In Brief...

Residents in North Tetagouche are alerted that the Belliveau Planning Commission has ruled against the rezoning of land in their community for a rock quarry. The N.B. Department of Environment will have the final say on whether the quarry proceeds in their community.

New Brunswick students pay the second-highest tuition fees in the country. Pointing out that many students work more than one part-time job to make ends meet, the Bread and Roses Society, a new group at St. Thomas University, says, "Getting a university degree wasn't always so unaffordable. In the past few decades university funding has been cut and tuition fees and student debt have skyrocketed. But students across Canada and around the world are fighting back – and so should we.

Over 700 peaceful Occupy Wall Street activists were arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge on Oct. 1st. Transit Workers Union Local 100 supported the activists by filing an injunction to stop the ordering of their drivers to transport the arrested protesters to jail. The request was denied by a federal district judge.

People from around North America gathered in Washington, DC, as part of a two-week series of sit-ins outside the White House to denounce the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, which would run from Alberta to Texas. More than 1,000 activists were arrested during the two-week protest. The largest energy workers’ union in Canada, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers’ Union, joined a number of indigenous leaders in coming out against the pipeline in September. The union says the project will not create jobs but rather eliminate 40,500 potential direct and indirect jobs. "The pace of development driven by these pipelines is plainly unsustainable," said Dave Calle, the union’s president.

"The issues of greenhouse gases, land and water use, and the rights of our First Nations communities must be addressed."

Seven recanted witness testimonies, evidence of another shooter and a shoddy ballistics report was not enough to spare the life of Troy Davis. Troy Davis, who spent half of his life in prison, was executed in the State of Georgia on September 22.

Shale Gas Intimidation

(continued from page 1) – a group dedicated to fighting shale gas plans throughout the province, have been subjected to threats. In a month, the Purple Violet Press, an independent news media source in N.B., received an anonymous email from someone working in the oil and gas service industry. In the email the sender threatens "retaliations" against them "if we continue" with the telereport which are expressing their views on the shale gas industry by turning "their life into a living hell".

The telereps were given 48 hours to dismantle their website and Facebook group before the sender would act on their threats. They did not, and their website was subsequently hacked. They reported this, the email threat, and their research on who the sender may be to the RCMP. The RCMP have yet to follow up on their concerns.

It seems that wherever there is strong opposition to shale gas exploration, there is intimidation. The shale gas opponents have vowed that they will not be deterred.

With files from the Purple Violet Press: thepurplevioletpressnb.blogspot.com

Grannies take a stand

The Fredericton Raging Grannies perform at many rallies and protests, setting clever lyrics about current political issues to old familiar tunes. In this photo they sing at a rally on May 10th of this year to call for more protection wildlife habitat in the Acadian Forest. Photo by Tracy Glynn.

By NAIM ABDUU MGFARLAN

If you’ve ever attended a rally or a protest in Fredericton, there’s a good chance that you’ve encountered a somewhat frumpy group of elderly women singing old familiar songs with a new political twist.

These Raging Grannies have lent their wit to many political causes over the years: supporting the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) peace activities such as Hiroshima Day, and the YMCA Peace Meltdown awards ceremony. Their songs have protested the war in Iraq, the use of lawn pesticides and genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) and cuts to health care, among other issues.

The following lyrics provide a sample of their artistry:

When clearcuts shape our forests
And plantations are the rule
And the normal brush and deadfalls
Are swept up for biofuel

Then the birds and beasts who shared this land
For many thousands years
Will have no place to live

Biomass sustains the forests
Biomass is not for profits
Biomass provides a future
For Biodiversity

Written by Brigid Toole Galign (to the tune of John Brown’s Body) for a rally in front of the new Brunswickei Legislature on May 10, 2011 to call for more wildlife habitat protection in the Acadian forest.

The Raging Grannies have held national Granny Unconventions to share tactics and song writing skills as well as friendship and fun.

Among the members of the Fredericton Raging Grannies are professors, teachers, poets, artists and editors. A number of the group’s songs are written by veteran Viola-Dawg and the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. The women did not make a statement about who they are as mature women. They wear long dresses and shawls, and they complete their outfit with fancy hats which are oftentimes big and floppy and decorated with political pins and other doodads. They are not afraid to make fun of themselves, and at the same time of society’s perception of older women.

The First Raging Grannies group started in 1987 in Victoria, BC, and was inspired by a group in the United States in North America. They have even made an impression on the RCMP whose Public Complaint Commission in 2000 identified the Raging Grannies as a potential military threat.

Unfazed by the Canadian state’s attention, the Fredericton Raging Grannies continue to provoke with their message of justice and peace, jokes and fun at those in positions of power and providing some much needed levity to struggles that can make the most committed activist lose heart.

Visit nbmediacoop.org

Have your say about water safety ~ saynotoshalegas.tumblr.com ~

Community Calendar

For details and updated event listings, visit nbmediacoop.org To list your event or to receive the community calendar by email once per week, email: community@nbmediacoop.org

NB Media Co-op Organizing Meetings this Fall. Interested in the NB Media Co-op? And The Brief? Join the NB Media Co-op at our next meeting! Our monthly meetings for the fall will be the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm on October 18, November 8, December 13 and Januar Fall 10, 2012, and 7 p.m. at Crabtree Auditorium, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.

Gourmet Harvest Feast. A five-course Gourmet Harvest Feast prepared by Rasches Chef Thomas Ginneltro and his team in support of the Conservation Council, Sun., Oct. 16. Two seatings: 4:00pm and 7:30pm. Only 90 tickets will be sold.

Tickets are $65 or $90 with wine option. Tickets available at CCNB or Rasches. Vegan/Vegetarian option available upon request. Contact Leah at 458-8747 or homegrown@conservationcouncil.ca.

Critical Mass Bike Ride. Last Fridays of every month. Next ride: Oct. 26, in Fredericton, meet at 5:00pm at Officer’s Square, Regent and Queen.

Cinema Politica screens important political documentaries that take us to places like Afghanistan, Palestine, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, indigenous territories and prisons where dehumanization and destruction wreaked by capitalism and colonialism warrants our examination, analysis and discussion. In Fredericton, films are screened on Fridays during the university semesters at 7pm at Conserver House, 180 St. John St. In Sussex, films are screened the last Thursday of October and November at 701 Main St. in Sussex, films are screened Mondays and Wednesdays this fall at WU Centre, Dunn Building at Mt. Allison University. Cinema Politica chapters also exist in Bathurst, Moncton, Taymouth and Saint John. Check out film schedules here: www.cinemapolitica.org

- printout on 30% recycled paper -