

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

October, 2007 ~ Autumn 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. BoFEP Annual General Meeting

The BoFEP Annual General Meeting will be held during the last two weeks in November in Sackville New Brunswick, most likely at the CWS offices. The BoFEP Steering Committee will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the Annual General Meeting will be held from

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. You will be notified shortly of the precise date and location. We are also planning a short informative speaker program before the AGM and final details will also be announced soon. It is important that as many members of BoFEP as possible participate in this AGM so that we can establish the general orientation and program activities of BoFEP during the coming year. The Sackville location was selected to facilitate participation by members from both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

2. BoFEP Receives Funding from EC

The BoFEP Management Committee was pleased to learn in mid August that Environment Canada would be providing financial support for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Hopefully, this will permit many of the working groups to pursue some of their activities that were put on hold as a result of funding delays. A full report of the BoFEP budget and an update on the current financial situation will be presented to members at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

3. Article on Climate Change in Bay of Fundy

BoFEP's Communications Coordinator Jon Percy has an overview article on climate change and the Bay of Fundy in the September issue of "Éléments", the online environmental magazine of the New Brunswick Environmental Network. The article entitled "A Rising Tide of Change" is one of several in the theme issue "Our Endangered Coasts: The Effects of Climate Change". All of the articles can be found on the NBEN Website at: <http://www.elements.nb.ca/theme/theme.htm>

4. Concern about Industrialization of Bay of Fundy

The August 2nd edition of Steve Hawboldt's environmental column in the Annapolis County Spectator focused on BoFEP and its efforts in the face of industrialization of the Bay of Fundy. He began *"at a press conference held last week on environmental concerns in Nova Scotia, Peter Wells, Acting Chair of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP), talked about the industrialization of the Bay of Fundy. This is an apt description of what is happening ton the Bay of Fundy"*. He goes on to note that, *"BoFEP is a well respected network of academic and government scientists, community organizations and others who are concerned about the Bay of Fundy. They have sponsored several workshops and other events on environmental issues facing the Bay. When one looks at the range of projects being developed or proposed around the Bay, it is easy to see why some within the BoFEP network might be concerned about the industrialization of the Bay of Fundy"*. The column describes some of the activities currently threatening the health of the Bay and concludes *"Wells put it quite simply, knowledge about the stresses facing the Bay is critical to using these vast resources in a sustainable way. This work is critical for we are witnessing the industrialization of the Bay of Fundy"*. The complete column can be read as a PDF file at: <http://www.bofep.org/PDFfiles/industrializationBoF.pdf>

B. Partners and other organizations:

5. New Fundy Biosphere Reserve Designated by UNESCO

The Fundy Biosphere Reserve is finally a reality! It is one of twenty-three new sites in 18 countries that was recently added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems that aim to promote solutions to reconcile biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use. The new Fundy Reserve is located on the New Brunswick side of the upper bay. Some of the earliest colonial settlements in North America occurred in this region. Artifacts from previous aboriginal generations that inhabited this Bay of Fundy region date back more than 6,000 years. The total area is 432,000 hectares, of which 9,940 hectares of estuarine coastal habitat, with a very diverse topography, which ranges from towering cliffs to broad sweeping salt marshes at the head of the bay. The stakeholder group called 'Fundy Biosphere Regional Network' is providing innovative practices for sustainable development. Congratulations to the dedicated team who spent years carefully creating the successful submission. For more information visit the UNESCO Website at:

http://www.unesco.org/mab/BRs/new_BRs2007.shtml

6. Fundy Tidal Power Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association provides detailed information about the Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment on its Website below. *"Nova Scotia has committed to generate almost 20 per cent of the province's electricity through renewable energy by 2013. The Nova Scotia Department of Energy has commissioned the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process to help answer these questions. The SEA is an environmental assessment process carried out before decisions have to be made about specific projects. It involves the participation of a wide range of stakeholders and the general public, and will result in recommendations to the provincial government on whether, where and how to develop tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy. At the same time, the Province of New Brunswick will be carrying out its own tidal energy SEA, and OEER will collaborate with the New Brunswick Department of Energy to share information and ideas."*

Issues of the Fundy SEA Newsletter "Currents" can also be accessed on this Website:

http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca/Portals/0/SEA%20Newsletter%20July_D4.pdf

7. Report from Ecosystem Indicators Partnership Meeting Available

The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) and Climate Change Network held a joint meeting on 11 June 2007 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. ESIP is a committee of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment responsible for developing indicators for the Gulf of Maine and integrating regional data for a new Web-based reporting system for marine ecosystem monitoring. Activities of ESIP initially center on convening regional practitioners in six indicator areas: coastal development, contaminants and pathogens, eutrophication, aquatic habitat, fisheries and aquaculture, and climate change. Two presentations from the June meeting and a summary of the ESIP portion of the meeting are available on the ESIP Webpage at: <http://gulfofmaine.org/esip/index.php>

8. New e-newsletter on Ecosystem-based Management in GOM

A new email newsletter is being launched to share news, analysis and points of view about ecosystem-based management in the Gulf of Maine. To subscribe (free) or to contribute information, email Peter Taylor at gulfofmaine@ecosystembasedmanagement.net.

While on the subject of Ecosystem-based Management, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is planning on holding a one day forum on the topic in conjunction with the Council and Working Group meetings in Boston, December 3-6, 2007. Further details will be available shortly on the GOMCME website www.gulfofmaine.org

9. New Report on Morphodynamics of Avon River Estuary

Researchers at St. Mary's University in Halifax have just (September 30th) released a report entitled "The Intertidal Morphodynamics of the of the Avon River Estuary. The report, prepared for the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works, was authored by by Danika van Proosdij of the Department of Geography and Greg Baker of the Maritime Provinces Spatial Analysis Research Centre (MP_SpARC) at the University. The 186 page report concludes (amongst other things) that: *"The river has likely now achieved a new equilibrium state and any modifications to the system (e.g. construction or modification of tidal barriers) will likely disrupt the equilibrium with no guarantee as to how the system might respond. The risk to the causeway from storm surges or wave effects is low due to the presence of the salt marsh, which acts as a natural form of coastal defense. However, with the approach of the Saros Tides [~18 year tidal cycle] in 2012-13, the risk will increase and should be assessed further. Additionally, there is a greater risk to the causeway from freshwater flooding, depending on the timing of the storm relative to high tide. Additional research and high resolution data, particularly lidar and high resolution satellite imagery as well as modern measures of the sediment dynamics of the system will be required before any predictions can be made regarding the impacts of modifying the existing causeway and identifying specific areas at risk from flooding."*

C. Fundy/GOM and other News:

10. EIA Panel Recommends Against Whites Point Quarry

The Panel reviewing the proposed Whites Point Mega-Quarry on Digby Neck has come out very strongly against proceeding with the project. They state that "the Project is likely to cause adverse environmental effects that, in the opinion of the panel, cannot be justified in the circumstances". Encouragingly the panel also "recommends a moratorium on new approvals for [quarry] development along the North Mountain until the Province of Nova Scotia has thoroughly reviewed this type of initiative within the context of a comprehensive coastal zone management policy". Of even wider import is the panels welcome recommendation that "the Province of Nova Scotia develop and implement a comprehensive coastal zone management policy or plan for the Province". This is something that BoFEP and many other groups have been advocating for a long time. Hopefully, this will stimulate the Province to finally deal seriously and competently with this important issue. While the Provincial Government will be making the final decision, it appears that this report will be virtually impossible for a minority government to ignore. The Executive Summary (pdf format 416kb) of the panel report is available on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Website at: http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/010/0001/0001/0023/summary_e.pdf
A copy of the full report (pdf format 4.1 MB) is available on the NS Department of Environment and Labour Website at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ea/whitespointquarry/WhitesPointQuarryFinalReport.pdf>

11. Fact Sheets on NB Watersheds Available

The New Brunswick Environment Department has prepared a series of ten informative fact sheets (in PowerPoint and PDF formats) about various watersheds in the Province, including the Saint John, the St. Croix and the Petitcodiac. Each fact sheet provides information about the watershed location, physical setting and climate, fish community, land use, geology as well as various water quality indicators and details about community involvement in stewardship of the watershed. The fact sheets can be downloaded at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0371/0013/index-e.asp>

12. Report on Sustainable Coastal Tourism in NS

A report entitled "Nova Scotia Strategy for Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development" includes recommendations that are grouped under Leadership, Product and Experience Development, Economic Viability, and Conservation and Stewardship. The goal of the Strategy is to protect Nova Scotia's natural, cultural, social and built coastal tourism assets while enhancing their tourism potential. For more information visit the NS Vision for Tourism Website at:

<http://www.nstourismvision.com/vision/coastalstrategy.php>

13. NB Climate Action Fund RFP

The deadline for submitting project proposals to the New Brunswick Climate Action Fund for funding this fiscal year is November 2nd, 2007. The New Brunswick Climate Action Fund (EcoTrust) provides financial support for eligible projects that support the emissions reduction objectives outlined in the New Brunswick Climate Change Action Plan. The \$34 million provided by the Government of Canada's EcoTrust is to be distributed over a three-year period. Projects must result in greenhouse gas and related air emissions reductions and/or avoidance of future emissions in support of the New Brunswick Climate Action Plan. Fund objectives and application forms can be found at::

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/index-e.asp>

14. Comments Invited on Report on NB Fisheries Renewal

The deadline for submission of comments on the NB Fisheries Stakeholder Action Group reports is November 9th, 2007. The reports, which form part of the Fisheries Renewal Framework for New Brunswick, include reports on marketing, harvesting, processing and governance and recommend strategies and priorities for securing the viability and sustainability of New Brunswick's fishing and seafood processing industry. "These reports reflect the views of many knowledgeable industry stakeholders, who generously devoted numerous hours to participate in this important process of renewal." The various reports can be viewed at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/9999/0003-e.asp>

15. Salt Marsh Restoration and Sea-level Rise

The Coastal Wetlands Institute and the Rural and Small Town Programme at Mount Alison University have released a report on salt marshes in relation to sea-level change. Entitled "Examining Community Adaptive Capacity to Address Climate Change, Sea-level Rise and Salt Marsh Restoration in Maritime Canada", the report was prepared for the Canadian Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program. It focuses on the ecological,

economic, social and policy conditions under which a community might employ dyke removal and salt marsh restoration as an adaptive response to future climate change and sea level rise. The full report can be found at:

http://www.mta.ca/rstp/CCIAP_Project_A1106_Final_Report1.pdf

16. Report on Sustainable Lobster Fishery in Maritimes

The Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC) of Canada has released its report entitled "Sustainability Framework for Atlantic Lobster, 2007". The report proposes directions and options to minimize risk and to enhance the sustainability of the fishery. The FRCC believes that it is very important for the industry to adjust and control fishing effort to maintain balance with the available resource. Many factors – higher fishing costs, larger vessels, etc. - have exacerbated the pressure for additional landings and are becoming threats to sustainability of the lobster fishery. The report can be found on the FRCC Website at:

<http://www.frcc-ccrh.ca/NEWSREL/2007/releaseE.htm>

17. New Website Features Fundy Park Hiking Trails

A new Website may be of interest to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, especially those visiting Fundy National Park. Self-styled SherpaJeff (Jeff and Donna Gray of Fredericton) has created a fascinating website about the Park and its trails. He writes, *"Although I have hiked and geocached on many trails in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, I have an affinity for a couple of areas: Fundy National Park (I have hiked every inch of trail there); Cape Chignecto and Kenomee Canyon. Please enjoy the photo gallery, which includes many photos from these areas. I would also be glad to share any insights I have with you. Review some of the essays included in the "On the Trail " section where I have attempted to include useful information. I have added a NEW Geocaching section in "On The Trail" where I will continue to build information on this fun outdoor activity."* The site also includes a collection of links to Fundy-related hiking, other regional parks and trail organizations. Check it out at: <http://www.sherpajeff.com/index.cfm>

18. Joggins Fossil Site visited by UNESCO team

The Halifax Chronicle Herald reports that a team of field advisors from UNESCO visited the world famous fossil cliffs and surrounding area for 6 days recently as part of the ongoing application process for having the site designated as a World Heritage Site. The team was tight-lipped about their recommendations that will be included in a report to UNESCO that should be available to the public next May. UNESCO will consider these recommendations and a final decision will be made at a meeting to be held in Quebec next July. Various levels of government have already committed about 9 million dollars for the design and construction of an interpretation centre that should be ready for opening in December. The complete story can be found online at:

<http://www.thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotia/973905.html>

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.