

EcoAlert

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The case against NB's forest plan

by Tracy Glynn

The forest of New Brunswick on traditional Wabanaki territory where lynx roam, northern flying squirrels glide, warblers and vireos sing, and brook trout swim in sheltered streams is in trouble.

Scientists, conservationists, economists, woodlot owners, hunters, former government officials and Department of Natural Resources staff are some of the many people denouncing what can only be described as a J.D. Irving-designed plan for our forest.

Premier David Alward and Minister of Natural Resources Paul Robichaud announced the forest plan to a standing-room only audience on March 12 in Fredericton. Jim Irving, CEO of J.D. Irving, the largest forestry company in the province, was present for the announcement of the plan that guarantees more timber from the province's public lands to the forest industry. The spin was, of course, that the forest strategy would create jobs. We

Hundreds gathered at the NB Legislature on May 13 to protest the NB government-JD Irving's plans for the public forest. Photo by Joe Gee.



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were told that giving up 660,000 cubic metres of our forest to the industry would translate into 500 jobs, mostly through mill upgrades.

Before the announcement was made, the Conservation Council warned the Premier against such a plan. The Council reminded the government, like it has for decades, of its public mandate to manage the forest for the benefit of all New Brunswickers now and into the future, and of its treaty obligations to indigenous peoples of this province, who have never ceded the land in New Brunswick.

A Memorandum of Agreement, signed between the Government of New Brunswick and J.D. Irving behind closed doors on February 7th, not only allocated much more of our forest to one company, it also proposes to set up a radical new system to regulate the way it operates in the woods.

Not good for public coffers

Donald Bowser is an expert on transparency and accountability in the extractive resource sector. He has recently worked in South Sudan and Afghanistan. Bowser has returned to his native New Brunswick to find that his home province is actually more secretive about their resource extractive deals than places in the developing world known for their corruption and corporate capture.

“It’s one grand giveaway of our forest resources just before the election. With the selling off of Crown land forests and reducing the royalties for oil and shale gas, essentially the New Brunswick government is shutting the door on any future economic viability for New Brunswick,” says Bowser, President of Integrity Management, Promoting Transparency and Accountability (IMPACT).

According to annual reports from the Department of Natural Resources, the way that we use our forests is generating net losses.

Not good for workers

If the New Brunswick government was concerned about generating jobs they may wish to analyze the proficiency with which we convert timber into jobs. From 1960 to 2000, proficiency in New Brunswick’s forest sector declined from 2.3 jobs/1000 cubic metres of timber harvested in 1960 to 1.3 jobs/1000 cubic metres in 2000, a decline of 43%.

New Brunswick lags Canada and the rest of the world in the proficiency of converting timber into jobs. The U.S., at 2.6 jobs per 1000 cubic metre of timber harvested, generates over twice as much employment per available unit of roundwood

as New Brunswick. Given New Brunswick’s Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) on public lands of 5 million cubic metres, the U.S. would generate 6,500 more jobs from the same amount of wood. New Brunswick’s forest strategy projects to create 500 additional jobs from 660,000 cubic metres of additional AAC; this is a poor proficiency rate of 0.8 jobs per 1000 cubic metres of timber harvested.

“This is not a matter of nostalgia for days of chainsaws and peaveys in the woods. It is a matter of how we utilize the wood we harvest,” argues Lawrence Wuest, a forest ecologist who has been making the strong case for a valued-added forest industry in the province.

Not good for the forest

New Brunswick’s Department of Natural Resources staff has cautioned against reducing conservation forest below 28%, anything less would not be sustainable, according to the wildlife biologists and forest ecologists. Conservation forest includes wildlife habitat, river and stream buffers, deer yards and old forest.

New Brunswick’s forest plan slashes conservation forest on public lands from 30% down to 23%. The plan contains vague language about the increased timber supply coming from steep slopes and rocky areas or low volume harvest sites. Areas previously managed to provide habitat for wildlife will be clearcut. Our scientists are saying that we will see declines in wildlife populations if this forest plan is implemented.

Information obtained by the New Brunswick Green Party and revealed on April 8th, show that the new forest plan will eliminate a standard that is used to preserve the native Acadian forest type. Forestry companies will be allowed to clearcut in areas previously designated as select cut only zones; this will increase the area of clearcutting in New Brunswick’s forest by 10 per cent. The standard was used to maintain some of our beautiful mixed wood forest on our landscape. According to the Green Party’s information, the new forest strategy will “permit logging of steep slopes, in wet terrain and around some wetlands, where lower royalties will be charged to entice companies to work in these more costly areas.”

Where do we go from here?

It is clear that the provincial government’s forest plan is being met with widespread rejection. The government of New Brunswick, with J.D.

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Good work and hope

by Stephanie Coburn, CCNB President

We all need to keep in mind that many positive things are happening in New Brunswick. The local food network is growing as eaters connect with farmers, one family at a time. New farmers' markets are opening and existing ones getting larger. Events such as Open Farm Day are bringing families out to the country, to see how their food is grown. The Fredericton Food Bank and community garden initiatives are stellar examples of growing a local food movement from the ground up.

There are 13 Food Security programs around the province, helping people learn to grow and cook their own food. These are critical initiatives to bring us toward self-sustainability.

Building on the success of our Buy Local project, the Conservation Council is re-starting our local food initiative which spread the word and the fiddlehead logo all over the Province. This year we will be strengthening our Buy Local website, and producing a "local food app," which will further the ease of finding the farmer and the food you want! Visit your farmers' markets, try out the food we grow right here, and raise your spirits and confidence in the future of our province.

The proposed pipelines, shale gas extraction, Sisson mine and now the new forestry plan are all efforts that go against every instinct of a person who knows about the impacts that climate change has and will have on our planet. The good news is that there are citizen groups all over this province doing research and action to prevent these degradations from occurring.

The Conservation Council has done a huge amount of research and education with many groups, bringing to light the plans of the corporations who want to come here, make their money, and leave us with the oil spills, contaminated water ponds and leaking chemical residues. As governments silence and fire their scientists, it is all the more important to support independent respected organizations like the Conservation Council.

It is difficult to get access to these stories of positive change and common struggle. The newspapers available in your mailbox or at the grocery store are all owned by one of the companies partnered in these projects. How can we expect to get unbiased media coverage that gives us the other side of the story? Therein lies good news about good news: The New Brunswick Media Co-op (nbmediacoop.org), available in paper and online, and the Moncton Free Press (monctonfreepress.ca), available online, publish other viewpoints about these issues. We need to realize there IS good work being done for the sake of our community and our planet.

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Will funds from Cooke Aquaculture's pesticide court charges be used to address the harm they caused?

In April 2013 Cooke Aquaculture subsidiary Kelly Cove Salmon pled guilty to using an illegal pesticide on 15 salmon farms in the Bay of Fundy. The court ordered Cooke to pay a total of \$500,000. \$100 went to the court and \$50,000 was directed to the Environmental Damages Fund for environmental remediation activities. The bulk of the money, \$350,000 went to UNB. \$250,000 of this was earmarked for a scholarship fund, while the other \$100,000 was set aside “in support of environmental studies and research projects ... relating to the fishery and aquaculture industry in the Bay of Fundy.” Our Fundy Baykeeper, along with traditional fisheries associations and scientists, has been actively tracking this money to ensure it is used to help address some of the significant harm caused by these illegal pesticides. Through letters to UNB and an access to information request we have learned that UNB has not yet taken action to determine how the research funds should be distributed. Baykeeper and allies have suggested that these funds be used to research the impacts of aquaculture on the natural environment, especially the impact of pesticides and other chemicals.

Deer biologist speaks out against herbicide spraying

Biologists, hunting, fishing and outdoors recreation groups and conservationists are uniting in a call to ban herbicides in the forest by sending a letter on February 18th, to New Brunswick Natural Resources Minister Paul Robichaud. The letter, which attempts to set the record straight on the impacts of using herbicides in the forest, was signed by the Central NB Quality Deer Management Association, NB Wildlife Federation, NB Outfitters Association, Professional Outfitters and Guides Association, NB Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society, Bowhunters of NB, Big Game Club of NB, and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. Herbicides kill broad leaf trees, shrubs and grasses destroying the food source and habitats of many forest dependent species, including deer, which concerns wildlife and deer biologist Rod Cumberland. “Herbicide use in our forest is presented to us as the only way, but it’s not. It is the most profitable means of removing competing hardwoods for a hungry forest

industry. Thinning crews used to remove hardwoods in New Brunswick and that’s what they do in Quebec today. In a climate where our province is drastically struggling to keep skilled workers from moving west, we find it incredibly ironic that the government of New Brunswick refuses to entertain a method of hardwood removal that will create good paying jobs for New Brunswickers and one that does not carry with it potential health threats and biodiversity damage that herbicides cause,” says Cumberland, who is concerned by the government of New Brunswick’s continued defence of herbicides on New Brunswick’s forest. He feels that there are obvious impacts with two decades of use of Monsanto’s Vision glyphosates on New Brunswick’s forest.

Great Food + Great People *They belong together! Stay tuned for the next evolution of BuyLocal NB!*

We are really excited to let you know that we have relaunched our very popular BuyLocal NB campaign! While our previous online local food directory has been down for a year, we have received countless inquiries as to when it is coming back. Well, just in time for the upcoming harvest season! With generous financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, and private contributions, we will be unveiling our new and improved web tool www.buylocalnb.ca. We have been working hard with the creative folks at Ginger Designs in Fredericton to create a crisp and functional new searchable database of local food producers and businesses. With help from some of our colleagues such as the Agricultural Alliance, National Farmers Union NB, the Food Security Action Network and others, buylocalnb.ca will be the place to go to meet your farmer, find local foods, and retailers selling locally grown and made products.



If you are a farmer or retailer of locally grown or crafted products please connect with us at homegrown@conservationcouncil.ca or print and fill out a business profile and product form at conservationcouncil.ca to make sure we include your business in our next edition of BuyLocal NB!

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Guatemalans suing Canadian mining company, connecting with NB land defenders

Angelica Choc, a Maya Q'eqchi' grandmother from Guatemala (pictured here), opened the film screening of *Defensora* at Conserver House in

Fredericton on

November 1, 2013.

The powerful film tells the story of why the mother of five and grandmother of four from Barrio La Unión in Guatemala's nickel-rich region of El Estor was in Canada.

On September 27, 2009, Angelica's husband, Adolfo Ich Chaman, was murdered, hacked with a machete and shot, by the head of the security guards for a Canadian mining company's Guatemalan subsidiary. Adolfo was 50 years old when he was

murdered. His widow says the time for mourning is over and now is the time to fight. Her fight is making legal history in Canada. On July 22, an Ontario Court made a precedent ruling that will allow a case against a Canadian company over actions of one of its international subsidiaries to go ahead in a Canadian court for the first time. Other

claimants on the suit include 11 women who say they were raped by the mine's security guards, police and military, and Germán Chub, a 20-year-old man who

was shot by the mine's security guard while playing soccer and left paralyzed from the waist down the same day that Angelica's husband was murdered.

Angelica said it was important for her to visit the Mi'kmaq people and their allies against shale gas during her visit to New Brunswick. At both the Mi'kmaq Traditional Government Longhouse on Route 116, and the camp in Rexton where the RCMP violently arrested those



Longhouses are traditional structures where decisions affecting the Wabanaki people and territory are discussed. For 11 days, from October 26 to November 5, the Longhouse that was erected near the Legislature along the banks of the Wolastoq River (also known as the St. John River) sheltered a sacred fire. Angelica Choc, an indigenous land defender in Guatemala, offered her solidarity to the indigenous land defenders resisting shale gas in New Brunswick at the Wolastoq Longhouse (shown here) and at the Longhouse erected on Mi'kmaq territory on Route 116 in Kent County. Left to right: Jeremias Tecu, Elizabeth Blaney, Alma Brooks, Wolastoq clan mother, Angelica Choc, Oscar Tecu and Betsy Pocop. Photo by Tracy Glynn.

blocking shale gas thumper trucks on October 17th, Angelica listened to the stories of those facing legal struggles of their own. Serena Francis, a Mi'kmaq elder from Elsipogtog, met with Angelica at the Longhouse. Despite the language barrier, Francis said that they speak with the same heart in defence of the land.

Scientists demand action to prevent grim future

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's leading body of climate-change experts, has issued its most recent report after a five-day meeting in March 2014 in Yokohama, Japan. At the news conference announcing the report, IPCC chairperson Rajendra Pachauri warned, "If the world doesn't do anything about mitigating the emissions of greenhouse gases and the extent of climate change continues to increase, then the very social stability of human systems could be at stake." The report stresses how the already stressed world food supply will be further impacted in the future of climate change and how those who are most vulnerable will be the first to go hungry. "Change will come from grassroots organizing, from movements like students pushing their university endowments to divest from fossil-fuel corporations, from local communities fighting against fracking, and from the growing nonviolent direct-action campaign to block the Keystone XL pipeline," argues Amy Goodman with Democracy Now!

Energy East pipeline proposal worthy of noise

by Matthew Abbott and Stephanie Merrill

The west-to-east pipeline idea is inching closer to reality. In March TransCanada filed a Project Description with the National Energy Board (NEB), the federal regulator on cross-jurisdictional energy projects; they are expected to submit their full application by the summer.

Thanks to the analytical work of the Pembina Institute, a very timely and important report was released that starts to outline the evidence that this ‘nation building’ project is a climate wrecking one.

The Pembina report “Climate Implications of the Energy East Pipeline” predicts that the carrying capacity of the pipeline, the largest proposal currently in North America (including the Keystone XL), represents the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as would 7 million new cars put to the roads across Canada every year.

This is a significant consideration, and one that unfortunately, has not been a part of the National Energy Board’s review in past pipeline projects, including Northern Gateway. What the Pembina report attempts to start is a broader discussion – to more than just the pipe and its path but to the extraction, transport, processing, and use of the oilsands and those ‘upstream’ contributions to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Which we know we have to reduce dramatically in order to avoid 2 degrees warming that would trigger catastrophic and unstoppable runaway climate change.

The report says:

The crude production needed to fill the Energy East pipeline would generate an additional 30 to 32 million tonnes of carbon emissions each year — the equivalent of adding more than seven million cars to Canada’s roads. By comparison, the annual emissions for the entire province of New Brunswick is about 18 million tonnes.

By comparison, filling the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would increase emissions by 22 million tonnes. Energy East represents a capacity (and emissions) that is 1/3 larger than Keystone XL.

Filling the Energy East pipeline would help expedite 650,000 to 750,000 barrels per day of additional production from the oilsands.

Of course we are not surprised by the results of Pembina’s work. These are things we know. We know that tying ourselves to brand new fossil fuel infrastructure from here on out will result in increased

emissions and get us further away from our necessary targets. But the number crunching is welcomed. It allows us to speak in a language that (a few) policy makers understand.

In New Brunswick, we have a long way to go in coming to terms with the risks as the 400km of new pipeline is proposed to cross 195 waterways, provincially significant wetlands, 3 Natural Protected areas, a number of municipal aquifers and unceded Wabanaki territory. There are the unique qualities of the products passing by. Baaken crude is highly volatile and oilsands bitumen sinks. There are the risks to the Bay of Fundy. Tanker traffic creates noise pollution damaging and disruptive to whales, including the endangered north Atlantic right whale. Any oil spilled meets the strong currents, fog, and unpredictable conditions of the highest tides in the world.

We are encouraged to accept these risks for our personal safety because the trains are literally falling off the track. While we certainly need better regulation of rail transport of volatile substances, this tack is being used to distract us from the heart of the issue. A recent report by the Fraser Institute indicates they both spill the same amount of product: trains spill more often but pipelines spill larger volumes. Furthermore there is enough petroleum in northern Alberta to ship it by all the trains and pipelines that can be imagined. “Trains versus pipelines” is not the real debate, it’s the distraction needed to manufacture our consent. The real debate is about ignoring our oilsands shackles or breaking free for a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable economy and people.

Pipeline proponents will continue to tell us there is no alternative. Citizens intent on unhitching our wagon from the technologies of the past are going to have to make some noise.

Matthew Abbott is the Fundy Baykeeper for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick and Stephanie Merrill is the Director of the Freshwater Protection Program. They can be reached at marine@conservationcouncil.ca and water@conservationcouncil.ca.

Irving breathing down its neck, has spent ten years attempting to get around the will of the people, while delaying the evolution of the forest economy.

The 2004 Report of the Select Committee on Wood Supply, based on comments heard from New Brunswickers at public hearings, outlined what the province needs to do in terms of forest management. A decade has been lost in the evolution of our forest industry due to government inaction and cowering to J.D. Irving.

“To replace an economic engine as massive as pulp and paper is a monumental task that requires nothing short of a wartime like effort,” argues Wuest, who points to secondary wood manufacture and processing as key to more proficient utilization of timber.

Our naturally diverse Acadian forest type supplies more timber compatible with secondary wood manufacture. The question is how to promote the secondary wood manufacturing industry in today’s

climate of free trade, where cheap imports trump domestic produced goods. Trade agreements preclude any subsidization of domestic manufacturing. The growing “Buy Local” economy needs to be encouraged in wood products.

Our forest management is stuck in the twentieth century when clearcutting and herbicide spraying were permitted, but were never really socially acceptable or ecologically responsible. We must move toward a management scenario that would mean a more resilient forest in a future of climate change, and one that offers a suite of options for communities to be stewards of their forest resources, and generate sources of revenue and jobs. If we do not abandon the recklessness and lack of imagination shown by this and previous governments on forest management, we will deny ourselves resilient communities, meaningful employment, and the awe that comes from a healthy and diverse forest in our backyards.

TAKE ACTION

TELL Premier David Alward what you think about the forest plan. E-mail the Premier at premier@gnb.ca and copy your MLA.

WRITE a letter to the editor of your newspaper.

EMAIL Tracy at forest@conservationcouncil.ca to get on CCNB’s forest communications list for more action ideas and news.

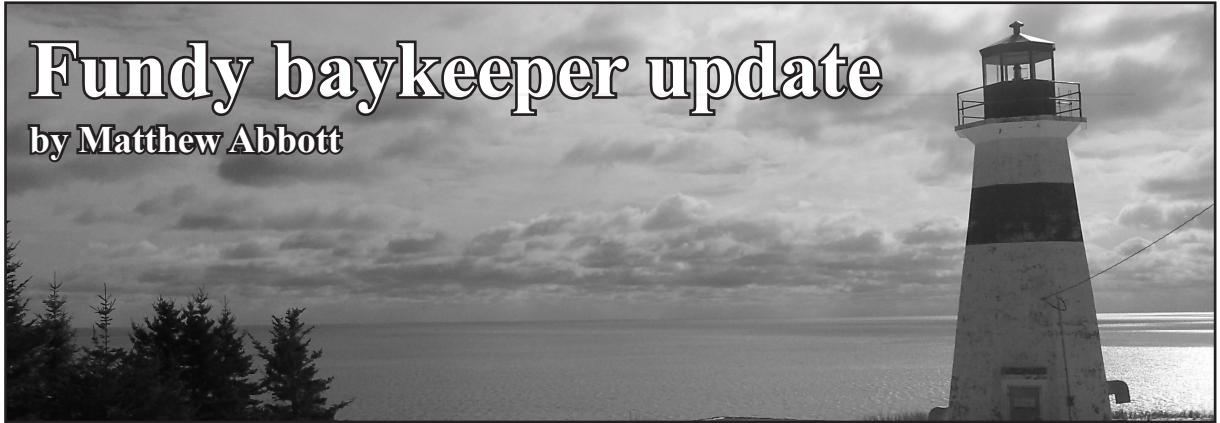
SCREEN one of many informative films about our forest in your community or request a public presentation about our forest. Contact Tracy at forest@conservationcouncil.ca for a list of films and speakers.

CCNB probes Environmental Impact Assessment process

During the public comment period for natural gas expansion work in Penobscis this summer, CCNB waded into the Environmental Impact Assessment process. What we came out with was quite startling. In 2011, the Department of Environment introduced a new approach to doing EIAs for oil and gas development. They called it a phased approach and the Department put the proponent, Corridor Resources, in charge of collecting and responding to public comments. According to the company's report, the consultation around the McCully field was door-to-door canvassing and "any and all comments or concerns" were recorded. The report indicates that 64 homes were visited, 12 comments were recorded. All were positive. We know that's not true. We talk to people too. There is nothing open, rigorous or credible about the phased EIA. The province has taken a hands-off approach to public consultation and has allowed the companies to drive the EIA bus. If you have any concerns, talk to the bus driver. More disturbing about the province's total abdication of its responsibility to protect the environment and the public, is the missed opportunity to be the first in incorporating an examination of public health issues into these proposed projects. CCNB has called on the Minister of Environment and Minister of Health to consider the recommendations of Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eilish Cleary. For all the government's hype about their regulatory regime being world class, it clearly ranks as a zero not a hero.

Fundy baykeeper update

by Matthew Abbott



Musquash Paddle

Ready your paddles and mark your calendars! On July 26th at 12 noon, we will hold our 16th annual Musquash Paddle. This popular event features a guided paddle through the Musquash Estuary, the Bay of Fundy's only Marine Protected Area. Musquash can only be fully appreciated on the water from a canoe, kayak or row boat. Join the Fundy Baykeeper, Musquash residents and nature lovers for this annual tradition. For details, call 506-529-8838 or email marine@conservationcouncil.ca.

The end of the pipe isn't the end of the pipe - Energy East and the Bay of Fundy

The Energy East pipeline is slated to transport 1.1 million barrels per day of oil from Alberta to Saint John. Marine terminals are being built in Quebec and Saint John to load bitumen and other oil products from the pipeline onto ships so that Western Canadian oil producers can access international markets. Even if some product is refined in Saint John, we will still see a significant increase in tanker traffic.

There are many risks associated with increasing tanker traffic in our Bay, including spills and increase noise pollution. Bitumen, likely to land on tankers, has been shown to sink and form tarballs in conditions like the Bay of Fundy. So far there has not been any additional work to establish the heightened risks associated with bitumen as compared to conventional oil. Significant noise is created by tanker traffic. Tanker noise has been shown to harm and disrupt large whales including the endangered North Atlantic right whale. While the whales that frequent the Bay of Fundy already have to contend with significant marine noise, research has not been conducted to understand whether this increase of traffic will take us closer to a threshold where we see more dramatic impacts on the whales.

Baykeeper is working with local fisheries and tourism operators to ensure that local voices are heard in the discussion about this proposed pipeline.

Fisheries Act changes – Weakening Canada's environmental protections

We have been closely tracking a series of changes being made to the Fisheries Act, following on the heels of the 2012 federal budget which severely weakened environmental protections in Canada. Most recently, in February of this year, new regulations with the riveting title of Regulations Establishing Conditions for Making Regulations under Subsection 36(5.2) of the Fisheries Act, were posted. While these are, in a sense, regulations about regulations, they alter and weaken one of the strongest pieces of anti-pollution legislation in Canada, section 36 of the Fisheries Act, which prohibits the deposit of "deleterious substances" into the water. Among other things, these new regulations make it much easier for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to defer responsibility to other federal or provincial agencies that regulate activities or industries which pollute our marine and fresh waters. This means that agencies without a strong environmental mandate will be managing polluting activities. In a preamble to the regulations, they suggest that the current regulatory environment creates uncertainty and that this "uncertainty could pose a challenge to some industries in that it could discourage investment decisions or delay business development." This hardly inspires confidence as the focus is clearly placed on industrial development and not environmental protection.

With these "regulations about regulations" in place, we expect that DFO will now move forward with the long discussed Aquaculture Activity Regulations (while "Activities" sounds benign, this is mostly about pesticides). The Aquaculture

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Conservation Council honours Mary Majka's life work

by *Stephanie Coburn*

It is with great regret that we think about the passing of Mary Majka in February of this year. She was a cheerful beacon of positivity in her love of the natural world and worked tirelessly to protect it. Mary was among the first to realize that we would need to work together to help protect what she had come to love in New Brunswick.

Mary came from Poland to Canada in 1951. She moved to New Brunswick with husband Mike and family in 1961, and almost immediately helped to form the Moncton Naturalist Club. Ten years later, that club, along with the Saint John and Fredericton clubs, formed the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists.

Living in a cottage on Caledonia Mountain, she and her family learned about the natural world around them from the inside out—hiking the woods trails, foraging for wild mushrooms, observing every facet of the landscape around them. Mary wanted to share her enthusiasm with others, and began a half hour television program called *Have You Seen*, teaching viewers young and old about animals, plants and nature, with examples she brought from home.

Buoyed by her success on television, she used her intelligence and commitment in the following years to develop a nature centre for children and lead tours in Fundy Park in a program that is still in use today. Mary was on the Premier's Environmental Council, was the mover behind choosing the black-capped chickadee as the provincial bird, and received the Order of Canada and the Order of New Brunswick.

She was also one of the earliest directors of the Conservation Council, and received the Milton F. Gregg award in the year 2000. Asked about her memories of Mary, long-time director Lucy Dyer



remembers her as "very enthusiastic about nature. She was outgoing and determined in her work to protect birds, plants, all of nature. She was very effective as a speaker, her points well thought-out and precise; she spoke so as to be understood." There was at least one board meeting held at Mary's Point, where the Majkas lived by then. "The most pleasant part of the meeting was viewing the mud flats and the birds, the cottage on the bank," long-time director Mark Connell remembers. "Mary was a force to be reckoned with, no one fooled with her."

In 2010, Mary's biography, *Sanctuary, the Story of Naturalist Mary Majka*, written by Deborah Carr, was published by Goose Lane. It's a tremendous story of her life and times, a picture of the beginning of the environmental movement in New Brunswick. A lot has been accomplished since 1961 when the Majkas settled here. We should all take a moment to remember the successes, but also stay committed, as Mary was, to the work yet to be done.

Fundy Baykeeper, continued from page 8

Activity Regulations will basically hand over control of the management of aquaculture pesticides to Health Canada's pesticide management branch. This means that an agency whose primary mandate is human health, will be making decisions with potential to cause serious harm in waters like the Bay of Fundy, where "non-target organisms" like lobster and the many tiny zooplankton which form the base of the food chain are susceptible to pesticides used on salmon farms. Health Canada will receive advice on environmental issues from Environment Canada and DFO, but they are not bound to heed this advice and indeed have not acted on such advice in the past.

Veteran environmentalist returns home to work with the Conservation Council

by *Stephanie Coburn*



The Board of the Conservation Council is very pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Lois Corbett. Lois comes to us with great environmental and organizational credentials. Lois has had her own consulting firm in Toronto, providing strategic advice to

Canada's green energy sector and to environmental groups across Canada. Her strengths certainly include the development of sound public policy on issues that CCNB has been working on for decades: toxics, wetlands, forestry, water, climate change, energy, and fisheries.

She has a long history of working successfully with Provincial and Municipal governments. Before starting her own firm, Lois worked as Senior Policy Advisor to three Ministers of the Environment in Ontario, providing advice on a number of pieces of environmental legislation, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, the Greenbelt Act, and the Green Energy Act, among others.

Lois has experience building and running environmental organizations: she was the Executive Director of the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) for ten years. TEA is an NGO focused primarily on developing progressive environmental public policy, and she helped Toronto City Council adopt its Smog Action Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, Waste Diversion Plan, and the ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides. At TEA, Lois also successfully developed the campaign that saw provincial political parties commit to phase out coal-fired electricity in Ontario.

During that period, Lois also served as the first Executive Director of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, assisting the foundation in waging an effective campaign against its dissolution following amalgamation of the municipalities of Greater Toronto. She was able to identify its core constituency and help the group develop its first long term strategic plan.

Most recently, Lois was named as one of the Broadbent Institute's Leadership Fellows, who are a "talented and diverse group of 18 leaders from across the country who have agreed to share their expertise and experiences with the next cohort of progressive Canadian leaders."

Lois has been an environmental activist for a long time; in fact, her first job in the environmental movement was at the Conservation Council of New Brunswick in 1984 where she was employed as a summer student. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Thomas University. She is originally from Johnville, New Brunswick, where her father still spends part of his year on the family farm.

During a recent conversation, Lois was able to share some of her hopes and expectations for returning home:

Why are you excited to be coming back to New Brunswick?

I am very excited about coming back home. I have been away FAR too long, and even though I go to NB every summer, I miss the rivers, the ocean, the beautiful landscape and the peace and quiet of the picture province. It feels like completing a circle - I first worked as an environmentalist at CCNB in the summer of 1984, and after years of working to reduce pollution in other provinces, I'd like to work with the fun, witty, hard-working people of NB to help continue to preserve our precious water and land. I believe that direct engagement in the natural world and strong connections to community inspire people to address environmental challenges through positive environmental action, and I see those values demonstrated every day in NB.

What do you think the role of the Conservation Council is and should be?

CCNB is recognized across the country as one of the founding members of the country's conservation and environmental movements. It has served the province well over the past 45 years in its key roles of watchdog, promoter of sound public policy, and enthusiastic community building. I feel very privileged to be asked to come and work for a group with such dedicated and thoughtful board members, staff and volunteers. I think CCNB should continue providing these essential functions to the people of

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500 youth gather for a just climate future

by Tracy Glynn

K'jipuktuk/Halifax - About 500 youth interested in climate justice from across unceded Wabanaki territory of Atlantic Canada and beyond gathered in Halifax/ K'jipuktuk, Mi'kmaqi territory on the weekend of March 28-30 to listen to stories and advice from elders and seasoned organizers, strategize about a more just future, and make friendships that will likely last a lifetime.

PowerShift Atlantic situated its gathering in the moment of local struggles against a push to frack for shale gas, drill in offshore waters, and develop a pipeline to pump diluted bitumen across the country to Saint John.

Participants listened attentively to a stellar force of speakers such as Crystal Lameman, Suzanne Patles, Winona LaDuke, Vanessa Gray, Jasmine Thomas and Amanda Lickers, indigenous women on the frontlines of resistance to dirty fossil fuel development. Crystal Lameman, a



PowerShift participants paint a banner against the Energy East pipeline. Photo by Robin Tress.

mother of two from Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Alberta, spoke of her community's court case against the Canadian government for failing to follow through with the duty to consult with her Cree Nation on the over 17,000 permits and leases granted to big oil.

Suzanne Patles, a member of the Mi'kmaq Warriors Society, was one of many attacked during the 17 October raid on those resisting shale gas near Elsipogtog. Patles argued for the normalizing of resistance and encouraged the audience "to find something that you are good at and do it."

To learn more about PowerShift, visit: wearepowershift.ca

The Conservation Council, with support from the labour unions CUPE and PSAC, and the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation, proudly supported the travel of participants from New Brunswick.

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NB, and offer them positive, caring ideas about how to achieve environmental progress.

What would you like to accomplish at the Conservation Council?

Working with others to advance key public priorities to protect land, air and water as well as people's involvement in community environmental education will be job one. I would also, with the help of the able Board members and key volunteers, like to nurture and grow the organization -- to help forge its own path of sustainability. Finally, I am concerned about how our scientific experts are being shut out of policy developments, whether it's sustainable forest planning, gas extraction or shoreline protection, to mention only a few issues. This is not unique to NB of course, but I would like to explore with CCNB increased opportunities for collaboration with scientists and policy experts.

Milton F. Gregg Award call for nominations CCNB wants to know your Eco-Hero!

*We are calling for nominations for our annual
Milton F. Gregg Awards.*

There are three awards to be given:

1. Lifetime achievement for a body of work over time;
2. Individual or group activism for leadership on a particular issue or campaign;
3. Organization achievement for businesses, municipalities, associations, trade unions or institutions.

The Milton F. Gregg Awards have been handed out by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick since 1981. The awards will be given out at our 45th anniversary party in the fall.

Nominations that describe the candidate's achievements can be submitted by mail to 180 Saint John St., Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9, or by email to info@conservationcouncil.ca. Deadline to apply: July 31, 2014.



Our Environment, Our Future

Like most New Brunswickers, we believe the future of our province depends on living in harmony with nature.

Notre environnement, notre avenir

Comme la majorité des Néo-Brunswickois, nous croyons que l'avenir de notre province dépend de notre capacité à vivre en harmonie avec la nature.








Follow us!
Suivez-nous!

www.conservationcouncil.ca

YES! Like other New Brunswickers, I want environmental change.

We are a citizen's group that finds solutions to our environmental problems and works to solve them.
As a member, you'll receive:

- *EcoAlert*, our magazine, three times per year
- *EcoNews*, our bi-weekly electronic newsletter
- Discounts on publications and notices of events

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

OUI! Je veux joindre le mouvement pour aider l'environnement au N.-B.

Nous sommes un groupe de citoyens et citoyennes qui trouve des solutions à nos problèmes environnementaux et travaille à les résoudre.
En tant que membre, vous recevrez :

- *ÉcoAlerte*, notre revue, trois fois par année
- *ÉcoNouvelles*, notre bulletin électronique à toutes les deux semaines
- Des rabais sur nos publications et des invitations à nos événements

DEVEZ MEMBRE AUJOURD'HUI!

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- ☐ \$15 (Student/Senior/Low Income) 15 \$ (Étudiant(e)/Aîné(e)/Faible revenu)
- ☐ \$30 (Individual) / 30 \$ (Individu)
- ☐ \$40 (Family) / 40 \$ (Famille)
- ☐ I do not wish to become a member at this time but I want to make a donation of \$ _____
- ☐ Je ne souhaite pas devenir membre présentement, mais je veux faire un don de _____ \$

Name / Nom: _____

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- ☐ Cash/En espèces
- ☐ Visa/Matcard

- ☐ Cheque/Chèque (payable to CCNB/à l'ordre du CCNB)
- ☐ Money Order/Mandat

Visa/Matcard*#: _____ Exp. _____

Name: _____ Donation/Faire un don _____

Signature: _____

Mail completed form to/Veuillez compléter le formulaire et l'envoyer à:
CCNB, rue 180 St. John St., Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9