

# Dilemma - Who is Protecting Who

Exclusive to:

## The Shoreline Journal

*Continued from page 1*

Caroline Costello said she was satisfied to appoint Michael McAteer and Stephen Tennant of Grant Thornton as joint provisional liquidators to the Dublin based OpenHydro Group Ltd and its subsidiary Open Hydro Technologies Ltd after being told both companies were "seriously insolvent" with debts of approximately \$280-Million".

The Irish Examiner further stated "that on top of what the parent had already invested in the Irish group it was projected that OpenHydro would make further losses of \$128-Million between now and 2026.

My conjecture was that big companies and legal firms can't move that fast and it was likely plans were "in the works" even while the turbine was being towed by a barge up the Bay of Fundy. If so, there could be legal implications for companies involved.

Emera has a 1+% investment in OpenHydro, and a further 20% in Cape Sharp Tidal, owner of the turbine. Emera also had a seat on OpenHydro's Board of Directors and further involvement in Cape Sharp. Stacey Pineau, a spokesperson for Emera said their representative vacated his position on the Board of Directors in March.

An online search on August 1 revealed Open Hydro Naval En-

ergies - Board of Directors listed Christian Richard as a Non-Executive Director. Christian Richard is Vice President, Special Projects at Emera Inc. where he is engaged in business development projects focused on providing cleaner affordable energy. Christian brings expertise in the energy sector and industrial operations, having held senior roles at an electric utility and an international forestry company. Christian holds an engineering degree from the University of New Brunswick and a MBA from l'Université de Moncton. (See link a t :

<http://www.openhydro.com/company/board-of-directors>

Since Cape Sharp owned the turbine and had just announced successful deployment into Minas Channel, I sent the following email to Stacey Pineau, spokesperson on July 30th as follows:

I have received several calls from local and provincial suppliers, including restaurants and accommodations in the Parrsboro area concerned about when they will receive payment for services provided during the recent deployment.

Do you know how many provincial and local service providers there are; how much is owned and when will they receive payment?

Here is her response received on July 31st:

At this time, Emera's focus is ensuring that the receiver/liquidator has a plan for the continued environmental monitoring and safe operation of the Cape Sharp Tidal turbine that is currently deployed in the Bay of Fundy until they determine a final plan for it.

We understand that the receiver is actively taking steps to put a team in place to manage the Cape Sharp Tidal assets as soon as possible. We appreciate the difficult position this uncertainty puts many local businesses in and we are actively reinforcing the concerns of suppliers, partners and others involved in the project with the receiver. Thanks, Stacey.

To find out what activity was taking place to protect small business owners in Nova Scotia on August 2nd, I sent the following email to Steve Sanford at Department of Mines and Energy:

With the filing of OpenHydro for insolvency in the Irish courts there are a lot of unanswered questions and extreme concern from local suppliers, who are unsure if they will get paid.

What is your department or other provincial government departments doing to with regards to this situation?

Ensure a management plan in put in place quickly to provide management of the turbine?

Ensure proper Environmental Monitoring plans are opera-

tional - as outlined in applying legislation?

Ensure there is prompt payment to local suppliers, many of whom are small Parrsboro businesses - who provided accommodation, food services, and provided other services as required?

At least one supplier indicated there are received outstanding invoices for services for removal and/or the last deployment months ago.

It is a shame and ironic that two days after deployment, and one day after (Sunday, July 24th), when the turbine is reported to have been connected to the grid, OpenHydro's major shareholder and largest creditor was in Irish Courts, on Monday, July 25th, filing claims for Insolvency.

Do you have a listing of local suppliers who are unsure when or if they will be paid?

To his credit, on August 8th, Steve replied with: I have just realized this email failed to send. My apologies, Steve.

Here is the content of the reply email which did not get sent:

Hi Maurice,  
These are great questions and we certainly share these concerns. Some we have answers, others we continue to monitor as this process progresses.

I've copied our communications director and will make every effort to have answers to these questions for you tomorrow; to the extent we can answer them.

Thank you for taking interest in this matter and looking to provide a balanced report for those impacted and or interested in this. Steve

Here's part of my dilemma, and how the government department communications section don't answer the question, but reply with a weak spin. The following reply was received on Friday, August 10th:

Thanks for your questions, Maurice.

Contingency plans are the responsibility of the companies that own the turbine, and Stacy Pineau at Emera can provide more information. The Department of Energy and Mines' role is to verify that the turbine is in compliance with its license. This situation cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely and we will continue to watch this process closely.

With regard to businesses impacted by this situation, this remains a corporate issue. It is up to the private companies that own the turbine to settle these business matters. We know that Emera has asked the receiver (Grant Thornton) to consider payments to businesses owed as this insolvency process progresses.

The department does not have a list of local businesses that are impacted. That information would be part of the insolvency process.

Hope this helps with your story,

Here are some of my problems:

It seems there was very little concern within the public service about the blight of small

rural business owners, who are now owed money for a project so heavily promoted by government.

Why are large foreign multinationals permitted to operate in the province without posting security bonds - against environmental damage, or "stiffing" small businesses because they don't want to pay or activities in bankruptcy courts, thousands of miles away?

When something goes wrong why do larger companies, including Emera and government personnel seem to run and hide, don't accept responsibility, or fail to show an urgency or compassion for the problems being faced by much smaller Nova Scotia family owned businesses?

What should government be doing to protect small businesses?

Do you feel government doing enough to protect small business from future instances?

What do you think should be done?

The coverage area of The Shoreline Journal and South Cumberland News is full of small family owned businesses. Helping to protect them is my priority. I want to help address your concerns, but I can't and don't feel comfortable doing it alone. I seek your input.

Please send your thoughts - for or against. E-mail: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

## Open Farm Day - September 16<sup>TH</sup>

*Continued from page 20*

fork continue down Malagash road for 3km farm will be on the left. From Wallace, take route 6 for 8km, turn left onto Malagash road and continue for 5km, farm will be on the left.

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Activities: u-Pick, honeybee observatory, cider tasting (hard and soft), orchard tour (every half hour). Learn about apple varieties, view honeybees in glass observatory, pick apples and small fruit.

### 22. Wsymykal Farm

Farm Type: Organic mixed vegetables, organic vegetable baskets, market garden  
Address: 1121 Chapman Settlement Road  
County: Cumberland  
Directions to Farm: From Amherst, take Highway 366 towards the shore. Turn right onto the Chapman Settlement Road. We are about 2km from the shore. Look for greenhouses on the left

Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Activities: Tours of the farm by the owners. Veggies to

taste. A BBQ afterwards for those interested.

### 23. Nicnat Farm

Farm Type: Beef, u-Pick Strawberries, mixed livestock  
Address: 5312 Hwy 366, Amherst  
County: Cumberland  
Directions to Farm: From Amherst take Route 366 25 km, farm is on your right.  
Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Activities: Come tour our farm! Animals include beef cows, pigs, chickens, ducks and donkeys. Meet the farmers and see our seasonal strawberry u-pick and veggie garden.

### 33. Stokdijk Greenhouses Ltd.

Farm Type: Hydroponic Vegetable Greenhouse  
Address: 1924 HWY 236, Beaver Brook, NS  
County: Colchester  
Directions to Farm: From Hwy 102 take exit 14. Travel west (away from Truro) on Hwy 236. Enjoy the picturesque 10k drive to our greenhouse.

Hours: Open 1pm to 5pm.  
Guided tours available every 30 minutes. Educational activities and games

from 1-5pm. Shop open with our selection of fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers for purchase.

Activities: Visit our family's 62 year old hydroponic greenhouse. See Canada's most common method of growing tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. Learn about how we control bugs in the greenhouse, how our plants grow to be over 25' tall, and how we manage water on our farm. Educational tour and activities provided by our farm educators. Guided tours catered to the ages and interests of guests by our farm educator.

### 34. Sullivans Family Farm

Farm Type: Meat, Produce, Livestock  
Address: 161 Sullivan Road, Nuttby NS  
County: Colchester  
Directions to Farm: We are located 20-25 minutes from Truro off Hwy 311 on your way to Tatamagouche.

Hours: 11am-2pm  
Activities: Farm tours, wagon rides, farm sales table of products/goodies including ice cream, face painting / balloon animals. Professional country

portraits & Taco Stiles Food Truck will be attending serving up "Sullivans Specials". Debit/credit available at our sales table... the rest of the event is CASH ONLY except Mountain Primitive Photography will/can accept e-transfers for portraits. \*Hands on animal interaction provided when available\*

### 36. Hampton Farms

Farm Type: Alpaca  
Address: 8742 Highway 2, Southampton  
County: Cumberland  
Directions to Farm: From Amherst, take Hwy 302 south for approx. 20 minutes. Or, from Springhill, take Hwy 2 south-west for 15 minutes. Or, from Parrsboro, take Hwy 2 north for 20 minutes.

Hours: 10am-4pm  
Activities: During the day (at random times) there will demonstrations of alpaca fibre processing, including skirting and carding. Herd health day will be demonstrated at 1:00 p.m., including body scoring and monthly immunization. Alpaca fibre products will be available for sale.



**TURNERS' EXCAVATING AND TRUCKING**  
41 Onslow Mt. Road, Belmont

(Earth Turners) All Gravels, Backhoe, Dozer, Roller, Septic Plans And Installation, New Land Development, Driveways, Culverts, & Building Lots For Sale.

Cells (902) 890 5409, (902) 890-7348, (902) 897-7688, (902) 890-986-4584

*Bass River United Baptist Church*  
5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - B0M 1B0

Sunday Worship Service ..... 11 a.m.  
Bible Study - Mondays ..... 10 a.m.



Gospel Coffee House  
4th Saturday every month... 7 p.m.

Lic. Larry Tirrell - Pastor  
Church: 902-647-2567 Home: 902-843-5941

## Kevin Veinotte - 2018 Woodland Owner of the Year

By Maurice Rees

Kevin Veinotte and his family of West Northfield, Lunenburg Co. operate Out to Pasture Farm, a 162-hectare (400 acres) plot that combines their farm, forest and Christmas tree U-pick, and a recently added poultry processing plant has been selected as the 2018 Woodland Owner of the Year.

"The Veinottes are pushing the forestry industry forward with innovative and sustainable practices," said Lands and Forestry Minister Iain Rankin. "This award gives them the well-deserved recognition for their continued efforts. "Congratulations to the Veinottes for demonstrating exemplary practices in woodland management."

The family also won the award 11 years ago. Since then they have taken on new initiatives including developing a carbon management plan. There will be a public field day on the Vienotte property on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Jaime Snell-Pollendine of Wentworth Valley, Colchester Co. is the Woodland Owner of

the Year for the central region. The Snell 202-hectare (500 acres) woodlot has been in the family for generations and is managed with the support of North Nova Forest Owners Cooperative.

Bill and Ruth Oprel of Glencoe Mills, Inverness Co. have been awarded the Woodland Owner of the Year for the eastern region. Since acquiring their 134-hectare (330-acres) property in 2011 the Oprels have worked to restore the woodlot's diversity through various silvicultural treatments.

The Department of Lands and Forestry has presented the Woodland Owner of the Year Award program since 1990. Nova Scotia residents who own 20 to 2,000 hectares (50 to 5,000 acres) of woodland are eligible for woodland owner awards.

**Nominations are accepted at Department of Lands and Forestry offices until April 15 each year. More information is available on the department's website at [www.novascotia.ca/natr/woodlot/woya](http://www.novascotia.ca/natr/woodlot/woya).**

**Chinese & Canadian Dishes**  
In Economy for a great food experience

Excellent Chinese food, plus Burgers, Fish & Chips, Homemade Fries

HOURS:  
Until June 19th: Thursday to Sunday - until 8:00 pm  
After June 19th: 6 days a week Tuesday to Sunday until 8:00 pm (Friday and Saturday open until 9:00 pm)

**Pat's Boardwok**  
3397 Hwy 2, Economy, NS B0M 1K0  
Ph: 902-647-2200