



THE BLUE HERON

The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society

P.O. Box 158, Baddeck, Nova Scotia B0E 1B0

VOLUME 11

JULY 2008

NO. 2

It is always a challenge to put together each issue of The Blue Heron. Our focus is always on the Bras d'Or Lakes and its stewardship casting a cautious, but albeit a sharp eye for any news or events that may impact on the objectives of the Society.

With this in mind there are many ways through which the Society wields its influence to bring attention to concerns that are not always clearly or easily understood. Our monthly board meetings become a clearing house for information on many issues through on-going discussions and debate.

Perhaps the most important tool at our disposal is our ability to write letters to bring attention to the concerns which are determined to be of significant importance to the

protection of the Bras d'Or Lakes and its watershed. By crafting and sending letters, both a file and track record are initiated for historical referral purposes.

Often one letter is not sufficient to garner the attention of government departments. Hence, more letters are composed and sent. Replies received provide the beginnings of a dialogue which can be further enhanced by writing more letters. This comes under a mandate to keep the pressure on in the pursuit of getting results. By writing letters to seek clarification of issues or report occurrences that may be detrimental to the protection, conservation and the restoration of the Bras d'Or watershed, incremental progress has been achieved.

Raising the level of awareness of potential threats and on the ground adverse activities that defy environmental regulations is always necessary; a case in point being the Crowdus Mountain waste pit. If pressure had not been brought to bear, no remedial action would have been undertaken. Individuals have also made a huge difference through their dogged letter writing persistence.

Persistence is the key ingredient to the Society's efforts. Some may argue that letters do not make a difference. We have found the opposite. Letter writing is indeed an effective and important tool for getting results!

In This Issue

	Page
The Economy Versus the Environment	2
News Items	3
Coastal Action Update From The Ecology Action Centre	4
The Whycocomagh Eco-Center	5
Bras d'Or Lake Development Standards	5
Climate Change in Cape Breton Province Commits to Coastal Development Strategy	6
	7

NOTICE

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL IN BADDECK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2008 AT 2:00 PM.
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AS WELL AS INTERESTED CITIZENS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE STEWARDSHIP OF THE BRAS D'OR LAKES.

“Our goal is to protect, conserve and restore the Bras d'Or Lakes”



The Economy Versus The Environment

Where is The Balance?

The debate continues, the sounds increase, the changes in values take different shapes and forms. Frequently we hear the expression "The more things change the more they stay the same." Whether or not attitudes vary in different regions of the country is not clear. However, there is one certainty that in more economically disparate regions the debate takes on a sharper tone and some willingness to place the environment at risk in the interest of new business investment and job creation.

The climate in which we live (no pun intended) is drawing and driving our population into polarized positions. Two separate but tightly connected phenomena are current major influences. In the first instance, the entire discussion and debate around climate change and Kyoto have resonated with most people. The notion that the scientists are more believable than the politicians is gaining credence and the ability of our government and leaders to manage a credible response to the challenge is highly questionable. This comes at a time when our population is becoming more engaged in many aspects of environmental activism.

Conversely, the Canadian economy is humming along quite nicely and as always, there never seems to be an appropriate time to raise the core questions, "How much real thought can be applied to establishing and enforcing regulations to protect the environment before inciting complaints from the economic and business sectors? Have not environmental protection and climate change become of such priority status with us that we are ready to change our personal habits and attitudes and are prepared to accept some economic pain as the necessary price for protecting the planet?"

Can we pay more than lip service to the cliché "Think globally, act locally" when all of our important decisions are supposed to be evidence based. For example, on the grander scale, the preponderance of scientific evidence is clear. The burning of fossil fuels is a major contributor to climate change and global warming, yet the existing sunk costs of our investment prohibits the hard decisions to reduce or curtail such activity. Indeed we proceed to place new investments in this area.

My question might be, "Are we

not sharp and innovative enough to have the best of both worlds?" There are probably separate but collaborative roles to be played both by the private and public sectors. For example, for existing or potentially new entrepreneurs interested in supplying the growing market for environmental products and services, the Global Environmental Market is estimated at over \$900 billion. There are already developed Canadian technologies in areas such as membrane systems, UV Technology, fuel cells, waste water treatment, recycling, air pollution, noise protection and so on. Smaller firms can frequently secure new business in the sub-contractor supply business in any one of the above categories. The environmental technology center (ETC) of Environment Canada has a host of information and research material available online at www.etcentre.org/main/e/about/about.html or www.eco-web.com.

Further, the Nova Scotia Environmental Industry Association publishes a Product and Services Directory listing information on a large number of provincial firms already involved in various aspects of the environmental business sector. The information in this publication can provide new ideas for new products or provide a service to customers for new entrants to the E-Sector.

Larger projects tend to be either in the public domain or represent something of a private-public partnership. Two examples close to home here in Cape Breton might be the strip mining on Boularderie and on the Northside and the proposed wind/hydro project near Lake Uist in the Loch Lomond District. Although of a different nature and configuration, these types of projects incite a high level of interest, pro and con in their development and execution. A current view is, have we

developed the right set of tools to adjudicate these projects where a high level of public interest and support is at stake?

Government decisions approving or rejecting projects similar to those referred to above should be made within the framework of a high level of transparency if the desired legitimacy is to be secured. Frequently, the decisions appear to be drawn from high levels of emotion and advocacy politics. Two well proven tools are "cost-benefit" analysis and modeling. Both of these tools are very helpful when more than lip service is paid to the manner in which they are employed. The former services the project assessment process best when pains are taken to establish accurate or good costing practices as value of public goods. Benefits, both economical, social and environmental, are approved in roughly the same way. The final numbers are usually a good indication as to whether approval or rejection best favors public interest.

In a similar respect, design or technical modeling, when coupled with cost-benefit analysis, serves to display high profile projects with a clarity that can help strip away some of the emotion and advocacy politics that frequently cloud the issues. For those interested, excellent literature is readily available on both of these instruments.

The importance of this topic is in the pressing need to advance our commitment for stronger support for all segments of our environment while recognizing the risks that sometimes must be experienced in attempting to establish a new and improved economy.

Pat Bates, Chairman

NEWS ITEMS:

Society AGM:

On March 23, 2008 the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum. Just over 25 individuals attended the meeting. Executive reports were given. Joe Harvey made a presentation regarding the migration of land titles in the province of Nova Scotia. This is a complex topic about which the public requires more education. Land title migration under the Land Registration Act of 2001 can be a complicated and a vexing process if one ends up on the wrong side of the fence.

Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere AGM:

On May 12, 2008 the Annual General Meeting of the Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Society was held in Little Bras d'Or. The meeting focused on the progress made to date, to have the Bras d'Or Lakes and its watershed designated a 'biosphere'. You may review the biosphere designation progress at the following web site: www.blbra.ca

Erroneously Migrated Property Returned to the Crown:

In April 2008, a storefront property in Big Harbor once used as a public wharf, was returned to the Province of Nova Scotia. This property had been erroneously migrated in a January 2007 land sale that failed to 'except' this property from the title migration prior to the sale. After local protest and much letter writing, the province rescinded the title migration to retain its rightful and historical ownership of the property. This property provides access to the waterfront to the local public community.

Lake Uist Project:

It has been brought to the attention of the Society's board that a project is being proposed to generate power from the waters of Lake Uist. Lake Uist is located in Richmond County. Although not in the Bras d'Or Lakes' water shed, concerns have been voiced about the true value and environmental impact of this project. Community meetings have been held to inform the public of this project. (See Pat Bates's letter to Luciano Lisi)

CROWN SHARE FUNDS:

On July 13, 2008 an agreement was signed by the Province of Nova Scotia and the Federal government that will see \$870,000,000.00 returned to Nova Scotia over the next fifteen years under the Crown Share Adjustment Agreement. A sum \$25,000,000.00 from this money has been ear-marked for Nova Scotia land conservation and protection. Hopefully, ecologically significant property in the Bras d'Or watershed may benefit from the proposed funding formula.

WHYCOCOMAGH ECO-CENTER: STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The village of Whycocomagh has been a leader through its community school over many years through the participation of its teachers and students in environmental education and awareness building. Much of the activity has centered on the Bras d'Or Lake with emphasis on learning related to fish and marine related species as well as water quality and algae.

This year, the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society has hired, through the Service Canada Program, Miss Bridget Campbell, a student at St. Francis Xavier University who is assigned

to work under the direction of the supervisors of the Eco-Center. We are pleased to collaborate with the school in this manner, since the work carried out by the students at the Eco-Center is complimentary to the work of the Society. A description and history of the center is printed in this newsletter.

Kildare Landing:

In the spring of 2008, press releases announced the development of a condominium community on land adjacent to the Bell Bay Golf course on the Bay Road in Baddeck. This development will consist of individual condominiums and two town house units. The site has a fine view of Baddeck Bay and Beinn Breagh. Aggressive marketing is taking place to solicit buyers. Construction is imminent as equipment is now on site.

Society Membership Numbers:

Society membership is always a concern. Over the past three years, society membership numbers have declined incrementally. 300 newsletters are printed and mailed out twice a year. To date our 2008 membership number is just over 100. We need the support of the public to carry out the Society's work.

Summer Meeting August 9, 2008:

As per the announcement on the front page, a semi-annual meeting of the Society will be held at the Community Hall in Baddeck at 2PM on Saturday, August 9, 2008. This summer meeting is held to provide information on the Society's activities. All are welcomed to attend.

Coastal Action Update From The Ecology Action Centre

Nova Scotians care deeply about their coasts. Individuals and groups around the province are involved in watershed stewardship, coastal land acquisition, municipal planning strategies, and campaigns to prevent inappropriate development in ecologically sensitive coastal areas. I am always inspired and humbled to work with so many people and organizations to protect Nova Scotia's coasts – it is by far the most amazing part of my job. The last year has been exciting for those working on coastal issues in Nova Scotia. We are making a difference. As a direct result of our efforts, there is now a window of opportunity to move forward on a provincial coastal development strategy, and I anticipate the next year will be just as eventful. This article outlines just a few activities the EAC's Coastal Issues Committee has been involved with recently, and what's coming up over the next few months.

The province is developing a provincial water strategy by 2010. They prepared a discussion paper and conducted an initial round of public consultations around the province. There will be further public consultations and submission in the spring of 2009. Land use planning and watershed management will have a huge influence on the health of our coastal areas, so the water strategy is important for those who care about coastal protection and management. The EAC's submission to the water strategy is available at www.ecologyaction.ca/water.

This is evidently the "Year of the Public Consultation". The Department of Natural Resources is hosting public consultations on the province's parks, forest, mining, and biodiversity. Thus far, although coastal protection has been a consistent theme during the hearings, there have been few specific comments about provincial beaches, beach parks, and the importance of strengthening the provincial Beaches Act. Written submissions can be made until July 31st. The EAC has prepared some information sheets and they are available at www.novascotiaforest.ca along with information on how to make a written submission.

As summer finally hits our shores, EAC is continuing its ongoing "Better Beaches Management" research project. We will produce a research report on Nova Scotia's beaches early this fall, and host a beach symposium in late November 2008. Stay tuned for more information.

Also, stay tuned for going Coastal – an ongoing series on CBC radio about

Coastal Issues in Nova Scotia. You can listen to past programs, submit comments and ideas for future shows, and view a photo gallery at the CBC Nova Scotia website. www.cbc.ca/ns/features/goingcoastal. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise public and media awareness about the good, the bad, and the ugly about coastal development in Nova Scotia, as well as to highlight the work of your organization...

Public education and outreach is a key part of coastal work at the EAC. We have updated Navigating the Maze – A Citizen's Guide to Coastal Action in Nova Scotia, which can be downloaded from our website at www.ecologyaction.ca under the coastal section. We have also developed some fun educational materials for children which we used as part of our Oceans Day display on the Halifax waterfront.

I will travel just about anywhere to meet with groups interested in coastal management in Nova Scotia. Over the past year, I have made presentations to many university classes, community groups, and business associations around the province. More and more people are starting to speak out about their vision for coastal management in Nova Scotia. Over the next few months, I hope to visit even more parts of the province and speak with even more people about coastal management in Nova Scotia to help create a "Pathways to Sustainable Coasts" document that will play a key role in shaping the emerging provincial coastal development strategy.

The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society

is one of the most respected coastal/watershed organizations in the province.

I look forward to ongoing collaboration between the EAC and Stewardship Society over the next year and beyond. One of the most significant coastal victories over the last year was the halting of the proposed basalt quarry in Digby Neck. This victory was only possible because a local organization – the in fatigable Partnership for Sustainable Digby Neck and the Islands - worked together to protect their coast and received support from groups and organizations from around Nova Scotia. The stopping of the quarry and the subsequent provincial announcement of a coastal zone management framework have resonated around the province and shown us what is possible.

To learn more about the work of the Coastal Issues Committee, contact Jen Graham, Coastal Coordinator coastal@ecologyaction.ca or 902-442-5046.

Jennifer Graham
EAC Coastal Coordinator



The Whycocomagh Eco-Center

The Whycocomagh Eco-Centre is situated on the picturesque shores of the Bras d'Or lakes in Whycocomagh, Cape Breton, with access to the Skye River Estuary (where salt and fresh water meet). It is a non-profit organization aimed at creating a connection between people and our environment as well as an understanding of our relationship with the earth community. With a facility to accommodate visitors and programs to go along with it, the centre promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of nature through education of the importance of a healthy and sustainable world.

The centre opened its doors in the Whycocomagh Education Centre building on 50 Old Road, Whycocomagh, in late 2005 and has been in operation ever since. It took the efforts of Whycocomagh Education Centre, Whycocomagh Development Commission, Whycocomagh School Advisory Council, Saint Francis Xavier University, and other community organizations to make the vision a reality.

The centre provides programs not only for schools and tourists, but also for community members and anyone who has an interest in nature and culture. Interpretive tours of the lab, the greenhouse and the waterfront are offered, as well as children's camps. The programs could be focused on nature hikes, touch tanks, eagles, plankton, trees, insects and more. The school programs follow the Nova Scotia school curriculum and are environmentally themed. In addition, the centre holds eco-camps from Tuesday to Thursday through the summer for youth aged 4-14, which include games, music and art to learn about nature, our local environment, and culture.

This year the Eco-Centre conducted a project called the Fisheries Focus.

Fisheries Focus was a pilot project designed by CVRB (Comité de valorisation de la rivière Beauport), an organization in Quebec that promotes fish habitat awareness and fish conservation. Additional resources were used from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Provincial Fish Hatcheries to carry out this project. The project dealt with students from grades 6-9 concerning the issue of lost habitat for the trout and how acid rain negatively affects salmon in order to inspire the public to take action in helping to restock local fish populations. Students had the opportunity to embark on an educational field trip to the Margaree Fish Hatchery to learn through hands on experience.

The centre holds claim to a number of different plants and critters in the lab, the most popular being the sociable red eared slider turtles named Speedy and Slider who are free to roam around the centre each day. Occasionally Speedy may even follow visitors around like a lost puppy, begging for attention. The centre's touch tanks allow the public to get up close and personal with Whycocomagh's underwater community. Starfish, sea urchins, sea anemone, and a crab common to our lakes call the eco-centre home. Other critters sharing or space include premature trout, tadpoles and an eel.

Visitors to the Eco-Centre may also enjoy the painted Murals of Ken Lywood, Lisa Nichi, and Emily MacDonald that bring life to the walls, or perhaps the native mask donated by Ernie Canning which brings a bit of culture into the centre as well. The lab also displays paintings donated by Anne Camozzi and several art projects made by students from WEC that display the students' knowledge and appreciation of the world's natural beauty as well as their ability to reuse some old materials to create something new and beautiful. The various pieces of art help to decorate the Eco-Centre and bring a relaxing, natural feel inside.

Also on display for a limited time are a stuffed marten, a Lynx, a spruce grouse, and two foxes loaned to the centre by the Department of Natural Resources. Some other interesting objects include a wasp's nest, fossils, and a bull skull. This year the Eco-Centre is working on adding a bit of culture into the mix, as the scenery is not all that makes Cape Breton a famous and well sought out destination.

A virtual tour of the Eco-Centre and more information can be found on www.whycocomaghecocentre.com. The Centre is open weekdays from 8am to 3pm through the summer and the public is encouraged to drop in and check us out.

by Bridget Campbell (Summer Student)

Bras d'Or Lake Development Standards:

A Prescription for Planning

The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society, in its ongoing assessment and monitoring of risks to the Bras d'Or, has become increasingly aware of the combined problems of beach erosion caused by rising water levels, land scarification and excess run-off due in many respects to indiscriminate construction of haulage roads. A current backdrop to this experience is the concern with the predictions falling from the climate change and Global Warming discussions.

Sea Level Rise is driving new concerns related to the proper setback distances for new building construction relative to high water levels around the Lake. It also has given rise to current efforts by Environmental Protection Agencies supported by Governments to develop a Coastal Zone Management Plan

...cont'd on page 6

*Bras d'Or Lake Development Standards
cont'd...*

which will include the Bras d'Or Lake.

The Province of New Brunswick has already developed a Coastal Area Protection Policy. Also, an excellent article describing sea level rise and the impact on coastal area lands has been written by John Shaw, Bob Taylor and others of the Atlantic Geoscience Center, National Resources Canada.

To assist in securing a better understanding of management of Lands adjacent to the coastal area of the Bras d'Or Lake, the Stewardship Society, as part of the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) for the Bras d'Or Watershed, has sponsored a study into recommended good Land Use Planning Practices for the Land resources within the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed. The Study and resultant Report, now completed, was conducted by Environmental Design & Management Ltd. (EDM) and is being reviewed by a steering committee that will plan for its presentation and distribution during the fall of this year.

The overall objective is to encourage municipal governments and their respective planning departments to consider some good practices when examining proposals for future growth in Land Use development and management within the Bras d'Or Lake Watershed.

Pat Bates, Chairman

change. We have to look beyond nature to the many people who work diligently as another indicator of change. Here are a few of the ways individuals are working to make that change happen on Cape Breton Island.

One year ago the Bras d'Or Stewardship celebrated its 10th anniversary. On that occasion Peter Corbyn from Fredericton, New Brunswick was the guest speaker. It was the first time that the Inconvenient Truth slide show was presented in Cape Breton. In April 2008, two hundred and eight people were personally trained by Al Gore; two of these candidates are from Cape Breton; Eleanor Anderson, Executive Director of ACAP C.B. and Dr. Chris Milburn an ER Doctor at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. Together Eleanor and Chris have presented the Inconvenient Truth slide show on six occasions to approximately two hundred and sixty five people; most of which were interested Cape Bretoners.

Climate change is a major challenge but having trained presenters such as Eleanor and Chris to inform and educate the public will make a great difference to the environment of Cape Breton Island.

Anyone who has visited ACAP-CB "The Center for Sustainable Communities" have received some information on the responsibility each of us have in helping make our environment a safer, cleaner place to live. It's encouraging to see how many schools in the area take students on tours of ACAP. These young people learn many things regarding water usage, organics, home energy, and solid waste. These are but a few of the things being taught. Another component is a partnership with Shipyard Elementary School in Sydney where they are developing an Outdoor Learning Centre where teachers and students will have an opportunity to learn about various aspects of the environment through hands-on- interactive education. If we are concerned about climate

change, we as private citizens must also become educated.

The Inconvenient Truth slide show presentation is very alarming, but factual.

Giving our young people the tools they need to take care of their environment, gives the rest of us hope. This will only come from dedication and hard work from parents, teachers, and trainer presenters such as Eleanor and Chris.

Mabel MacEachern, Board Member.

"If you have a connection with nature,
we have a connection with you."

***The Bras d'Or
Stewardship Society
is interested in
contributions from
our members. If
you have something
to contribute to
the Newsletter or
would like to work
with the society's
board, please let us
know. The society
is an all volunteer
organization that
welcomes input from
individuals interested
in promoting the
conservation,
protection and
restoration of the
Bras d'Or Lakes and
its watershed.***

Climate Change in Cape Breton

We watch the changing seasons and we discuss the weather patterns. This is our most obvious indicator of climate

Province Commits To Coastal Development Strategy

By Jennifer Graham, Coastal Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre

The province of Nova Scotia is finally taking some welcome steps forward on coastal management. It is critical that the government hears that citizens, community groups and business welcome this announcement and want to see a coastal development strategy in place.

On June 5th 2008, the government launched a Coastal Management Framework. The coastal framework outlines strategic activities for the next two years, including the development of a Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy by 2010. The Fisheries and Aquaculture website outlines the framework www.gov.ns.ca/fish/marine/coastalzone

In his news release, the Honorable Ron Chislon, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture said “Our coastal areas and resources are the foundation of this province’s economy, culture and heritage, but they are a finite resource and the demand for their services is increasing. Sustainable development in Nova Scotia means that we need to carefully plan and manage our coastal areas and resources to ensure that current and future generations of Nova Scotians can continue to prosper.” In the spring 2008 Budget, the province committed \$200,000 for the framework. http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/site-finance/media/finance/08_address.pdf

The Province's priority coastal issues are:

- * Coastal development
- * Sea-level rise/storm events
- * Public coastal access
- * Working waterfronts
- * Coastal ecosystems
- * Water quality

Over the next two years, the Province will develop:

- * ³State of the Coast² Report
- * Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy
- * Coastal Research Network
- * Mapping important coastal areas
- * Coastal web portal
- * Public awareness, education
- * Formal partnership with the Federal government

Most of these activities seem to be mostly about generating and distributing coastal information. The Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy (which is promised by 2010) is the only part of the framework that has the potential to resolve pressing issues, such as the loss and degradation of sensitive coastal habitats, emerging conflicts around new activities in the coastal zone, the negative environmental consequences of poorly planned coastal development, and the skyrocketing costs of protecting and repairing coastal infrastructure destroyed by storm surges and flooding.

The Coastal Development Strategy is also the only part of the framework that we, the public, can actively influence. It is critical that the Province continues to feel that the public wants coastal management and are waiting for action and results. This is why it is so important to congratulate the Province on its coastal framework initiative and urge them to move ahead with implementing clear rules around what activities are appropriate and which are not in sensitive coastal areas

Send your letters to
Honorable Ron Chisholm
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
P.O. Box 2223, Halifax NS B3J 3C4.
min_dfa@gov.ns.ca

The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society

Addresses and telephone numbers of the Board of Directors

Pat Bates,
Chairman
27 Wyndale Crescent
Sydney, N.S.
B1S 3L4
(902) 567-0827

Rosemary Burns,
Vice Chair
3042 West Bay Highway
St. George's Channel
RR #2 West Bay, N.S.
B0E 3K0
(902) 345-2896

Lynn Baechler,
Secretary
92 Crestdale Drive
Sydney, N.S.
B1L 1A1
(902) 564-9303

Mabel MacEachern
93 Rigby Street
Sydney, NS B1P 4T5
(902) 562-6138

Henry W. Fuller,
Treasurer
RR#2 #1065 Big Harbour
Baddeck, N.S.
B0E 1B0
(902) 295-2664

Dr. James V. O'Brien
RR#2 #1180 Big Harbour
Baddeck, N.S.
B0E 1B0
(902) 295-2344

Timothy Lambert
Lower Ship Harbour
RR#1,
Lake Charlotte #752
Nova Scotia
B0J 1Y0
(902) 845-2189

David L. Gunn
2792 RR#2
West Bay, N.S.
B0E 3K0
(902) 345-2263

Laurie Sutor
268 Church Point Road
P.O. Box 2,
River Bourgeois, N.S.
B0E 2X0
(902) 535 3835

Walter MacNeil
41 Grove St.
Sydney, N.S.
B1P 3M7
(902) 562-5434

Stephen Sober
RR #2
River Denys, N.S.
B0E 2Y0
(902) 756-2390

James M. Crawford
#894 Ainslie Glen
P.O. Box 277
Whycocomagh, N.S.
B0E 3M0
(902) 756-3264

Bras d'Or Watch
to report any observed acts, incidents and violations that threaten
the integrity of Bras d'Or Lakes please call:

1 800 565 1633

Our Email: stewardship@baddeck.com

2008

BRAS D'OR STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

MEMBER \$15.00
FAMILY \$25.00
CONTRIBUTOR \$50.00
SUPPORTER \$100.00
LIFETIME MEMBER \$500.00

Yes, I am in favour of conserving and restoring the
Bras d'Or Lake and watershed through
responsible stewardship.

Name _____

Address _____

Mail check or money order along with your name
and address to:

Bras d'Or Stewardship Society
P.O. Box 158
Baddeck, Nova Scotia, B0E 1B0

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Fax _____

Letter To: Luciano Lisi

Regarding the Lake Uist Project

June 19, 2008

Mr. Luciano Lisi
11 Eleventh St.
Glace Bay, NS
B1A 4M3

Dear Mr. Lisi:

The Bras d'Or Stewardship Society has been following the proposed hydro electric development project in the Lake Uist area. We are considering our position regarding this proposal, but find we are missing some relevant facts that are not contained in your submission or public information. Specifically we require the following information:

1. The projected impacts on water levels and water quality of Lake Uist, Loch Lomond, and Grand River. Your proposal calls for the removal of approximately 20 million cubic meters of water from Lake Uist to be pumped to a man-made reservoir your company will construct above the lake. Please clarify the exact amount of water you intend to remove from Lake Uist; the period of time you intend to utilize to remove it; and the projected alterations, short and long term, to the watershed below. Also please comment on the microbial interchange between the reservoir and the lake system.
2. With the removal of the above amount of water, our understanding is that Lake Uist would drop approximately 13.5 meters, or over 40 feet. An overview of the area would suggest that recovery would take weeks or months. Loch Lomond would nearly cease to flow into the Grand River. We require your projected recovery rates and rationale.
3. When your project is in operation and Lake Uist has recovered, you propose to withdraw 5 million cubic meters of water daily, which is approximately 15% of the lake's volume, causing a daily fluctuation of several meters in Lake Uist. Therefore, Loch Lomond will flow into Lake Uist for some period of time every day. The flow into Grand River will change daily and become erratic. We require your projected daily disruptions to the watershed system and daily changes in the Grand River flow, as well as projections of these calculations seasonally as water levels drop.
4. The following questions require clarification: What is the effect on water levels during the period when the water reservoir is being charged? What is the time it will take to restore Lake Uist's water level? What will be the daily fluctuations in the Lake Uist water level?

We have based our calculations using the best information at our disposal. If you feel these are incorrect, please provide your rationale. It is important that we have all the facts necessary to make an informed decision

Yours very truly,

Pat Bates

c.c. Vanessa D. Margueratt, DOE, Jim Abraham, EC, Chief Charlie Dennis, UINR, John Boudreau, Warden, Richmond Co.

CLC LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE MIDDLE RIVER WATERSHED SOCIETY

Dear CLC member,

As a member of the CLC, I was confused by a letter from N.S. Department of Environment & Labor concerning the Crowdus Mountain septic lagoons. The Middle River Watershed Society, which had been on site constantly throughout the closure process, was amazed to hear the work had been completed. We know that is not accurate. As the contractor granted our organization permission to view the final day of closure we saw first hand the amount of material which still resides in the pit.

We do appreciate the amount of time and effort and dollars spent by NSDEL on the "clean close out"; however, the remaining and unknown amount of contamination still poses a very serious threat to our watershed.

It has always been the Watershed's contention that there was more in the lagoons than septic waste. Now that NSDEL has realized this as fact they are backing away from a clean closure. We believe that within the sphere of environmental damage, there can be no separate issues.

NSDEL must either force the landowner to clean up the site or do it themselves and bill the landowner. By leaving an environmentally unstable site to the proclivities of the owner and the vagaries of weather and gravity is unacceptable. By claiming the contamination is not sewage does not abrogate NSDEL from its responsibilities to protect our watershed. Hopefully other members of the CLC will concur and ask to have the site remediated as soon as possible. If the Department of Environment has no more resources to remove all of the contaminants then the community itself must continue to watch and study its affects.

We have taken additional samples from the site (which we will make public soon) and we invite the Department of Environment to produce the results from all samples they have taken from this toxic waste dump. We are the citizens most affected by the mismanagement of these lagoons.

Whether or not our organization and the families of Middle River agree with the NSDEL's definition of completion, we can only continue to practice due diligence within our watershed. The Middle River Watershed Society will continue to monitor MacDonald Brook to the best of our ability. In addition, we invite the CLC to apply pressure on the Minister of NSDEL.

It would be a welcome show of solidarity if your group requested the Minister to get his department on side with this initiative to insure that future beneficiaries of this time bomb are well prepared to deal with the consequences. Even though there may appear to be no apparent impacts on the waters of Nyanza Bay via MacDonald Brook, you will appreciate that continued reliance on weak government information sessions and elusive scientific data is unacceptable.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is already well ensconced within the Middle River Valley as they monitor fish habitat and water flow. In the year to follow, the Watershed Society is welcoming partnerships with other groups to work towards developing a management plan and a future of responsible sustainability and stewardship for generations to come.

As our strategy evolves, the Middle River Watershed Society will continue to pursue affective management of our community assets with positive tenacity and we look to our elected officials for their continued involvement. Personally, I look forward to the final report of the septic closure from the DEL with anticipation and again, we invite all members of the CLC to provide continued valuable input in an effort to incite more vigorous debate.

Kind Regards,

Jonathan Saul
President,
Middle River Watershed Society