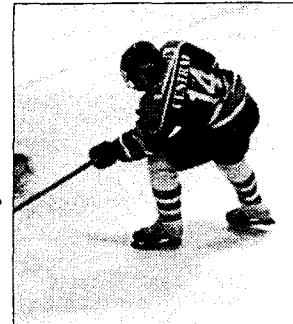




Journal



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\$1 (plus HST)

Small towns should fight back - Fraser

By Stacy Doiron

CANSO - The equalization package put forward by the provincial government was once again discussed at Canso's regular monthly meeting on Monday night.

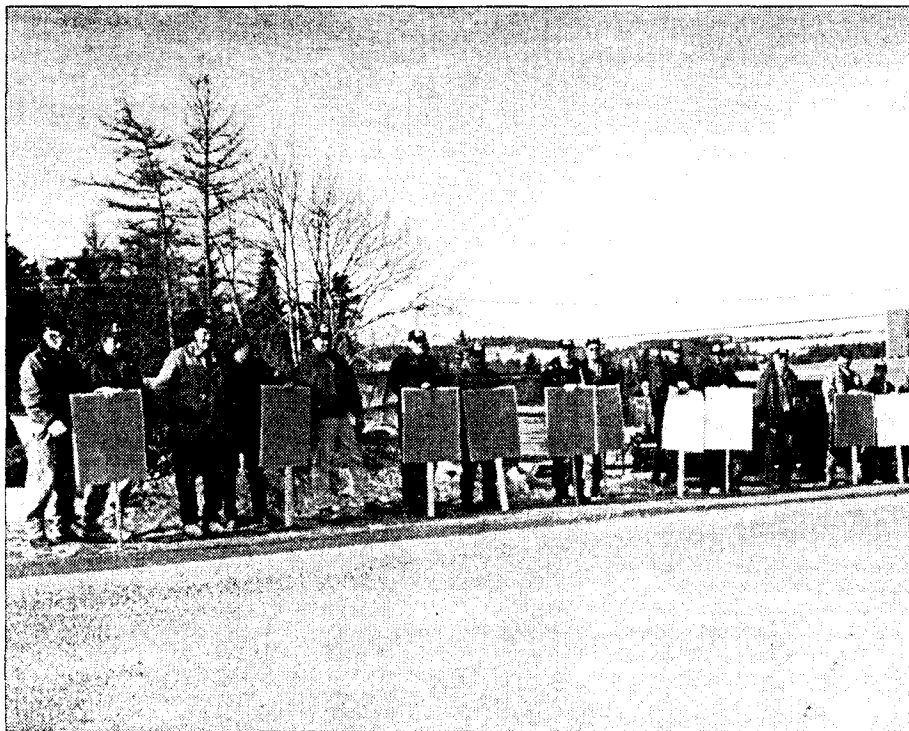
Mayor Frank Fraser reiterated his support of the proposal and said it has received overwhelming support from all but three or four of the province's 55 municipal units.

He said there has been plenty of support voiced in the papers for the Halifax Regional Municipality, which stands against the proposal.

Fraser said people from towns and rural areas of Nova Scotia should write in and say they support the plan.

"We've done everything we can from a council and a UNSM point of view. It's now up to the citizens. Small town Nova Scotia has to speak out."

After the meeting, Fraser said Mayor Kelly has rallied the troops in HRM and citizens are writing letters to the editor. He added unless the package gets support from rank and file people in Nova Scotia, the proposal could be changed or rejected.



MEMBERS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL of Carpenters, Millwrights & Allied Workers staged an information demonstration at the Guysborough school site on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The demonstrators chose the site because work there is being done by a non-union employer, Con & Con Construction, of Guysborough. Stacy Doiron photo

Carpenters Union protests at local school

By Stacy Doiron

GUYSBOROUGH - The Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Regional Council of Carpenters, Millwrights & Allied Workers conducted information demonstrations at the Guysborough school construction site March 26, 27 and 28.

A flyer passed out by union members to the public and construction workers stated, "The Union believes that non-union carpenters are often subject to poor working conditions, sub-standard wages and rarely have pensions or health benefits. The Guysborough school has been chosen for the demonstration because the work there is being carried on by a non-union employer."

"We support the efforts of our fellow carpenters on this project to secure better wages and working conditions," says the flyer.

About two dozen union members turned out for the demonstration on Tuesday and a dozen on Monday.

Daniel Carey, union organizer, said it was a peaceful demonstration and they were there to hand out information and make the public and the workers aware of the benefits of a trade union.

Carey said they are concerned with the fact that there are two groups of carpenters on the site, those with union benefits who are paid \$25 an hour with a pension, health and welfare plan and training allowance, and non-union workers who average between \$8 and \$16 an hour.

"We'd like to see their pay sorted out whether they chose to join the union or not," said

Green crab — threat or future of Guysborough fishermen?

By Susanne Wagner

CANSO - Last weekend fishermen and academics got together in Antigonish to form research alliances with one another. One of the top projects toward which the fishermen are hoping to lure researchers is in-depth studies of the European green crab.

Ginny Boudreau, community research co-ordinator of the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association, says this allows the fishermen to initiate research projects with questions that bother them. She says too often research done by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is done in other regions and then transposed to fishing in this area. The results, she says, are rarely accurate and may not reflect

ermen.

High on those actual concerns right now is why lobster landings in Chedabucto Bay are falling, while catches from Head Canso and up the shore are seeing increases over the past decade. The fishermen believe the green crab may be the problem.

"The green crab has been around since 1950," says Boudreau. "But we've never seen an established colony like this."

She says there are a number of theories ranging from warmer water temperature to the crab's own adaptability. Whatever it is, the fishermen are reporting the crab's numbers as unreasonable.

"Now rock crab fishermen are finding the majority of their catch is green crab."

Unfortunately, the market

to local fishermen. The price fishermen could receive for the crustacean is too low compared to delivering it to the only known markets which are in Europe.

"It's just not feasible," she explains.

There is hope, however. Boudreau says a man from Bakers Point Fisheries Ltd. Oyster Pond Jeddore wants to talk to local fisherman about buying the crab.

"We don't know yet what he's going to do with them," she says.

Meantime, until a market can be found for them, fishermen look at the crab as a pest, and not a welcome one either.

"The fishermen feel the green crab is so confrontational and ravenous in appetite that it could be eating juvenile and molting lobsters which are

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Quote of the Week

"We're dealing with the age-old problem of declining numbers of students"

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Crabs

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most vulnerable," she says. They feel it's displacing the lobster from its natural habitat and harassing the females with eggs."

Boudreau admits this is all speculation and supposition at this point. She adds one of the research projects the fishermen want to undertake is looking at the various interactions between the crabs and lobsters.

If the project unfolds the way it was presented, a student will interview fishermen and see if they've noticed the

crab, its population growth, interaction with other species and where they're finding the invader. She adds an academic with CURA (Community University Research Alliance - a group under Social Research for Sustainable Fisheries) will help design the questions and the methodology of the study.

Another project proposed by the fishermen will be an index of anything they can find out about the green crab and lobster and any interaction between the two. This index will be done by St. Francis Xavier biology student Stan Mitchell.

Meanwhile a second student will analyze the stomach content of the crabs under the guidance of professor Jim Williams of Antigonish who is also researching the crab. Boudreau says that student is Little Dover resident Ashley Bouchie.

"We hope to see what they are consuming and how much," explains Boudreau. "We want to see what other species could be at risk. For example scallops or clams."

Boudreau adds what they already know is that the crab will reproduce until the environment can't support them any longer.

"If it could develop into a fishery it would support itself," she says.

Boudreau adds the crabs haven't found a limit to their environment yet.

"The fishermen are really concerned - they're finding them everywhere. Eel fishermen don't catch eels anymore, but they now catch green crabs."

In fact, Boudreau says the crabs are so bad some fishermen report they're eating traps.

The worst hit by the crab are the aquaculture sites. Boudreau says its like opening an all-you-can-eat buffet for them.

"The soft-shelled clams are a real delicacy for them."

Another project the fishermen would like to see is a pond observation. Here they would set up an ocean environment in a large aquarium-type facility.

"It would be a controlled environment directed by Jim Williams where we can observe the interaction between the different sizes and ages of the crabs and



GINNY BOUDREAU SAYS LOCAL FISHERMEN are concerned over the rapid population increase they see in the green crab.

Susanne Wagner photo

other species."

Boudreau says these plans are a drop in the bucket compared to what the fishermen would like to do. Ideally they'd like to see a study of the ecosystem in Chedabucto Bay from changes since the construction of the causeway to increased ship traffic.

"That's too big for us so we've narrowed it to major

issues."

Until the studies are done and fishermen find a way to control the crab there is hope a market will develop.

"When my father fished lobster 25 years ago snow crab was a big problem," Boudreau says with a shrug, she hopes the green crab can turn into that kind of successful fishery.

Employment Opportunity

Coordinator for the

Disability Coalition of Antigonish/Guysborough

The Disability Coalition of Antigonish/Guysborough is a newly formed partnership seeking to improve the quality of life for all persons with visible, and non-visible disabilities through planning, education and networking to facilitate their participation and integration in the community and the work place.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination and administration of the activities of the Coalition as it develops, as well as establishing connections and maintaining relations with community organizations, government agencies and the community at large.

The ideal candidate will have knowledge and experience in the field of disability issues, excellent communication, organization and facilitation skills, business administration experience, proficient computer skills and strong team leadership abilities, knowledge of and an ability to promote awareness of disability issues.

This is a one-year contract, renewable on an annual basis, and the salary is commensurate with experience.

Interested individuals can forward their résumé to:

Disability Coalition of Antigonish/Guysborough,
P. O. Box 1018, Antigonish, NS B2G 2S3 or to:
thomestead@ns.sympatico.ca by March 30, 2001

This is a community project in partnership with HRDC.

DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY #7

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

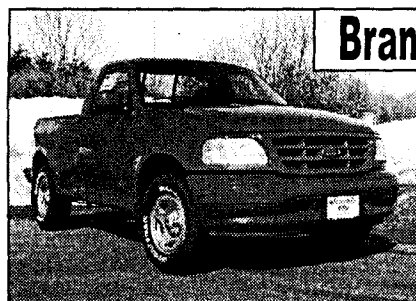
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The District Health Authority #7 requires the services of a Director of Finance. This is a regular full-time position effective immediately. The successful applicant will report to the Vice-President, Operations and will be responsible for the planning, development, implementation and management of the District Health Authority #7 accounting and financial management policies, procedures and systems. This position is based in Antigonish, NS, but travel throughout the district will be required.

QUALIFICATIONS: Professional accounting designation required. Appropriate management experience at the senior level, preferably in health-care. Sound knowledge of financial management concepts and systems. Ability to effectively use personal computers, including word processing and spreadsheet programs. Ability to think creatively and develop policies, terms of reference, implementation plans and result valuations. Ability to execute plans; seeking and implementing imaginative and effective ways to continually improve operations. Must possess excellent communication

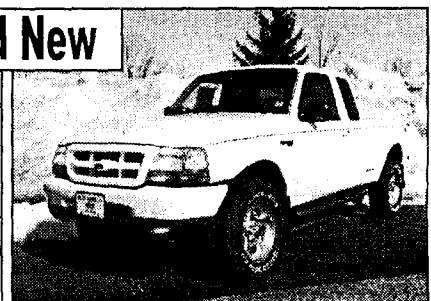
KELTIC FORD LTD.

Brand New



2000 F150 4x2 Flareside

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- P255/70R-16 Owl tires



2000 Ranger 4x4 Supercab XLT

- 4.0 V-6 Engine
- Automatic transmission