

DFA Addresses Some Clam Farm Complaints

By Richard Bell

Opponents of a proposed experimental clam farm in Three Fathom Harbour were successful in getting the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) to pay attention to some of the issues that they had raised, but fell short of persuading DNR not to renew the clam farm’s license to operate for another year. (Aquaculture License and lease AQ5001).

Murray Purcell first applied for a “special experimental license” in 2017 covering 14.2 hectares through his company, Searise Fisheries Ltd. This license allows the holder to “test or develop new technology or methods, carry out basic research, and test the technical feasibility of an aquaculture site. The holder can choose to apply for a commercial aquaculture licence or lease, going through the normal application process for such leases.”

All the residents we spoke with agreed that they had heard nothing about the issuing of this permit until the end of May 2023. The province did publish a request for public comments four times in the Royal Gazette in February 2021, and on its website during the period January 29, 2021, to February 26, 2021. The “Findings and Decision” document approving the license noted that “Zero submissions were received by NSDFA during the 30-day public comment period.”

Concerned residents set up the Causeway Road Beach Action Community (CRBAC), gathered petition signatures, arranged meetings with their elected officials, and prepared a detailed 40-page document

citing scientific research they believe DFA failed to consider in granting the original license.

DFA does not normally respond to public comments, but DFA Aquaculture Administrator Robert Ceschiutti went through several of the concerns CRBAC had raised, for the most part minimizing or dismissing the concerns. But then Ceschiutti proposed adding five “modifications.” Searise Fisheries would have to provide more information to DFA by revising its Farm Management Plan, avoid areas with Eelgrass, add a Wildlife Monitoring Plan to its Farm Management Plan, track interactions with local wildlife, and provide public access for recreational use, while seeking permission to use private property to access the lease site.

Susan Cakmak, one of the founders of CRBAC, told the *Cooperator* that the group welcomed the five lease modifications. “It’s good that they took us seriously at least,” Cakmak said, “but how do we know the company is going to come up with an adequate farm plan? Who’s going to monitor this operation to make sure they’re following these conditions?”

Another local resident told the *Cooperator* that DFA had told her that the Farm Management Plan was not available for public review. “It’s very difficult for us to have a clear understanding even to know what’s going on in our backyard if we can’t access the plan. That’s also where a lot of friction comes from between the residents and the operator.”



2023 Clam Harbour Sandcastle Adult Winner — Clam Gang #5, Kraken destroying boat/castle

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IN THE MATTER OF: The Companies Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 81 - and - An Application by 3242640 Nova Scotia Ltd., for leave to surrender its Certificate of Incorporation.

NOTICE is hereby given that 3242640 Nova Scotia Ltd., formerly operating as SNAP Dartmouth Publishing and snapd Dartmouth Publishing and currently operating as Eagle Vue Productions, intends to make an application to the registrar of Joint Stock Companies for leave to surrender its Certificate of Incorporation.

Dated September 1, 2023

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HOMELESS ON THE EASTERN SHORE

Living accommodations desperately being sought in this area. I’m a retired senior on a pension and living in my old car as a home. Thus far, I’ve been unable to secure a small apartment or even a room to live in. To complicate matters, I suffer from Type 2 Diabetes and other health issues.

If you know of anybody who can offer me a place to live, I’d really appreciate hearing from you.
I can pay a monthly rent in the range of \$400-\$600.

If you can help in any way, please call me on my cell phone at 902-293-4110. Thank you.

MLA MEMO

Disaster Financial Assistance for July 2023 Floods

The Province’s Disaster Financial Assistance Program is designed to help Nova Scotians, municipalities, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations get back on their feet after a major storm or natural disaster. Not all disasters are covered by private insurance, and this program helps those whose losses are not insurable. Types of losses can include flood damage and damage to uninsurable items like household appliances, such as washers, dryers and furnaces.

The program covers up to \$200,000 in uninsurable losses per household, small business and not-for-profit organization. Residents are asked to continue to assess damage, keep all receipts, take pictures and video and work with their insurance companies. Disaster financial assistance does not replace private insurance and only uninsurable damage is eligible. People who are not sure if their insurance covers the damage should contact their insurance broker or company, or the Insurance Bureau of Canada at 1-844-227-5422.

Applications are available at: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/disaster-financial-assistance-storm-flooding>

Door Knocking

I had the opportunity to door knock to a number of communities along the Eastern Shore this summer. I really enjoy the opportunity to speak with constituents on their doorsteps and will continue this outreach in the fall.

Housing Pilot Update

Work continues on the Eastern Shore Housing Pilot project; we’ve received responses from over 30 home and property owners. We are working closely with the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs to determine the next steps.

Home-Sharing Program Expands with Happipad

Nova Scotians in search of an affordable space to rent now have more options and support. The province’s partnership with online home-sharing platform Happipad – launched to help people displaced by wildfires but it’s now available to all Nova Scotians with a \$1.3 million investment over two years.

There are an estimated 130,000 vacant bedrooms in Nova Scotia. This pilot expansion is a call to action for those who may have extra space in their homes to consider hosting a person or family in their home. Students, healthcare workers, tradespersons and any others who may need safe, affordable and comfortable short-term accommodation could be matched with a room.

Happipad does thorough background checks, matches renters with hosts, collects and distributes the rent, and provides dispute resolution in case of host or renter concerns.

People seeking a room and potential hosts can access the new service at: <https://happipad.com/nova-scotia/>



Funding for Sustainable Communities Initiatives

Congratulations to MusGo Rider! Through the province’s Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, non-profit organization MusGo Rider will receive \$130,400 to install solar panels to power electric vehicle chargers and its office building. It will also be used to retrofit the building to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 589 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

This fund is available to municipalities, non-profit and community organizations, post-secondary institutions, and First Nations communities to help them respond to, prepare for and fight climate change.

More information on the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund is available at: <https://nschallengefund.ca/>

Health Care Highlights

Doctors of Nova Scotia Reach New Four-Year Collective Agreement with the Province

Doctors Nova Scotia and the province have successfully negotiated new, four-year physician and clinical agreements. The contracts cover doctors’ compensation and benefits as well as funding for clinical and academic responsibilities.

A new payment model option for family physicians will increase their compensation based on the hours worked, the services they provide and the number of patients in their practices.

Family physicians compensated through fee for service will be eligible for a grant and will receive an annual payment based on their number of patients.

There is also funding in the agreement for family physicians to hire allied healthcare providers, such as physiotherapists and dietitians, in their offices.

Other investments through the agreements will help:

- improve access to regional specialty services and reduce the surgical wait list
- support training the next generation of physicians
- support physician recruitment and retention.

Nurses Ratify Collective Agreement

Nurses have voted to accept a five-year contract with the province. The Nova Scotia Council of Nursing Unions represents a total of over 10,000 LPNs, RNs and nurse practitioners in the Nova Scotia Nurses Union, NSGEU, CUPE and Unifor.

87.5 per cent of those who voted supported the new agreement that was reached during conciliation.

The agreement offers a competitive wage package that should help retain nurses and potentially recruit nurses from outside the province.



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The deal also addresses many of the challenges nurses faced during the pandemic and continue to face today, including working short-staffed.

New LifeFlight Airplane Unveiled

A new Emergency Health Services LifeFlight plane will soon transport non-critical care patients from Yarmouth and Sydney to Halifax for tests and treatment. The new service will free up ambulances and paramedics for local emergency calls – reducing wait times – and saving patients hours of travel by road.

The plane will carry two to four patients per trip, beginning with three round trips daily. That means up to 12 ambulances a day will be staying in communities. LifeFlight critical care aircraft (one plane and two helicopters) complete about 1,200 air medical missions each year.

New Master’s Program to Train Physician Assistants

The province announced a new physician assistant program at Dalhousie to begin in January 2024. The two-year master’s program will be open to 24 students. Priority will be given to Nova Scotian applicants who meet the program’s eligibility criteria. This will be the first physician assistant program in Atlantic Canada and one of only four in the country.

Physician assistants provide safe, competent and effective healthcare under the supervision of physicians. They can:

- perform histories and physical examinations
- order blood and radiological tests
- make diagnoses and outline treatment plans
- assist with surgeries
- perform minor surgical procedures
- consult other medical and health services
- prescribe medication
- attend to medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest
- provide counselling and preventive services
- administer vaccinations
- perform educational, research and administrative functions.

To learn more, please visit: <https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/PASudies.html>

Open House & Annual Accountability Meeting
Friday, September 15th
All welcome!
Please join us for hotdogs, hamburgers, and a chance to catch up.
BBQ 12:00-2:00pm
Annual Accountability Meeting to follow
From 2:00-3:00pm



Back to School
Have Fun!
Be Safe!

Happy Labour Day –
September 4th



Musquodoboit Harbour & District Lions

We are Lions!! Hear us ROAR!!

Where there's a need, there's a Lion



The summer of 2023 is drawing to a close and the Lion's Club members are gearing up for another busy year of community support. Record wildfires and floods created hardships for many across the province and the country; our hearts go out to those who suffered loss and we are eternally grateful that our community, for the most part, was unscathed.

The upcoming hurricane season is expected to be busy with a greater than average number of storms expected in the Atlantic. As always, the Lion's Club will be set up as a comfort center, in the event of unexpected weather events that result in widespread power outages. We certainly hope that this will not be necessary but want all to know that if the need arises, we will be here to support the community.

September will be a busy month with the return of the ever-popular Crib games and monthly breakfast.

Weekly Cribbage Games: Starting September 7th at 7:00 PM \$10.00 per person. 50/50 Tickets 3-\$2.00. **Teams of two** – must have your own partner. **Weekly Prizes** 1st \$40.00, 2nd \$30.00 and 3rd \$20.00. **High hand** \$1.00. **Jackpot** (winning team takes all 8 games) starts at \$50.00 increasing weekly by \$20.00 until we have a winning team. 

Monthly Breakfast – Starting up again September 30th and continuing the last Saturday of each month throughout the fall \$10:00 per person. (8:00 to 10:00 AM)

Hosting an upcoming event, the Lion's Club Hall is available for rent – 43 East Petpeswick Road, Musquodoboit Harbour.

The Lion's Club is here to support the community, if you, or anyone you know, needs assistance do not hesitate to reach out. We can be reached at 902-889-2725 or follow us on Facebook. 



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Well-Being HUB Services

Navigation Service

Do you have questions about benefits, resources or services available to you as an older adult or unpaid caregiver but don't know where to start?
Consider connecting with our Well-Being HUB Navigator!

The Well-Being HUB Navigator is a resource person available to residents of the Eastern Shore and Musquodoboit Valley. Connect with her by calling 902-981-4001, emailing hubsnavigator@gmail.com or dropping by during her office hours:

Middle Musquodoboit - YMCA NS Works Centre, Tuesdays, 9 am - 3 pm
Musquodoboit Harbour - The Old School Community Gathering Place, Wednesdays 9 am - 3 pm
Sheet Harbour - YMCA NS Works Centre, Thursdays, 10 am - 2 pm

Visiting Buddies Volunteer Visitor Program

We are seeking volunteer visitors (we need men!) and participants for our Visiting Buddies Volunteer Visitor Program!

Older adults who could use some extra company, help doing errands, or whose caregivers need respite are paired up with a volunteer who visits them at their home or in community once a week.

Learn more by getting in touch with us or visiting www.theoldschool.ca/wellbeinghub.

Contact us for more information.
Phone: 902-889-2735 or 1-833-393-2298
Email: wellbeinghubs@gmail.com

