

Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity in Marine Environment

(Editor's Note: Never before has the Shoreline Journal provided coverage of a United Nations conference, but since the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) is being hosted in Montreal with over 200 countries represented, we felt this news item was important and of interest to Nova Scotians. It involves \$227.5-Million announcement for new support for ocean restoration, conservation, and research across Canada.)



MONTREAL, Dec. 17, 2022 /CNW/ - From feeding our families and supporting important industries, to housing diverse species, habitats and ecosystems, our oceans connect us all. Now more than ever, we are seeing the impact that climate change and biodiversity loss has on our marine spaces. That is why the Government of Canada is committed to conserving and protecting our oceans now, and for future generations.

Today at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Joyce Murray, announced new support for ocean restoration, conservation, and research across Canada, backed up by \$227.5 million in funding, including:

- An investment of \$75 million over the next five years for the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund, as part of the expanded Oceans Protection Plan, to support projects that conserve and restore priority coastal and upstream aquatic areas.

- An additional investment of \$7.5 million, over three years, through the Ecosystem and Oceans Contribution Program, to fund science-based activities and research in support of marine conservation efforts.
- An initial investment of \$6.9 million for the first round of a national Call for Proposals through the Oceans Management Contribution Program to advance outreach, monitoring, stewardship, and capacity-building initiatives across the country that help protect marine areas. This is part of a larger funding envelope of \$145 million over 5 years to support collaboration with key partners across the country.

These initiatives will further Canada's efforts on marine conservation by improving our understanding of the marine environment, restoring aquatic habitats and contributing towards conservation initiatives. Canada has made historic progress on conserving our marine waters

going from less than one per cent protection in 2015, to over 14 per cent today. As Canada welcomes the world to COP15 and leads on international efforts, we will continue to take bold action at home to protect 25 per cent of our oceans by 2025, and 30 per cent by 2030.

The work needed to help meet these targets will continue during the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) hosted by Canada alongside Host First Nations - the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh - in partnership with the Province of British Columbia, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) from February 3-9 2023 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The congress will bring together marine conservation experts to exchange knowledge, experience and best practices to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Through these initiatives and continued collaboration with partners, Canada is making concrete progress towards ocean conservation and protection. These efforts are making a difference in building a cleaner, more sustainable aquatic environment for generations to come.

Quotes

The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard said, "It is clear we must take concrete action to restore and safeguard ocean health, and to support the role of ocean sectors in addressing climate change and reversing nature loss. Working alongside innovative organizations, as well as with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments, helps to chart a path towards fighting against biodiversity loss and achieving our marine conservation targets. By working together, we can better monitor and protect our marine ecosystems, combat climate change, and build a stronger, more sustainable blue economy for all."

Meanwhile, The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport was quoted as saying, "Canada's oceans and waterways are invaluable to our coastal communities, our

marine transportation system, and to marine biodiversity. That's why, through the Oceans Protection Plan and in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities, our Government is proud to invest in initiatives like the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund to increase protections for our coastal ecosystems, make marine shipping safer, and build a safer and greener marine transportation system that protects marine biodiversity."

Quick Facts

Budget 2022 committed to provide \$2 billion over nine years to renew Canada's Oceans Protection Plan and expand its work into new areas.

Since 2016, the Government of Canada has dedicated a total of \$3.5 billion to the Oceans Protection Plan, making it the largest investment Canada has ever made to protect its coasts and waterways.

Under Budget 2021, the Government of Canada made a historic investment of \$976.8 million over five years to protect the health of our oceans and to reach ambitious targets of conserving 25 per cent of our oceans by 2025, and 30 per cent by 2030.

OBFB holds Annual Awards Banquet

By Linda Harrington

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade held their annual Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet at the Debert Hospitality Centre on Dec. 10th.

The OBFB Officers for 2022 include: Chief - Greg Muise, Deputy Chief # 1 - Darrell Currie, Deputy Chief # 2 - Leo Morrow, Captains - Derek Richard & Clint Verheul.

A moment of silence was held to honour those who have passed away. In 2022, Onslow Belmont lost four members- Walter McElhinney, Sean Foley, Walter Johnston and Lester Wyllie.

Awards for 2022 were presented as follows: Keith Hamilton Memorial Award for Fire Fighter of the Year- Greg Muise and Blayne Turner; John Petrush Memorial Award for Most Improved Firefighter- PJ Moore; Stan Groves Memorial Award for Junior Firefighter of the Year- Ryan Lavoie; Clem MacKinnon Memorial Award for Sportsman of the Year- Kevin Crowell, and the Cliff MacDougall Memorial Fellow-

ship Award- Leo Morrow.

In 2022, the following earned their 50 Year Active Service Award and presented back in the summer: Chester Sabean, Bill MacKinnon, Charles MacKenzie, John McKay and Walter McElhinney. OBFB Service Awards are recognized every five years of service to the community and this year the following received awards: Krista Gould- 5 Years; Paul Downey- 5 Years; Aaron Crossman- 10 Years; Vanessa Richards- 10 Years; Tom Shreve- 15 Years; Carl Gallant- 15 Years; Doug Jardine- 15 Years, Derek Richard- 15 Years; Clair Peers- 25 Years with OBFB plus 13 Years with Truro; Greg Muise- 40 Years; Leo Morrow- 40 Years; John McKay- 50 Years and Ian Crowe- 50 Years.

The Brigade answered a total of 213 calls (just 1 call short of tying the record) and members put in 547 training hours, 2046 incident hours, 9327 administrative, meetings, weekend duty hours for a total of 11,920 hours recorded. The Brigade answered 83 Medical calls, 57 Motor Vehicle Calls and 26 Mutual Aid

Calls. Chief Greg Muise mentioned in his report the huge value of having Mutual Aid available, especially during the day when so many members are working. He thanked those neighbouring Brigades for their assistance.

The estimated value of fire loss for 2022 was \$584,000, bringing the total loss since the Brigade was formed to \$9,669,759.

The Harvest Sale returned this year as a one-day event raising over \$18,000 after being cancelled for the past two years during Covid. A new roof was put on the generator building and a new monument was placed in front of the fire hall.

OBFB currently has six trucks, a boat & trailer, Polaris UTV & Trailer. The UTV was used on three calls this past year.

The community would like to thank past and present members of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade for their volunteer service to the local area and surrounding communities for the past 61 years.

2023 The Shoreline Journal RATE CARD

The Shoreline Journal

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12x	25%
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Feb 2023	Jan 17, 2023	Jan 25, 2023	Oct 2023	Sep 19, 2023	Sep 27, 2023
Mar 2023	Feb 21, 2023	Mar 1, 2023	Nov 2023	Oct 17, 2023	Oct 25, 2023
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Jun 2023	May 23, 2023	May 31, 2023	Feb 2024	Jan 23, 2023	Jan 31, 2023
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Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

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