

ACOA Makes \$155,000 Investment



Tejinder Sandhu, Hardware Engineer at Ocean Sonics Ltd. has been assisting with design and testing of the new iListen Smart Hydrophone. (Harrington Photo)

Continued from page 1

About 95% is Nova Scotia sourced."

This hydrophone is set apart from similar products on the market by its small size and rechargeable batteries and it can process data as it is collected, saving user time and memory. The original product, called "Big Ears", was 14 inches in diameter and the wall was one inch thick, with a total weight of about 20kg. The newly developed iListen HF has a wall thickness of only 4.5mm and is much smaller in overall dimensions. The cylinder is made of titanium to withstand pressures at depths up to 3500m.

Wood says since the product was launched in March, many units have been delivered to users and feedback has been favourable. The iListen HF is currently, or about to be, deployed in the North Sea, Bay of Biscay, Mediterranean, Cook Inlet and South Pole. The product has recently been designated for use on an Australian Research Ship and by an Italian Research Group at the University of Pisa.

About 80% of sales so far have been to users outside of Canada in Germany, France, Spain, UK, and the US. Mark adds, "We expect this trend to continue and look forward to

an upswing in sales in the next few weeks as contracts get signed."

Colchester County Bob Taylor offered his congratulations to Mark Wood and his wife Desiree Stockermans (who is also the companies' Operations Manager) and said, "There are plenty of bright minds around Nova Scotia and in particular this area. We should be supporting this sort of thing more often"

Ocean Sonics is currently looking to hire three new people- in marketing, software development and technical fields. They have space for up to 12 new employees, if the need arises.



MP Scott Armstrong took a guided tour at Instrument Concepts and Ocean Sonics Ltd. and was very interested in the intricate technology making up the iListenHF subsea listening device. Armstrong was in Great Village to announce a \$155,000 loan, through ACOA, to these high tech companies. (Harrington Photo)



MP Scott Armstrong holds the world's most sensitive ocean monitoring device manufactured at Instrument Concepts-Sensor Software Inc. and Ocean Sonics Ltd. in Great Village. Pictured also is Mark Wood, the companies' founder and President and Desiree Stockermans, Operations Manager. (Harrington Photo)

Five Tips to Observe When Around Water

By Christine Urquhart

As the temperature continues to rise, more and more Canadians will find relief from the heat through water-related activities like swimming and boating. In fact, it is estimated that over 90 per cent of families with young children will be in the water at some point this summer season.

Unfortunately, trips to the beach and pool can lead to tragic and avoidable water-related injuries and deaths. So to help you and your family stay safe here are five tips to keep in mind when you are around water this summer:

1) **Active adult supervision** Drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional death for Canadian children ages one to four. Whether it's a pool, the bathtub, a water park, or the beach, always watch children actively around water-even if they can swim.

2) **Ensure backyard pools are used safely** A small child can disappear in seconds and can drown in only a few centimetres of water - enough to cover the mouth and nose. Ensure adequate barriers are in place such as four-sided fencing along with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Also ensure portable backyard pools are used safely and emptied when not in use.

3) **Never leave a child unattended in a bathtub** Small children are the most vulnerable group for near drownings. For every death, there are an estimated four to five near-drowning incidents, which require hospitalization and often result in varying degrees of brain damage. When a child is in the bathtub, never leave to answer the phone or for any other momentary distraction.

4) **Be careful when diving** Diving headfirst into water should be avoided unless the individual is properly trained and is sure the water is deep enough.

5) **When in open water be aware of currents** Never underestimate the power of currents. Swimmers or waders can be swept away in an instant, particularly if non-swimmers or weak swimmers get caught by currents in rivers or out of their depth in abrupt drop-offs.

And - NEVER SWIM ALONE!

I Heard it at the Company Store

By Wendy Cox

Do you know what I heard at the Company Store.... I heard that the 50th reunion dance tickets are selling well. Come on down and get yours before they are all gone. They are \$15 single \$25 couple ...anyone over 19 that went to school here should come help celebrate the 50th year our big school has been open.

The ticket includes the meet and greet at the school 2pm - 4pm and the dance 9pm-1am all on Sept. 1st.

I also heard that anyone wanting to try for an antler-less deer tag this year has till the end of August to register for this. Hard to believe that hunting season is not that far off...yuck that means brrrr.....

There is an ATV rally on Sept.15 starting on the Silica Rd. past the fire tower. Always a great day and a well run rally, with some trails that we don't usually go on.

The kids will be back to school on Sept. 6th so watch out for that new speed limit of 30km in school zones. I saw the highway guys putting the new signs up today.

I had the pleasure of attending two music concerts this week. We went to the Marigold Center to hear our neighbour sing some tunes, well done Julia

McLellan...so proud of you, it was an awesome show ... I have been watching you 'perform' since you were three. We also went to Ships Company for Frank MacKay's show....good to listen to an old Truro back door neighbour perform. I used to listen to the Lincolns practice in 'cousin' Barry's basement, many moons ago.

Did you know that the Dutchman's Cheese Farm has done some remodeling and is now serving lunch. You should go check it out....they have such a nice spot and the kids love to check out the birds and other animals they have on their farm.

The Bass River Museum will be open on weekends in the fall, if you can volunteer a few hours let us know. There was a great turn out for Heritage Day...all the participants had a great day to show off their 'toys'. Many prizes were won that day, from cakes to cash ...congratulations to Sophie for winning the boat

race....it was a good day for all who attended.

The Economy Bazaar will be open daily till after the long weekend and then open on weekends until Oct. 8th. They have such a great variety of baked goods, fresh vegies and preserves this time of year. It is that time of year for the gardeners to start putting down those preserves for winter. Oh the smell of pickles cooking is one of my childhood memories that makes me smile.

It's strange, those little things that we all remember fondly, like camping in Five Islands Park with friends many years ago. Waking up to rivers running through the tents, and still wanting to stay another night. Always, good times at the park.

Just remember I heard all this at the company store and if you want to see it hear...let me know. Play safe and keep a watch out for those little people on the road waiting for a bus to pick them up.



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WHEN YOU NEED TO KNOW - ASK A PRO!