at that site. The provincial Legislature's Crown Corporations Committee in its hearings into the Orimulsion fiasco revealed that NB Power had signed a contract to pay \$260 million of the cost of the unloading facility, \$200 million more than budgeted for in the Coleson Cove conversion budget. The government ordered an end to Orimulsion-related construction at the dock, although the LNG project is proceeding as far as we know. **File status: Open.**

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

The conversion of Coleson Cove to burn Orimulsion continues, despite the failure of NB Power to secure a contract for the delivery of the controversial fuel from Argentina. The plant will still be able to burn heavy oil, as it always has. The upgrade includes the installation of expensive scrubbers in the giant stacks which will reduce the sulphur emissions from the plant regardless of the fuel burned. It will also extend the life of the plant which remains New Brunswick's largest greenhouse gas emitter (20 percent of provincial emissions). Burning low sulphur oil would accomplish the same result. Fundy Baykeeper and CCNB Director Sharon Flatt continue to sit on the community liaison committee set up by NB Power under the terms of the environmental impact assessment report. The Conservation Council opposed the Orimulsion proposal, advocating instead the construction of smaller natural gas turbines and an aggressive fuel conversion program for residential and business sectors, to reduce the electricity demand during winter peaks. The Federal government and natural gas company, Enbridge Gas, has just announced such a conversion program. Fredericton MP Andy Scott, Minister in charge of infrastructure, made the announcement last Friday. **File status: Open.**

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## **New: Case File #12: Whither Point Lepreau and its radioactive waste?**

The Point Lepreau Nuclear Power Generating Station is the only nuclear plant in Atlantic Canada and sits on the shores of the Bay of Fundy between Dipper Harbour and Maces Bay. Due to premature brittling of critical components in the “hot” core of the reactor, the plant will not get to its original “end of life” date (2013) without spending \$1.4 billion. This is what it cost to built the plant in the first place (1983 dollars) and covers re-tubing the core of the reactor and buying replacement power for the projected 18-months the plant would be out of service. This price tag does not include the cost of long term (thousands of years) management of the high level radioactive waste the plant generates. The cost of managing the additional radioactive waste that would be generated over another 20 years of operation is estimated at \$400 million. Meanwhile, the federal government has launched a national consultation to figure out what to do with the radioactive waste we already have. The waste generated at Point Lepreau is currently sitting in pools of water and dry concrete silos on the plant property. When Lepreau was built, it was with the understanding that there would be a central national underground repository in the Canadian Shield to which this dangerous waste would be shipped. It hasn’t happened.

The Fundy Baykeeper and the Conservation Council oppose this proposal to rebuild the reactor core and generate radioactive waste for another 20 years. Baykeeper David Thompson is participating in the national nuclear waste consultation, advancing the position that we shouldn’t impose our radioactive burden on other communities outside New Brunswick, and that we have a responsibility to manage it ourselves, although the Point Lepreau site should not be its permanent resting place, since it is on an active geological fault line. **File status: Open.**