

South Canoe Wind Project Newsletter (P2)

PROJECT INFORMATION

What does this project mean for the community?

If approved, the project would help the local community become an important part of Nova Scotia's renewable energy future. Local ownership would bring long-term benefits and jobs for the community.

What would be the economic impact?

Nearby communities and businesses would benefit from the project. For example, municipalities would benefit from tax revenue. The project would create jobs in areas such as construction and operations. Local businesses would benefit from increased economic activity.

Where exactly will it be located?

The area for the proposed project is near the settlement of Vaughan, approximately 15 km southwest of Windsor, Nova Scotia. It consists of approximately 6,369 ha of land.



Why is another wind energy project needed?

The Government of Nova Scotia has set renewable electricity targets where 20% of generation will come from renewable energy sources by 2015 and 40% by 2020. The success of the South Canoe project could be a major step in this achievement. The project will compete in the upcoming Request for Proposals managed by the Renewable Electricity Administrator (REA), the provincial officer mandated to help achieve renewable energy targets.

What is a wind turbine?

Wind turbines are used to transform the kinetic energy from the wind into electrical energy. The towers are made of tubular steel and/or concrete and the blades are usually made of fiberglass-reinforced polyester.

Who is the project team?

Oxford Frozen Foods and Minas Basin Pulp and Power are proposing to develop the project supported by Nova Scotia Power as a minority partner.

Oxford Frozen Foods and its associated companies are based in Nova Scotia and are part of the Bragg group of

companies. Oxford is a vertically integrated, wild blueberry farming, processing and marketing group of companies and a major producer of frozen carrot products and battered vegetables. The Oxford label is recognized throughout the world as the standard for wild blueberries. The company's standard of excellence and commitment to quality has led to long term, successful alliances with suppliers and customers around the world.

Founded in 1927, Minas Basin Pulp and Power is a manufacturer of linerboard from 100% post consumer materials. The company also acts as an independent power producer with a 5 MW hydro facility and a portfolio of power projects under development from technologies including wind and tidal energy. Minas is a berth holder at the Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy (FORCE) and is an active trader of carbon credits.

Nova Scotia Power has been the main electricity provider for Nova Scotians for more than 80 years, supplying 95% of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution in the province. NSPI provides safe, dependable sources of energy to its 490,000 customers. NSPI is making strides in reducing emissions and adding renewable energy sources. It is focusing on new technologies to enhance customer service and reliability.

NSP is the principal operating subsidiary of Emera, with 1,900 employees, \$4.0 billion in assets and a fleet that includes thermal, tidal and hydro plants as well as combustion and wind turbines.

Below: Typical skyline profile of turbines from Hwy 14. Turbines have been added using computer simulation.



Thank You! We look forward to meeting you and discussing our project further with you.

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Optimized South Canoe Project Layout

An important part of the project development process is determining the project layout. In order to reduce the footprint of the project and minimize impacts on the environment and surrounding community, the project area has been optimized and consolidated over the past few months. The total project footprint, used in the EA and displayed in the map on p.1, is approximately **2,790 ha**, a **55%** reduction from the first layout iteration. Some of the key considerations that went into optimizing the map included:

- wetlands
- watercourses
- rare species
- minimization of the project footprint and;
- wildlife habitat protection.

These considerations coupled with a desirable wind regime resulted in the optimized wind project layout.

Community Liaison Committee Activities

A Community Liaison Committee has been formed to facilitate sharing of information with the community and to bring community concerns to the project team. To date there have been three CLC meetings, one of which was a site visit to the Digby Wind Farm where CLC members experienced a wind farm first-hand. Minutes for the meetings can be accessed electronically at southcanoewind.com OR hardcopies are available at: Lakeside Variety in Vaughan, Clover Farm in New Ross, Chester Municipal Office, and the West Hants Municipal Office in Windsor.

Request for Proposals Process

The South Canoe Wind Project is competing in a Request for Proposals (RFP) managed by the Renewable Electricity Administrator, the provincial officer mandated to help achieve renewable energy targets. The RFP deadline is no earlier than June 26 with the winner announced end of July. For information visit <http://www.nsrenewables.ca/competitive-bidding>.



Thank You! We look forward to continuing to work with the local community on the South Canoe Wind Project.



South Canoe Wind Project Newsletter

**Summer
2012
3rd
Edition**

Environmental Approval

The South Canoe Project received environmental approval with conditions on July 13, 2012.

The approval can be viewed on the Department of Environment's website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/ea/>

Environmental work will continue this fall to ensure that conditions required by the Nova Scotia government are met.

The South Canoe Wind Project team would like to thank those members of the public who provided comments on the project's environmental assessment.

South Canoe Wind Project Awarded Power Purchase Agreement

On August 1st, the Renewable Electricity Administrator (REA) announced that the South Canoe Wind Project was successful in the Request for Proposals for 300 GWh of renewable electricity. The procurement process administered by the REA started in September 2011. Nineteen proposals were submitted to the REA. South Canoe was awarded two of three successful contracts.

A total of 102 MW was awarded to Oxford Frozen Foods (78 MW) and Minas Basin Pulp and Power (24 MW). Nova Scotia Power will be a 49 percent minority owner of the project. Construction is expected to begin in 2013 with completion before January 2015.

The project team looks forward to engaging the community further as the project develops. We are honoured to have been selected for this opportunity, which will benefit Nova Scotia and our local communities both economically and environmentally.

Contact Us

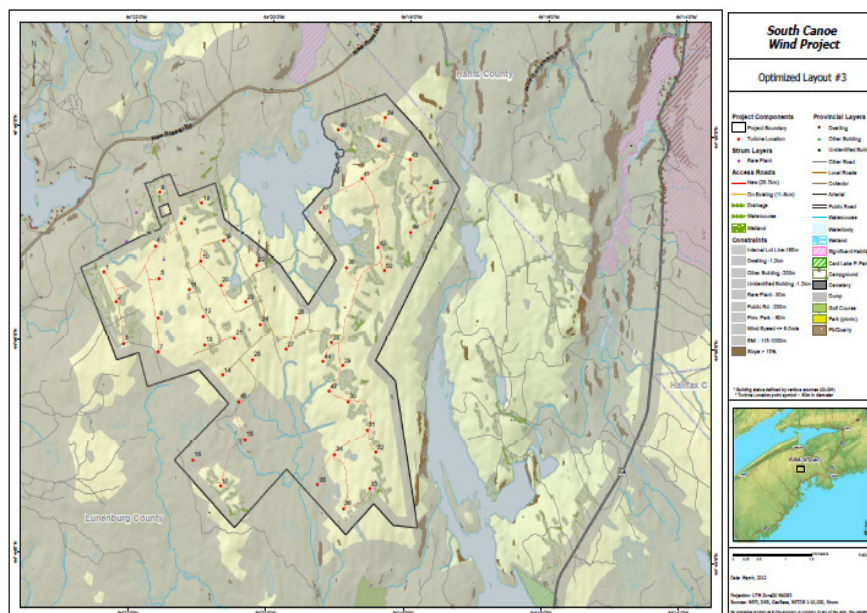
Please feel free to contact us at any time. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Project Team at:

(902) 684-1104
info@southcanoewind.com

Visit Our Website

Please visit our website for further project information and news at:

www.southcanoewind.com



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Fall 2012 Project Activities

As the project continues to develop, key information will be collected at the site during the fall. Detailed survey operations will likely commence in September which will give the project team important information so that the project can be constructed safely and effectively. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2013.

Community Liaison Committee Activities

A Community Liaison Committee has been formed to facilitate sharing of information with the community and to bring community concerns to the project team. Members from the CLC represent the geographical area of the Municipality of the District of West Hants and Chester.

To date there have been four CLC meetings, one of which was a site visit to the Digby Wind Farm where CLC members experienced a wind farm first-hand. Minutes for the meetings can be accessed electronically at southcanoewind.com OR hardcopies are available at: Lakeside Variety in Vaughan, Clover Farm in New Ross, Chester Municipal Office, and the West Hants Municipal Office in Windsor.

The CLC will continue to meet over the next few years to discuss project development and community issues. Observers are welcome to attend meetings and can contact the Project Team at info@southcanoewind.com to learn about upcoming meetings.



Digby Wind Farm



CLC members entering a wind turbine at Digby Wind Farm

Thank You! We look forward to continuing to work with the local community on the South Canoe Wind Project.



South Canoe Wind Project

Investing in green energy. Strengthening local communities.

STAYING CONNECTED

We want to hear from you! Please contact us with your feedback and any questions you may have on the project. Your concerns and ideas are important to us.

You can reach Mary-Frances Lynch, Project Communications Lead, by email or phone at info@southcanoewind.com and (902) 684-1104. Also, for more information visit our website at www.southcanoewind.com.

YOUR LOCAL TEAM

Nova Scotia companies, Oxford Frozen Foods and Minas Basin Pulp and Power, with the support of Nova Scotia Power, are leading the development of the South Canoe Wind Project.

Oxford Frozen Foods, part of the Bragg group of companies, is a leader in wild blueberry farming. Oxford's label is recognized throughout the world as the standard for wild blueberries.

Founded in 1927, **Minas Basin Pulp and Power** is an independent power producer with a 5 MW hydro facility and a portfolio of power projects under development. Minas is also a manufacturer of linerboard from 100% post-consumer materials.

Nova Scotia Power has been the main electricity provider for Nova Scotians for more than 80 years. NSPI is making strides to reduce emissions with an energy fleet that includes thermal, tidal and hydro plants as well as combustion and wind turbines.



www.southcanoewind.com

On August 2, Nova Scotia's Renewable Electricity Administrator announced that the South Canoe Wind Project had successfully won a Request for Proposals for renewable energy. A total of 102 MW was awarded to Oxford Frozen Foods (78 MW) and Minas Basin Pulp and Power (24 MW) to be developed on the South Canoe site. Nova Scotia Power will be a 49 percent minority owner of the project.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project will be located between Highway 14 and the New Russell Road, near the communities of Waterville and Leminster (Hants County), and New Russell (Lunenburg County). The site encompasses 2,790 ha of land and is approximately 24 km southwest of Windsor and 31 km north of Chester. The project's 1.2km setback from turbine to residents is the largest of any wind project in the Province and exceeds all Municipal setback bylaws in Nova Scotia.

LOCAL BENEFITS

Local residents can be proud of the South Canoe Wind Project's benefits. It will produce enough electricity to power about 32,000 homes and instead of burning coal, will annually leave 144,000,000 kilograms of coal in the ground, reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 320,000 tonnes. Communities

and businesses will benefit from increased economic activity – employment, municipal tax revenues, tourism, and increased spending. The project will also serve as an educational tool highlighting the importance of renewable electricity in Nova Scotia's energy future.

The South Canoe Wind Project will...

- Be the largest wind project in Nova Scotia
- Have close proximity to HRM - the largest electricity load centre
- Have a 1.2km setback from turbine to resident - the largest setback in the province
- Provide power to approximately 32,000 homes
- Reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 320,000 tonnes instead of burning coal
- Provide approximately 100 jobs during project construction and 4-5 permanent positions during operation

PROJECT MILESTONES

	Scheduled Start	Duration
Follow up Environmental Studies	Summer 2012	6-8 months
Geotechnical Assessment	Fall 2012	2 months
Engineering Design	Fall 2012	3-4 months
Clearing	Winter-Spring 2013	Up to 6 months
Construction	Start Spring/Summer 2013	Up to 18 months
Commercial Operation	December 2014	

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL

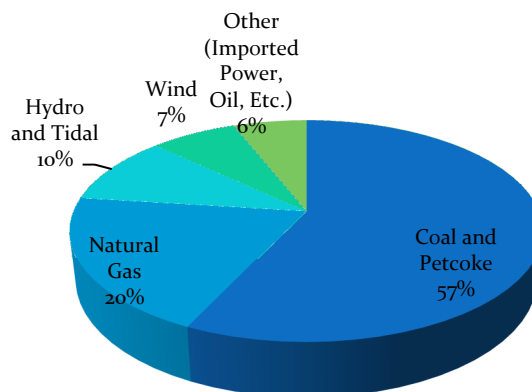
The South Canoe Wind Project's Environmental Assessment received approval from the Minister of Environment on July 13, 2012. The approval and its conditions can be viewed on the Department of Environment's website at: www.gov.ns.ca/nse/ea/south-canoe-wind-power-project.asp. Environmental work will continue this fall to ensure that conditions required by the Nova Scotia government are met.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was formed subsequent to project open-houses in February and has been meeting regularly since March. The CLC serves as an avenue of exchange between the community and project team, bringing to the table local concerns, interests, and ideas for project development. Valuing local input, the CLC will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis over the coming years. To learn more about the CLC, its operations, and to view meeting minutes, visit: <http://www.southcanoewind.com/WhatsNew.aspx>.

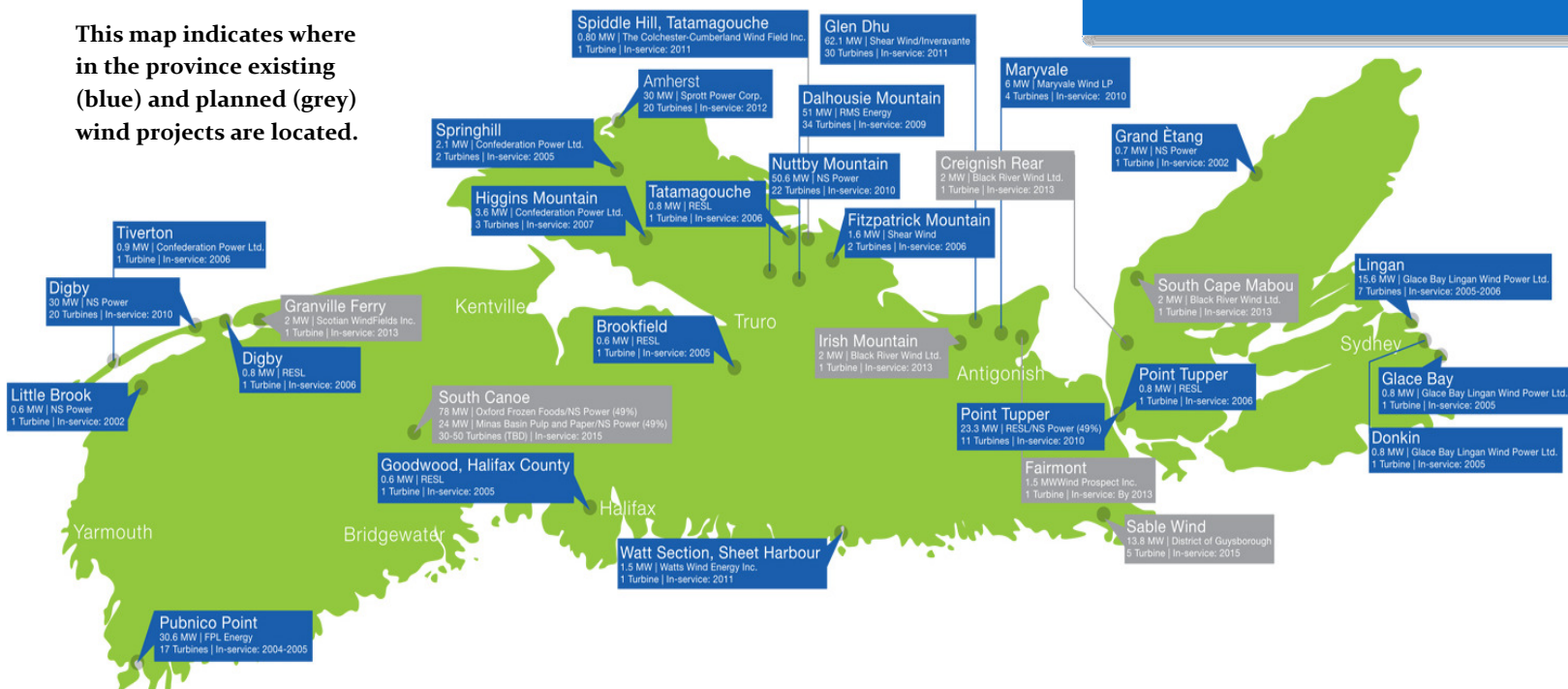
NOVA SCOTIA'S CURRENT ENERGY LANDSCAPE

The Province has set a renewable electricity target of **25%** of generation from renewable sources by **2015** and **40%** by **2020**. Currently, of Nova Scotia's 12,000GWh of electricity consumed per year, over 80% comes from fossil-fuel sources while 7% is derived from wind energy.



Nova Scotia's Electricity Mix (2011)

This map indicates where in the province existing (blue) and planned (grey) wind projects are located.



WHY WIND? Wind energy is:

RELIABLE – As long as there is wind, there is wind power. Typically, a wind turbine will produce electricity 70% of the time.

CLEAN – Produces no greenhouse gases and does not consume any water as compared to fuel-based energy sources. The South Canoe Wind Project will have the same positive impact as taking 66,720 cars off the road or planting 160,000 trees.

STABLE – Provides a stable and predictable electricity price over the long-term, avoiding fluctuations in fuel-based technologies.

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The production and consumption of electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). A kWh means 1 kW (1000 watts) of electricity produced or consumed over one hour. An average household uses 10,000kWh of electricity per year.

The 102MW South Canoe Wind Project will produce 320,000,000kWh (320 gigawatt hours) per year which is enough to power nearly 32,000 homes – the equivalent of almost 3% of Nova Scotia's power consumption.



South Canoe Wind Project

Investing in green energy. Strengthening local communities.

Newsletter No. 5

November 2012

What has been happening on the site since the Renewable Electricity Administrator approved the project in August, 2012?

Since August, we have been conducting follow-up studies as part of the conditions of our Environmental Assessment approval. This fall, Strum Environmental conducted wetland and water crossing studies and have identified the location of any rare plants on the site. These surveys will help us develop the site in an environmentally responsible manner. Membertou Geomatics was on-site in October to conduct a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study determining the presence of Mi'kmaq resources in the project area.



Above: Strum Environmental conducting wetland, water-crossing, and plant surveys in Sep/Oct 2012.

Right: Membertou Geomatics conducting MEKS in October 2012.



A LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) study has also been completed gathering high resolution data to help in planning the site layout and road network. Archaeologists will be on-site in November and a geotechnical study will be conducted early in the new year. Our team is currently preparing monitoring plans for Mainland Moose, birds, and bats and is finalizing an Environmental Protection Plan to ensure safe and environmentally-friendly operations on-site.

To view the project's Environmental Assessment approval and conditions, visit:
www.gov.ns.ca/nse/ea/south-canoe-wind-power-project.asp.

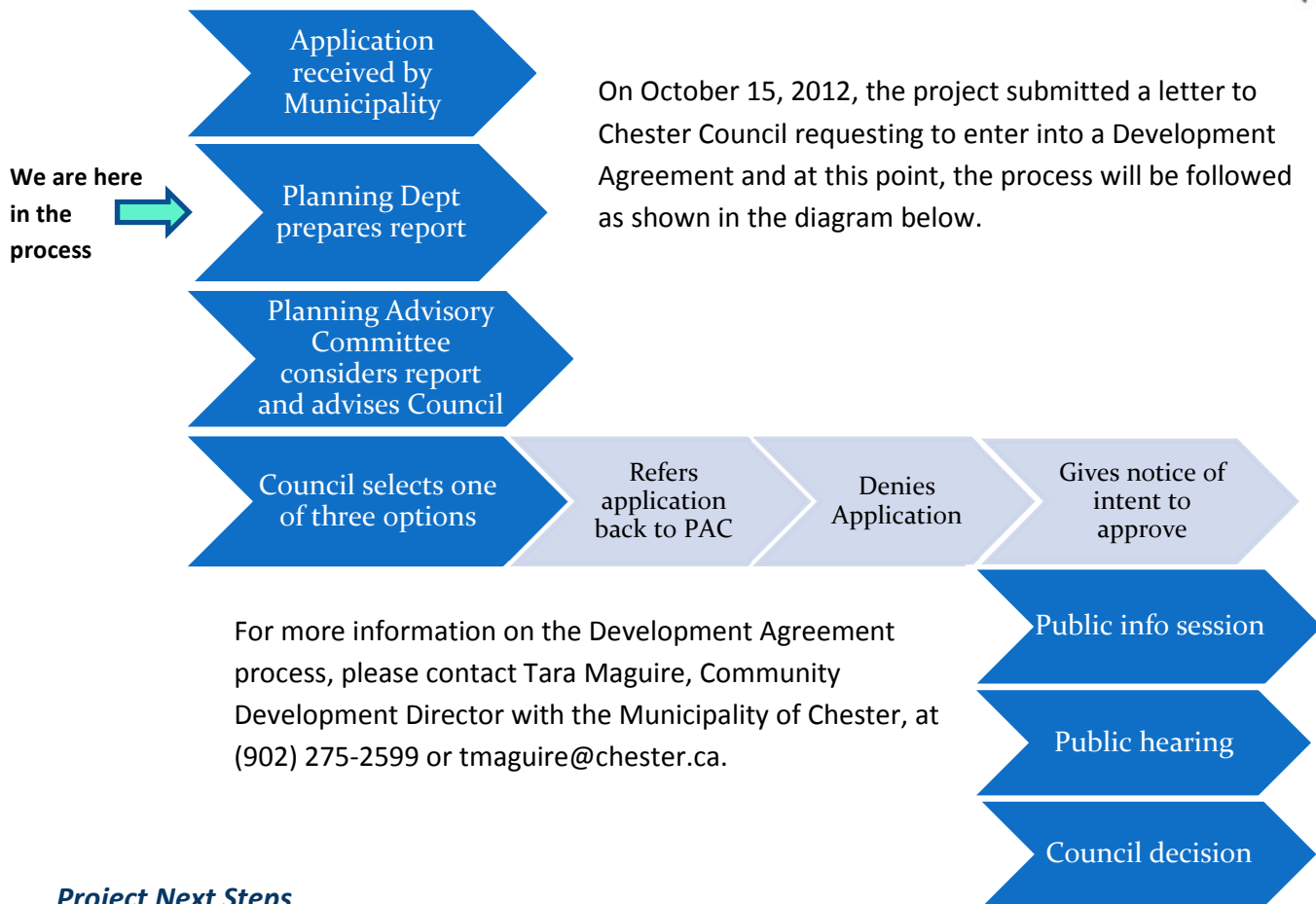
This newsletter, and others to follow, will keep you informed of project planning as well as what is happening on site. Please visit www.southcanoewind.com to view previous newsletters and feel free to contact Mary-Frances Lynch at (902) 684-1104 or info@southcanoewind.com to learn more about the project.

In this newsletter:

- ✓ Environmental Assessment Update
- ✓ Development Agreement Process
- ✓ Next Steps

What is involved in the project's Development Agreement process with the Municipality?

An important project milestone includes entering into a Development Agreement with the Municipality of the District of Chester. Under the Municipality's Land-Use ByLaw, all electric generating facilities with a production rating of 10 MW or more which are not owned by the Municipality of Chester that are to be located in the General Basic Zone must enter into a Development Agreement with the Municipality.



Project Next Steps

We will be selecting a turbine manufacturer and will develop a final turbine layout to be presented to stakeholder groups soon. We are also continuing to engage with Nova Scotia Environment on our EA conditions and will begin geotechnical investigation on the site, a transportation survey, as well as wildlife monitoring, erosion and sedimentation control planning, and an environmental protection plan. As mentioned above, we will be working with Chester Planners on the Development Agreement process, providing them with all required information.

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) continues to work on ways in which the project can best serve the community. As discussed at CLC meetings, the project team will be engaging with students at local schools and will be volunteering at community events. The CLC has also been discussing ideas surrounding the sponsorship of local projects and supporting areas of need. Please feel free to share your ideas with our project team! To learn more about our upcoming activities in the community, visit the Community page on our website (www.southcanoewind.com).