Mining expert warns New Brunswickers about the company behind the Sisson mine project

By SOPHIE M. LAVOIE and TRACY GLYN

The company behind the Sisson Mine project, proposed in the headwaters of the Nashwaak Watershed, is known for starting up low-grade ore mines in areas of community opposition, according to Joan Kuyek.

Kuyek, a long-time mining analyst, says Hunter Dickinson Inc. (HDI) specializes in bringing low-grade ores to market as well as community organizing at Carleton University. She began her investigation of HDI on the invitation of a mining law and policy at Queen's University Law School report, “Behind the Pebble Mine: Hunter Dickinson Inc., the company behind the Sisson project claims it will add 500 jobs to the region. The company’s CFO for a number of other HDI companies, bringing together a number of stock options and other perks. The chairman, Marchand Snyman, earns $63,000 for Northcliff but is the CFO for a number of other HDI companies, bringing together a number of stock options and other perks. The chairman, Marchand Snyman, earns $63,000 for Northcliff but is the CFO for a number of other HDI companies, bringing together a number of stock options and other perks. 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Panhandlers need income assistance, not policing  

By SYLVIA HALE

The solution to the “problem” of panhandlers in Fredericton, if there is any problem, is to increase income assistance rates, not to increase policing. The rates are currently set at very low levels, supposedly sufficient to cover food and shelter, but not much else. So what else is there?

First, transportation. One city bus pass costs $80 a month. This $2 each way for single tickets. A taxi ride costs between $5-7 each way, inside the city. Virtually every service that is available “free” in Fredericton requires a working telephone. A telephone is needed to acknowledge and open the door to a visitor. Access to the Internet and cable need a functioning telephone to connect the doorbell to a telephone number. Residents phone service costs about $60 a month. Apartment complexes are not calculated into income assistance rates. Cell phones happen to have suitable clothing on offer. People also need income assistance, not policing. Residents get into used-clothing stores, but getting to stores located long distance or attending events, check

Fracking harm confirmed in studies

site, there is a “25 percent increase in the probability of low birth weight, as well as declines in other measures of infant health.”

The terrible damage fracking does to newborns was confirmed by a 2011 Pennsylvania study that examined the birth certificates of every one of the 1,100,000 babies born in Pennsylvania from 2004 to 2013. The birth data were then analyzed in relation to where and when shale gas wells were drilled.

Analysis of that data revealed that mothers living near fracking operations “consistently find impairments to infant health, including: elevated risks for low birth weight and preterm birth, neural tube defects and congenital heart defects.”

As well, “dozens of known endocrine-disrupting chemicals” used in fracking harm “fertility and reproductive success . . . [and are linked to] miscarriage, prostate cancer, birth defects, and decreased semen quality and counts.”

The health studies also note higher rates of leukemia among children and young adults living in areas dense with oil and gas wells,” along with increased frequency of asthma attacks.

Denise Melanson is a retired medical social worker living in Kent County. “Study after study after study now confirm that fracking makes people sick,” she said. “Low birth weight babies also experience all kinds of physical and intellectual difficulties.”

In 2012-13, Melanson analyzed fracking leases in New Brunswick and determined that about 250,000 New Brunswickers lived in potential fracking areas.

“We know from Pennsylvania that hospitalization rates are significantly higher in fracked areas,” Melanson said. “That’s because people in fracked areas are more likely to have cancers, heart problems, and neurological and dermatological issues.”

There is a significantly increased likelihood that people in fracked areas will suffer lifelong health problems that will continue to plague families and to burden the healthcare system long after the gas companies have left.

Read part two of this story on nbmediacoop.org.

By TRACY GLYNN

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19th annual St. Mary’s First Nation Powwow. June 15-17 at the Old Reserve on Union Street along the Trans-Canada Highway.

Masuma Khan on Building Solidarity and Resilience Among New Brunswickers. When Masuma Khan will speak about her experiences with racism and censorship as a student leader at Dalhousie University when she spoke in solidarity with indigenous people in 2017. Masuma Khan will be the NB Media Co-op’s keynote speaker at its ninth annual members’ meeting in September in Fredericton. Stay tuned for the details. For more info, call contact@nbmediacoop.org.

Fracking rallies for elm trees at Officer’s Square

By TRACY GLYNN

Fredericton residents are voicing their opposition to the city’s plan to remove old trees from Officer’s Square on May 28, 2018. By Tracy Glynn.

Fracking rallies for elm trees at Officer’s Square

Markus Kingston addresses a crowd of approximately 100 people, a ticker to a stopgap plan to voice their opposition to the city of Fredericton’s plan to remove old trees from Officer’s Square on May 28, 2018. By Tracy Glynn.

Fredericton residents are voicing their opposition to imminent plans to cut down 19 elm and maple trees at Officer’s Square in the city’s downtown. More than 200 people gathered at Fredericton City Hall on May 17 to appeal the city council’s plan to remove the trees. The residents want the city to work with the trees as part of its strategy to form a stopgap plan for Officer’s Square.

After the rally, several residents gathered in the gallery while the city council meeting was in session. Councilor Kate Rogers, who has been leading the charge to remove the trees, was not on hand and so councilors did not have the support of the other city councilors to proceed with the agenda addition. The meeting was disrupted by another meeting member who left the room during the disruption. Councilor Rogers stayed.

Mayor Mike O’Brien said that the four-year plan to revitalize Officer’s Square will continue but that he will consult with the residents about the plan.

Markus Kingston, one of the rally organizers, encouraged people to contact their city councilor and demand that the trees be saved.

Mine is likely to experience short downs when tungsten and molybdenum prices drop. In all likelihood, metal prices will continue to fall.

Critics worry that the project relies on optimistic estimates for future prices for tungsten and molybdenum. Although tungsten prices have increased recently, Kuyek says they will continue to be volatile.

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The Community Kitchen does an admirable job providing three free meals a day for between 45-65 people. The cost of getting to and from the Community Kitchen at the precise times when the doors are open to serve food is greater than the cost of a commercial service. The cost of getting to and from the Community Kitchen at the precise times when the doors are open to serve food is greater than the cost of a commercial service.

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