



When Dealing With Climate Change, Let's Stick to the Facts

By Tony Wright

The global climate is warming. This is a scientific fact. And Canada's temperature is rising more quickly than the global average.

Another fact: This warming is mostly the result of human activity; predominantly, the burning of fossil fuels.

Another fact: Each year, about 6.5 million deaths worldwide are linked to air pollution, a number that could grow in coming decades unless the global energy sector responds.

Nova Scotia is already a leader here, achieving some of North America's most significant per capita gains in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

But there is still work to do: most of Nova Scotia's electricity is still generated by burning imported fossil fuels.

This is why we are exploring the potential to generate electricity from the tides in the Minas Passage, using in-stream tidal technology.

While this exploration takes place, it's important to also stick to facts.

During this demonstration phase, any effects from in-stream turbines are expected to be extremely small, principally because of one important fact: scale.

A single turbine occupies a tiny fraction of the cross-section of the Minas Passage (less than 0.1%), and extracts an even smaller fraction of the energy in the Minas Passage (less than 0.05%).

The international scientific community involved in studying in-stream tidal projects worldwide echoes this view. The recent State of the Science Report: Environmental Effects of Marine Renewable Energy Development Around the World (2016) indicates tidal projects with up to 100 turbines will likely "have very little system-wide effects even in the most complex marine systems."

Further, the report indicated any changes from a small number of devices "will not be measurable." The report also found "no collisions" observed between turbines and marine mammals, fish, and seabirds.

These findings must be tested, again and again, in the Minas Passage. And while this process of testing happens, we must be led by facts, not speculation.

The recent fish mortality in southwestern Nova Scotia is an example. Despite speculation, a month long investigation into the St. Mary's Bay incident by Fisheries and

Oceans Canada concluded there was no evidence of any link to human activity, including no evidence of any connection to the turbine.

The investigation included five flyovers of the Bay of Fundy, covering the Minas Basin and Channel, Cape Chignecto and southern coastline of Nova Scotia down to Brier Island. DFO observed no fish mortalities other than where originally reported - over 150km from the FORCE demonstration site.

While DFO has finished its study, the examination of tidal technology and potential impacts carries on.

This includes collecting additional baseline data, for fish, marine mammals, seabirds, and marine noise at the Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy (FORCE) located near Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. All these findings will be made public.

FORCE's monitoring program now has its most important test subject: a demonstration turbine.

Working with academic and research partners, including the Sea Mammal Research Unit Consulting (Canada), University of Maine, Acadia University, Luna Ocean Consulting, JASCO Applied Sciences, Ocean Sonics, Nexus Coastal Resource Management, and EnviroSphere Consultants, FORCE will collect, interpret, and publish the results for both regulators and the public - to lead an informed conversation about this new technology.

This will be an iterative program, with quarterly results published along the way - to ensure monitoring is led by evidence, rather than speculation. And it must avoid false information.

This month, the Chronicle Herald quoted a claim that "the provincial environmental assessment required [tidal energy] proponents to bury their transmission line, which had not been buried...causing legitimate concern that both acoustic disturbance and electromagnetic fields from cables were having an effect on herring."

That claim is false. The environmental assessment did not require cable burial; in fact, the assessment stated "the effect of EMF on electrosensitive species, if present, is expected to be minimal (limited to within a few cm)." An additional study found that EMF from subsea power cables "has not been documented to cause adverse

effects, such as disruption of migration."

The Herald article offers compelling drama - who cares if it's not true?

We all should. Climate change is happening. And we can't keep burning fossil fuels while the evidence continues to mount, including population level shifts in the marine ecosystem on which all of us depend, including our fisheries. We need solutions.

Can in-stream tidal technology be one? It will take time to have all the answers - to know if this new technology is both safe and affordable.

To find those answers, we can't be led by speculation, nor by false claims. We must be led by science. We must be led by facts.

Tony Wright, General Manager, Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy

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The Hall AGM – February 22

The annual general meeting of the Parrsboro Band Association will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, starting at 6pm. The meeting will be followed by light refreshments. At the meeting, members will have the opportunity to: find out about the Hall's operations and finances; ask questions about the operations and

finances of the Hall and speak about any item on the agenda.

During the meeting, members will be asked to vote on the following: Acceptance of minutes of the last annual general meeting; accept the annual report; accept the annual financial statements; accept the proposed 2017 Budget and elect directors.

Open Mic Starts February 10 at "The Hall"

By Patricia Burke

"The Hall", in Parrsboro has been quiet for about a month and half due to the Christmas vacation and an extensive renovation of the seating area that began Jan. 3. No events have taken place in January, but there has been lots of activity with hammers, saws and drills.

Open Mic will begin again on Friday, Feb. 10, 2017 at 7 pm and will take place every second Friday night until the end of May and then will recess for the summer to allow music to begin at the bandstand every Sunday night during June, July and August. We are inviting all musicians to come and show off their talents to an appreciative

audience. Donations are appreciated at the door and proceeds will go to help with the present renovation costs. There will be a 50/50 during the evening, a canteen and of course a couple of door prizes. For more information call Rob at 902-254-4669 or Trish at 902-2454-3839.

If by chance winter weather does not allow us to hold the Open Mic, an announcement will be on CICR at 4 pm. Our answering machine at the hall will also have a message if it is canceled 1-902-701-8951. And being so close to Valentine's Day you might hear a love song or two.

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Parrsboro Band Association.

OBITUARIES

MAIL TO: Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0
Fax 902-647-2194 or email: maurice@tbsborelinejournal.com

DAVIS, Viola L. – Age 88, of Parrsboro passed away Sunday, January 29, 2017 at the South Cumberland Community Care Centre, Parrsboro. Born in Parrsboro Roads, she was a daughter of the late Melvin and Reta (Bennett) Willigar. She is survived by a daughter, Cathy, River Philip; a son, Michael, Dartmouth; sisters, Maisie (John d.) Skidmore, Parrsboro; Judy Durning (Ted), Economy; brothers, Trueman (Mary), Five Islands; Carl (Suzann), Parrsboro; Douglas (Sharon), Back Bay, N.B.; Roy (Cora d.), Surrey, B.C.; 6 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; a great great-granddaughter; several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Floyd in 1971; a son, Wayne; a sister, Alice (Gerry d.) Boss, two sisters in infancy; brothers, Lloyd (Roberta d.) and two brothers in infancy. Funeral service was held February 1, 2017 at St. George's Anglican Church, Parrsboro, Rev. Dr. Brian Spence officiating. Burial in the church cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Smith's Funeral Home, Parrsboro. Online condolences at www.smithsfuneralhome.com

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