

Demonstrating Technology in Tidal Power Generation



Premier Dexter with other dignitaries cuts the ribbon for the official opening of the Power Centre with Cape Split in the Background. (Lawrence Nicoll Photo)

By John Dodds

The Onshore Building for the Tidal Generation demonstration project in West Bay will serve as the main public access point for education and information regarding the ongoing testing and trials of tidal power turbines in the Bay of Fundy.

The building site, located approximately 10 km west of Parrsboro on the West Bay is on a relatively flat promontory that overlooks the water site in the Bay of Fundy where the tidal stream generators will be located. The site is approximately 70 feet above sea level, which affords magnificent views to the South and West of the Bay.

The site has been carefully planned to minimize cutting

of trees and existing vegetation. The site plan features a short entry road, parking for approximately 16 vehicles and one tour bus. The site also marks the landfall of the power generation undersea cable. The eastern border of the site contains a significant underground concrete encased cable duct system that leads to a nearby substation. This substation will feed tidal generated power to the mainland electrical grid.

The building itself is relatively small with an area of 277 m² (2982 sf). It combines space of 160 m² (1700 sf) for interpretive exhibiting and research; 32 m² (335 sf) for lecture and meeting space and the remainder for entry, small office, washrooms and circulation.

The building functions primarily to demonstrate the latest technology in tidal power generation and the science of the Bay of Fundy. Visitors will include not only the public, but educators and visitors with professional interest in tidal power generation. The research space will assist researchers who have a direct interest in the project.

Although the building will have a limited life span that is associated with the demonstration nature of the project, it contains a number of sustainable features. A major feature is the modular, demountable design of the walls and roof. This allows for the building to be easily dismantled and reused elsewhere with very limited waste. The building also makes full use of the

south and west orientation for solar heat and daylight harvesting.

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One of the displays in the Interpretive Centre is a cross section of the large underwater cable which will bring electricity ashore from the turbines to the new \$5-Million substation now under construction. Over 11 Km of the cable has been delivered and will be installed in 2012 as turbines are installed. (Rees Photo)



Premier Dexter holding a piece of the 11 Km of Power cable, which will be placed in the water next spring. (Lawrence Nicoll Photo)



Parrsboro Mayor Lois Smith at the Power Centre opening. (Lawrence Nicoll Photo)



John Woods, vice president, and Scott Travers, president, Minas Basin Pulp and Power having a chat after the official opening on the FORCE Interpretive Centre, Parrsboro on November 7th. Minas Basin will be constructing their turbine in Hantsport with installation expected in 2013. (Rees Photo)

Pleased to be associated with the Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy

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We are pleased to be a contractor to the Fundy Tidal Power Interpretive Centre Building.

We are proud to have participated in the construction of the Fundy Tidal Power Demonstration Project Interpretive Centre and Congratulate FORCE on their Official Opening.

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