

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY  
REGULAR COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014  
9:00 A.M**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair  
Councillor Darlene Norman  
Councillor Susan MacLeod  
Councillor Bruce Inglis  
Councillor Brian Fralic  
Councillor Raymond Fiske  
Councillor Jack Fancy  
Councillor Peter Waterman  
Kathleen Rafuse, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance  
Bobbi Jo Goulden, Recording / Management Secretary

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor Fiske that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

Additions:

Item 15.1	Letter to Minister Keith Colwell – Ocean Trout Aquaculture Farm in Port Mouton Bay
Item 15.2	Nova Scotia Music Week Update
Item 16.5	Contract Negotiations

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**3.0 PRESENTATION(S):**

**3.1 Events Liverpool – Karen Gilmore**

Karen Gilmore, Chair, Events Liverpool, was welcomed to the meeting where she was asked to give an update on what has been happening since the 2014 M&M Canadian Junior Curling Event. She spoke on the following topics:

- Events Liverpool:
  - Standing Committee of the South Queens Chamber of Commerce
- Mission Statement
- Vision Statement
- Values
- Why Event Tourism? / Economic Growth
- Into the Future

Some comments and concerns from Council included:

1. Importance of having economic impact numbers following special events;
2. How far ahead is the group looking to bring future events to the area;
3. Changing the part of the Vision Statement that states “Events Capital of Nova Scotia” to “Events Capital of Rural Nova Scotia”;
4. From which interest groups / businesses do we lack representation?
5. What is their role when asked for assistance in promoting an event?

Karen Gilmore advised that they can help groups hosting events by sourcing volunteers, helping with application processes, organizing pep rallies, and supporting in other ways necessary. She added that they do not have the finances to put in to the events but can assist in finding financial assistance looking into possible grants from the different levels of government.

At this time, Councillor Fralic asked if Agenda Item 15.2 - Nova Scotia Music Week Update, could be moved forward and discussed so he could explain how Events Liverpool assisted the Nova Scotia Music Week bid group in their bid process to host Nova Scotia Music Week. It was the consensus of the Council to agree to the request.

#### **15.2 Nova Scotia Music Week Update**

Councillor Fralic, as part of Nova Scotia Music Week Committee, explained that Events Liverpool assisted in their bid process by funding the cost of design for the bid which was submitted to Music Nova Scotia to bid on hosting Nova Scotia Music Week. He noted that Events Liverpool provides valuable support to groups who are looking to host events in the community.

Councillor Fralic informed everyone that Music Nova Scotia wanted some changes made to the proposal, as they wanted activities focused around a central location such as White Point for most events. White Point is not able to accommodate due to its size. So, the Committee is working on another bid to centralize activities around Queens Place and Liverpool venues. He noted that they will resubmit a revised bid to Music Nova Scotia in January and hope to host the event in 2016.

Karen Gilmore was thanked for her presentation and she left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

#### **4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:**

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

#### **5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:**

Prior to the Public Comments, Mayor Clarke wanted to comment on how well attended Remembrance Day services were this year within the Region. He noted that there were large turn outs in most areas.

**Leon Robertson**  
**45 College Street**  
**Liverpool**

Mr. Robertson commented how pleased he was with Glenn Parlee's presentation at the last Council meeting. He noted that is good to see an interested group willing to put life back in to the South Shore Regional Airport as it truly is an asset to our community.

Mr. Robertson also asked about a deposit that was submitted with the Nova Scotia Music Week bid. He asked if it is refunded should the event not be selected to take place in Queens.

Kathleen Rafuse, CAO, advised that the money was not paid out and noted that the Region's funding that was approved for the event will only be spent if the bid is successful.

**Bill Cox**  
**121 Bog Road**  
**White Point**

Mr. Cox commented on the many successful Remembrance Day services in the community and thanked Mayor Clarke and Councillors for their participation at the events. He added that the Legion in Caledonia may be closing in December making the Mersey Branch 038 the only one in the area next year.

Mr. Cox noted that members are looking ahead in planning to services for next year and stated that they may be looking at Queens Place as a venue to hold their services as they are out growing their current locations at Milton Hall and at the Astor Theatre.

Councillor Norman expressed concerns about centralizing the Remembrance Day services and moving them out of the smaller communities as each community has services which are unique and special to them.

Mr. Cox noted that they will not make any final decisions without speaking with the individual communities, but in South Queens the services are out growing their current venues.

Mr. Cox also spoke of how appreciative the Legion is for the Region of Queens support for the New Years Levee and hopes that Council agrees to participate for the upcoming year.

## **6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **6.1 Regular Council Minutes – October 28, 2014**

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

THAT the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on October 28, 2014, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## **7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:**

There were no Dangerous or Unsightly Premises issues discussed at this meeting.

## **8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

There were no items to come before Council from the Economic Development Department.

Councillor Norman wanted to remind everyone about the Nova Scotia Power open house at Cowie Falls Generating Station on Friday, November 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## **9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:**

### **9.1 Municipal District Boundary Review**

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Inglis:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the draft application to be filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board seeking a reconfirmation of the number of Councillors at seven (7) with no adjustments to the boundaries of the polling districts in the Region of Queens Municipality, as this current distribution represents a fair distribution of the number of voters per Councillor throughout Queens.

Kathleen Rafuse, spoke on the Boundary Review process and noted that public input was requested on the Region of Queens website, in paper survey form, and advertisements were placed in The Advance and on the local radio stations. She noted that in 2011, when the last review occurred and two public hearings were held, only six members of the public attended the hearings and one e-mail submission was received providing feedback. She added that this time, 22 people provided feedback to the review and only two of those who responded felt that changes to the current districts were necessary.

Kathleen Rafuse noted that once approved by Council the Boundary Review will be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility Review Board for approval and they'll advise if a hearing is necessary.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**10.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:**

There were no matters for discussion from the Engineering and Works Department.

**11.0 FINANCE:**

**11.1 New Year's Levee – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 038**

It was moved by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves sponsorship in the amount of \$500 for the Legion's New Year's Levee, and that this be funded from General Government Contingency.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:**

**12.1 Jack Frost Tournament Funding Request**

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a Tournament Assistance Grant of \$ 500.00 to the Queens County Minor Hockey Association for the Jack Frost tournament December 27th – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014, to be funded from the Community Grants and Program budget line of the Recreation and Community Facilities Department.

Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation and Community Facilities, noted that a minimum of 20 teams take part in this growing event.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**13.0 PLANNING:**

**13.1 Telecommunication Tower – Highway #8, Middlefield**

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality adopt an administrative policy respecting a development agreement to allow for the erection of a new telecommunication (cellular) tower on property identified as PID# 70110788, and located in the Mixed Use Rural Residential (R5) Zone.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**14.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:**

There were no matters to be discussed at this meeting from Queens Place Emera Centre, however, Councillor Fancy commented that Queens Place Committee met and it was a good meeting with a lot of discussion and feedback. He added that the next meeting date is January 29, 2015.

**15.0 OTHER:**

Councillor Darlene Norman declared conflict of interest and left Council Chambers at 9:58 a.m. while Item 15.1 – Letter to Minister Keith Colwell – Ocean Trout Aquaculture Farm in Port Mouton Bay was being discussed.

**15.1 Letter to Minister Keith Colwell – Ocean Trout Aquaculture Farm in Port Mouton Bay**

Mayor Christopher Clarke explained the draft letter to Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Keith Colwell regarding Councils and many residents opposition to the license renewal for the Ocean Trout Aquaculture farm in Port Mouton Bay, which is up for consideration in March 2015. He added that this opposition lies with the location, in that the farm lies in an area of low flushing capacity, and conflicts with important existing uses in the area.

Mayor Clarke added that the Region of Queens is not opposed to fish farming as it appreciates the Cook Aquaculture operations at Coffin's Island, in Liverpool Bay. He noted that it brings employment to the area and they have a good relationship with local fisherman. He stated that their location, in Liverpool Bay has better flushing action than the Port Mouton Bay location.

It was moved by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the sending of this letter to Minister Keith Colwell, as presented to Council, opposing the license renewal for the Ocean Trout Aquaculture Farm in Port Mouton Bay.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Councillor Norman returned to the Council Chambers at 10:04 a.m.

**16.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS:**

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor Waterman that the proceedings go "In-Camera" at 10:05 a.m. to discuss the following:

- 16.1 Public Security
- 16.2 Contract Negotiations
- 16.3 Contract Negotiations
- 16.4 Contract Negotiations

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Councillor Inglis left the meeting at 11:10 a.m. and did not return.

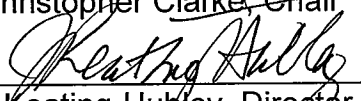
It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Waterman that the proceedings come out of "In-Camera" at 11:35 a.m.

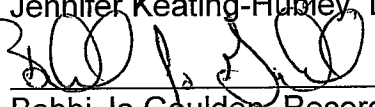
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**17.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

  
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Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobbi Jo Goulden, Recording / Management Secretary

Date approved: November 25, 2014.

# Events Liverpool

# Events Liverpool

Building on our strengths and opportunities  
Events Liverpool will work to increase the sustainability &  
profitability of our economy & grow community pride by  
working together collaboratively as  
industry, government, associations and the general public.

Standing Committee of the  
South Queens Chamber of Commerce

# Mission Statement

We will create a sustainable economy  
and grow community pride by hosting  
phenomenal events.



# Vision Statement

Our Region will grow by working together to be the  
**Event Capital of Nova Scotia**  
through the creation and hosting  
of diverse event experiences  
which capitalize on our unique backdrop,  
facilities and culture of Queens County.

# Values

- \* **Open for Business**  
We are committed to providing opportunities for events to occur and contribute to our community on a year round basis
- \* **Collaboration**  
We believe in working together and being proactive in leading our communities to create partnerships that will lead to mutual success
- \* **Responsibility**  
We care for the natural beauty of our region and will ensure that we are respectful and maintain it for future generations
- \* **Welcoming**  
We are good at hosting people and will do so to the highest standards of integrity and hospitality ensuring that the visitor experience is as good as it can be
- \* **Leadership**  
We are committed to leading our community to ensure its growth and fostering of pride in the place we call home

# Why Event Tourism? Economic Growth

- \* Generate incremental revenues
  - \* Sport Tourism: \$4 billion in Canada
  - \* **NS Music Week in Yarmouth \$1.3 million (2010)**
- \* Expand use, profitability of existing facilities
- \* Increase overnight stays, expenditures
- \* Support existing businesses & employment
- \* Volume/Group based (guaranteed audience)

# Why Event Tourism? Economic Growth

- \* Not seasonality/weather dependent (year-round)
- \* Showcase our community/area
- \* Attraction of repeat visit, relocation
- \* Attract, leverage Business Club
- \* Leverage & extend marketing/public relations
- \* Pride in place

# Into the future...

## Aspirations

- \* Downtown core active
- \* Business, Government and Community engaged
- \* Cohesion
- \* Contributing to revitalization and attractiveness
- \* Organized approach to Event Attraction & Hosting
- \* No seasonal lay-offs

## Results

- Increased room nights
- Year-round activity
- “what’s next” enthusiasm
- Destination of choice for events
- Leveraged, comprehensive economic impact

**IN THE MATTER OF THE *MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT*, Chapter 18 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998,**

-and-

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION** by the COUNCIL of the REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY to determine the number of Councillors and boundaries of the polling districts in the Region of Queens Municipality,

**HERETOFORE** the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality hereby makes application and submits to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board pursuant to Section 371 of the *Municipal Government Act*, this application to **reconfirm** the number of Councillors at seven (7) with no adjustments to the boundaries of the polling districts in the Region of Queens Municipality, as this current distribution represents a fair distribution of the number of voters per Councillor throughout Queens which allows for a governance structure that has been able to meet the challenges that this community has faced in the recent years.

## **Region of Queens Municipality Boundary Proposal**

The Region of Queens Municipality was required by Section 369(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* to conduct a study of the number of polling districts and their boundaries within the Municipality, which considers their fairness and reasonableness and the number of Councillors during 2006 and also conducted another review in 2011, which did not have to be completed until 2014. The 2006 recommendation was that the status quo be preserved and this recommendation was approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on September 20, 2007.

The 2011 application, which was approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on September 16, 2011, reduced the number of polling districts and the number of Councillors for the Region of Queens Municipality from 9 to 7 as well as approving the boundaries for the new polling districts. The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board identified during this process that the position of the Mayor is not included in the number of Councilors, therefore; the approval identified the new boundaries would have 7 representative Councillors plus the Mayor for a total of 8 elected officials for the Region of Queens Municipality and further that these changes would be utilized in the preparation of the 2012 elections only, with the changes taking full effect on the first day of the first meeting of the Council after the election of Councillors for 2012.

The Region of Queens Municipality also requested during the last application process, which was conducted in 2011, that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board waive the requirement to conduct a further study in 2014, as required under Section 369 (1) of the *Municipal Government Act*. The NSUARB responded that “Given the timing of the present application, the Municipality also asked the Board for a waiver of the requirement to conduct a further study in 2014 as required under Section 369(1) of the Act. While the Board cannot waive the statutory requirement contained in the Act, the Board advised the Municipality at the hearing that it was prepared to consider an expedited application in 2014, provided there is no significant public opposition to the new polling districts. The Municipality should consult with the Board prior to 2014 about the form and nature of its next study.” The NSUARB indicated that the Municipality should consult with the public as is evidenced in appendix “A” which is a letter from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board outlining the an expedited process. The consultation should be of a type and degree which allows members of the public an opportunity to express their views on the size of their Council and number of Municipal polling districts. Public input may be sought by issuing a notice advising of the 2014 periodic review, and as part of the public participation process they can file written submissions with the Municipality or appear and speak at a scheduled monthly Council meeting.

**Council in this application is proposing to reconfirm the number of Councillors and existing boundaries of the polling districts that presently exist in Queens County. The proposal maintains Council with seven (7) Councillors and one (1) Mayor. This is consistent with Section 10 (2) and 11 (1) of the *Municipal Government Act*.**

### **The Review Process**

Prior to this recommendation being made, Council reviewed the electoral boundary review process at a Council meeting held on October 14, 2014. The staff background paper and supporting information, and minutes from the meeting are attached as Appendix “B”.



A 2014 Boundary Review and Polling District Survey was utilized to garner public feedback. It is interesting to note that in the June 2011 review only six (6) members of the public attending two public meetings and only one e-mail submission was received from the Region of Queens Website. For the 2014 public input process a survey was developed which was accessible through the Region of Queens Website, the platform was “Survey Monkey” and 22 responses in total were received of which 20 felt that no change was required. The on line website boundary review (Appendix C) and online survey went live on October 15. The public were made aware of this platform on the Region of Queens Facebook Page, in the local paper the Advance on October 21, 2014 and October 28, 2014, and on the local radio stations CKBW and QCCR on October 17, 22, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Individuals who did not have computer access were given the opportunity of requesting a paper copy of the survey information . Copies of the survey results are attached for your reference (Appendix D).

Following the public consultation process, Council then reviewed the public feedback received and discussed the matter again at a Council meeting held on November 12, 2014, when the final decision concerning this application was made.

The following is an outline of each of the present polling district in the Region of Queens Municipality, which includes the names of the larger communities, the geographic size, as well as relevant factors which establish a particular community of interest in the polling district.

**POLLING DISTRICT 1**

<b>Communities include</b>	East Port L’Hebert St. Catherine’s River South West Port Mouton Summerville Centre Beech Hill Farms White Point Road Old Port Mouton Road	Port Joli Port Mouton White Point Hunts Point Gull Island West Street, Liverpool
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<b>Geographic Size</b>	66,070 acres	267.4 square kilometres
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<b>Voting Population</b>	1359
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**POLLING DISTRICT 2**

**Communities include** Liverpool West Town Lake Road  
Wolfe Street Extension Birch Avenue Extension  
Liverpool Central – all northwest of Church Street

**Geographic Size** 786.5 acres 3.18 square kilometres

**Voting Population** 1228

**POLLING DISTRICT 3**

**Communities include** Mersey Point Western Head  
Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool South (area from Mount Pleasant including all of  
Church Street up to White Point Road)

**Geographic Size** 4,184 acres 16.93 square kilometres

**Voting Population** 1225

**POLLING DISTRICT 4**

<b>Communities include</b>	Brooklyn East Berlin Eagle Head	Beach Meadows West Berlin
<b>Geographic Size</b>	16,930 acres	68.53 square kilometres
<b>Voting Population</b>	1265	

**POLLING DISTRICT 5**

<b>Communities include</b>	Milton West from Highway # 103 Milton East from Highway # 103 Ponhook Reserve Milton Road, Bristol Avenue, Mersey Avenue and Old Falls Road
<b>Geographic Size</b>	103,700 acres 419.8 square kilometres
<b>Voting Population</b>	1214

**POLLING DISTRICT 6**

<b>Communities include</b>	Mill Village Riversdale East Port Medway Greenfield Pleasantfield Buckfield	Charleston Danesville Port Medway Middlefield Bangs Falls Labelle
<b>Geographic Size</b>	132,100 acres 535.5 square kilometres	
<b>Voting Population</b>	1307	

## **POLLING DISTRICT 7**

<b><u>Communities include</u></b>	North Brookfield	Pleasant River
	South Brookfield	Caledonia
	Hibernia	West Caledonia
	Northfield	Kempt
	New Grafton	Harmony
	Westfield	Whiteburne Mines
	Molega	Wildcat Reserve

**Geographic Size** 357,800 acres 1448 square kilometres

**Voting Population** 1316

The following chart provides the estimated population, the geographic size, the voters in the 2012 election and variation from the average number of voters by number and percentage variation for each of the seven proposed polling districts.

### **2014 BOUNDARY REVIEW VOTER OVERVIEW**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>2011 Stats Can Population</b>	<b>Number of Voters 2012</b>	<b>Variation From Average Number of Voters</b>	<b>Percentage Variance</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>+86</b>	<b>6.72%</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-3.57%</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-3.80%</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>1265</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-0.66%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>1214</b>	<b>-59</b>	<b>-4.67%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>+34</b>	<b>2.64%</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>+43</b>	<b>-3.34%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,917</b>	<b>8914</b>		<b>+0.38%</b>

**Average Number of Votes Per Councillor**

**1273**

The boundaries of the proposed polling districts are shown on the maps attached to this application and marked "Appendix E". The detailed description of the boundaries of proposed polling districts are attached to this application and marked "Appendix F".

### **Rationale for Reconfirming Numbers of Councillors**

In preparing this application, the Council is cognizant and supportive of the previously determined Board guideline of a +/-10% target variance of the number of electors in each polling district. They also realize the importance of geographic boundaries and community identities, communities of interest, shopping patterns and school districts.

- Council believes that the relative parity of voting power is the most important factor in municipal voting in Queens County. This is premised on the fact that all residents need to feel that their vote is fair and equitable compared to other voters in Queens regardless of their physical location. As well, of the 18 public who completed the surveys, 16 responses confirmed that the 7 electoral boundaries and elected representatives are providing the leadership that the Region of Queens requires to operate in an effective manner.

In deciding to request a confirmation of the existing 7 electoral boundaries, Council took into consideration the importance of geographic boundaries, community identities, communities of interest and residential and commercial areas. Section 368(4) of the Municipal Government Act also provided guidance as it states that the Board shall consider the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density and geographic size when determining boundaries. Even though the size the boundaries in some cases are large, Councillors are able to effectively communicate with their constituents through alternate modes of communication such as email or telephone. Forms, applications, or details on issues can now almost always be found on-line or e-mailed within minutes, with many being able to be returned or submitted electronically, which has decreased the amount of time that elected officials need to spend travelling through the districts. Technology has greatly reduced the amount of in-person time that residents require of municipal elected officials in rural Nova Scotia.

**SIGNED AND SEALED** at Liverpool, in the County of Queens, Province of Nova Scotia, the 13th day November of 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Finance

November 12, 2014

The Honourable Keith Colwell  
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
P.O. Box 2223  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3C4

Dear Minister Colwell:

We understand that the license for the Ocean Trout Aquaculture farm in Port Mouton Bay will be considered for renewal in March 2015. We also understand that the operator, Ocean Trout, can be expected to order young trout soon in anticipation of the license renewal.

The Region of Queens Municipality, as well as many residents of our area, is strongly opposed to the Government renewing the license.

Our opposition is based, in large part, on the standards for site classification contained in the Doelle-Lahey Panel Independent Aquaculture Regulatory Review. I attach the pertinent sections, with comments in italics, for consideration.

Both the Federal and Provincial Governments have recognized the unique nature of Port Mouton Bay and have worked together to preserve its outstanding features. I refer of course to the Provincial Park at Summerville Beach, the Kejimkujik Seaside Adjunct and the current initiative to protect the Carters Beach area which had been recommended for protection by the FAO many years ago.

The Residents of Port Mouton Bay are most supportive of all this expenditure by Government to protect these jewels. I think it is true to say they see this as a basis to develop a green eco-tourist area which can help to revive the economy of the area which has been hit so hard by the closure of two fish plants.

A polluting fish farm in a 'RED' location with low flushing action is not compatible with this objective.

The Region of Queens is not opposed to fish farming. In fact, we are in periodic discussion with Cook Aquaculture with regard to their farm at Coffin's Island in Liverpool Bay. The operators enjoy an excellent relationship with local fisherman, and we appreciate the employment it brings to the area. The site is so different from the one in Port Mouton Bay. There is considerable flushing action in the Bay, and Port Mersey and its predecessor, Bowater Mersey Paper Company, has been an industrial site for well over 80 years.

In conclusion, we would urge you to consider the points raised by Messrs. Doelle and Lahey and listen to the wishes of the community and refuse to renew the license for the fish farm in Port Mouton Bay.

Sincerely,

Christopher Clarke  
Mayor

c: Premier Stephen McNeil – Nova Scotia  
Mark Furey, Minister of Service Nova Scotia



# Doelle-Lahey Panel Independent Aquaculture Regulatory Review for Nova Scotia

## Draft Version for Public Comment - extracts for RQM

<http://www.aquaculturereview.ca/sites/default/files/Draft%20Report%20July%2003.pdf>

### Topic: Site Suitability

“A suitable site is one that has appropriate biophysical conditions while being compatible with other economically, socially, and culturally important activities.

Using language from EGSPA (Environmental Goals Sustainability and Prosperity Act) , it is a site that makes a net contribution to sustainable prosperity and that can be utilized in a manner that maximizes benefits while minimizing risk and negative impacts.” (page xv, para 1)

“We recognize that fin-fish operations, even if well regulated and operated, are not appropriate in all coastal waters around Nova Scotia. We conclude that a new regulatory framework must ensure that marine-based fin-fish farming only occurs in coastal waters that are suitable for that kind of aquaculture and where it is compatible with other important uses of those waters. For that reason, one of our core recommendations is the creation of a classification system under which coastal areas would be rated as green, yellow or red based on their relative suitability for fin-fish aquaculture.” (page vi, para 2)

The criteria for classifying areas in the system would be biophysical suitability and presence or absence of conflicts with other important uses or values. A green area would be one in which there was biophysical suitability and no serious conflict issues. A red area would be one at which biophysical conditions show that it is highly unlikely that environmental standards could be met at the site and/or at which serious conflict issues are present (page xv, para 6). This approach is consistent with the approach taken in Scotland. (page 66-67)

#### *Comment:*

*The Spectacle Island site in Port Mouton Bay qualifies as a red area in all aspects:*

*extremely low flushing capacity*

*serious conflicts with important existing uses - lobster fishery, Irish moss harvest, eco-tourism*

*serious conflicts with important values – Summerville Beach Provincial Park, and Carter’s Beach/Spectacle Island Nature Reserve and Spectacle Island Lighthouse Heritage designations*

“The regulatory framework we propose would also allow applications to the Minister to have a lease revoked if it has become clear through experience that the site is not suitable for a particular type of operation.”(page vi, para 3)

*Comment:*

*The Friends of Port Mouton Bay application to the Minister to decommission the Spectacle Island site at the time of lease renewal – March 2015 - is appropriate.*

#### **Topic: Maintenance of Oxidic Conditions**

“It should be a basic and fundamental condition for the licensing of fin-fish aquaculture in a marine setting that oxidic conditions can be and have been maintained. Where experience suggests that the difficulty in maintaining oxidic conditions does not lie with the operation of the licensed operation or with its compliance with regulatory requirements but rather with the biophysical conditions of the site, it should be clear that the appropriate regulatory response is to require removal of the operation from the site or its conversion to a kind or level of aquaculture that is appropriate to the site.”(page 47)

*Comment:*

*The Spectacle Island site has failed to maintain oxidic conditions with depleted oxygen conditions at levels of hypoxic (polluted) to anoxic (grossly polluted) throughout the long record of its operation. The Environmental Quality Objective expressed in the Environmental Monitoring Framework Program for Marine Aquaculture in Nova Scotia is to maintain oxidic conditions.*

#### **Topic: Social Licence**

“For fin-fish aquaculture to develop in Nova Scotia, the social licence problem will have to be addressed. If the development of fin-fish aquaculture continues in the absence of improved social licence there is a real possibility that the social licence of aquaculture in general may come into doubt.” (page 16, para 2)

*Comment:*

*For several years, the communities around Port Mouton Bay have consistently expressed a lack of social licence for open-net pen finfish aquaculture in this bay..*