

PEI Eco-Net ENews
Weekly News & Events Bulletin
for the Prince Edward Island Eco-Net de l'Ile-du-Prince-Edouard *July 3
- 8, 2007* **

NEWS**

LOCAL

- 1.1 Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Allan Campbell has declared the week of July 8-14 as Aquatic Invasive
- 1.2 Quebec Cree get first-hand look at wind farm on P.E.I.
- 1.3 PEI Network of highway directional signs replaced
- 1.4 Emergency department copes with weekend closure

NATIONAL

- 2.1 Smaller fish found toxic
- 2.2 N.L. Inuit community copes with recurring gas shortage
- 2.3 Canadian warship frees entangled whale
- 2.4 Western, northern premiers demand better weather stations

INTERNATIONAL

- 3.1 Live Earth London's Glacial Pacing
- 3.2 World's Biggest Solar Power Farm planned
- 3.3 Forest once existed in Greenland: study
- 3.4 Germany reports new case of bird flu

NOTICEBOARD

JULY

- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - TakingITGlobal ▪ Art Show : The "Construction of Islandness" (July 1-14, 2007) ▪ Otesha Project Bike Tour looking for enviro organizations' help ▪ Macphail Woods Ecological Forest Project (July 9-13, 2007)

AUGUST

- "Ignite Change Now" Global Youth Assembly (August 1-4, 2007) ▪ "Singing the Wick of Desire with Carolyn McDade (August 10-12, 2007) ▪ Call for Participation: Environmental Youth Video Production Camp (August 13-24, 2007)

OCTOBER

- Call to Action against poverty (October 17, 2007)

Quote

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- Dr. Seuss, from The Lorax

This week in History

July 5, 1954 - The BBC broadcasts its first television news bulletin.

NEWS

LOCAL

- 1.1 Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Allan Campbell has declared the week of July 8-14 as Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week. During this week, the department and the P.E.I. Aquaculture Alliance will participate in a number of activities to promote awareness of the issues related to the impact and spread of aquatic invasive species.

The goal of the events are to increase the public's awareness of the problem and the measures that can be taken to slow the spread while solutions are being developed. Campbell said issues related to the introduction of new aquatic invasive species have been increasing worldwide. In Canada, conservative estimates place the combined economic losses and direct costs associated with invasive species at \$5.5 billion. P.E.I. is no exception: six new aquatic invaders have been introduced into Island waters since 1997.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm?sid=43168&sc=98>

1.2 Quebec Cree get first-hand look at wind farm on P.E.I.

A group of Cree from northern Quebec were to get a first-hand look at a wind farm this weekend during a special tour on Prince Edward Island. Ventus Energy was planning to fly 40 Cree from the Chisisabi First Nation on James Bay to Summerside, P.E.I., on Saturday to tour the energy company's wind farm on the Island's west coast. Ventus Energy has entered a partnership with the Chisisabi First Nation to develop a 100-turbine wind farm on Chisisabi land on the shores of James Bay. The site was chosen because consistent westerly winds blow across James Bay and because it's close to a network of transmission lines established by Hydro Quebec.

CBC

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2007/07/07/wind-farm.html>

1.3 PEI Network of highway directional signs replaced Officials with the Department of Transportation and Public Works have replaced the final white on black highway information sign with the new, and more reflective, white on blue highway information signs.

For nearly 40 years the old black and green signs acted as a standing guide for visitors trying to find their way across the Island. The signs were first put up to replace billboards that were littering the Island's pastoral landscape. Five years ago, the provincial government appointed an industry-led committee to look at the issue. That committee recommended replacing the directional signs and using internationally recognized symbols. The recommendations were adopted by the government.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm?sid=43244&sc=98>

1.4 Emergency department copes with weekend closure The emergency department at O'Leary Community Hospital closed on the weekend due to a shortage of nurses, but it wasn't as lengthy as originally feared. The closure had originally been scheduled for 7:30 am to 7:30 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. But, the emergency department was able to re-open four hours earlier on Sunday when a nurse became available, according to Chief of Staff Dr Herb Dickieson. The closure in O'Leary didn't appear to affect patient traffic at Western Hospital in Alberton. Dr Ron Matsusaki, the on-call physician on Saturday, said he didn't notice any significant difference in patient volumes that day.

WEST PRINCE GRAPHIC <http://www.peicanada.com/west1.php>

NATIONAL

2.1 Smaller fish found toxic

Toxins that once only surfaced in big fish are making their way down the food chain - a sign that the Great Lakes are getting even more

polluted, a new report shows. In the past two years, smaller sizes of salmon, trout and carp have been slapped with strict consumption warnings – and some with outright bans – in many areas of the Great Lakes and particularly in Lake Ontario. Warnings about eating fish that are longer than 75 centimetres have been in place for years, as they accumulate dangerous chemicals like mercury and furans in their fat over years. Now, medium-sized fish around 55 centimetres long that haven't had as much time to accumulate toxins are starting to show high levels.

TORONTO STAR <http://www.thestar.com/News/article/233035>

2.2 N.L. Inuit community copes with recurring gas shortage Local gasoline supplies have run out for residents of an Inuit community on Labrador's coast for the seventh straight summer. The Nunatsiavut government tried to resolve the recurring problem in Rigolet by putting in a new gas station last fall, but the tanks went dry in April. Nunatsiavut First Minister Tony Andersen said people used more gas than expected over the winter. People are now relying on barrels of gas that are shipped in by plane and longliner and they're back on a gas ration of 25 litres a day.

CBC

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2007/07/07/rigolet.html>

2.3 Canadian warship frees entangled whale A Canadian warship came to the rescue of a humpback whale entangled in fishing gear off the coast of Newfoundland. HMCS St. John's was on a routine fisheries patrol when it received a radio message Wednesday from a fishing boat that a whale was in distress. When the ship reached the whale on the Grand Banks they found it was 10 metres long -- 3 times longer than the small boats they dispatched to assist the mammal. The whale was thrashing about as it was caught in ropes and had an orange buoy snagged in its tail. The sailors had to keep a safe distance so that they wouldn't be seriously injured by the flailing of the whale. Navy divers then cut the whale loose as the crew watched from the decks of HMCS St. John's. The divers had to get within reach of the whale's tail and stare into the whale's eye, which was about the size of a human hand. Once the whale was free it swam away past two humpbacks and a few dolphins.

CTV

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070706/whale_rescue_070706/20070706?hub=SciTech

2.4 Western, northern premiers demand better weather stations They can't demand good weather, but several leaders attending the western premiers' conference in Iqaluit this week are calling on Ottawa to better fund weather stations, arguing lives are at risk. Manitoba Premier Gary Doer said it's essential to have more people staffing weather stations in more communities. While the use of satellites and other automated technology is good, he said it needs to be backed by weather observations on the ground.

Ottawa earmarked \$72 million in new spending to improve forecasting, but some feel more funding is needed. Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert warned that having localized weather forecasting may become vitally important in the coming years.

CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2007/07/06/premiers-weather.html>

INTERNATIONAL

3.1 Live Earth London's Glacial Pacing

It's an inconvenient truth, but mixing rock with recycling is awkward. In a TV interview earlier this week, Matt Bellamy of the band Muse mocked the event as "private jets for climate change. John Buckley of Carbon Footprint, an organization that helps companies reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, said Saturday that Live Earth will produce about 74,500 tons of the gas. "We would have to plant 100,000 trees to offset the effect of Live Earth," he said, speaking by telephone. But, he added, "if you can reach 2 billion people and raise awareness, that's pretty fantastic." Spectators were asked about it, they offered blank looks and said they were there for Madonna (whose annual carbon footprint, according to Buckley, is 1,018 tons -- about 92 times the 11 tons an average person uses per year).

WASHINGTON POST

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2007/07/07/AR2007070701201_pf.html

3.2 World's Biggest Solar Power Farm planned

A San Francisco company said Friday it plans to build the world's largest solar power farm near Fresno, California. The 80-megawatt farm is to occupy as much as 640 acres (260 hectares) and upon completion in 2011 will be 17 times the size of the largest U.S. solar farm, said Cleantech America LLC, a privately held 2-year-old company. The farm will also be about seven times the size of the world's biggest plant and double the largest planned farm, both in Germany. Bill Barnes, CEO of Cleantech, said the scale of the Kings River Conservation District Community Choice Solar Farm will change renewable energy and make California the global leader for huge solar projects and replace Germany as the solar energy hub of the world.

REUTERS

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN0642961120070706?fedType=RSS>

3.3 Forest once existed in Greenland: study

Scientists using DNA extracted from ice buried deep below the surface have found evidence that a lush forest once existed in southern Greenland, a finding that sheds light on how climate change affects Earth's frozen areas. The researchers analysed ice cores 2-3 km below the surface from several locations in southern Greenland and discovered what they believe to be the oldest authenticated DNA ever recorded. Scientists know very little about fossils hidden below ice and glaciers - which cover about 10 per cent of the earth's surface - because usable DNA samples tend to be buried so deep and are difficult to get.

THE AGE

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/World/Forest-once-existed-in-Greenland-study/2007/07/06/1183351425713.html>

3.4 Germany reports new case of bird flu

Germany's leading institute for animal health Friday raised the bird flu alert level in the country to "high" after the H5N1 strain, potentially lethal to humans, was found in a domestic bird. The head of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Thomas Mettenleiter, issued a fresh report with recommendations for Germany's veterinary workers, citing the presence of the H5N1 in a dead domestic goose examined at Vickersdorf, Thuringen. Earlier, scores of wild birds killed by the virus had been found in the area. France's Agriculture Ministry said Thursday that three wild swans

found in the Moselle department had also died of H5N1. The reports come in the wake of a season of bird flu scares in Europe, with poultry farms in Hungary, Britain and the Czech Republic, and most recently of Germany's Bavaria and Saxonia last month, affected this year.

RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY <http://en.rian.ru/world/20070706/68515633.html>

NOTICEBOARD

JULY

▪ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - TakingITGlobal TakingITGlobal is an international youth-led organization empowered by technology headquartered in Toronto. TakingITGlobal connects youth around the world to find inspiration, information and get involved in improving their local and global communities.

POSITIONS: Outreach Volunteer Coordinators (1-3 per province/territory)

FOR MORE INFO: <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/clccanada>.

▪ Art Show : The "Construction of Islandness" (July 1-14, 2007)

WHERE: Keir Gallery

▪ Otesha Project Bike Tour looking for enviro organizations' help The Otesha Project organizes environmental education performances that travel by bike. It is in search of groups to present to over July & August.

POSSIBILITIES:

- To tour campgrounds/parks
- Community festivals
- Youth programs/camps
- Sports events

FOR MORE INFO: Barbara Hayes

WEBSITE: <http://www.otesha.ca/presentations/index.en.html>

▪ Macphail Woods Ecological Forest Project (July 9-13, 2007) An opportunity for children to learn more about nature and have fun at the same time. The week-long "Sharing a Love of Nature" programs take place at the Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead in Orwell.

PROGRAM DATES: July 9-13, July 23-27 & August 6-10

WHO: Children from 6-12 years old

COST: \$50 per week session

TO REGISTER: call Eric - 651-2575

AUGUST

▪ "Ignite Change Now" Global Youth Assembly (August 1-4, 2007) Programming that will provide youth with the confidence, knowledge, and skills that will help them become involved Canadian and global citizens. The Department of Canadian Heritage - Exchanges Canada Program to provide travel costs for youth

WHO: 16-25 years old

WEBSITE: www.youthassembly.ca

WHERE: Edmonton, AB

FUNDING: Can only be used to cover travel costs to and from Edmonton, as well as local transportation (bus tickets). Participants must pay the Assembly registration fee (299\$+taxes) - that includes lunches, snack breaks and access to all activities are included in the program - and their accommodation.

Reasonable accommodations are available at the University of Alberta dormitories.

FOR MORE INFO & TO APPLY: kelly@jhcentre.org

▪ "Singing the Wick of Desire with Carolyn McDade (August 10-12, 2007)
Join Carolyn, and bring along your love of the Earth, of the environment and of the caring community we need to develop, for humanity to live in balance and reciprocity with one another and the community of life of which we are an inextricable part. that life as a whole may flourish.

WHERE: Tatamagouche Centre

WHEN: Friday 7PM to Sunday 1PM

COST: \$325 (includes program, meals, accommodations) TO REGISTER: email tatacent@tatacentre.ca or call 1-800-218-2220 FOR MORE INFO:

www.tatacentre.ca

▪ Call for Participation: Environmental Youth Video Production Camp (August 13-24, 2007) Planet in Focus is inviting all youth interested in film and video, and who are passionate about the environment, to participate in a two-week summer hands-on workshop to learn how to create, shoot and edit an environmentally themed video. All videos will screen at the Green Sprouts Youth Filmmakers Showcase.

WHERE: Toronto, ON

COST: \$100 (2 weeks, and financial aid is available according to need)

FOR MORE INFO: www.planetinfofocus.org or call (416) 531-4689

OCTOBER

▪ Call to Action against poverty (October 17, 2007) Thousands around the world are calling for government action to ensure that the rights of people living in poverty are respected and that low-income people to fully participate in the development and implementation of policies that affect them. The appeal will be submitted to the UN on October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

TO SIGN UP: Visit <http://www.oct17.org>

PEIEN E-News is a weekly compilation of environmental news headlines, public notices and eco-community member profiles. It is sent electronically to PEIEN members every Friday to update them on issues of interest in the environment field. If you have any comments or suggestions about this or upcoming editions, please contact the PEIEN office at 902-566-4170 or by email at: sarah.hoyles@gmail.com