Area Weir Fishermen Suffering

By Maurice Rees

Wayne Lindellet said only a dream about the days he did fish 7-8 tonnes of herring from his weir on Carrs Brook. In the past he’s seen days when 20 tonnes was possible. In a telephone conversation on May 16th, he said this year he’s lucky to get more than a trap of herring (100 lbs).

Lindellet said herring are not coming up through the passage (Missis 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 west, Tony said that his primarily flounder weir has been fishing so poorly later, he’s gone back to clammering. He continued, I was always told if herring aren’t running in the Victoria Day weekend, it will be a poor year. He longs for herring aren’t running by the other side of the bay.

When he returned from the east, Jerry Taylor, whose family weir is located on the edge of Parrs Island says herring catches have been down significantly from what they should be. Taylor said Stacey Pineau, Cape Sharp Uplands and MacPhee representing FISHCO held a meeting with fishermen on the wharf on Monday May 15th at 5:30 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 on the east was the only other fisherman to attend the Parrsboro meeting. He said the two representatives soon left to hold a similar meeting in Advocate at 6:00 pm. When questioned as to the message to fishermen, Lobster fisherman, Mark Taylor confirmed the move to Spence’s Island or Fraserville was being considered and lobster traps in the water would be to be moved if the turbine is raised.

He added, Early in April we were asked to move our traps away from the turbine near the PICC, we are now 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 said herring have not been doing well. He fishes herring, flounder, shrimp and other bait fish. While he was down to the west 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.

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 ensuring 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 providing more accommodations, food outlets and related services, as the profile of the Bay of Fundy becomes more iconic for tourism?

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

As a member of the Colchester North Waterfront Advisory Committee, I was one of the few going from Colchester is now to work on improving employment opportunities in the region and to continue to work on high-lighting 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 improvements to the Five Islands Post Office, have supported Five Islands Lighthouse Park and the Nova Scotia Marine Park as great outdoor recreation opportunities that promote our unique attractions along the Bay.

What will you do to raise the environment and environmental assets of the Bay of Fundy is protected and the livelihood of local entrepreneurs, fishes and clammers 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 commitment over 3 years for Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for an Aging Population. As part of this plan, our province will commit an additional $3.1 million dollars for more home care initiatives, in-crease investment in man- aged care and we would also expand the caregiver benefit pro-gram. 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 “child care” or “after school care” is an extension of work already being done in the commu-nity 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 (30 da- ments) and increase new classes across the region each of the next three years. This program will save families up to $10,000 per child per year.

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

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