

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY

E-News – October 2001

“The Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability is a multi-stakeholder organization whose mission is to promote the long-term viability of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence ecosystem. Our mandate includes the facilitation of communication across sectors, governments and community interests, and allows our members to work together towards a vision of a St. Lawrence region that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. Our membership includes representatives from community organizations, provincial, federal and municipal governments, First Nations, industry, and academics, from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Québec.”

To contact the Coalition:

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We invite you to submit information for posting in the next E-News.

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• SGSLCS STRATEGIC PLAN UNDER DEVELOPMENT

A Strategic Plan for the Coalition has been drafted in support of the SGSLCS's mission to promote the long-term viability of its ecosystem. In this comprehensive plan, the Coalition's goals and objectives are related to a series of specific activities. The plan identifies broad strategies, long-term outcomes (the next 20 years) that it hopes to encourage and contribute to; a series of supporting mid-term (the five year period of 2001-2006) outcomes, and a set of targeted short-term (one-year) outcomes. The input for this

Strategic Plan came from many sources: our Vision/Mission/Mandate; input from our Annual General Meeting; discussions and recommendations at Steering Committee meetings; and the expressed views of our members. The plan is currently being fine-tuned by the SC members and will be circulated to the membership for review.

- **SGSLCS WORKING GROUPS - OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE**

In order to accomplish the many goals identified in the Strategic Plan, specific working groups are currently being formed and activated. These working groups are the mechanism by which the Coalition will achieve its mission. We invite you to actively participate in one (or more!) of the working groups. Please contact Marie-Josée (tel 506-743-7437, email marie-josée.maillet@gnb.ca) if you are interested in participating.

A short description of the groups follows :

Communications Working Group : Implements initiatives that will encourage communications, networking and information sharing among Coalition partners and the public at large.

Science and Research Working Group : Provides a structure and mechanism to assist Coalition members to share and access information, identify and communicate their research needs, commission or facilitate members to undertake research as appropriate and, collaborate to measure our collective progress towards sustainability.

Petroleum Development Working Group : Provides access to and widely distributes information concerning the issue of potential oil and gas development in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence and raises the level of understanding among the diverse stakeholders.

Harmonization of Government Policies Working Group : Explores and supports harmonization of government policies and programs to better serve the public and the goal of sustainability.

Habitat Management Working Group : Provides a forum for discussions on habitat protection and management of our natural resources.

Public Environmental Education Working Group : Provides access to public environmental education by making available information on resources, experts and contacts within the Southern Gulf.

Ecosystem Charter Working Group : Using the vision, mission and mandate of the Coalition, develops a framework for an Ecosystem Charter which will summarize common principles that will promote the values supported by the SGSLCS and that will guide the stakeholders and their actions towards sustainability of our ecosystem.

Annual General Meeting Working Group : Organizes and convenes an AGM within the context of a themed conference in a member community. (Please contact us if you wish to host the next meeting of our members!)

- **BECOME A MEMBER**

If you haven't confirmed your membership with the Coalition this year, here's your chance! If you've attended last April's Annual General Meeting, you're already a member! If you haven't, just send us an email stating that you want to become a member (marie-josée.maillet@gnb.ca), or call us (506-743-7437) or even drop by and visit (26, rue Acadie, Bouctouche, N.B. E4S 2T2). There is no charge to become a member. As a member, you will be invited to : participate in activities; input, revise and comment on material developed for the Coalition and; develop, together with stakeholders around the Southern Gulf, innovative ways to promote sustainability. Come and join us, we need your expertise!

- **VACANT SEATS ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The following positions are currently vacant on the Coalition's Steering Committee. If you are interested in being part of the dynamic team overseeing the Coalition's mission to promote the long-term viability of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, join us! Contact Marie-Josée at (506) 743-7437 or email marie-josée.maillet@gnb.ca

Nova Scotia – 5 vacant seats: Municipal (1), Community organisation or Non-Government Organisations (2), Industry : primary sector (1) and secondary sector (1);

Prince Edward Island – 3 vacant seats: Municipal (1), Industry : primary sector (1) and secondary sector (1);
Québec – 3 vacant seats: Provincial (1), Industry : primary sector (1) and secondary sector (1).

- OIL AND GAS UPDATE

- ✓ Islanders given opportunity to participate in offshore exploration meetings

Residents of Prince Edward Island were given the opportunity to participate in discussions concerning the potential impacts of offshore oil and gas exploration activities in the Northumberland Strait, between PEI and Cape Breton. Dr. Teresa MacNeil, Commissioner of the Public Review Process of Oil and Gas Exploration Activities Offshore Cape Breton, held public hearings in Nova Scotia, allowing concerned citizens to participate in discussions as to the effects of offshore activities. Although the exploration activities are proposed to take place in Nova Scotia waters, Dr. MacNeil has agreed to conduct a similar hearing in Prince Edward Island. The public meeting took place on Saturday, September 29, in Montague. As Commissioner of the Public Review Commission, Dr. MacNeil will provide a summary of her findings from the public hearings to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board. For more information, please call the Commissioner's office at (902) 567-2070 or visit the site <http://www.publicreview.ns.ca/>.

- SHARING LESSONS LEARNED... LESSONS FROM OUR MEMBER : ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE ZIP COMMITTEE
The Îles-de-la-Madeleine ZIP Committee serves the Magdalen Islands, which are located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and consist of a dozen rocky islands and inlets, eight of which are inhabited. Seven of the larger islands are linked together by narrow sand dunes, between which inland water bodies have been formed. The water bodies cover a total area of 118 km².

The Îles-de-la-Madeleine ZIP Committee – "Area of Prime Concern committees or Priority Intervention Zone" (referred to under the French acronym, ZIP, for Zone d'Intervention Prioritaire) – is part of a network of 14 ZIP committees in Québec, covering different sections of the St. Lawrence River. ZIP committees stem from Environment Canada's program « St. Lawrence Vision 2000 » and the Québec Department of the Environment. ZIPs are overseen by Stratégies Saint-Laurent, a non-profit organization based in Québec City. ZIP committees were set up to increase knowledge of the St. Lawrence (river, tributaries and gulf) and encourage local initiatives to protect, restore, conserve and enhance the uses and resources of the St. Lawrence River.

Created in December 1998 and incorporated in October 1999, the Îles-de-la-Madeleine ZIP Committee is a multi-stakeholder group with members in various sectors including tourism, public agencies, health, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, industries, municipalities and environmental organizations. The committee has 14 directors on its board. The main concerns tackled by the committee are issues related to the usage, the habitats and the health of the Gulf of Saint-Laurent. More precisely, the areas of prime concern for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine ZIP Committee are the coastal zones (beaches, dunes and wetlands) and the inland water bodies, in particular the sea, marshes, lagoons and other water courses.

As a first task undertaken by the committee, the development of an Environmental Rehabilitation Action Plan (ERAP) identified and prioritised local actions for the protection and enhancement of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The committee initiated several projects to implement the ERAP :

- *Magdalen Islands' Inland Water Bodies Integrated Management* – to encourage the conservation of the islands' inland water bodies by increasing the current knowledge of the ecosystems and by involving the users and stakeholders in an integrated management approach.
The project includes :
 - bibliographical research
 - field surveys
 - mapping of the water bodies
 - public meetings and one on one meetings
 - formation of 5 committees focused on integrated management
- *Shellfish Harvesting in the Magdalen Islands* – to accurately identify the point and non-point sources of pollution in classified shellfish harvesting areas targeted by the study, which are currently closed or conditionally opened, and to ensure long-term shellfish harvesting.

- « *Human health – shellfish – waste water* » *Awareness Project* – to sensitize the population and in particular the shellfish harvesters on the links between water quality, domestic waste water management and health risks associated with the consumption of shellfish harvesting.
Methods :
 - signs
 - pamphlets
 - articles
 - interviews
 - field surveys
 - map of shellfish areas
 - distribution of legal measuring rings for the soft-shell clam
- Beach sweep of the Grande-Entrée lagoon
 - carried out along 18 km of beach
 - 13 tons of waste were collected
- Development of a GIS (Geographic Information System) – make available to residents of the Magdalen Islands a tool that will enable them to better manage their territory by providing access to geographic data maps.

Many thanks to the Magdalen Island ZIP Committee for sharing information on their initiatives. Keep it up Magdalen Island ZIP Committee : you're making a difference! For more information on their numerous projects, please contact the coordinator Selma Pereira at tel (418) 986-6633 or email : zipidlm@duclos.net

- ANNUAL BEACH SWEEPS

Many communities have hosted or will be hosting their annual Beach Sweep this fall. For some, the event is held every year in concert with the International Coastal Cleanup which is a global project of the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC). The CMC invites groups from around the world to submit their data on the amount and types of debris collected. This information serves to educate the public on marine debris issues and to encourage positive changes that will reduce debris in waterways and enhance aquatic environments.

If you haven't conducted your beach sweep yet, there is still time! For help with organizing your event, please phone : in NB : Gay Wittrien (506) 652-2227 or Thérèse Haché (506) 727-2128 ; in PEI, Québec and NS, please contact Marie-Josée (506) 743-7437. And don't forget to send in your data to the CMC - International Coastal Cleanup! Tel (757) 496-0920 website : <http://www.cmc-ocean.org/main.php3>

- UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ Sierra Youth Coalition's 3rd Annual Sustainable Campuses Conference

From **October 11-14th, 2001**, the Sierra Youth Coalition will be holding its 3rd annual Sustainable Campus Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, hosted by Dalhousie University and the University of Kings College. Join student environmental leaders from across the country in the campaign to transform Canada's universities and colleges into models of sustainability! For more information contact: tel (613) 241-1615 or 1-888-790-7393, fax: (613) 241-2292, email : tosierayc@web.ca , website : www.sierrayouthcoalition.org

- ✓ Sustainable Community Workshop : The Path Toward Sustainability

Coordinated by the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) – Cape Breton, Environment Canada, the workshop will be held at the Delta Sydney in Sydney, Nova Scotia, from **October 24-26, 2001**. Attending this conference will provide you with a template for a sustainable community that can be applied to your community. For more information, (902) 567-1628 or email acapcb@acapcb.ns.ca

- ✓ "Impacts: Producing Educational and Promotional Materials, Workshop Series"

Three workshops are available **October 27 & November 10, 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.** Monsignor Boyd Centre, Corner of Regent St. & Brunswick St., Fredericton, N.B. Registration deadline: October 12,

2001. Contact: NBEN, tel (506) 433-6101, Email: nben@nbnet.nb.ca

✓ Atlantic Society of Fish & Wildlife Biologists

The 38th annual general meeting of the Atlantic Society of Fish & Wildlife Biologists (ASFWB) will be held **November 7-9th, 2001** at the Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick. For more information, please contact the conference organizers: Kevin Connor (506) 453-2440 or Graham Forbes (506) 453-4929.

• AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

✓ Ecologically and commercially important areas in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence

The August 2001 issue of the Environmental Studies Research Fund Newsletter is available online at <http://www.esrfunds.org/whats%20new.htm>. It features the established priorities for 2002 and an update of current studies, including a contract for the 'Identification of Ecologically and Commercially Important Areas in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence'. The final report will be published shortly as "ESRF Report #140.

✓ Bibliography of reports on seismic effects in the Beaufort Sea

A final version of phase one (bibliography and table of contents) of a contract to look at the effects of seismic exploration on marine animals is available. For a copy of the bibliography, please contact Marie-Josée tel (506) 743-7437 or email : marie-josée.maiilet@gnb.ca

✓ Environment Canada's *Tracking Key Environmental Issues* is a tool that can be used to better understand some of the challenges facing our environment, what is being done about them and what else needs to be done. The report gives a picture of how much is known about the state of Canada's environment. You will find information on air and water quality, species, natural areas, climate change, severe weather, and definitions of terms such as "ground-level ozone" and "criteria air contaminants". To obtain a printed copy of the report call toll free, 1-800-668-6767 or e-mail: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca To view the entire the report online, access http://www.ec.gc.ca/tkei/main_e.cfm

✓ Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries Interim Report for Aquaculture in Canada's Atlantic and Pacific Regions

The document is available online at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/1/parlbus/commbus/senate/Com-e/fish-e/rep-e/repintjun01-e.htm>

✓ Summary Report on Proceedings of the Indicators Conference

A summary report on the proceedings and many of the presentations made at the National Conference on Sustainable Development Indicators held in Ottawa are available online at <http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/indicators>

✓ Beyond 2000 : An agenda for integrated Coastal Management Development : Post Conference Report of the Coastal Zone Canada 2000 International Conference, Saint John, New Brunswick, September 17-22, 2001

Copies can be obtained at Coastal Zone Canada Association, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, tel (902) 429-9497 or email coastalz@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

✓ Rising Tide : Community Development Tools, Models, and Processes

A book based on a selection of papers and presentations contributed to the international joint Rural and Small Town Programme – Community Development Society conference held in Saint John, New Brunswick in July 2000. The chapters provide an opportunity to learn more about emerging approaches to community development models, policies, and practices, and how bridges are built across these sometimes disparate discussions of community development. For more information, access <http://www.mta.ca/rstp/pubmain.html>

- JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ GIS mentor - SGSLCS

Based in Moncton, this one-year contract position involves providing support to community-based organizations in the use of GIS (Geographic Information System) applications and additional technology support for SGSLCS. The successful candidate will provide advice and guidance to the community project manager for the design, implementation and long-term support of GIS solutions for sustainable community-based decision making. This support will occur under the lead of the community project manager and will include providing guidance on project definition and management, system solutions (including hardware/software/human interactions), training strategies, and partner coordination. In addition to offer technical support to communities, the successful candidate will also be carrying out other technologically based work for the SGSLCS. Closing date : October 5, 2001 (as per postmarked). For more information, please contact Marie-Josée at email marie-josée.millet@gnb.ca or tel (506) 743-7437.

- OTHER LINKS

- ✓ Virtual Library : Online access to NRTEE publications

This Virtual Library gives you access to a collection of documents and publications of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. Categories range from natural resources, community awareness, atmospheric issues, greening government policy and health. Refer to <http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/library>
