Shale gas companies endanger wetlands 

(continued from page 1) ...potential catastrophe that could result. The natural nature of the watershed itself means there’s simply no way to safely allow shale gas companies or heavy industry into the area.

Marsh explains that he and his neighbors have three wells within 120 feet of each other. Water testing has revealed that each of those three wells draws water from a different depth in the aquifers, and that any mistaking of one well for another could ruin three aquifers at once, "Marsh says.

Astaen Marsh, 12, has been raising poultry for three years, but recently an incident involving a small business that exports birds to other provinces. Her father, Al Marsh, says astaen gas development will "ruin the future for Astaen and the next generation. Photo courtesy of Al Marsh, By BETH LYONS

In July, 11 women in Moncton were arrested for prostitution-related charges. The arrests were explained by an RCMP press release which stated: “The operation is part of an ongoing effort to curb sex trade activities in our community. The Codiac RCMP’s primary objective is to ensure safe homes and safe communities for all citizens.”

The arrests elicited a strong response from various women’s advocates in the community, myself included.

I’d like to take this moment of shared community attention on the issue of sex work to speak to why these arrests are disturbing.

First and foremost, if we’re going to talk about sex work, we need to know that Canada’s laws on prostitution are a bizarre affair and currently being challenged in the Supreme Court of Canada. The deal is that prostitution is actually perfectly legal in Canada: it’s a certain activities that are criminalized if and when done in relation to prostitution (hence the fact that charges are “prostitution-related”). Specifically, there are no criminal laws against the operation of brothels or massage parlors. But the law is repressive in its laws surrounding prostitution: a law against the operation of bawdy houses, a law against living off the avails of prostitution, and a law against communication in public for the purpose of prostitution.

These laws are being challenged as being in violation of Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which protects our right to life, liberty, and the security of the person. The argument is that these laws increase the danger surrounding prostitution by preventing sex workers from working remotely at a fixed location, prevents sex workers from hiring security guards, drivers, etc. (as the guard or driver would be living off the avails of prostitution), and preventing sex workers from taking the time to screen clients in public for suspicious behavior, mistreatment, etc.

This challenge was first heard in an Ontario court that struck down all three laws, but instituted a stay in the ruling taking effect so that the federal government could appeal. The federal government’s appeal to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice resulted in the communication law being upheld, as well as the other two laws changing. The ruling on the appeal removed mention of prostitution from the bawdy house law and the communication law, but with no relation to prostitution, and the law prohibiting living off the avails of prostitution was not reduced to the stay for that reason.

After the appeal ruling, the case was brought to the Supreme Court of Canada, where it was heard this June. Until a decision is issued by the Supreme Court (and possibly for a period afterward) the stay remains in place.

It’s interesting to note that the Ontario court that heard the appeal included in its ruling an acknowledgement that “the consequences of the laws are severe and have the effect of criminalizing sex work, including prostitution, with the ultimate aim of eradicating or discouraging prostitution.”

The operation of the sex trade isn’t the law’s endgame, as of yet; reducing prostitution-related harm to the community is.

This is the crux of what I find disturbing when we talk of prostitution: our conception of community. The police arrested 11 women in Moncton in the interest of safe community; the Criminal Code criminalizes certain activities when done in relation to prostitution for the sake of community.

I have to point out: sex workers are, in fact, community members and they are often the members of our community who are most at risk of violence and harm, particularly if they’re engaged in survival or street sex work.

According to accounts of the bust that were shared with us by a service provider, the 11 women arrested in this bust were solicited by undercover RCMP members. They weren’t necessarily working at the time; they were in public, and they were known sex workers, At least one of the women arrested was reportedly known only to the RCMP as a sex worker because she disclosed her status as one when reporting a crime committed against her.

In their press release, the RCMP stated, “When individuals are arrested for prostitution-related charges, a cautionary message is delivered to all individuals who are using services in a manner that prohibits them from being in the place they were arrested. This message is a prudent and the reality of Moncton’s sex trade, restricted area bans often encompass the downtown area and cut sex workers off further where it is illegal to work in the area as the PAGA, AGB Moncton, the Salvas Clinic, etc. “

The message is clear: the RCMP is not a resource for them — even when they aren’t working, even when they’re the victims of crime — and does little to support sex workers to engage in sex work in a more legally-compliant (and, ideally, safer) manner. In other words, busts do little but sweep workers off the streets for a short period of time, while further marginalizing them in the process.

We need to look to jurisdictions such as Vancouver for ideas of how to better address sex work as a community. For example, the Vancouver Police Department’s “Sex Work Enforcement Guideline” stipulates that “The VPD does not routinely arrest individuals engaged in sex work, including sex workers, especially sex workers. Therefore, there are nuisance related complaints against survival sex workers, we often direct these individuals to go to the community police office. We often direct them to go to the community police office.”

After the backlash to the bust, the Codiac Regional Police bust the idea that there will be no more busts in the Moncton area, and will work with numerous stakeholders, including the community organizations that spoke out after the bust, at the table with them. Representatives from the RCMP stressed that there will be no more raids, that the community police will not be its leader, but one of the many stakeholders involved. This mass action, while not directly coupled with its commitment to a collaborative approach in addressing the issue of sex work in Moncton, is still a step forward.

Beth Lyons is the associate director of YWCA Moncton.

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In Brief

• Two males in Halifax were arrested on Aug. 8th in connection with the Rehtaeh Parsons case. Parsons, a 16-year-old girl, was reportedly sexually assaulted by at least three people a month before her death in April 2012. Parsons’ family says there were months of torture for her when a digital photo of her being sexually assaulted was released. Parsons’ family also says there was a group of girls that took a picture of her while she was sleeping, and uploaded it to Facebook. The group of girls was later noted to consist of female friends of Parsons. Parsons’ family says there was no mention of this in the agreed-upon deal.

• The FBI and Environmental Protection Agency worked together to shut down a chemical plant in Tennessee. The researchers found that the facility released a cancer-causing chemical. The plant, owned by a subsidiary of AstraZeneca, was shut down in 2008, but the facility is believed to have been leaking the chemical into the drinkable water for years. The plant was shut down by the Environmental Protection Agency. The plant, owned by a subsidiary of AstraZeneca, was shut down in 2008, but the facility is believed to have been leaking the chemical into the drinkable water for years. The plant was shut down by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The proposed Sisson tungsten and molybdenum mine in Stanley got a step closer with Northchip Resources filing a comprehensive environmental assessment of the project with the federal and provincial governments. Lawrencewest, a concerned resident of the area, also expressed his concerns about the project. The Sisson Mine continues to run from any discussion of the health and ecological costs of the arsenic and hydrogen sulfide emissions from this mine. The proponent also avoids any discussion of reclamation bonding, and the financial and human cost of any potential accident. The Sisson Mine continues to receive funding from both the federal and provincial governments, and the province does not appear to be interested in any discussions of the project. The Sisson Mine continues to receive funding from both the federal and provincial governments, and the province does not appear to be interested in any discussions of the project.

A waste recycling company in Ontario is shutting down its operations due to low prices for raw materials, and着眼到2025年，全球废金属回收率将超过80%。然而，废金属回收也面临一些挑战。一方面，废金属回收的经济效益较低，另一方面，废金属回收的环保效益也受到质疑。一方面，废金属回收的经济效益较低，另一方面，废金属回收的环保效益也受到质疑。