

PHOTO FEATURE

After the Canada Day parade on Main Street, Parrsboro it was off to Ottawa House. Events got underway with Cadets raising a flag, which flew one day over Parliament. Speeches, a performance by the Parrsboro Citizen's Choir followed by light food and tours of the museum which is undergoing exterior renovations.



After raising the flag, the Parrsboro Citizens Choir performed in the parking lot at Ottawa House on July 1st. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Cadets raise the flag at Ottawa House on July 1st. This flag actually flew on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Bill Casey addressing the audience on Canada Day. (McCready Photo)



Colin Curleigh addresses the crowd at Canada Day Celebrations at Ottawa House. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



A group of Ottawa House volunteers gathered for a photo with Mayor Lois Smith and MP Bill Casey. Shown above are: Back Row (L-R): Ed Gilbert, Randy Mosher, Kerwin Davison and MP Bill Casey. Front row (L-R): President Harriet McCready, Cumberland County Deputy Warden Ernie Gilbert and Parrsboro Mayor Lois Smith. (McCready Photo)



On the day of the funding announcement by Hon Tony Ince, there was a whimsical display called ROOT PEOPLE by Tommy Strutz. Lawrence Nicoll put together a number of the faces into one photo. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

OP-ED

Tidal Power: Move forward, no matter what

By Darren Porter

How bad is the Fundy Tidal Project really? The negative social economic impacts are potentially massive. With a little bit of reading on the subject, it is apparent, it's not about a demonstration, nor is it about the determination of environmental effects or impacts. At some point the powers to be, made the decision to move forward no matter what the implications.

One of the main questions asked by almost all, in the beginning, was "What is the environmental threshold which would trigger the removal of these devices?" Today, 10 years later this still has not been answered.

There are good reasons for this from an industry point of view: One is a liability or potential payout to existing stakeholders; Second is environmental regulations which presented a risk to this and other tidal energy projects moving forward. Third and most importantly is the impact on the ecosystem and the life within.

One must remember tidal turbines are sited in public environment. One way the developers mitigated political and regulatory risks was to strengthen communications with regulators and policy makers which is viewed as risk minimalization to industrial collaboration.

The project quickly moved away from environmental and stakeholder concerns and stake holder interactions except where legally binding. The planned stake holder round table was scrapped.

All that was left was pure unchecked industrial advancement with mitigation to every environmental obstacle in industry's favor. Perhaps this resulted from a report published in February 2011. There were no insurers, at that time, prepared to underwrite such risks. How better to eliminate risk than to eliminate responsibility, requirements and detections of ecological effects, while gracefully making it seem you are ecologically responsible.

Here's some examples of how it was done: To the public they sold the single sonar unit on one of the two devices as a way to detect marine life avoidance and to determine the impacts on the ecosystem. This falls short of international standards, which calls for multiple technologies in the State of the Science Review 2016, including multiple cameras mounted on the turbines to watch for interactions.

FORCE claims cameras won't work on their site. Although there are options such as the standard issue recommended DIDSON Identification Sonar Camera which will work. The DIDSON cancels FORCES argument it can't be done.

Acceptable international standards require cameras be used. Fishermen and other groups request cameras be used. Because FORCE claims cameras will not work, it is no longer required for them to use them. Ironically, we have found out cameras will work to monitor the feet, to see if the turbine structure moves. We're unable to understand why they won't work if pointed in another direction to



Age of Sail Museum hosts another successful Murder Mystery Dinner Theater on July 16. In this photo, the cast of volunteer performers sing a sea shanty with the audience. The dinner theater has seen a full house almost every year since the plays started in early 2000. It is a major fund raiser for the museum. (O'Byrne Photo)



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monitor interactions of mortality on the FORCE site. After FORCE and its berthing stakeholders / partners have achieved the required social license to proceed, someone needs to put in place a Due Diligence process to monitor affects. I've learned the reason for the single sonar is to determine the interactions of submerged ice as most blocks originate in the Minas Basin, as well as debris and large marine mammals (whales) which could damage the tidal devices. They tell us one thing and simply spin their true intentions towards what the public wants to hear. Suggested mitigation for whales to tidal turbine risks is simply to make a bigger turbine tough enough to chop it up without causing damage to the turbine.

The Acadia Tidal Energy Institute states there should be monitoring for large submarine hazards, which is exactly what this sonar is designed for. It can not differentiate between species, e.g (SARA listed) salmon and shad.

As a result there would be indiscriminate killing of even listed species.

Even worse, the second devise isn't even monitored, it was simply allowed by the Nova Scotia government as bonus to Cape Sharp. The FAST platforms are designed to monitor the effects on the turbines, not the effects of the turbines on the Environment.

It is understood the cable isn't long enough to reach the FORCE berth for one of the FAST platforms. With no way to monitor any death on the FORCE site there is no way to see interactions and no threshold on how much they can kill.

All white shark information all but disappeared off all documents, until fishermen made it public. For example, on July 31, 2015 The Chronicle Herald and CBC News carried reports of the death of a three metre White Shark. A DNR helicopter crew spotted the shark, and after landing provided photos of DNR Forest Health Officer, Robert Davis, in several poses with the dead white shark.

A call to the DNR office in Parrsboro confirmed the sighting was made on July 30th, in the West Bay on the Parrsboro side of the FORCE site. However, other media reports, at the time, indicated the shark washed ashore in the Advocate Harbour area. OREA's 2016 report does not mention SARA fully protected white sharks as a concern.

A leading American scientist, who frequently tags Northern White Sharks, suggested site fidelity as the same white shark returns to the FORCE site within days in subsequent years.

OERA and FORCE are one of the many arms length side shoot groups like FERN and EMAC. Basically they are all the same players just shuffling the deck with a different hand.

What's even scarier is the same people, who pushed these aggressive green targets we must meet as a Province, are the benefactors to tidal power, in one way or another.

This has been sold so well, even the most educated individuals have and are somehow justifying as acceptable loss of the entire ecosystem of the most productive piece of water of earth.

Now that is truly incredible!
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