

Area Weir Fishermen Suffering

By Maurice Rees

Wayne Linkletter can only dream about the days he'd fish 7-8 tonnes of herring from his weir at Carrs Brook. In the past he's seen days when 20 tonnes was possible. During a telephone conversation on May 16th, he said this year I'm lucky to get more than a tray of herring (100 lbs).

Linkletter said herring are not coming up through the passage (Minas Channel). Noise from all the boats in the water is keeping the herring away, but down shore on the other side of the bay there's lots of herring.

In a phone conversation, Linda Lewis said, "Tide's out, Tony's down to the weir, but there's no lobster bait if that's what you are calling about". When questioned further, she indicated he's not even getting 100 lbs of herring per tide.

When he returned from the weir, Tony said that his primarily flounder weir has been fishing so poorly later, he's gone back to clamming. He continued, I was always told if herring aren't running by the Victoria Day weekend, it will be a poor year. He longs for herring catches like two or three years ago, when occasionally a single tide would bring 5,000-6000 lbs of herring.

Jerry Taylor, whose family weir is located on the edge of Partridge Island says herring catches have been down significantly from what they should be. Taylor said Stacey Pineau, Cape Sharp Tidal and

Mary MacPhee representing FORCE held a meeting with fishermen on the wharf Monday, May 15th at 3:00 pm. Fishermen were advised then the turbine is pulled from the water it will be towed to Fraserville for some testing.

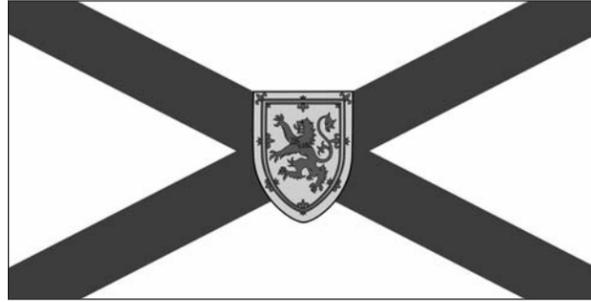
Mark Taylor, who fishes lobster in the Bay was the only other fisherman to attend the Parrsboro meeting. He said the two representatives soon left to hold a similar meeting in Advocate later at 6:00 pm. When questioned as to the message to fishermen, Lobster fisherman, Mark Taylor confirmed the move to Spencer's Island or Fraserville was being considered and lobster traps in the water would be have to be moved when the turbine is raised.

He added, "Early in April we were asked to move our traps away from the turbine near the FORCE site, now we are given two days to move our traps again. It's not enough time. We should be given a couple of weeks".

Another weir fisherman, Sheldon Eagles, Five Islands has not been doing well. He fishes herring, flounder, shad and other bait fish. While he was down to the weir, fishing the tide, his wife commented it's not good. The herring haven't come yet.

District 10 councillor, Tom Taggart, said no one had contacted him about the lack of herring, but he would be checking with weir fishermen along the bay.

NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION



Questions to Karen Casey

To ensure residents of the remote areas of Colchester North do not have to travel to Truro what would you do to ensure government services /offices are available close to their home community?

Growing the economy of our rural communities and providing access to much needed services is a priority. Working to deliver broadband internet is the best way forward for Colchester North regarding access to government services and future opportunities. **If you are elected what will you do to assist community groups develop initiatives to improve the economy of their community, including more accommodations, food outlets and related services, as the profile of the Bay of Fundy becomes more iconic as a destination for tourists?**

2016 was a 3rd straight year of tourism growth in Nova Scotia and it is important to continue to build on that momentum. The Culture Action Plan is a new initiative that will help small communities capitalize on their culture to bring in more tourism to the community. The Liberal Government will invest \$8 million to revitalize our iconic tourism sites. Locally, I am proud to have assisted with improvements to the Five Islands Provincial Park, have supported Five Islands Lighthouse Park and

the Not Since Moses Run as great outdoor recreation opportunities that promote our unique attractions along the shore.

What will you do to raise the standard of living of Colchester North residents so less of them are living on or below the poverty line?

I understand the cost of living can be challenging and some Colchester North residents are having difficulty getting by. I have supported government's work to provide Income Assistance recipients with a bit extra each month, and we are working to transform the way we provide income assistance. If a Liberal government forms, a Standard Household Rate which will increase benefits will be introduced. As well, a work incentive will be introduced to allow those working to keep more money in their pocket. I support government's plan to reduce taxes for the middle class and those who need it the most and commit \$20 million to the poverty plan.

What programs will you help implement to stop "out migration" resulting in youth and young families remaining in or being attracted to live, work and play in Colchester North?

The best way to stem the out migration from Colchester North is to work on improving employment opportunities in the riding and to continue to work on highlighting our culture and heritage. A Liberal Government will invest \$45 million to help youth across the province find jobs right here in Nova Scotia. We have also committed \$2.1 million towards leveraging our culture to assist in bringing economic growth to small communities as part of the Culture Action Plan.

Realtors are adamant they have difficulty selling rural properties if high speed internet is not available. At the same time, the competitiveness of businesses and education of students is being hampered. Realizing Bell Aliant has FIBRE OP installed along Highway # 2 to government offices, highway garages and hospitals, what will you do ensure Bell Aliant is forced to make FIBRE OP available to smaller local internet providers at an economical price?

As a government we have worked hard to expand rural broadband internet and understand there is still work to do. In our 2017-2018 budget, we committed to another \$14.5 million for rural broadband internet. This investment will build on the \$75,000 grant received this past spring for our riding of Colchester North for rural high speed internet. I understand how crucial rural high speed internet is for businesses, students, and all residents. Working toward improving the high speed internet situation in Colchester North will continue to be a priority.

What will you do to ensure the ecology and environmental assets of the Bay of Fundy is protected and the livelihood of local entrepreneurs, fishers and clambers is not impacted negatively?

I am proud to say that Government would work with stakeholders and the public to develop a new Coastal Protection Act. The Coastal Protection Act would provide legal protection for our coast and also work to ensure that our fisheries sector is protected.

With an aging population how will you help community groups develop programs to assist seniors to remain in their home for longer period of time?

We announced early spring a \$13 million investment over 3 years for Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population. As part of this plan, we committed to an additional \$5.1 million dollars for more home care initiatives; increase investment for self-managed care and we would also expand the caregiver benefit program. Funding has also been committed to increasing affordable housing for seniors as well as increasing the budget for the senior's property tax rebate.

If both parents are in the workforce would you help develop a program so "children care" or "after-school care" could be offered as an extension of work already being done in the community at existing churches?

The new Liberal Government pre-primary program for 4 year old would start in September. The program would begin with 30 classes (750 students) and increase new classes across the province in each of the next three years. This program will save families up to \$10,000 per child per year in daycare costs. The decision to register children is made by the parent. This is

good news for four year olds, parents, and teachers - many who have indicated students are better prepared for grade primary if they have been part of a four year old program. The Liberal Government is doing our part by making this opportunity available to parents.

The Childcare Review has identified the need for more childcare facilities in rural Nova Scotia. As an MLA, I would welcome the opportunity to look at any and all initiatives that would be beneficial to the community and help families find safe, affordable and quality childcare.

Should branches of Royal Canadian Legion in Colchester North be set up to offer counseling and assistance to veterans and others suffering PTSD? If so, how would you help?

Funding for Canadian Veteran services currently falls under the purview of the Federal Government. In Nova Scotia, veterans suffering from PTSD can access the Operational Stress Injury Clinic in Dartmouth. The Operational Stress Injury Clinic also offers services remotely, and they will travel to see those in need. In our platform we have committed \$34 million over the next 4 years to improve access to mental health services across the province. This will be used to increase community supports and create a Central Intake System improving access to mental health services.

In your own words, why are you the most qualified candidate to represent residents of Colchester North?

Voters continue to tell me that they respect and appreciate my record of being able to deliver on commitments made to them, and they feel I am genuinely concerned about their well-being. This is true. I grew up in Bass River. I understand life in rural Nova Scotia. I understand what is needed to keep our rural communities alive. My greatest reward is the success of others. I will continue to work hard with all levels of government. I value team work over self-promotion, and my constituents know I care.



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