



## What's Current:

### *Truro Shale Gas Conference: "Protecting Our Communities"*

On December 3, 2011, more than 100 participants converged for a day-long conference on shale gas in Nova Scotia. Featured speakers included noted expert from Cornell, Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, as well as Jessica Ernst, from Rosebud, Alberta.

From the CBC's report (<http://bit.ly/tp5Smd>):

An engineering professor from Cornell University urged Maritime governments to be cautious about shale gas development.

Tony Ingraffea, who has a Ph.D. in rock fracturing mechanics, told delegates at the "Protecting our Communities: A Conference on Shale Gas and Fracking" conference in Truro, N.S., on Saturday that there is no reason to rush into shale gas drilling.

Ingraffea said there is still much that science doesn't know about the process, but the fact that it causes groundwater contamination is not in doubt....

Ingraffea said it could take 10 years to collect enough data to determine the safety of hydro-fracking.

**"There will be contamination incidents," he said. "The question is: how many, at what rate should we expect them over space and time and what will be the environmental, human health and financial costs?"**

Ingraffea said shale gas will only increase in value over the coming years and waiting to extract it will avoid any pitfalls in the still-developing extraction process.

**"There's no logical reason other than political reason for Nova Scotia to join the experiment...."**

*"... about 12 per cent of newer wells leaked, considerably more than older wells. Yes, the industry's own researchers found that a substantial percentage of wells leak initially, an even higher percentage of wells leak eventually."*

Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell University, PhD in Rock Fracture Mechanics.

## *Keeping up the pressure:*

### *Halifax and the Causeway Rotary*

#### **Halifax, via OccupyNS:**

Saturday, Jan. 14: No Fracking Way! Provincial Day of Action: Rally and March

**1:00 PM, Grand Parade Square, Halifax**

Members of Occupy N.S., and other local environmental organizations, are holding a rally and march in Halifax.

The main event coordination page can be found here: <http://on.fb.me/uHUXPH>

#### **Causeway:**

The Rotary, At the Causeway CBI  
January 14th, 11 am - 1pm

### *Heading to court over Lake Ainslie drilling*

From *The Chronicle Herald* (<http://bit.ly/s220dM>):

An environmental group is vowing to take the provincial government to court over its decision to allow PetroWorth Resources Inc. to drill an exploratory oil well in Cape Breton. Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau rejected a preliminary appeal by the **Margaree Environmental Association** to stop drilling in the Lake Ainslie area....

... [According to] **Derek Simon**, a lawyer with Burchells LLP in Halifax representing the Margaree Environmental Association, "Ultimately, they shouldn't be granting permits for oil wells and flare stacks in such close proximity to homes and sensitive river systems."

**Robert Parkins**, chairman of the **Lake Ainslie Development Association**, described the area near the drill site as pristine and pastoral. **"The site is 600 metres from the shores of the largest freshwater lake in Nova Scotia, a stream runs in front of the drill site, it's close to a wetland and there are eight homes within a one-kilometre radius."**

### *US Doctors call for Fracking Moratorium*

From Bloomberg (<http://bit.ly/yFlpR3>)

The U.S. should **declare a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in populated areas until the health effects are better understood**, doctors said at a conference on the drilling process....

**"We've got to push the pause button, and maybe we've got to push the stop button" on fracking**, said Adam Law, an endocrinologist at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, in an interview at a conference in Arlington, Virginia that's the first to examine criteria for studying the process....

## Recent News Items...

### *Earthquakes linked to fracking waste disposal wells*

From the *New York Times* (<http://nyti.ms/wQk18n>):

The 4.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Youngstown, Ohio, on Saturday occurred at an almost identical location to one a week before, a seismologist who studied the quakes said Monday. **Both earthquakes occurred close to the bottom of a 9,200-foot-deep disposal well where for months, brine and other liquid waste from natural-gas wells had been injected under pressure.** They were the 10th and 11th earthquakes to occur near the well since March, but the first to be precisely located. The finding provides further evidence to support what some scientists had suspected: that the waste, from the drilling process called hydraulic fracturing that is used to unlock natural gas from shale rock, might have migrated from the disposal well into deeper rock formations, allowing an ancient fault to slip. **Similar links between hydraulic-fracturing disposal wells and earthquakes have been suspected in recent years in Texas and Arkansas.**

**Bottom line:** Reinjecting waste leads to earthquakes; storing the waste on the surface causes serious health and environmental damage. Do we want this in our waterways? **There is no safe method of disposal.**

### *US EPA: 'Fracking' linked to tainted water*

EPA, via MSNBC (<http://on.msnbc.com/tTfWCq>)

A controversial method of drilling for oil and natural gas appears to be the cause of groundwater pollution in a central Wyoming town, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday.

The EPA last month said it had found compounds associated with chemicals used in the drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the groundwater beneath Pavillion. Many residents say their well water has reeked of chemicals since the drilling began there and first complained to the EPA in 2008....

**In the draft report released Thursday, the EPA said that "the explanation best fitting the data ... is that constituents associated with hydraulic fracturing have been released into the Wind River drinking water aquifer."**

Health officials had earlier advised residents not to drink their water after the EPA said it had found benzene and other hydrocarbons in wells it tested.

**Bottom line:** The risk of aquifer contamination from hydraulic fracturing is real, and is too great to allow it in our province, or anywhere else.

A petition with nearly 16,000 signatures calling for the New Brunswick government to abandon plans for shale gas exploration and development was tabled in the legislature Tuesday.

From CBC, Nov 29, 2011 (<http://bit.ly/uNGZOE>)

### *"Good as new" ...?*

From the *New York Times* (<http://nyti.ms/th6bGf>)

After Scott Ely and his father talked with salesmen from an energy company about signing the lease allowing gas drilling on their land in northeastern Pennsylvania, he said **he felt certain it required the company to leave the property as good as new.**

So Mr. Ely said he was surprised several years later **when the drilling company, Cabot Oil and Gas, informed them that rather than draining and hauling away the toxic drilling sludge stored in large waste ponds on the property, it would leave the waste, cover it with dirt and seed the area with grass.** He knew that waste pond liners can leak, seeping contaminated waste.

"I guess our terms should have been clearer" about requiring the company to remove the waste pits after drilling, said Mr. Ely, of Dimock, Pa., who sued Cabot after his drinking water from a separate property was contaminated. "We learned that the hard way."

Americans have signed millions of leases allowing companies to drill for oil and natural gas on their land in recent years. **But some of these landowners – often in rural areas, and eager for quick payouts – are finding out too late what is, and what is not, in the fine print.**

### **Scott Armstrong: Against Fracking**

Scott Armstrong, Conservative MP, Cumberland, Colchester, Musquodoboit Valley, in a re-election advertisement in *The Light* (Tatamagouche), April 20, 2011, p. 10, authorized by the Official Agent for Scott Armstrong, stated he

***"will not support...  
'fracking' on the North  
Shore"***