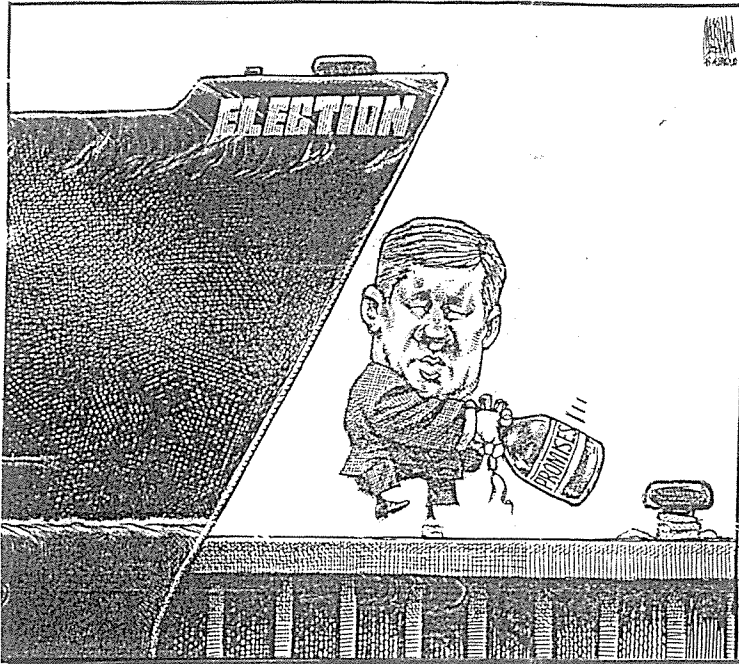


## FEDERAL ELECTION OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup>



Ignoring the fixed election date law passed by his minority government, Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked the Governor-General on Sept 7th to call an election. He claims he can no longer govern because the opposition parties will not promise future total support.

The federal election has now been set for Oct. 14, 2008 instead of Oct. 19, 2009. Despite getting all his main bills passed by Parliament because the Liberals, not feeling ready for an election with their new leader, Stéphane Dion, abstained on all non-confidence votes, Harper took the gamble hoping for a majority. His Conservative party has lots of money and Harper is presently ahead in the public opinion polls.

### PARTY LEADERS

**STEPHEN HARPER**  
*Conservative*



**Born:** April 30, 1959, in Toronto.  
**Education:** BA, MA in economics from University of Calgary.  
**Career:** Economist; computer programmer; parliamentary assistant; president, National Citizens' Coalition, a conservative lobby group, 1998-2001.  
**Politics:** A founding member of Reform party and its first chief policy officer; first elected to Commons as Reform MP, 1993, but did not seek a second term; elected leader of Canadian Alliance, March 2002; elected MP for Calgary Southwest, May 2002; elected leader of the new Conservative Party of Canada, 2004.  
**Family:** Wife Laureen; two children, Ben and Rachel.  
**Quote:** "The country must have a government that can function during a time of economic uncertainty, and if it's not this government, or not this Parliament, the public will have an opportunity to decide whom."

**STEPHANE DION**  
*Liberal*



**Born:** Sept. 28, 1955, in Quebec City.  
**Education:** Masters degree, political science, Laval University; doctorate, sociology, Institut d'études politiques de Paris; honorary doctorate, Carlos III University of Madrid.  
**Career:** Professor of political science and public administration at University of Montreal from 1984 to 1996.  
**Politics:** First elected to House of Commons in 1996 by election, and then again in 1997, 2000, 2004 and 2006 in the Montreal riding of Saint-Laurent-Cartierville; intergovernmental affairs minister and environment minister under Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin; elected party leader Dec. 2, 2006.  
**Family:** Wife Jeanine; a daughter, Jeanne. Pet husky named Kyoto.  
**Quote:** "Politics is like fishing, you need to strike at a good time."

**JACK LAYTON**  
*N.D.P.*



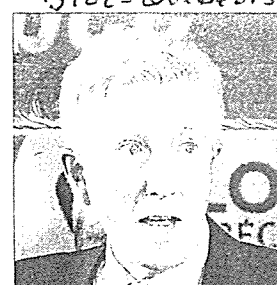
**Born:** July 18, 1950, in Montreal.  
**Education:** BA, McGill University, 1970; MA, political science, York University, 1971; PhD in political science, York, 1983.  
**Career:** Tenured professor, Ryerson Polytechnic, Toronto, 1974; taught at York and at University of Toronto.  
**Politics:** Entered politics in 1982 as Toronto city councillor; president of Federation of Canadian Municipalities; elected leader of NDP, January 2003; won Toronto-Danforth, June 28, 2004, federal election.  
**Family:** Wife Olivia Chow, former Toronto city councillor and New Democrat MP; two children, Sarah and Mike, from a previous marriage.  
**Quote:** "We will always stand against the Harper government and with the working people of this country."

**ELIZABETH MAY**  
*Green*



**Born:** June 9, 1954, in Hartford, Conn.  
**Education:** Law degree, Dalhousie University.  
**Career:** Lawyer; executive director, Sierra Club of Canada, 1993-2006; executive director, Cultural Survival Canada, 1989-1994; staged hunger strike protesting contamination of neighbourhoods around the Sydney tar ponds, sat in front of Parliament Hill for 17 days in 2003 until the government promised affected families would be relocated.  
**Politics:** Senior policy adviser to Tom McMillan, federal minister of the environment, 1986-1988; won Green Party leadership on first ballot, Aug. 26, 2006.  
**Family:** Daughter, Victoria Cate.  
**Quote:** "We will have influence. We will exert power, but to be a majority government, as the mark of whether or not we're successful, is the wrong goal."

**GILLES DUCEPPE**  
*Bloc-Québécois*



**Born:** July 22, 1947, in Montreal.  
**Education:** College Mont Saint-Louis and Université de Montréal.  
**Career:** Member of the Company of Young Canadians, 1970s; member of Workers Communist Party, late 1970s, but says he regrets involvement with communism; hospital orderly; union organizer.  
**Politics:** Won 1990 byelection in Montreal riding of Laurier-Sainte-Marie, Que., the first Bloc candidate elected though he ran as an Independent because the party was not yet registered; appointed interim party leader, 1996; won party leadership, 1997.  
**Family:** Wife Yolande Brunelle; two children, Amélie and Alexis Brunelle.  
**Quote:** "As long as you've got a chance, you should play your card."

# May snub stirring up more debate

## Harper, Layton on defensive as voters take umbrage at Green leader's exclusion

By SUE BAILEY 10 Sep 08  
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA — Websites and watercoolers were abuzz Tuesday with mostly sympathetic outrage over the exclusion of Green party leader Elizabeth May from the election leaders' debates.

The snub of May — and Prime Minister Stephen Harper's role in keeping her out — stirred up debate all right, though not the kind the Conservatives wanted.

While some commentators agreed the Greens should have an elected MP before getting a spot in the showcase debates, many others slammed Harper and NDP Leader Jack Layton for leading what May has called an "old boy" campaign to keep her out.

Harper, for one, wouldn't confirm that he'd threatened to boycott the televised events if May appeared.

"Look, on that I told you my view yesterday," he told a news conference in Winnipeg.

"I gather that the consortium has made a decision and I have no further comment on that decision."

With that, Harper tried to shift blame to the host TV networks who announced Monday that May would not join the potentially pivotal debates Oct. 1 and 2 in Ottawa.

The reason: One or more of the major party leaders had threatened to boycott the events otherwise.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion had welcomed May's participation, while Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe took pains to clarify that he'd never threatened to back out.

Layton and Harper, however, have argued that allowing May to debate would be tantamount to permitting two Liberal candidates. The Green leader has repeatedly said she'd prefer Dion over Harper as prime minister.

Dion also made waves by deciding not to run a Liberal challenger against May in the Nova Scotia riding of Central Nova, where the Green leader is taking on Tory Defence Minister Peter MacKay.

May insists that she is leading a distinct party, running candidates in 308 of

308 ridings, and that she has no plans to officially endorse the Liberals. But she is also realistic that the election will ultimately boil down to a Harper-Dion showdown. She states her preference without the usual political filter.

"I consistently say a minority with Stéphane Dion as prime minister, with enough Greens to keep us on track for positive change... is the honest answer. And I'd take enough Greens and NDPers, for that matter."

"Now if Jack Layton's honest answer to his constituents is he prefers Stephen Harper as prime minister — which is exactly how he is constructing his strategy — then he ought to explain that to his base."

May has stepped up pressure on the TV networks to allow her into the debates ever since an Independent MP joined the party, giving the Greens a temporary foothold in the House of Commons.

The party was excluded in the 2006 campaign despite growing popular support because it had not elected a single MP.

Toronto lawyer Peter Rosenthal plans to complain to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) on the Greens' behalf.

The party has said it will sue if the broadcast regulator rules against it, but has lost before when Federal Court decided it shouldn't interfere with the independence of debates organized by journalists.

May says the current system lacks clear rules and is patently unfair.

"It's a very anti-democratic way of going about structuring election debates when the other parties that you'll be debating get to decide whether a party that hasn't been in the room before can get in. It's a conflict of interest of the worst kind."

The networks that apparently caved in to the pressure — saying it would be better to have the debates with the four major leaders than to have none at all — were also chastised online.

May says she suspects Conservative and NDP concern over the potential Green bleed of support is at the crux of her exclusion.

## FEDERAL POLITICS » A LOOMING ELECTION



**A CONVERT:** Now that Blair Wilson, left, has signed up to be the Green Party's first MP, will the party get a seat at the next TV election debate? NEWS, PAGE 4

Globe + Mail  
Page 1, Sept 1, 08  
see story on p. 3  
of CANESUM.

Progress Enterprise 22 July 08

## Federal leader highlights Friends of Nature AGM

By ADAM JACOBS  
ajacobs@southshorenov.ca

CHESTER — Federal Green party leader Elizabeth May highlights the list of attendees at the Friends of Nature annual general meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Health Resources Building at Shoreham Village.

Rudy Haase, of Friends of Nature, said he's very pleased Ms May is returning for the second consecutive year.

"She's one of our board members," he said. "We're very happy to have her attend our meeting. She's here as a board member and not in her capacity as federal leader."

Ms May, last year's guest speaker, turns the task over to Bob Bancroft, although she will give an overview of Canadian environmental issues.

Mr. Bancroft is a wildlife, forest and fisheries biologist, and former chairman of the Nova Forest Alliance.

His talk, "Restoring Nature," will feature a slide-illustrated presentation involving forests, fish, cranes and land ethic.

A private woodlot owner, Mr. Bancroft, along with his wife, Alice Reed, was named 2007 Woodlot Owner of the Year for the eastern region of the province by the Department of Natural Resources.

The meeting will be chaired by George Perry, recently retired from the faculty of Acadia University.

Friends of Nature conservation director Brad Armstrong will also give a presentation.

Highlights of last year's meeting included the announcement that Lunenburg County went from zero to about 3,000 acres of protected land in the span of a year, thanks to the group's effective lobbying and provincial commitments for the Blandford Nature Reserve and former Bowater properties Timber Lake and Long Lake.

Mr. Armstrong said last year Friends of Nature turned its eye toward securing 900 acres of land in Deep Cove, adjacent to the Blandford Nature Reserve.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is expected to finalize that deal sometime this month.

STOP PRESS!!! As we go to press CBC Radio reports that Harper + Layton have reversed their stand and Elizabeth May will be included in federal leaders debate. They also report the e-mails "talk-backs" the CBC has received on this issue surpasses anything in CBC history.

THE ECONOMIST :- 6 SEPT.

# An early appointment with electoral destiny

*This story in a British journal is better analysis than any your editor has read on the election*

OTTAWA

Stephen Harper decides that patience should not be the Conservatives' virtue

"A PRINCE never lacks legitimate reasons to break his promise." Stephen Harper, Canada's Conservative prime minister, is poised to test this bit of Machiavellian political theory. Having championed legislation last year to fix election dates at four-year intervals, thus curtailing the ability of future governments to call a vote when victory seemed most assured, Mr Harper is now about to ignore his own law and announce a general election within days. With no overarching issue preoccupying voters still awakening from their summer slumber and with four by-elections set for September, which a general election would pre-empt, Mr Harper presumably has strong reasons for wanting to face the electorate a year before the set date of October 19th 2009. But what are they?

Probably not the one that the prime minister tested on the media at a press conference in late August: that the Liberals, Bloc Québécois and New Democratic Party, who collectively hold 173 of the 308 seats in the House of Commons, are intent on opposing the government and blocking its agenda. It can hardly come as a surprise to Mr Harper, who has led a minority government since the January 2006 election, that opposition parties believe their job in a parliamentary system is to challenge the government. Nor does his claim of blockade stand much scrutiny. The Conserva-

tives have managed to get 70 government bills, including three budgets and two economic statements, through parliament and have survived more than 40 votes of confidence.

What is more likely is that the prime minister saw so many storm clouds on the horizon—a weakening economy, mounting Canadian casualties in Afghanistan, the question of how to deal with a new administration in America and the threat that several scandals may come to a head—that going now became more appealing than being caught in a deluge later. He has dared and double-dared the opposition to force an election and so do the job for him, to no avail. "Fish or cut bait!" he commanded Stéphane Dion, leader of the Liberal Party, earlier this summer. Mr Dion said later that he did indeed go fishing on holiday.

The nightmare scenario for the Conservatives is that the economy, dragged down by slow growth south of the border (Canada's most important export market) and by the impact of a strong Canadian dollar, will deteriorate to the point that the federal government will post a budget deficit after more than a decade of surpluses. Economic growth for the first six months of 2008 was almost imperceptible, lower than projections made in the February budget. Having spent the double-digit surpluses of previous years on such things as

tax cuts, defence procurement and debt repayment, the Conservatives have little fiscal leeway.

The American election on November 4th could also sway Canadian voters, whose proximity to the United States means they are exposed to much of its media coverage. Should a wind of change sweep Barack Obama into office, it might also provide a handy tailwind for the left-of-centre Liberal party to America's north. Regardless of which candidate wins in America, their focus on the environment spells bad news for Mr Harper, whose government has struggled to come up with a green plan that does not antagonise voters in the energy-rich western province of Alberta, which the prime minister calls home. A Liberal promise to institute what Mr Dion says will be a revenue-neutral carbon tax has burnished his leadership credentials while accentuating the difference on environmental issues between the two main parties.

Other looming troubles may appear less significant, but any of them could flare up given the right mix of circumstances. The Conservatives are currently in court challenging a ruling by the commissioner of elections that they broke financing rules in 2006. Also, a long-promised public inquiry into the business dealings of Brian Mulroney, a former Conservative prime minister and Harper adviser, will start hearings early next year. And the casualty list from Afghanistan, a war that Mr Harper has strongly backed despite its unpopularity among Canadians, continues to grow, reaching 96 soldiers, including three killed on September 3rd.

Not all of the unspoken reasons for seeking an election sooner rather than later are negative. The Conservatives say they

can fight the campaign, which must run a minimum of 36 days, without borrowing money. Not so the Liberals, with Mr Dion still repaying debts from his December 2006 leadership campaign. Moreover, the Conservatives may benefit from a swing in their direction in voter-rich Quebec.

Mr Harper gets more points for personal leadership in opinion polls than his Liberal counterpart and one new opinion poll puts the Conservatives at 37% and the Liberals at 29%, virtually unchanged since January 2006. So why call an election at all, if nothing will change? Canadians may not have warmed to his party, but Mr Harper still privately hopes for a majority and at least one pollster reckons a majority is within his reach, if not in his grasp. Machiavelli would surely have thought that good enough reason for an early election. ■

# Green Party snags its first MP

*Robert M... 1 Sept 08*

BY OMAR EL AKKAD OTTAWA

In part, the Green Party can thank David Suzuki's daughter for helping it finally get a foot on Parliament Hill.

With its first MP in the party's history, the Greens are momentarily poised to move into the House of Commons. But they also face one of the toughest riding battles in Canada.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May announced this weekend that Blair Wilson, a former Liberal MP in British Columbia who is now an Independent, will be joining the party.

Mr Wilson's Green conversion came during a whirlwind week of talks between the MP and the party that were as serendipitous as they were strategic.

Mr. Wilson, as recently as this summer, was still looking to rejoin the Liberal caucus after being forced out amid allegations of misspending. He decided to test the waters with the Greens by dispatching a mutual friend to talk to Ms. May in Nova Scotia a week ago.

At first, the friend "cloaked himself in mystery," only saying that an MP was interested in joining the party, Ms. May said. Eventually, it became clear that Mr. Wilson, who represents the riding of West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country, was that MP.

It just so happened that Ms. May was flying to B.C. that same week to attend Dr. Suzuki's daughter's wedding. The timing proved perfect.

"It was one of those mo-

ments where the sun, moon and the stars align," Mr. Wilson said. "When Liz and I got together we found we had a lot in common."

Ms. May had dinner at Mr. Wilson's B.C. home last Thursday, just as talk of an imminent election morphed from hypothetical to deafening.

"We knew that to have the status at a leaders debate, we had to have a Green MP before the dissolution of Parliament," Ms. May said.

The final hurdle was cleared when the nominated Green candidate in Mr. Wilson's riding agreed that having a sitting MP was more important than the party's long-shot odds of winning it on their own. The Green candidate in the 2006 election garnered 6 per cent of the vote in that riding.

Parliamentary seats at dissolution

CONSERVATIVE	126
LIBERAL	95
BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS	48
N.D.P.	30
Independents	4
(1 became Green)	
VACANT	4

# How far would an unfettered Harper go?

**P**RIME MINISTER Stephen Harper wanted promises of unconditional support from the opposition parties as the price of continuing Parliament. But he didn't say what he'd want them to support. His true directions are exceedingly vague. Flush with cash, armed with publican Party tactics of special division, with political support from the old Mike Harris government at the ready, he hopes seem to be that his leadership image combined with a splintered opposition and Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's handicaps will carry the day and that he won't have to plain anything. He could be right. But meanwhile, the vagueness revives the nagging question about his intentions. Does he have a secret agenda? The answer is no, but that's the wrong question. The agenda is quite open. Originally, it was elaborated when he was head of the Na-



**RALPH SURETTE**

6 Sept 08  
tional Citizens' Coalition, an Alberta-based, corporate-supported, right-wing advocacy group; cut taxes, slash support for the arts and citizens' groups, trash Canada's United Nations peacekeeping role, discredit any activity carried on by the state except the military, privatize or diminish public sector services, and so on.  
That's what he's been doing. The question, rather, is: How far would he go in these directions if blessed by a majority? Would he, for example, destroy public medicare - the primary reason why the NCC was originally created? He was for Canada sending troops to

Iraq. If the trigger-happy Republicans stay in office down south, would he be committing Canada to new U.S.-led quagmires?  
He's made noises about the CBC before. Would putting the CBC under be the crowning piece of his arts-cutting? He had to be beaten over the head to even acknowledge climate change.  
Would a Conservative majority signal the end of all but the pretence of an environmental policy - and four more wasted years on that front? Would he trash public regulation of this and that, as he's accused of trying to do with food inspection?  
There was an article in the August edition of Harper's Magazine exploring the wreckage of the Bush years, and the political psychology that led to it. Except for some details and emphases, it was an apt description of the Harper Conservatives.  
It's a movement that "understands the liberal state as a perversion" and considers the

market alone as the ruling mechanism of human affairs.  
On the stump, it preaches family values and generally democracy's "first principles." But put it in power and all that disappears. There the "public interest" is laughed off as nonsense, war is declared on the public service, and a cult is made of outsourcing and privatization.  
And, I might add, "freedom and democracy" are degraded into bywords for corporate cronyism and electoral manipulation. We're not fully there yet in Canada, but we're headed that way. Would a Harper majority get us there?  
The most peculiar element of this mindset, however, is "conservatives' sense of their own exclusion." No matter how firm a grasp they have on power, they consider themselves mavericks, rebels, outsiders to the power structure - that their duty is to assault.  
It was the case with Reagan and Bush. One of the main themes of the Republican convention this week, including

the cornerstone of embattled vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin's barn-burning speech, is that "Washington is broken" and must be fixed, the boots put to the "elite" - as though their own party hadn't been in power for the last eight years doing the breaking.  
With Stephen Harper, the civil service, the "state," is also the enemy, which must be belittled, blamed and bypassed and ultimately cut as much as possible. In his view, the civil service is the Liberal party in drag, always out to get him, and its decisions have to be short-circuited by the superior judgment of political operatives.  
We're reminded of this constantly. The whitewash report on the Maxime Bernier affair blamed Foreign Affairs officials for not inquiring about the documents the minister had left at his girlfriend's house!  
And now they're discovered to have turned down and cancelled a number of ecology projects, apparently overruling

the established programs - no doubt a political message to government officials.  
Along with this attitude comes a disrespect for due process, even for the rule of law (which exists in abundance in George Bush's White House), which can be usurped any time by political authority. On that point, Harper has been kept in check, but how far would his one-man rule go with a majority is part of the simmering question.  
The economy, the environment, the worsening war in Afghanistan or, in an unstable political environment, any number of unforeseen issues might break out and dominate the upcoming campaign.  
But no matter what it is, the job for the opposition is to drag Stephen Harper's not-so-mysterious intentions out into the open so we can vote with our eyes open.  
Ralph Surette is a veteran freelance journalist, living in Yarmouth County. (rsurette@herald.ca)

Editor  
of the People  
Chronicle-Herald  
Halifax, N.S.

Martin Rudy Haase's  
response to above  
opinion column;  
↓

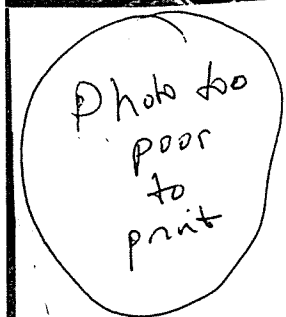
Editor:  
Ralph Surette has chillingly described the dire consequences for Canadians if the Conservatives win a majority of seats in the October 14th federal election. (How far would an unfettered Harper go? p. 6) What your excellent columnist didn't point out is that a big majority of Canadians could vote against Bush-enthusiast Harper and could still achieve a majority government.  
This, of course, is due to the lack of proportional representation, multiple opposition parties, and the failure of their leaders to form a united front. Accordingly, every concerned citizen must decide whether their own riding which opposition candidate is most likely to win. In most cases this will be the incumbent or the runner-up in the last election.  
One important exception is in crafty Peter MacKay's riding, where Alexis MacDonald came in a close second. She is now running to retain the NDP's Halifax constituency, which Alexa McDonough served so honourably for many years. Thus in Central Nova, opposition voters could unite behind Elizabeth May, the one eastern Green who has a chance of winning.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OCT. 18th**  
In the Munic. of Chester only the village seat is being contested. Phil Ellwood has dropped out and will support Brad. Two other candidates: Gordon Rendell and a Mr. Hester.  
In the Munic. of Lunenburg, David Cook, a retired teacher is running for ward seat, and Don Downe for Mayor.

## Local conservationist running for Chester council

By ADAM JACOBS  
ajacobs@sc.thshorenw.ca  
14 Aug 08

**CHESTER** — Brad Armstrong has announced his intention to run for municipal council.  
A well-known conservationist, Mr. Armstrong is seeking his first council seat for District 3, Chester/East Chester. "I've been thinking about this since the last election," he said. "It was a decision that took a long time to make."  
For the last 25 years the Chester resident has worked as a carpenter for Interhabs International Ltd. in Hubbards. He has also been a frequent visitor to council over the years in his role as conservationist.  
"I've been spending some time at council learning how the system works," he said.



Mr. Armstrong has some ties to municipal council. Since 2005 he has sat as a member of the municipal planning advisory committee.  
He's also served as the chairman of the Kaizer Meadow Brook preservation group, been part of the Card Lake Park conservation group, serves on the Kaizer Meadow citizens' monitoring committee and is conservation director for Friends of Nature, which played a key role in acquiring 750 acres of land for preservation in Deep Cove, among other projects.  
"I like the fact we live in a large municipality," Mr. Armstrong said. "The system we have is working. Sure, there

are some problems, but we don't have to radically change things. I like the fact we can rely on our neighbours in New Ross or Blandford or Hubbards or wherever they are in the municipality."  
Mr. Armstrong joins Phil Ellwood as the only non-incumbents to seek a seat on council.  
Both are looking to fill the seat being left vacant by Gail Smith, who has opted not to seek re-election.  
"I think it's important people have a choice," Mr. Armstrong said.  
The deadline to submit nomination papers for the fall municipal election is September 9 at 5 p.m.



The N.S. Government is reviewing the Uranium Ban.

# Maintaining moratorium

By James Latter 15 Apr 08

CHESTER — Council will ask the provincial government to maintain a moratorium on uranium mining in Nova Scotia, at the request of the Friends of Nature Conservation Society.

The temporary moratorium - formalized in 1982, and expired in 1995 - is only a "defacto moratorium," which successive governments have maintained, but could lift with the "stroke of a pen," the society's founder told municipal councillors April 10.

Rudy Haase said the province originally banned uranium mining as a result of public concern about its safety. But on Jan. 18, the issue resurfaced strongly, as more than 100 people attended an information meeting at Forest Heights Community School. They were concerned about exploration activity at Millet Brook, between Chester and Windsor, carried out by Tripple Uranium Resources Inc.

Although the firm's president stated that his company isn't looking for uranium, Haase isn't convinced that the business, or the Conservative government - which he said has indicated that it might lift the 25-year-old ban - can be trusted to preserve the moratorium.

Continued from page 1

Once 'yellow cake', containing uranium oxide, is extracted from the earth, radioactive wastes are pumped into a tailings pond, where they are unlikely to remain, said Dr. David Maxwell.

"They leak; they flood; they get into the watercourse; they seep into the ground. They contaminate the groundwater for the next 10,000 years. You can't get them out," said the retired physician, who has studied the subject.

Uranium mining releases radon gas, which can double background radiation, and when inhaled, can cause lung cancer, Dr. Maxwell said. It can also discharge other dangerous substances and elements, like arsenic, radium, thorium, and polonium, which in late 2006, was used to kill Alexander Litvinenko, a former officer of the Russian Federal Security Service.

Dust containing radioactive particles can travel long distances on the wind, he said. Radioactivity attaches to DNA, damages human cells and chromosomes, causes birth defects, damages kidneys, causes fertility problems, and reproductive cancers, he said.

"Uranium mining guys are going to say 'we will bring you jobs'. You can get a few jobs for 10 or 15 years, and 10,000 years of adverse effects," said Maxwell. Uranium mining is different from all other kinds of mining, he said. "There is no safe way of doing it."

The audience, which included more than 20 spectators, heard that wells in the New Ross area already contain uranium. Most wells tested in 1982 contained uranium, and wells were closed because the content exceeded safety levels, Bea Larder said.

There is a high rate of cancer in the community, where some people still purchase bottled water, said Larder, a New Ross resident.

## Vital issue

The big news story that "Chester wants uranium mining ban made law" (April 11) should have been on the front page of the provincial section instead of the back page of the business section.

This is an important health and environmental issue for everybody because the massive waste piles and ponds of uranium mines would remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years, poisoning our air and water and causing cancer and birth defects. As Dr. David Maxwell is quoted as saying, "There is no safe level."

The unanimous vote of the Chester municipal council clearly reflects the concerns of citizens, and it is hoped that many other municipalities will take similar action. This would send a clear message to the MacDonald government that uranium should be left in the ground permanently.

**Martin Rudy Haase,**  
Executive secretary,  
Friends of Nature, Chester

16 April 2008

## Right, right, right

Dan Leger was right, right, right in condemning the MacDonald government in his excellent June 23 column, "The ATV giveaway is just wrong, wrong, wrong." The last thing the government should be spending health promotion money on is dangerous and environmentally destructive machines that maim and kill children and create more greenhouse gases that help kill the planet.

**Martin Rudy Haase,**  
Friends of Nature, Chester

June 08

## Legislation needed

Natural Resources Minister David Morse says he wants to "hear from Nova Scotians passionate about the moratorium" (May 21 story). He thinks our province is missing out on lucrative mining, when actually we've been a wise leader since 1982 in providing a good example. Recently, British Columbia, a big province with much more mining potential, instituted a moratorium on uranium exploration and mining.

Mr. Morse has asked Voluntary Planning to hold public hearings to get citizens' input on natural resources issues. At the meeting in Lunenburg County on May 13, over 200 people showed up; of those who spoke, 28 opposed uranium development and only two favoured it, not counting mining industry employees.

Uranium mining would leave a radioactive legacy for thousands of years, leading to a big increase in cancer and birth defects for generations. We need a legislated moratorium as provided for in Bill 58, introduced by the NDP's Graham Steele, because the present one can be lifted at any time by the MacDonald government.

**Rudy Haase, Chester**  
29 May 08

The current situation is due to public alarm at prospect of uranium mining, the N.S. government asked Voluntary Planning to make a report after holding a score of UML-attended meetings.

## Keep the ban

Graham Steele, the NDP Environment critic, who was one of the four speakers at the Council of Canadians' meeting on January 18 ("Local Action Group Calls for Legislative Ban on Uranium Mining," January 29), is the MLA who introduced a bill for a legal moratorium on uranium exploration and mining. He pointed out that the current moratorium can be eliminated "with the stroke of a pen" by the MacDonald government.

While I also oppose the major end uses of uranium, namely nuclear weapons and power, Friends of Nature, and others, have been working for 25 years to keep Nova Scotia free from uranium mining because of its serious health and environmental threats.

The radioactivity released from the massive tailing piles can last for thousands of years, and the radon gas produced can travel long distances. Although it is low-level radiation, scientific studies have proven that the cumulative radiation can cause cancer, leukemia and birth defects.

Also, there has never been a mining tailings pond that didn't eventually leak or spill. In the case of a uranium mine, this would extensively contaminate the water table and rivers with radioactive residues.

Over half of the time at the meeting was devoted to public discussion and questions.

Many of the 100-plus people who came, despite "beastly" weather, spoke of their well-founded concerns.

The Council of Canadians is to be commended, together with their chairwoman, Marian Moore, whose presentation was excellent, for bringing the uranium issue to a public forum.

**MARTIN RUDY HAASE**  
Chester

Feb. 5, 2008

WR17 was first speaker.

# Deep Cove conservation purchase complete

By ADAM JACOBS  
ajacobs@southshorenova.ca

19 Aug 08

DEEP-COVE — The purchase of more than 800 acres of land here for the purpose of preservation has been finalized.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), in partnership with the federal government, made the announcement August 13 in Halifax.

The total cost of acquiring the land was around \$930,000.

Deep Cove is situated near the Blandford Nature Reserve on the Aspotogan Peninsula.

The NCC took on the task of acquiring the land after it was approached by Friends of Nature (FON).

"The project was out of our league," said FON executive secretary Rudy Haase. "I ac-

tually approached the Nature Conservancy about Deep Cove after we successfully lobbied over several years to have the Blandford Game Sanctuary turned into the Blandford Nature Reserve."

Deep Cove is a conifer-dominated mixed forest of bogs, fens, shrub barrens and small lakes.

The area is also home to several rare lichens that grow in the humid, wet coastal environment found at Deep Cove.

"We're very pleased they were able to get the donations needed to make this happen," Mr. Haase said.

The Deep Cove land is surrounded by the reserve and a plot owned by the Department of National Defence.

The purchase of the land means there are now more than 1,700 acres of protected

land in Deep Cove.

"Deep Cove is an incredible example of what NCC can achieve when working in partnership with a variety of organizations. Clearly this appeal captured the public's interest," said Linda Stephenson, NCC Atlantic vice-president. "Now current and future generations will be able to enjoy this magnificent piece of Nova Scotia."

On the local level the Municipality of Chester donated \$25,000 toward the purchase.

"The residents of Chester know the importance of conservation and Deep Cove is a wonderful example," said Warden Allen Webber. "Now, future generations of people living and vacationing in Chester will be able to enjoy both its natural and cultural history."

# Swissair families mark 10th anniversary of crash

*'We have returned and we feel like we're at home'*

By LISA BROWN  
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9 Sept. 08

BAYSWATER — Tears and hugs again marked the burial site of the victims of Swissair Flight 111 September 2 as family members joined Nova Scotians to mark the 10th anniversary of the crash.

More than 100 people crowded the Bayswater memorial site for the service.

For many of the victims' relatives, the pain of their loss clearly continues a decade later. Their grief was etched on their faces, as some wiped away tears, while others fought to hold them at bay.

Some brought flowers and mementoes

to lay at the base of the memorial, which is etched with the names of the 229 men, women and children who died on September 2, 1998, when the jet plunged into the waters of St. Margarets Bay. Others carefully selected blooms from the buckets of flowers provided by organizers.

## NEAL LIVINGSTON RECEIVES WOODLOT AWARD

Neal Livingston, a documentary film producer and maple syrup producer, has received the "2008 Woodlot Owner of the Year" award from Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources.

His award is for the eastern region, while Russell McClellan of Truro won for the central region and Royce Fern of Annapolis County for the western region.

Neal's woodlot is in Mabou, Cape Breton. In 2007 he produced a documentary film entitled, RUDY HAASE, Canada's Unknown Environmental. It featured Elizabeth May prominently.

Editor's Note: This is the first CANESUM since issue, Vol. 17, No 3, dated 27 March 2007. Most readers, we suspect, thought CANESUM was extinct. The editor suffered a "TIA" on 15 June 2007, which curtailed his non-essential activities, but he's pleased to be back to carrying on the hobby he spoke about at his 80th grade (1935) commencement: "My hobby is publishing newspapers."

Many thanks for your concern + telephone calls. Love, Dad.