PUBLIC HEARING

WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

JOINT REVIEW PANEL

VOLUME 11

HELD BEFORE: Dr. Robert Fournier (Chair)
Dr. Jill Grant (Member)
Dr. Gunter Muecke (Member)

PLACE HEARD: Digby, Nova Scotia

DATE HEARD: Thursday, June 28, 2007

PRESENTERS:
- Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
  Mr. Michael Cox and Ms. Sherry Pictou
- Ms. Janet Larkman
- Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association
  Mr. Terry Farnsworth
- Freeport Community Development Association
  Mr. Roger Outhouse
- Mr. Don Mullins
- Mr. Robert Thibault
- Digby Neck Community Development Association
  Mr. Arthur Bull
- Atlantic Canada Chapter, Sierra Club of Cda
  Mr. Mark Dittrick
presenter for this particular session is Terry Farnsworth, representing the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association.

PRESENTATION BY Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH

Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH: You hear me All right? My name is Terry Farnsworth, a fisherman foremost, and I guess I'm speaking on behalf of the Bay of Fundy Inshore today.

Vice-President of Inshore Fishermen's Association for the last 11 years since 1996. I've been involved with issues that affect our community in the fisheries and other developments; process of grass root, non-profit government structure of community-based management, mostly of the ground fisheries.

Member of the Local Fixed Gear Council made up of Maritime Fishermen Union and the Bay of Fundy Inshore. Also a Member of the Local Marine Resource Centre, Cornwallis, which looks at the many things like mapping, information of local renewable resource and non-renewable resources in the area.

Many workshops on the area of concern to ask questions... Are we are prepared for oil spills in case of collisions?... And countless other area of concerns of the needs for substanability in the big picture.

Many workshops on the ecosystem
approach, the bulk on the writing of the rules. Terms of reference fall short in timing for area protection.

To share stories with grass-root people from around the world who have been affected socially, economically, culturally by international interests has been a feeling and robbery and invasion. With these people I have met, I have put a pin on the global map to say this is where I live. Each student presented(sic) either a nation or country who also visited me at the Digby Wharf as a backgrounder. This merely scratches the surface by community involvement.

For the amount of issues that are affecting our community, all at the same time, I find it very overwhelming, to say the least. In dealing the accumulative effect and combined effects like which was mentioned in the Guidelines... This part is mentioned, and are pleased that it is mentioned.

For some of us, we've had the unpleasant experiences of putting the dots together that affect us all in dealing with the pros and cons with conflict of interest.

The process of defining community for the fisheries of inshore fixed gear turned out to be geographic from Clare, French Shore, Islands, Digby Necks, all the way to the head of the Bay.

That's a pretty large community, a
pretty large success, with realizing how much we are connected, affiliating with Maritime Fishermen Union. We still are there. We haven't gone away. A lot of us have sold out, or I should say what I'm saying here, a lot of us could have sold out, but though if we did, we'd be selling us out, or the community.

Are we stupid for not selling out to the corporate agenda? Perhaps so, in some people's eyes, but it feels good trying to do the right thing.

Now, getting the rock quarry, I want to start off by saying I have lived on the Island on Digby Neck in numerous places. There is hardly not a place along the coast that I haven't fished from below the Island to the Minas Basin at the head of the Bay. This is the life whereas you get to see both sides of the North Mountain.

Oftentimes, when passing by, I look in from the Bay to look at the house where my grandmother lived, which is still standing; the place where my Uncle Darrell and Aunt Tina was murdered by a neighbour boy, who had seriously mental problems, of Whale Cove. I am grateful to the people who bought the house, and restored it. They invited our family to share the life in memories of the Bunker family.

As a community, it was heartwarming, to me, as a community; a community pull together with much
Depending on nature, there is no way of knowing what she'll bring. It's not something you can minimize or exclude. Some years, schools of blackfish tuna; other whale species of water and air; the variety is breathtaking on many accounts. Don't know what they are called. Some years, along the coast, the whales breach and fool around very close to shore. On a still, quiet night, it's amazing how sound travels.

Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH

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When at my uncle's cottage under the steep hill on the opposite side of the Island road, pointing away from the Bay of Fundy, I could hear them breaching, splashing, and blowing, making noises in the Bay.

Life at sea and coastal sites are beyond anything you can minimize(sic). Steering your boat with a small bird sitting on the bill of your hat, or shoulder, either make you feel very ridiculous or connected.

The path we find on the water to get out of the rough waters a lot of times are close along the shore. The tides and weather interactions fisherman understand in the Bay are nothing to mess with. My worry in this area of a rock quarry would become as a restricted area to fishing activity, or passage that we are traditionally accustomed to in a sense of place where we always knew as our place.

Whether I'm currently fishing out of Digby, Centreville, Freeport, Tiverton is home to me. Many tell us we have such wonderful place. Please take good care of it.

There are beginning to be a lot of factors about such an operation. There are those who feel because it would be on the back side of the mountain, no one would ever notice. I'm sure if you could hear the train whistle below across St. Mary's Bay years ago, which is
Currently, there are Public Hearings about the possible loss of the ferry between Digby and Saint John; also hearings about no doctors for Digby Hospital; a Digby Wharf that's falling down; clam flats shut down. This usually a sign of southeaster, much will be heard up and down the coast over the mountain.

The migration of deer and other critters along the North Mountain go to the Island. Some years more deer show up on the Island than on the Neck. Whatever the dream is, what will the cost of sacrifice to others be in order to create these 30-some jobs? It is unfortunate that the noose is on Digby Neck. My aunt and uncle also live in Digby Neck at Little River.

On the Island, a lot has moved to Digby, and a lot has stayed. It's also disturbing to think about the amount of water it would take to wash the rock, and where will this water go. With a ripple effect of problems that would occur, my sense of this place being our place would be lost.

It reminds me when someone's out of firewood, you start to burn your furniture. The problems or fate should not rest with rock quarries in this area. What kind of Government do we have, anyway? I don't think it is very Canadian or politically fair for so much to be hitting us at the same time.

Currently, there are Public Hearings about the possible loss of the ferry between Digby and Saint John; also hearings about no doctors for Digby Hospital; a Digby Wharf that's falling down; clam flats shut down. This
can't be a coincidence. Something's wrong with this picture.

Why should our schools and municipalities be at the hands of bribery. I believe in supporting my community, and don't deprive economics or jobs. It's not the Irvings or the Bilcons of New Jersey that should be running our country.

The stop signs along the coastal roads, to me, says the thing to me, no to the rock quarry, and for a good reason; because that's local knowledge. I do not want to debate that, or be in a conflict, but want the opportunity to say no. I do not believe I can trust someone with foreign interests, or there's a conflict of interest, I don't go around for signatures. Everyone can speak for themselves.

But for the most part, I haven't heard very many fishermen say they want this rock quarry that fish their own vessels. I don't want to be in a position whereas I can neither be for or against something. It sounds a little like the Tory Government who says, "Trust me, everything will be okay". It sounds a little too much like I don't have a vote. We are not fish. Fish don't vote.

I feel that access to information on behalf statistics should not have been for international interests and government groups to use to consume or
undermine communities. This is exactly why we need an area
protection plan. For years now, we've been trying to play
catch-up as the global impacts unfold our communities.

    Lately, I've been feeling almost like
all the meetings over the past 11 years have been for
nothing, but after hearing others speak as the Ecology
Action Centre people, like Jennifer Graham, and others, it's
uplifting.

    As a fishing community of mostly fixed
gear, inshore fishermen, we have problem in seconding a
motion for area protection. The struggles with principles,
ethics, conservation has been very confusing. While we have
stream restoration, not far from it, we have a disaster.

    To project to the media these false
images, we know the pro and con games that are being played
by corporate interests.

    Respectfully, I would like to thank the
groups that worked with our communities over the past great
number of years, the many organizations, community networks,
Western Valley Development Association, environmental
groups. To name them, it would be impossible. Friends from
all over the world of grass roots, like fisher people, to
thank them all. It's been certainly a lot of hard work, a
lot of time out of my family life, but no one leaves
brother, or sister, or family when you're making a stand for
what is right.

I'm also grateful to the young people who contribute and share their education skills in a good cause. Also the elders, who share their knowledge, and input and support in their retiring years. We all have much to share when we put it into one body on the same page.

Thank you to the Panel. I would not be able to deal with your task in the form of questioning or reviews. And thank you to Paul for reading my letter to the President of our Association. I've been so busy, I completely forgot about that letter of our position taken.

We've worked hard building structure in our community, and to put people in the driver's seat, and to add, to no cost to the taxpayers. All non-profit groups.

It shows how many serious problems and challenges we've had to face, and are continuing to face in all respects of life.

This is my presentation. To add, Mr. Speaker, I presented my photo album. I feel that pictures say a lot. There's another larger picture. It's a small hand-line boat. That's myself. It just shows how magnificent this whale is compared to the size of my boat; that we've, many times, learned to work around one another, without being in the way of that whale.

And in my photo album, it shows where
I've been tagging fish, and involved with science, which
I've learned to... From my past experience, I have lots of
confidence in science. I attended oceanography meetings on
our stocks in the Bay. Our science proved what the local
knowledge was saying, yet they continue to fish the offshore
quotas in the Bay, and now it's in worse shape than ever.
They're still dragging there.

And when you look at all that makes up
our communities; music and the smiles on... And involvement
of young people being involved with these projects of
"embetterment", you know, go to "embetterment" our
communities.

I find it totally amazing that there has
been so much work; that the problem is it's so hard in these
times to get Government recognition, and even the
Municipalities doesn't know the tremendous amount of work
that we've been doing in our communities, and the tremendous
amount of people input.

And I think I better stop right there,
'cause I did have a presentation that was 15 or 16 pages
long, and I cut her in half, but for whatever it's worth,
the process of the liaison committee, I didn't feel that it
was a safe place to express myself. It was something that
you could neither be for or against. I had a lot of
problems, and so didn't(sic) a lot of other people.
Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH
(QUESTIONS FROM THE PANEL)

So this is not... I'm hoping today that I'm not attacked for my efforts. I'm not real big with big words, and understanding some of the language, but we have to learn to talk the common language that everyone understands, and I'm going to stop right there, and leave it to you, Mr. Chair.

PRESENTATION BY MR. TERRY FARNSWORTH

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Farnsworth. As you know, you've been attending these meetings, and we've been hearing from fishermen throughout the meetings, and in some ways, it's not surprising that lobster fishermen, whose fishery seems to be okay... Maybe it's not as great as it has been, but okay... Might not be interested in the quarry, but from what we've heard over the last week or so, is that the ground fishermen have been hard hit.

And you're a ground fisherman, and yet you're not supporting the quarry. I wonder. It would seem that one might say that you and your group would be the ones most interested in the quarry, since the fishery has declined over the last little bit. Can you explain that?

Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH: Yes. I was out west in the middle '80s. I was foreman setting up pump jacks in the oilfield for engineering, and shortly after

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