

County Fishermen speak to threats to livelihood



George MacAskill (L) speaks with Federal Fisheries critic MP Roger Cuzner while MP Mark Eyking and Englishtown fishermen look on.

by Jim Morrow

Victoria County Fishermen had the opportunity to express their concerns and offer comments on the issues affecting their livelihood to Sydney-Victoria M.P. Mark Eyking and Official Opposition Fisheries and Oceans Critic Rodger Cuzner during three separate meetings in Mr. Eyking's riding March 14th.

In Dingwall, Indian Brook and Little Bras d'Or, fishers from several harbours raised concerns over quota, prices and the high cost of fuel.

"It was very informative," said Mr. Eyking. "Fishers are experiencing higher costs for everything, especially fuel. They are being hit hard and they are struggling against low prices for their catches. Other areas of concern included the low halibut quota and the struggles faced by new entrants into the fishery."

Mr. Cuzner said he was happy to

hear the concerns expressed by fishers in Sydney-Victoria and noted a number of common threads.

"The amount of harvesting effort in LFA 27 remains a concern across the area and most fishermen agree that an appropriate rationalization program, one that is industry-led and publicly supported, would prove most beneficial," he said.

Lobster fisherman and Victoria County Councillor for District #7, David Donovan attended two of the meetings and felt they were informative.

"If people don't tell you what the issues are it is very difficult to know how to deal with them," Mr. Donovan said.

Mr. Eyking said, "A number of specific issues were raised by individual fishermen that I plan to pursue on their behalf in the coming days and weeks."

Pride and enthusiasm in their community

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engaged and active citizens across many aspects of community life.

"Presenting the community spirit award is always one of the highlights of my year," said Lt.-Gov Francis. "When I arrive in a winning community to make the presentation, I am always moved by the pride, enthusiasm, and genuine way in

which people have rallied together. Such communities are an inspiration for all Nova Scotians."

The program is supported by corporate sponsor Nova Scotia Power Inc, and the nominations submitted by the communities can be viewed at: <http://www.communityspiritaward.ca/index.htm>

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Wharf damage \$ announced



Construction on the new wharf in Neil's Harbour is proceeding on schedule. In-filling of the extensive crib work will be completed by March 31st/11. The concrete deck of the new wharf cannot be poured now due to weight restrictions on the Cabot Trail, but is expected to be poured in early May.

by Jim Morrow

The Government of Canada is investing up to \$6.1 million to clean up and repair storm-damaged harbours in Nova Scotia.

In the fall and winter of 2010, Hurricane Igor in Newfoundland, the Manitoba "Weather Bomb," and the December storms in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, caused damage to fishing harbours in more than 250 communities. Nationally, the Government of Canada is investing \$71.6 million to clean up and repair harbours and help communities recover from these devastating storms.

Over the past months, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has been working with local communities, harbour authorities and Public Works and Government Services Canada to assess damages. This funding will allow the Department to continue on-site assessments and engineering studies, as well as undertake the necessary cleanup and repair projects.

Osborne Burke, Chair of the Six Port Harbour Authority said, "Small Craft Harbours (SCH) do not have a detailed break-

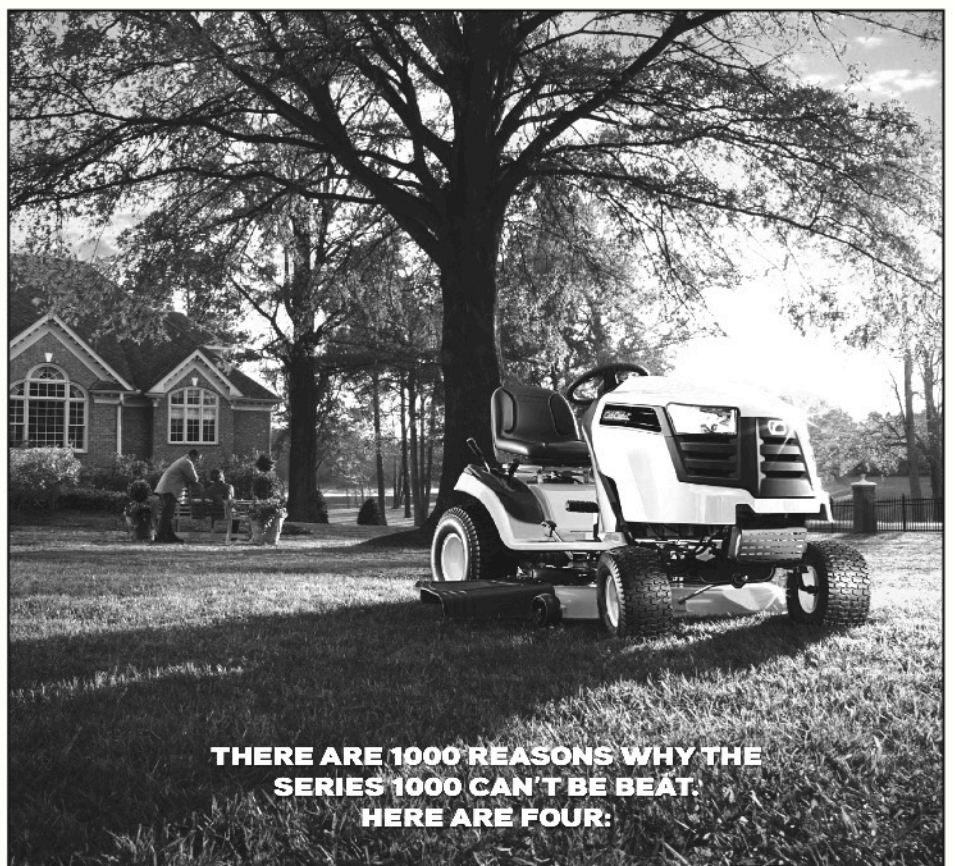
down of funds allotted per harbour.

"Overall it is good news for the Maritimes as a whole and I am pleased to see that the Federal Government has listened to our concerns and provided some badly needed dollars to assist in re-building.

"We are also pleased that they have allotted funds to SCH as the SCH staff who interact with all the Harbour Authorities across the Maritimes are the individuals best suited to determine where the funds are spent.

"We will be looking forward to seeing a detailed breakdown when SCH can provide it. I have every confidence that all harbours that identified storm damage will receive some assistance," Mr. Burke said.

Mr. Gerald Keddy, Member of Parliament for South Shore-St. Margaret's, on behalf of the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, said, "Our Government is taking action to clean up and repair the harbours damaged in recent storms," said Mr. Keddy. "We will work to make these harbours safe and functional for the commercial fishing industry, and the communities that depend on them."



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