



# Atlantic



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### MAJOR SEIZURE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Enforcement officials from central Newfoundland seized 689 seaducks and 10 firearms in the Fogo Island area off the northeast coast of Newfoundland, in February, 1987. Eight people were charged with a total of 19 offences under the Migratory Bird Convention Act, by officers of the Provincial Wildlife Division and the R.C.M.P. Hunters are legally permitted to have 24 seaducks in their possession if they hold a licence. In this case, only two individuals had purchased a licence. Simple calculations show these hunters were 641 birds over their legal possession limit.

Most birds seized were Common Eider ducks with a smaller number of Oldsquaw ducks. Over half the ducks were picked and packaged, indicating that they may have been destined for sale. Selling has been a fairly frequent practice in some areas of Newfoundland, and large kills of seaducks can occur when weather and ice conditions permit. Effective enforcement has been hampered by a lack of understanding of the effects of these kills on duck populations by hunters and the general public.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has been conducting meetings for hunters, as well as workshops for enforcement personnel, to better educate all concerned. The consequences of exceeding bag limits, selling migratory birds and hunting before and after open season, have been stressed. This seizure is seen as a major step forward for the enforcement of migratory bird regulations in Newfoundland, and has generated much support and favourable comment from the general public.

\* Note: An informative new brochure, entitled "Eider Duck Management in Newfoundland", is now available from the Canadian Wildlife Service in St. John's. The brochure is designed to educate hunters and the general public about a most valuable natural resource - the Common Eider duck.

For more information, contact: Wayne Turpin, Enforcement Coordinator, or Ian Goudie, Wildlife Biologist, The Canadian Wildlife Service, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, P.O. Box 9158, Station B, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1A 2X9, Telephone (709) 772-5585.

### WILDLIFE '87 UPDATE

Wildlife '87: Gaining Momentum is the theme for this special year of Wildlife Conservation. This theme represents the forward thrust of the year's effort and recognizes the importance of past and present achievements. Provincial Wildlife '87 committees have been established to coordinate the many activities scheduled throughout the year. In the Atlantic Region the representatives are:



Prince Edward Island

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New Brunswick

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149 Douglas Avenue  
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Nova Scotia

Judith Kennedy  
c/o Nova Scotia Museum  
1747 Summer Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 3A6  
Phone: (902) 429-4610

In addition to the many Wildlife '87 activities described in the last issue of **Envirogram**, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks plan to feature a special kiosk on endangered species located in the Prince Edward Island National Park. The display will focus on four themes: the protection of the Piping Plover in P.E.I. National Park, the protection of the Piping Plover internationally, endangered species protection in Canada and the international protection of endangered species.

The Canadian Wildlife Service is also producing of a series of short articles on wildlife which will be supplied to all of the weekly newspapers in Atlantic Canada. Be sure to watch for them.

To find out more about Wildlife '87, contact: Eric Hiscock, Canadian Wildlife Service, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, c/o Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 4A2, Telephone (902) 426-6314.

### ENVIRONMENT CANADA IMPROVES WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Environment Canada, in collaboration with Wood Gundy Inc., has upgraded its weather service in Halifax, and three other Canadian cities, by increasing the number of telephone lines available to callers at its weather offices.

As a six-month pilot project, the costs of the new service will be covered by the project's sponsor, Wood Gundy Inc., a leading Canadian investment firm. Public reaction to the service will be assessed during the trial period.

Callers to the weather offices in the four cities will hear a 15-second sponsor's message preceding the weather information for the metropolitan centres and surrounding areas. The information, updated regularly and available 24 hours a day, details expected weather such as rain or snow, probability of precipitation, maximum and minimum temperatures, sky conditions and significant winds.

At the Environment Canada weather office in Halifax (Bedford), Nova Scotia, the number of phone lines has been increased from 4 to 15, and the number of calls has increased accordingly.

In January 1986, the Bedford weather office received over 65,000 calls while more than 47,000 callers were unable to get through the first time, if at all. In February of 1987, thanks to the increased service, over 125,000 people have gotten through to the weather office while only 17,000 were unable to get the weather message.

The new service should continue to improve the availability of the regular weather warnings and forecasts by Environment Canada, provided as a service to all Canadians for their safety and well-being.

For further information, contact: Dick Melis, Chief, General Weather Services, Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, 1496 Bedford Highway, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 1E5, Telephone (902) 426-9131.

### CANADIAN HERITAGE BUILDINGS DESIGNATED

To mark Heritage Day, which fell on February 16 this year, Environment Minister Tom McMillan gave heritage designations to 154 buildings owned by the Government of Canada across the country.

The Minister, who is responsible for all federally-owned heritage sites in Canada, criticized past inaction which, he said, "resulted in the loss, through demolition or neglect, of many of Canada's built heritage treasures. The present government is determined to preserve and protect the buildings of the past for the education, understanding and pleasure of people today and for generations of Canadians yet unborn."



The Federal Heritage Buildings Register lists buildings that are at least 40 years old as either Classified or Recognized according to their historical, architectural or environmental value.

In Nova Scotia, both Admiralty House and Wellington House at CFB Stadacona have been given a Classified status. The Dominion Building in Amherst; the Federal Building in Westville; the Lorne Terrace and the Thornvale Conference Centre in Halifax have each been granted a Recognized status.

In New Brunswick, the R.C.M.P. J Division Headquarters Complex (Old Government House) located in Fredericton has been given a Classified status. Postal Station A in Fredericton; the Hillsborough Federal Building in Hillsborough; the Federal Building in Moncton; Postal Station A in Saint John and the Old Milltown Post Office in St. Stephen have each received a Recognized status.

In Prince Edward Island, Green Gables House in Prince Edward Island National Park; B SQN PEIR Armoury in Summerside and the Federal Building in Tignish have been given a Recognized status.

The historically important characteristics of all designated buildings in the Atlantic region, and elsewhere in Canada, were formally inscribed in the Federal Heritage Buildings Register, which Mr. McMillan unveiled at a special Heritage Day ceremony held in Ottawa in February.

For more information, contact: Carol O'Reilly, Information Advisor, Environment Canada - Parks, Historic Properties, Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1S9, Telephone (902) 426-1840.

#### COME BY CHANCE REFINERY REACTIVATED

The Come By Chance Refinery, shut down since 1976, was purchased late last year by a Bermuda-based company, Newfoundland Energy Limited. The company intends to refurbish the refinery and begin to process crude oil this summer. The final products of oil and gasoline will eventually be shipped to markets in the United States.

The Newfoundland office of Environmental Protection (EP) is managing Environment Canada's role in the refinery reactivation. An environmental assessment was not required by the Newfoundland Department of the Environment (MDOE) because they considered the refinery to be an already existing operation.

The federal government's prime regulatory interest in the refinery reactivation regards the administration of the Petroleum Refinery Effluent Regulations, under the Fisheries Act. The refinery owner has been made aware of the federal regulations and a number of meetings have been held with refinery technical personnel to advise them of the EP requirements.

Another important issue being dealt with by EP is the condition of the existing waste sites on the refinery property. As part of the agreement between the Province and Newfoundland Energy, the Province is assuming responsibility for these sites. NDOE will carry out a study to investigate the waste sites and determine if remedial work is required to make them secure. EP is providing technical advice on the terms of reference to the study and may provide some lab support.

EP Newfoundland will also be busy making sure that any work carried out with hydrocarbon products (i.e. oil and gasoline) on the refinery wharf is done with a contingency plan and the appropriate spill/clean-up equipment in place.

The entire project will keep EP Newfoundland staff busy for the coming months, to ensure the reactivation is carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.

For further information, contact: Richard Nancarrow, Environmental Protection, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, P.O. Box 5037, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5V3, Telephone (709) 772-5488.

### CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT WEEK ADOPTS NEW APPROACH

Canadian Environment Week will be celebrated this year from June 1-7, in conjunction with World Environment Day on June 5. Environment Canada has adopted a new approach for 1987 with much more emphasis on local and regional "grassroots" activities.

Small provincial Environment Week Advisory Committees made up of federal and provincial government members, together with representatives from non-government groups, have been formed in each of the Atlantic Provinces. The committees will solicit, organize and coordinate the activities in their respective provinces. They will review proposals from non-government groups, agencies, and individuals to ensure they meet the committee's objectives, and recommend funding where appropriate. The deadline for receiving proposals was in March, to give successful groups enough time to put their plans into action.

### **Environment**



The Environment Canada representatives on the provincial committees are:

Nova Scotia	Sue Day	902-426-6086
New Brunswick	John de Gonzague	506-452-3286
Newfoundland	Gordon Pelley	709-772-5488
Prince Edward Island	Art Hiscock	902-566-7042

In keeping with the Environment Week theme "It's up to all of us", Environment Canada encourages Canadians everywhere to support and participate in Environment Week activities.

If you have ideas or suggestions, or wish to obtain promotional material, contact: Pat Edwards, Communications Services, Environment Canada, 3rd Floor, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 2N6, Phone (902) 426-7990.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS ON NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

A series of public consultation meetings on the proposed Environmental Protection Act were held throughout the Atlantic provinces in late February. The draft Act is designed to give the federal government broad new powers to protect the environment, impose tough penalties on polluters and introduce life-cycle management of toxic chemicals.

It was federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan's intention to seek the views of Canadians on how the draft Act could be improved, and to analyze and incorporate public comment prior to the re-introduction of the Act in Parliament this summer.

The meetings, which took place in Fredericton, Charlottetown, Halifax and St John's, were a public forum where concerned groups and individuals could submit written or oral presentations on the proposed Act.

In the Atlantic region, 29 submissions were received. Many of the briefs "applauded" Environment Minister Tom McMillan for initiating the Act. But many contributors suggested the Act should cover a broader environmental scope than toxic materials and chemicals only.

The issues identified during the public consultation process will later be discussed and refined at a National Consultation Meeting in Ottawa.

For further information, contact: Ed Norrena, Regional Director, Environmental Protection, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, 5th Floor, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 2N6, Telephone (902) 426-3593.

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND-NEW BRUNSWICK FIXED CROSSING REVIEW**

Public Works Canada has recently commissioned 11 companies to conduct studies on the feasibility of a fixed crossing between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The studies will assess the financial, economic, social and environmental impacts of the proposed 13 kilometre crossing.

To ensure necessary input from Environment Canada into the studies and their terms of reference, a special working group has been formed. The group will provide a detailed account of the possible environmental constraints on construction, management and maintenance of the fixed crossing.

Art Hiscock, District Director of Environmental Protection in Charlottetown, will act as Coordinator of the group. Other members include:

John Burse	Atmospheric Environment Service, Halifax
Bruce Johnson	Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville
Harry Hirvonen	Parks, Halifax
Derek MacDonald	Environmental Protection, Dartmouth
Rodger Albright	Environmental Protection, Dartmouth
John Keefe	Inland Waters and Lands, Dartmouth

A separate inter-departmental planning committee will be responsible for the overall direction of the fixed crossing project by identifying major issues and ensuring departmental cooperation. The Environment Canada representative on this committee is Jim Vollmershausen, Director General, Conservation and Protection (Atlantic).

For further information, contact: Art Hiscock, District Director, Environmental Protection, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, 3rd Floor, Room 320, Dominion Building, 97 Queen Street, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, CIA 4A9, Telephone (902) 566-7042.

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