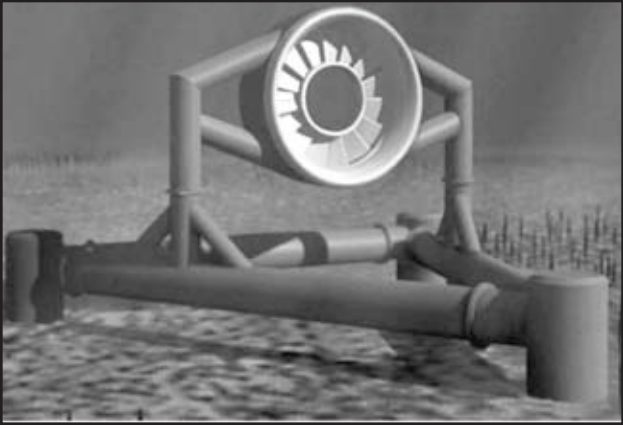


Parrsboro to benefit from Tidal Power Testing project.



Data compiled by Maurice Rees

The Parrsboro area will benefit from the multi-millions of dollars to be spent on testing a least three types of turbines to generate electricity from the Bay of Fundy.

The companies and Nova Scotia Power are tight lipped on precise details of when the first test turbine will be lowered to the floor of the Bay of Fundy, about three kilometers offshore from Parrsboro.

The following is a summary of the data the Shoreline Journal has been able to glean from various press reports since late summer:

In mid-September NDP Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau gave the green light allowing testing of three different tidal power turbines to begin in the powerful cyclical currents of the Minas Basin.

Nova Scotia Power and partner OpenHydro of Ireland, which plan to have their turbine in the water this fall, along with Clean Current Power Systems Inc. of British Columbia and Minas Basin Pulp and Power Co. of Hantsport, which are planning spring starts for their turbines — are going to find out, at a cost of \$10 million to \$15 million apiece.

The first of three turbines is

expected to go into the Bay of Fundy next month.

A full-scale tidal energy project would, if viable, would involve hundreds of turbines and could produce about 100 megawatts from the bay's huge tides. That would be 10 per cent of the province's energy needs, but such a system is years away.

The demonstration phase of the project, involving three turbines, is expected to cost \$60-million to \$70-million. Each of the three companies involved - which will co-operate on environmental monitoring and onshore development - intends to test a different type of turbine.

Minas Basin Pulp and Power will suspend its equipment between the bottom and the surface. The turbine will float until the best current is found and then be fixed to the bottom with anchors. Company vice-president John Woods said yesterday that his firm aims to have the turbine operational this time next year.

Clean Current, a British Columbia company, has suggested it would use a turbine designed to rest on the seabed.

The model chosen by Nova Scotia Power is similar. About six storeys high, with a turbine 10

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Questionnaire – Jason Blanch

What is the most important issue facing voters in this constituency?

Climate change (and related issues such as sea level rise, increased storm surge, extreme weather events, human health impacts, and ocean acidification) is the most important issue facing the voters in this constituency. First, a significant proportion of the riding, including virtually all of its communities, is adjacent to the ocean and at sea level and therefore extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges. The 2007 report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change named New Orleans as one of two examples of many places in North America that are especially vulnerable to flooding. The other was the upper Bay of Fundy. Extreme weather events such as hurricane Juan (the most costly hurricane in Canadian history), White Juan, severe ice storms and heat waves have serious economic impacts through their disastrous consequences on local infrastructure, food production and economic activities. Human health is directly impacted by higher levels of carbon dioxide, which will spur an increase in the growth of weeds such as ragweed, whose pollen triggers allergies and exacerbates asthma. Infectious disease (e.g. West Nile Virus) and food and waterborne illness outbreaks will increase with warming temperature and increased rainfall and flooding. Finally, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted to the atmosphere by human activities is being absorbed by the oceans, making them more acidic and threatening species at the base of the marine food chain. In a region that relies heavily on fisheries, this is yet another example of how climate change is overall the most important issue facing voters in this constituency.

Do you think this riding has received or is scheduled to receive its fair share of infrastructure stimulus funding? If not, please explain why you feel that way.

I understand that if all of the stimulus funds given to Nova Scotia were divided evenly among the ridings then each riding should have about 30 million. Our riding has received slightly less than this. Until the breach in the seawall in Advocate is repaired and the people there are protected from extreme storm surges I would say no, not enough stimulus money has been spent in this riding. What could be more shovel ready than dumping rock on a seawall?

What will you do to increase the amount of infrastructure stimulus funding throughout the riding?

A green party government would make decisions regarding the distribution of stimulus funding using the same lenses that would be used to examine all policy. These lenses include:

Does it advance the common good? Does it address the needs of children? Does it insure Canada's quality of life and economic health? Does it make families more secure? Does it protect, enhance and restore the life support systems of the planet? Does it promote systems - cultural, institutional, and technological - that are resilient and capable of adapting to shocks in a more unpredictable world?

This approach is a significant departure from current thinking that seeks to maximize funding expenditures at all costs and commonly leads to the distribution of funds along party lines that is all to prevalent today.

Which projects do you think should be put forward and approved?

I would put forward projects that fall within the Disaster Mitigation Infrastructure category such as repairing that the breached seawall in Advocate and reinforcing the dyke system on the Tantramar marsh and I would support wastewater collection and treatment system funding requests. I would also put forward projects to develop the Amherst Centennial Trail, Trans-Canada Trail and other Parks & Trails projects as well as museums at other cultural infrastructure projects to make Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley a favorite fam-

ily and tourism destination.

If Truro is to maintain its reputation as the "Hub of Nova Scotia" what needs to be done to ensure it benefits from the Atlantic Gateway Initiative?

Truro has the title "Hub of Nova Scotia" due to its central location in the province which ensures that it is well positioned to export unique products to the world through the Atlantic Gateway. If we follow Denmark's example and embrace renewable energy product development in Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, Truro could have a thriving industry (renewable energy products have had a 20% annual growth rate for the past decade) located on a gateway to the world.

Do you support development of a new deepwater container terminal in Melford? If not why? If so, what will you do to help?

I do not feel that I am sufficiently informed to make a definitive comment regarding this development. When MP, I will carefully research all aspects of a large development of this nature and consider the benefits and costs to all stake holders including the natural world. Still I have some initial thoughts:

According to the Atlantic Gateway Initiative website the Halifax gateway generates nearly 12,000 direct jobs and over \$600 million in direct GDP. Providing the goods are being transported by rail these benefits may have limited impact on the environment and tourism would therefore be of benefit.

Would you encourage MP's from Atlantic Canada to join together to become strong advocates encouraging immediate government action to assist small businesses in their battle to ensure no significant increase is approved in the percentage fee for interact and credit card purchases? If so, how?

Yes. I feel this is important, but I am not sufficiently informed about this issue to propose a solution at this time.

What changes are needed to help the agriculture industry become sustainable and profitable?

Farmers are older than their counterparts in every other occupation, the median age being 51 years old, 10 years older than their non-farming counterparts. Younger people are not going in to farming because it does not provide an equitable living as compared to other occupations in Canada. One major problem contributing to the declining profitability of Canadian farms is Imported Food. If we continue to allow imported food to take the place of Canadian food, we will lose our production and processing capacities and will rely on imports that are outside of our control. We need to re-visit our food inspection policy to align it with the need for safe and tested food. Imported food should be grown to the same standards Health Canada deems essential for Canadian producers. Labeling regulations are a major stumbling block. Fair trade principles and acceptable environmental practices should be part of our labeling laws. In short, we need to change the way we import food to ensure it is safe and consumers have the information they need to make responsible choices. Today, Nova Scotia imports 85% of its food. One valuable area of investment is Small Farms. Small diverse farms are often more environmentally friendly than larger agribusiness. Furthermore, small farms are more practical modes of entry for new and young farmers without the assets or experience required to manage larger operations.

What talents do you have which could be used to assist farmers to develop a "Fuel Pellets from Grass" industry in Nova Scotia with this riding being the leader? How would you help?

I would first want to determine if this is the best industry to promote. One may also want to consider the development of super efficient, straw-powered heating plants similar to ones that are used in Denmark that produce much lower emissions than traditional fossil fuel based systems and also provide wheat that farmers can harvest and sell. I would investigate global best practices in regard to biomass based energy production and work with farmers and industry to create a made in Canada solution.

What will you do to improve the delivery of health care to encourage more doctors and health professionals to re-locate to remote rural areas of this riding?

Within rural communities, I will work to promote the development of youth and family oriented environments (community centers, family support networks, access to arts & culture) to attract young medical graduates who will want to raise their families in beautiful Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

Which will rate higher with you? Following party policy at all times or consulting with the electorate and voting in accordance with their wishes? Explain how you will handle these situations.

I will always consult with the electorate in every manner I can about issues that are important to this riding. I will always consider the green party policy and how its implementation will impact on the community and environment of the riding. I will always vote according to my analysis of what I believe would be in the best interest of the residents of this riding.

Why should voters support you in this election?

Bill Casey stood for integrity, respecting the needs of his constituents. As your MP, I will aspire to do the same, respecting democracy, working for a greener economy, more local jobs, more local agriculture, and a healthy environment.



Jason Blanch - Green



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