

# Coastal Communities Network Annual General Meeting Report

*Tatamagouche Centre  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

*Building Bridges  
Bringing Communities Together*



**CCN Annual General Meeting  
April 14, 2004, Tatamagouche Centre  
Introduction**

Reflecting on the weekend, one is struck by the dedication and heart of the people of rural Nova Scotia. From almost every corner of Nova Scotia and from many cultural groups, we shared a common vision of building healthy vibrant communities. We listened to the difficulties of immigrants, to the ancient and recent history of the Mi'Kmaq and Acadians. We laughed with the witty and politically astute songs of the Raging Grannies, drummed to an African beat, danced to native drumming, learned about our wharves and lighthouses and learned skills on how to work with others in our surroundings.

On a practical level we had 36 participants, which was down from past years but the place was certainly filled with Spirit. Our Silent Auction, which included everything from fine art, hotels, whale watching, jackets, baked goods, tickets to attractions, and more, brought out our "friendly" competitive nature. The auction raised \$1,260. We received \$2,550 in sponsorship and donations.

On Sunday learned about a new Funding Accord that has been signed between every federal department and the Canadian Voluntary Sector. If the government actually follows this agreement, it will be truly wonderful news for non-profits. It includes that governments should provide multi-year funding and recognize that support for core operations of organizations is necessary for implementing projects. It really is a must read for all non-profits. We need to hold the government accountable to this Accord.

Our weekend ended with our closing circle, where participants spoke from their hearts about the value of the weekend and CCN. It was moving and inspiring, especially to hear how many people were going home with lighter hearts and more determination to work to improve their rural communities.

**Coastal Communities Network AGM 2004**  
**April 17, 2004, Tatamagouche, N.S.**  
**Workshop Notes: Dancing Diversity**

This lively and interactive workshop was aimed at experiencing different cultures through participating in the rhythms & movements from three corners of the world. First up was African drumming. The room was filled with a fascinating array of shapes and sizes of congo drums. Myla Borden, who teaches African drumming and dancing at the North Nova Education Centre in New Glasgow, started the participants slowly drumming. By half an hour later, the Tatamagouche Centre echoed with dynamic rhythms.

Next up was First Nations dancing. Tausha Munro Butler and Levi Herney, explained the meaning behind the drum and dances. The drum beat is Mother Earth's heart beat. They started with Women's Traditional, explaining that women are closest to Mother Earth and so always keep one foot on the earth. Participants were invited to try the steps. Next Levi demonstrated the men's fancy dance and explained that the movements reflect male activities such as hunting when you crouch to sneak up on a prey, or raiding enemy camps. Participants were impressed with the intense focus and dynamic movement. Tausha explained that in recent history, young women wanted to fancy dance as well. They took the movements of the butterfly and began to swirl, and jump with beautiful shawls. Often during a Pow Wow there are fun dances as well, which are friendly competition. With the potato dance, two people place a potato between their foreheads. The drumming starts and they must keep the beat while following directions from the MC such as turning, going lower etc.

The last culture to be explored was done through Spanish dancing. Monica Cunningham explained a bit of the history and then got right into it. First Participants learned a series of steps in two lines with each side doing the opposite motion. Then they added swinging hips, dramatic shoulders and arms movements. After they got it down, then they danced together as couples and they looked slick.

**CCN Annual General Meeting  
April 17, 2004, Tatamagouche Centre  
Workshop Notes: Lighthouses, Wharves, and Harbours**

Ishbel Munro began by introducing Dan Conlin, Past President of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society (NSLPS). Dan, who grew up in the Berwick area, is also Curator of Marine History at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Dan noted that lighthouses serve four purposes in Nova Scotia: as navigational aids, as cultural landmarks and community symbols, as tourism attractions, and as environmentally important sites. Nova Scotia is blessed with more lighthouses than any other province, with more than 150 still standing. (This figure does not include various “skeletal light” structures). “Peppershaker” lights are a very typical design. Taken together, all lighthouse sites across the province represent wonderful environmental diversity.

A small number of decommissioned lights are privately owned, with some converted to cottages. The Coast Guard hopes to divest itself of another 88 lighthouses by 2006, so we may see a growth in private lights. It wants to retain only about 20 to 30 lights, mostly in larger ports.

There are currently about 30 community-owned (or community-cared-for) lighthouses around the province.

Dan noted that lighthouses are becoming increasingly valuable as tourism and community assets. At one time, there were 250 lighthouses across the province, but many have been destroyed along with their attendant light keepers’ homes. The biggest threat to remaining lighthouses is not direct demolition, but demolition by neglect.

A discussion followed regarding lights as symbols of community.

Dan then noted that the NSLPS is pushing for many lights to be given heritage designation. In this regard, Canada is far behind the United States, where 70 percent of lighthouses are so designated. Dan also noted that there is an organization called the Atlantic Lighthouse Council, though neither the NSLPS nor most community lighthouse groups belong to it. The Coast Guard has an “ABC” classification system for lighthouses. The NSLPS has such a list, released in 1999. An updated list could be obtained from David Cook at the Coast Guard office in Dartmouth.

Ishbel Munro then thanked Dan for his presentation and noted that a recent survey by the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia showed that visitors are attracted to our coastal villages, and that lighthouses are a big part of the attraction.

Ishbel Munro then suggested that the discussion turn to wharves and harbours. She outlined the history of concern CCN members have expressed about deteriorating wharves, going back to CCN’s Annual Meeting in 1998, a stakeholders’ meeting in Herring Cove in 1999, and a meeting with Minister Andy Mitchell shortly thereafter. It took four years to get funding in place for a study of the economic impact of wharves and harbours on the provincial economy. The result, “Between the Land and the Sea,” came about through some excellent chemistry among members of the project’s steering committee. DFO personnel and community representatives actually worked in a very cooperative partnership, something almost unprecedented in CCN’s previous experience. The project classified different wharves into about 150 “harbour clusters” and developed

an incredible database on many aspects of life in rural Nova Scotia. The demographic database shows that, while the provincial population hasn't changed much in the past decade, there has been a huge internal migration from rural and small-town Nova Scotia to Halifax.

The study also compared coastal Nova Scotia with non-coastal rural areas and found that the former are faring better than the latter. Discussion followed about, among other things, the formation of Harbour Authorities over the past several years, in which there have been both wonderful successes and dismal failures. The report also shows clearly that the funding set aside for wharf maintenance is, by DFO's own reckoning, far from adequate: assuming new infrastructure – far from the case with Nova Scotia's wharves – adequate maintenance of wharves would require an annual outlay of just over 4 percent of their value. Current maintenance funding stands at only 1.3 percent.

Among the study's other finding is that, contrary to popular belief, our fisheries, taken overall, are *not* in decline (in terms of landed value), that 14 percent of the provincial workforce is harbour-dependent, and that 70 percent of provincial exports depend on the rural workforce.

The study identified two potential crises regarding wharves and harbours. The first is the inadequate funding for wharf maintenance, while the second is the range of threats to small, independent fishermen. In this regard, it is essential that DFO enforce and strengthen its owner-operator and fleet separation policies.

After further discussion, workshop participants took a brief break.

At the conclusion of the break, Ishbel Munro introduced Mike MacDonald of Praxis Research, which was contracted to undertake the wharf study. Mike undertook an overview of the study's richly textured database, as well as its GIS (Graphical Information System) method of presenting the data. In illustrating the many ways the data can be viewed and utilized, Mike responded to and showed some of the ways the data can be used and represented.

After Mike responded to many queries from workshop participants regarding the study and its database, Ishbel Munro thanked him for his excellent work. The workshop then adjourned.

**Coastal Communities Network AGM 2004**  
**April 17, 2004, Tatamagouche, N.S.**  
**Workshop Notes: Fund-raising**

Jackie Race introduced John MacLean, Past President of Recreation Nova Scotia, who still serves on a number of voluntary committees with that organization. He also does volunteer work for the Red Cross, his church, the Canadian Revenue Agency, and a variety of other agencies, including the Bridgewater Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission.

John began by noting that this “Fund-Raising for Results” workshop is normally a five-hour affair, and that we have only two hours today. It was agreed that the group would forego any break.

There was a discussion of fund-raising strategies and why people give to charities. The workshop then broke into smaller groups where fund-raising ideas were assessed on several criteria, and personal and group skill inventories were taken. Back in the larger group, the implications of various fund-raising ideas were discussed at some length.

Before concluding the workshop, John urged participants to read over the fund-raising kits that participants received. Jackie Race then thanks John for his useful session.

**Coastal Communities Network  
Annual General Business Meeting  
April 17, 2004, Tatamagouche Centre**

**Present:** Erica deSousa (Rural Communities Impacting Policy), Prem Dhir (Community Links), Shanta Dhir (Multicultural Association of Colchester County), Ruby Flemming (Shelburne County Women's FishNet), Linda Gregory (Municipality of the District of Digby), Martin Kaye (Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre), Ed Little (Harbour Authority of Hall's Harbour), Holly MacDonald (Harbourville Restoration Society), Scott Milsom (CCN), Ishbel Munro (CCN), Karen Nash (CCN), Sheila Pelly (Antigonish/Guysborough Black Development Association), Kevin Quinlan (Nova Scotia Community College, Truro Campus), Jackie Race (Shelburne County Learning Network), Norma Richardson (Halifax Regional Development Authority), Joe Walsh (Eastern Tip Trails Association), Mary Williams (Lincolntonville Community Development Association).

**1/Approval of Draft Agenda**

A draft agenda was circulated, and certain changes were made, as reflected in these minutes. Joe Walsh moved that the agenda, as amended, be adopted. Seconded by Prem Dhir. **Motion carried.**

**2/ Approval of Minutes From April 5, 2003**

Linda Gregory moved that the minutes, as circulated, be approved. Seconded by Prem Dhir. **Motion carried.**

**3/Business Arising From April 5, 2003 Minutes**

A questioner from the floor asked what prompted the changes in CCN's "Memorandum of Association." It was explained that the changes were made to allow individuals to become CCN members, and also in hope of making it more likely that CCN be granted charitable status.

**4/Approval of Annual Report**

Linda Gregory moved that the Annual Report, as circulated, be approved. Seconded by Holly MacDonald. Discussion followed, in which Kevin Quinlan noted that there may be funding available to CCN through the Canadian Voluntary Initiative. **Motion carried.**

**5/Approval of Interim Financial Statement**

Linda Gregory moved that Interim Financial Statement be approved. Seconded by Kevin Quinlan. Discussion followed regarding various line items. The Board of Directors is asked to discuss the matter of not having an audited Financial Statement in time for our Annual Meeting, given the timing of the end of our fiscal year and the scheduling of our Annual General Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Kevin Quinlan then pointed out that there seems to be an error of addition in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

Kevin Quinlan then moved that this matter be brought to the next full Board meeting for clarification of the figures in the Financial Statement. Seconded by Martin Kaye. **Motion**

**carried.** It was agreed that Kevin Quinlan and Ishbel Munro will meet to discuss changes and improvements to the Financial Statement.

#### **6/Approval of Budget for 2004-2005**

Ishbel Munro explained that it was decided last year that we are unable to pass any proposed budget without confirmed funding. Being as we currently have no income confirmed for the upcoming fiscal year, Ishbel has been unable to prepare a draft budget. She also explained that she has managed to keep CCN afloat since March 31 by doing contract work. Considerable discussion followed regarding the status of various applications for funding the organization, and on possibilities for once again funding CCN's magazine.

Linda Gregory then moved that we defer the budget approval process to an upcoming membership meeting within the next two months. Seconded by Prem Dhir. **Motion carried.**

#### **7/Appointment of Auditor**

Ishbel Munro noted that Brian Craig has worked out well as CCN's auditor. CCN put its auditing work out to tender, and Brian was the only respondent. Over the past year, our audit costs have been around \$4,000. This includes an audit of the CARCI project which was a year and 9 months long. Joe Walsh then moved that Brian Craig be re-appointed as CCN's auditor. Seconded by Prem Dhir. **Motion carried.**

#### **8/Slate of Nominees to CCN's Board of Directors**

Kevin Quinlan noted that terms of the following Board members are due to expire today: Linda Gregory, John MacInnes, Jackie Race, Wendy Robichaud, Joe Walsh. All wish to serve another term. As well, the Nominating Committee wishes to add Prem Dhir to our Board of Directors.

There were three calls for further nominations from the floor. No nominations were offered.. Joe Walsh moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Martin Kaye. **Motion carried.** Linda Gregory, John MacInnes, Jackie Race, Wendy Robichaud, and Joe Walsh return to the Board of Directors, while Prem Dhir is added.

The Board of Directors will select the Executive at the next Board meeting.

#### **9/Discussion on the Name of Our Organization**

Ishbel Munro gave some history of the organization and its name. There have been suggestions that it might be more inclusive to rename CCN the Coastal and Rural Communities Network. Considerable discussion followed on various options regarding our name and our slogan, "A Large Voice For Small Communities." Joe Walsh moved that we retain our name, but change our slogan to "A Large Voice For Rural Nova Scotia." Seconded by Prem Dhir. **Motion carried.**

Linda Gregory then moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Kevin Quinlan. **Motion carried.**

**Coastal Communities Network AGM, 2004**  
**Presentation by Rick Hutchins**  
**10:45 a.m., Tatamagouche Centre**

Rick Hutchins introduced himself, and noted that he works for Policy Link New Brunswick in Fredericton. He then discussed an Accord between the federal government and the voluntary sector, noting that it provides a solid framework for a renewed relationship. Its purpose is to strengthen the ability of both sectors to better serve Canadians, and it includes a set of values, principles, and commitments that signifies “the Government of Canada’s recognition of the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sector to the Canadian way of life.” The Accord is the result of extensive community consultations.

A discussion followed on exactly what is meant by the term “volunteer,” and it was noted that in some contexts and cultures it can mean a military fighter, while in others it can be a “Meals on Wheels” worker. The group then watched a short video that explored the aboriginal concept of what it means to volunteer.

Rick then pointed out that between 1985 and 1995, Canada lost a million volunteers. Ed Broadbent led an investigation that urged government to recognize and be more supportive of the voluntary sector. In response the government launched the Voluntary Sector Initiative in 2000. Now, there is a Canadian Voluntary Initiative in Nova Scotia. In its consultations with the voluntary sector, the government identified two needs: policy consultation with the voluntary sector and its financial situation.

Though the Accord hasn’t been signed by the provinces, it should bind Ottawa to a set of principles in its dealings with the voluntary sector. The Accord includes “Codes of Good Practice on Funding” that outline responsibilities and accountability for both parties. Section 5.2.2 will allow multi-year funding, greater flexibility, and more user-friendly regulations for voluntary groups seeking federal funding.

Rick noted that though this Accord is a big deal in Ottawa now, it is only beginning to have any impact in the regions. He suggested that at an upcoming CCN meeting, we hold a discussion on the “Code of Good Practice on Policy.” He concluded by warning that, though he cannot guarantee that using the Accord will work for every voluntary work dealing with the federal government, it has so far worked well in New Brunswick.

Ishbel Munro then thanked Rick for his presentation, and the gathering adjourned.

## **Coastal Communities Network AGM, 2004**

### **Panel Discussion: “Resource Management: Harvesting For Our Future”**

**April 18, 2004, 9:00 a.m.**

Ishbel Munro introduced herself as CCN’s Executive Director, and then introduced the other panellists. Donna Langille is Operations Manager of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. John Kearney is with the Centre for Community-Based Management at the St. F. X. Extension Department. Ian Miller has worked in forestry and resource management with Natural Resources Canada, among others.

Ian Miller began his discussion by outlining his academic and work history. He graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor’s degree in Forestry in 1967 and completed his Master’s degree there in 1974. He later worked with the Canadian Forestry Service and Natural Resources Canada before retiring in June of 2003. He currently serves as a forestry consultant.

He next noted that global warming will be a huge factor in future forestry management, because most tree species in Nova Scotian forests live 50 to 150 years. In the late 1960s forestry management was thought to be simply the replanting of trees, whereas now it involves community input, and so is much more complex. A discussion followed about sustainable forestry, about exactly what different sectors may want to sustain, and about harvest rates and methods. Ian noted that forestry management is a hugely complex matter, that people need an economic return from the forest, but that there are other factors involved such as recreation and simple aesthetic enjoyment. In order to sustain rural communities it will be necessary to sustain the rural resource base. The discussion then turned to habitat protection, wood-fibre availability, and related issues. Ian then asked whether we can measure our activities to determine whether we’re acting in a sustainable manner. He offered a cautious “Yes” to this question, but underlined that it involved complexities such as the need for biodiversity, the condition of the ecosystem, species mix, merchantability, fire and insect damage, acid rain, climate change, soil and water quality, and other factors. Ian concluded his discussion by noting that sustainable forestry management involves both values and choices and that it requires work and input from all those involved in and affected by our forests.

John Kearney began his discussion by providing background information about the Centre for Community-Based Management and its philosophical relationship to the Coady International Institute, with its tradition of community empowerment. After a brief discussion of a recently published federal policy document, of sustainable resource management, and of the need for community economic development, John outlined five reasons for the groundfish collapse of the early 1990s:

1. Scientific neglect of life histories and reproductive biology;
2. “Shifting baseline syndrome”: with each generation of fisheries scientists, the sense of what is “normal” changes;
3. Stock assessment simply cannot keep up with increasing catch efficiency;
4. A limited understanding of fish behaviour: for example, northern cod stocks were healthy in the 1970s, but what were the impacts of harvesting on large, dense schools of fish?;

5. Fishermen tend to be multiple-species harvesters, while scientists tend to be single-species specialists.

John then offered that there was also a sixth cause: the intensification of effort in response to the degradation of the ecosystem.

John then pointed to DFO's Atlantic Fishery Policy Review (AFPR), whose first phase is now complete, and noted that none of the above factors is addressed there. There followed a discussion of fisheries science and whether it can be trusted in light of its past failures. DFO talks of conservation, but there is now a need for restoration, and this relates to community economic development. John then pointed to three points made in the AFPR that he considers nothing more than jokes. The AFPR claims that the fishery is a "public resource," which is laughable. Another of its jokes is that "the fishery is managed for the benefit of all Canadians," which is not so. A third AFPR joke is that "there is community participation in decision making." There may be some truth to this at the operational level of DFO, but it is certainly not the case at the policy level.

John then turned to economic pressures on fishermen that can force even the most community-minded people sell their licences to the corporate sector because it's his only economically viable option. He concluded by offering the view that the AFPR document offers little positive hope for the future of fishing families and communities.

Donna Langille began her discussion by noting that she has served as Operations Manager of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA), since 1974, and that she and her husband also run a small beef operation. Her current farm is only two miles from where she grew up on her parents' farm. She outlined how she and her husband returned from university and began a hog operation, but it became unviable. Though her present beef operation doesn't provide a living, it does keep the farm alive while she and her husband both work elsewhere. Donna noted that, increasingly, farming is failing to provide a living, and that things must change if it is to survive. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of farms in the province dropped by 26 percent. Of Nova Scotia's 3,500 farms, about 500 operate under a supply management system. Chickens, turkeys, eggs, and milk operators work under a supply management and quota system. They are success stories. We'd love to have supply management in the beef and pork sectors, but the government says we can't. In fact, there are threats to the current supply management system.

All too often, farming is a route to poverty through full-time employment. Farmers are making do only through off-farm work. Other provinces look at agriculture in Nova Scotia as an example of what not to do. Over the past five years, funding support for farmers nationally has grown by 72 percent. But, in Nova Scotia, there has been a net decrease in government support. There seems to be the attitude out there of "Why fund Nova Scotian farms when we can import food more cheaply than we can grow it?" And, because of the economics of farming, such things as depression and obesity are more common in rural areas than in urban ones.

Agriculture in Nova Scotia is a small industry, but we do have some advantages. We haven't had a big, negative impact on the environment, as has happened elsewhere. We *can* build sustainable agriculture here, but we need to get our act together. We're already

doing environmental planning: what we need to do now is outreach to consumers, to connect the farmer and the consumer.

Food safety issues are costing farmers. We have to have a tag now for each animal, but governments aren't adjusting. And there are capital requirements brought on by technological change. We could pursue alternative markets, but they can be subject to wild price fluctuations,

as happened a while back with ginseng. And, with only two retail options open to farmers, retailers are increasing their demands on farmers. This is part of the ongoing and mounting pressure on farmers. One option might be to bring smaller producers together in larger sellers' groups.

There's a new federal agricultural policy framework being developed, but the funding for it will go to consultants rather than farmers. On the bright side, we have the National Farmers' Union, which has done some great things. It says that bigger farms don't mean better prices for consumers. Farms are getting bigger, farmers are getting poorer, and packing plant workers aren't getting rich. So, where is the money being drained off? Agriculture really contributes to small-town life. Take the agriculture out of Truro, and there wouldn't be much left. We're trying to convince government that agriculture is worth saving in Nova Scotia. The Premier says he wants agriculture to survive, but government did nothing when Avon Foods recently shut its vegetable canning facility in the Valley.

We're responding by advertising in the newspapers to increase agricultural awareness, and to encourage local buying. What we need is a made-in-Canada agricultural policy that promotes food security. And, we're trying to get retailers to sell more local products

Ishbel Munro then thanked Donna Langille for the discussion and noted that the Rural Communities Impacting Policy project might be a good ally for farmers.

The gathering then adjourned.

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# OUR THANKS

Coastal Communities Network wishes to thank those listed below who were generous enough to donate items for our Radical Bingo, NS Trivia Contest, Door Prizes and Silent Auction.

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