

COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER #35, DECEMBER 2010

This quarterly newsletter is presented in both English and French. It is distributed by e-mail to members of the Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA), providing news about the Association, its activities and its members, as well as information of potential interest to members. Please feel free to circulate it among your own networks. Also visit the Association's web site at <http://www.czca-azcc.org>.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Grant Gardner)

Now that the euphoria from our tremendously successful conference in PEI has subsided somewhat, and as we approach the end of another year, you might think that the activities of your association would also be slowing down. While that might be true in relative terms (I expect Kelly Cantelo would agree!), we are far from quiet. Since the conference, Peter Ricketts, David MacDonald and Michael Davies have written an article that appeared in the September 13 edition of Ottawa's 'Hill Times', drawing attention to our Declaration and our call for a Canadian Summit on Oceans, Coasts and The Great Lakes. The Declaration itself has been distributed via a number of distribution lists, is on our web site, and was sent directly to a number of Provincial Premiers prior to their meeting in Manitoba earlier this year. We will continue to distribute it widely, and to promote the strongly held feeling of CZC10 participants that it is time for Canadians to come together and work collectively to ensure the continued health and vitality of our coastal zones. I encourage all members of CZCA, indeed everyone who shares our commitment, to share the Declaration widely and work towards the implementation of its recommendations.

We are also looking at how best to play a role at the Coastal Zone Conference 2011 which will be held in Chicago next July. The American Coastal Zone conferences are analogous to ours, and are also biennial events that occur in the 'off years' for our own conferences. Representatives from Coastal Zone 2011 were in Charlottetown for CZC10, and were suitably impressed. We plan to develop a session for their conference that will allow both countries to address current progress and critical issues with respect to coastal zone management, and allow us to compare Canadian and American success stories. Look for more information in upcoming Newsletters!

Despite my comments about the many good things that CZCA is working on, there will be an inevitable slowdown as we approach Christmas and the march into another New Year. That is as it should be. The coming holiday season is a time to reflect and to, in nautical terms, check the lines that bind us to solid ground. Our families and friends anchor us, and without those anchors we would easily come adrift. Take time to "reground" yourself, and to re-invigorate those ties over the holiday season.

All the best for the coming year.

Grant Gardner
CZCA President

TOWARD A COASTAL AND OCEAN STRATEGY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The coastal and ocean environment plays a vital role in the current and future prosperity of Newfoundland and Labrador. With 90 per cent of the population residing in coastal areas, marine resources have contributed to the economic well-being and cultural identity of this province. The coasts and ocean support a variety of industries including fisheries, aquaculture, oil and gas, tourism, ocean technologies and associated service industries. This provides for cultural, recreational, and aesthetic enjoyment of our ocean resources.

With increased activity in the marine environment, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador committed to developing a strategy to provide long-term direction for sustainable use of coastal and ocean resources and areas. A coastal strategy will help strengthen provincial initiatives and promote collaborative efforts to address priority issues.

To identify the coastal issues most important to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, consultations were conducted across the province in 2007 and 2008. Six key themes were identified: social, cultural and economic sustainability; coastal land use planning; competing needs and interests; a healthy marine environment; coastal and marine infrastructure; and climate change. The need for enhanced public education and awareness was highlighted as a critical aspect for coastal and ocean management, that should be incorporated into policy development.

To further build on these consultations, a public feedback document entitled Coastal and Ocean Management Strategy and Policy Framework for Newfoundland and Labrador: A Discussion Paper was released in July of this year. The paper outlined the Provincial Government's approach to coastal and ocean management, including the vision, goals, principles, and an overview of the six priority issues. This discussion paper and other consultation reports can be found at www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca/publications.

Recognizing that addressing coastal issues is a shared responsibility, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to work with all levels of government, stakeholders, Aboriginal groups and the general public in moving its coastal agenda forward. An integrated management approach will help ensure the ecological integrity of the marine environment is maintained; the cultural needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are preserved and that coastal development is sustainable.

For more information please contact the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture's Sustainable Fisheries and Ocean Policy Division at 709-729-1140 or coastsandocean@gov.nl.ca.

H.B. NICHOLLS AWARD - 2010

One of the particularly pleasant events at our biennial conferences is the presentation of the H.B. Nicholls Award. Named after one of the founders of the Coastal Zone Canada Association, it is the highest award given by the Association. This year, at CZC10 in Charlottetown, a precedent was set when the award was given for the first time to an association rather than an individual. The deserving recipient was the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC).

Established in 1992, ACZISC brings together a wide range of groups that have a vested interest in the health of Atlantic Canada's coastal zones. Through ACZISC, representatives from federal and Provincial Departments meet regularly with representatives of the private sector, NGOs, academia and other public and private bodies to discuss issues of common interest, seek common solutions, learn about best practices and maintain a strong and vibrant network. The list of workshops held at their over 60 meetings in 18 years is an impressive compendium of key issues in Atlantic ICOM, and the ACZISC newsletter reaches over 5,000 regular recipients, who then likely distribute it to their own networks. ACZISC has also given rise to COIN Atlantic – an information network that will provide greatly improved and rapid access to a wide range of data and information about the Atlantic Coast.

In selecting ACZISC for this award, the CZCA also recognized the two people who have done so much to guide ACZISC's development since it was created – Michael Butler, Director, and Claudette LeBlanc, Project Officer. Through their efforts and the efforts of their many colleagues, ACZISC has developed into a vital and effective mechanism for ICOM in Atlantic Canada, and a worthy recipient of the H.B. Nicholls award.

CZCA PARTNERSHIPS: A NETWORK OF NETWORKS (VP Liaison – Larry Hildebrand)

We are fortunate indeed in Canada to have such a diverse and dedicated - although unfortunately dispersed and largely uncoordinated - community of coastal- and ocean-oriented non-government organizations that advocate and work toward advancing the domestic integrated coastal and ocean management agenda. Many of us are members of several of these fine organizations. In addition to the CZCA, there is a veritable alphabet soup of sister organizations ... the OMRN, CC-SEA, IOI-Canada, One Ocean, CHONe, ACZISC, Ocean Science & Technology Partnership and more. There are, of course, many other Canadian NGOs with a total or partial focus on things coastal and

marine, e.g., Suzuki Foundation, WWF, CPAWS, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Living Ocean Society, Ecology Action Centre, etc., etc.; we have, it seems, the parts, but not the sum!

As a partial response to this dilemma, the CZCA has, for years, partnered with the CC-SEA (Canadian Coastal Science and Engineering Association) and OMRN (Ocean Management Research Network) on bridging the disciplinary gaps that exist - OMRN on the social sciences, CC-SEA on the coastal geomorphology and engineering sciences; and CZCA as a national organization of ICOM promoters and practitioners. To take this a step further, Mike Davies, President of the CC-SEA proposed a formal merger of our two organizations (we'll keep you updated as this process continues) and discussions are ongoing with the OMRN on areas for stronger collaboration. Inspired by and building on these largely bilateral partnerships, in March 2010, three CZCA Presidents (past and present) participated in an 'Oceans and Coasts Networks Summit' in Ottawa, convened by the OMRN.

The objective of the summit was to discuss and explore the benefits of (i) establishing greater communication among and across our Network memberships; and (ii) achieving enhanced unity of purpose and direction within the context of our respective and overlapping mandates. The primary conclusion stemming from this meeting was the agreed-upon need for coastal- and oceans-related groups to work more closely together as a 'network of networks'. The 'Oceans and Coasts Network-Canada' (OCN-Canada) is seen as fulfilling this role. The Summit identified 5 realities that underlie all existing coastal and ocean organizations in Canada:

- They do not 'speak for the oceans and coasts' with a single, strong and consensual national "voice";
- Many are finding it increasingly difficult to survive, especially in times of government fiscal restraint;
- The opportunities to achieve the potential benefits from active collaboration with the various oceans and coasts networks is not being well utilized by those departments and agencies with primary mandates related to ocean and coastal issues;
- Reluctance by some regulatory agencies to recognize the contribution possible from adopting an interdisciplinary perspective; and
- The fragmentation of Canadian coastal and ocean networks has generally hampered their potential to deliver a joint and regular 'product' that is recognizable evidence of their united capacity, and the combined strength of their expertise and insights.

To address some of these points, and the last one in particular, there was strong support at the conclusion of the Summit for pursuing an OCN-Canada policy briefs program. This is seen as a regular policy brief, or policy editorial of from 5 to 10 pages that would be written by members of the Network and directed at senior policy- and decision-makers. An initial list of policy brief topics was compiled and network members - including all members of the CZCA - are encouraged to consider and contribute. Further details on the Oceans and Coasts Network-Canada and the policy brief process can be found at <http://www.omrn-rrgo.ca/smc/home.php>.

So, while the Canadian coastal and ocean NGO communities pursue stronger collaboration and the creation of a more unified voice, and are collaborating now on producing thoughtful and perhaps provocative policy briefs to inform and inspire government to pay more attention to coastal and ocean issues, the challenge remains of "is anybody listening?" Many of us have been frustrated by the seemingly insurmountable (or indifferent) bastions of government policy makers that repel or rebuff external advice. Our only approach is to become stronger, more unified and of one voice, that can be heard above the cacophony. Raise your voices!!

Larry Hildebrand
VP-Liaison

SHORT NEWS ITEMS

- **National Geographic's Traveler Magazine – Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula Scores Highest in Annual Geotourism Survey**

The 7th annual survey by National Geographic's Traveler Magazine rated 99 coastal destinations worldwide. Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula was listed at the top of 99 coastal tourism destinations! - <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/coastal-destinations-rated>

- **Moratorium on oil and gas exploration on the Canadian portion of George's Bank**

Nova Scotia has introduced legislation, extending indefinitely, a moratorium on oil and gas exploration on the Canadian portion of George's Bank, a sensitive marine ecosystem off the south coast of the

Province - <http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20101103005>

- **Results of Coastal Strategy Public Consultations in Nova Scotia**

Input obtained during consultations has been summarized and is now available in the document *What We Heard*. Key issues raised include public access, province-wide development standards, protection of sensitive ecosystems, sewage and water quality issues, and the importance of working waterfronts. Additional consultation sessions have been planned for the spring and the final strategy will be ready in fall 2011. *What We Heard* can be accessed online at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coast>

- **Protecting Arctic Biodiversity**

The UN Environment Programme report entitled *Protecting Arctic Biodiversity: Limitations and strengths of environmental agreements* stresses that more global, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary thinking will be necessary to deal with increasing pressures on Arctic biodiversity. It states that existing multilateral agreements might be effective against threats caused by local, national, or regional activities if adequately implemented - <http://www.grida.no/news/press/4402.aspx>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, KEY MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

January 8-10, 2011: 3rd International Conference on Water and Flood Management, Dhaka, Bangladesh - <http://www.buet.ac.bd/iwfm/icwfm2011>.

January 15, 2011: Deadline for submitting abstracts to the 8th International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety", June 12-17, 2011, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island - <http://www.gov.pe.ca/icmss2011>

January 19-21, 2011: 11th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment, *Our Changing Ocean*, Washington, DC. This conference will address the problems facing the oceans, new knowledge and innovative tools to address these challenges, and the policy and governance needed to restore and protect oceans - <http://communities.earthportal.org/ncseoceans2011/>

January 20-21, 2011: Natural Resource Damages in the Gulf Conference, Miami, Florida. Law Seminars International will hold the first Natural Resource Damages in the Gulf Conference. This conference will discuss the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, with a more national focus on the latest developments in natural resource damages law - <http://www.lawseminars.com/detail.php?SeminarCode=11NRDFL>

January 26-27, 2011: Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC) Meeting #62, St. John's, NL

January 26-28, 2011: International Marina & Boatyard Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This three-day conference will feature educational seminars, products demonstrations, and more than 125 exhibitors - <http://www.marinaassociation.org/imbc/about>

January 31, 2011: Deadline for submitting abstracts to People in Places: Engaging Together in Integrated Resource Management, June 26-29, 2011, Halifax, Nova Scotia - <http://www.coastalcura.ca/peopleinplaces2011.html>

February 7-10, 2011: 6th International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments, Louisiana, New Orleans - <http://www.battelle.org/conferences/sediments>

February 9-11, 2011: 24th annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology, Jacksonville, Florida. The conference will present the latest beach preservation technology with a goal to provide a technological transfer to coastal decision makers - <http://www.fsbpa.com/techconference.htm>

March 20-25, 2011: Fifth International Marine Debris Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference will highlight research advances, allow sharing of strategies and best practices to assess, reduce, and prevent the impacts of marine debris, and provide an opportunity for the development of specific bilateral or multi-country strategies - <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/intlmdconf.html>

March 21-24, 2011: Coastal Geotools 2011, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This conference will focus on applications of digital coast, oil spill applications, coastal and marine spatial planning, coastal hazards and climate adaptation, social science applications, visualization techniques, data sharing and interoperability, technology innovation, business cases or return on investment, ecosystem services, participatory geographic information systems, and regional ocean governance - <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=889629>

Translation services provided by Ms. Chantal Jordaan, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Thanks are also expressed to Maxine Westhead, Kelly Cantelo, Grant Gardner, and Larry Hildebrand for final review of the newsletter. Questions and comments pertaining to this newsletter should be addressed to the editor, Kaylen Hill, at KaylenHill@hotmail.com.

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