

Your input is needed now

Intervenor Status Granted to Shoreline Journal

By Maurice Rees, Publisher
In the interests of wanting the residents and businesses in Colchester County and Town of Truro, particularly West Colchester, to have an opportunity to have their opinions heard, the Shoreline Journal applied for and has been granted intervenor status at the Nova Scotia Utility Review Board (URB) hearings into Nova Scotia Power's application regarding the Maritime Link.

The Maritime Link is the overland cable in Labrador and Newfoundland and the sub-sea cable from Newfoundland to Nova Scotia to get electricity generated at Muskrat Falls to the mainland. Emera, the parent of Nova Scotia Power has partnered with NALCOR and has agreed to a 35 year agreement to purchase 20% of the power and also assume 20% of the \$6.7-Billion cost.

The URB hearing are being

held because Nova Scotia Power is applying to have the \$1.34-Billion capital expenditure paid by increasing electricity rates to its customers in Nova Scotia once the electricity is available.

"I felt the residents and businesses in Colchester County and Town of Truro, particularly West Colchester, should have the opportunity to express their opinions", says Maurice Rees, publisher. He continued by saying, "We are the only media in Nova Scotia is has taken this step to give residents and businesses an opportunity to be heard. As a community newspaper, we are concerned about everything which impacts on residents or businesses. We decided to undertake this initiative because there is no other venue to represent them at the hearings".

It's a major undertaking for the paper, but we believe residents and businesses will

help support our effort by composing letters expressing their opinions, Rees said. We get lots of verbal comments and frequently get letters telling us how much they like the paper, now we want them to send us letters giving their opinions, and we'll include as part of our presentation to the URB hearings in Halifax.

We asked District 9 Councillor, Doug MacInnes for a question he would pose to residents of the area and here is his reply: "As a Nova Scotia Power rate payer how familiar are you with the Province of Nova Scotia's commissioned study by John Dalton to make sure the Maritime Link is the right project for the people of the province?"

Not familiar, Somewhat familiar, Very familiar.

Councillor Tom Taggart, who represents District 10 approached it in a different manner: He wondered, Has

the provincial government been reckless in their rush to green energy?

Has it been their intention to meet their stated targets at all cost? I know it has been in wind energy. Why else would they force Nova Scotia Power to purchase wind power from small wind projects for 0.50 cents a kw and sell it for 0.13 a kw and thus force us the consumers to subsidize the rest.

Is it just so they can get closer to their goals? So they can say we did it. Having said that, are we rushing into this undersea cable?

Are we subsidizing or helping Newfoundland to get their Mega Project up and running?

Have we forgotten all about Tidal Power and what it could do for Nova Scotia?

What happens if and when we get tidal power online and then have to compete with the green Energy from Muskrat Falls as we push to market this tidal power into the East Coast of the US?

Others from along the shore who did not want to be identified at the time, are con-

cerned about how the Maritime Link might affect the Parrsboro area tidal power testing and what will happen when Tidal Power becomes reality. They say, "I sure hope we are not rushing into Muskrat Falls at the expense of Tidal Power".

Elsewhere in this issue (Page 9) a series of questions have been provided. We encourage you to provide your answers and to also provide your thoughts in your own words by sending a letter. Submissions from resi-

dents and business leaders are needed by March 31st.

Rees concluded by saying, "I encourage residents and business leaders to think about MacInnes and Taggart's questions, then form their own opinion. We need your input. We're giving you the opportunity to let your feelings be known to the regulator, who governs electricity prices. This is your opportunity to protect your pocketbook. Support our effort as an Intervenor to the URB on your behalf".



During the cold snap in early February deer were frequently seen feeding in fields and ditches along roadways. This young doe was dining on moss off a fallen tree in the back yard. (Harrington Photo)

icListen Nets \$296,892

Continued from page 1

adding, "This initiative will give a boost to our business and the ocean innovation sector in Nova Scotia."

Some of the technology used to launch icListen has been shared across other marine based industries.

As an example, Stockermans discussed the process of developing a compact battery pack large enough to power the underwater device at great depths. This power pack has now been sold to companies in Europe.

"There are some very diverse markets for this product," says Stockermans. The icListen has also been used to study the movement mammals throughout the Bay of Fundy. She says they are starting to get a lot of interest from marine biologists and research scientists at Universities. "Once they hear about it and what it can do for them, they are very interested because there is nothing else like it out there."

Ocean Sonics and Instrument Concepts is continuing to work on

improvements to the icListen design, focusing on longer battery life, with a goal of being able to leave the device in the water for 90 days. Current technology allows for a 2 to 4 weeks.

"I am very proud that our Government is promoting local innovation and reinforcing Nova Scotia's tremendous entrepreneurial spirit," said MP Armstrong, "Innovation is the engine of economic growth and is the best way for Canada to be competitive globally."



\$296,892 contract a big boost to local company! Scott Armstrong, MP for Cumberland-Colchester- Musquodoboit Valley holds one of the hydrophones as he poses with Desirée Stockermans, Operations Manager for Ocean Sonics and Instrument Concepts following the announcement in Great Village. (Harrington Photo)



Jay Abel, Tejinder Sandhu and Hoa Tang, employees at Ocean Sonics and Instrument Concepts, look over the technology that makes up the icListen, an innovative smart hydrophone. (Harrington Photo)

Masstown Hardware

castle
building centres

1992 - 2013

Hwy 2 Masstown

662-3262

www.masstownhardware.ca



Attention all GREENTHUMBS

Veseys Seeds
ARE
HERE!



SHUR-GAIN

FEEDS 'n NEEDS
Retail Outlet

464 Willow Street
893-3186

Hours: Mon-Fri 8-8
Saturday 9-5 | Sundays 12-5