

# Protecting jobs in rural areas

The provincial government has been vocal about protecting good paying jobs in rural communities in Nova Scotia. This is hard to argue against if living in Queens County. To this end an opportunity exists just outside on Milton.

The federal government, led by the Prime Minister Harper and MP Keddy, have announced the closing of the Mersey Biodiversity Facility. A minimum of four jobs will be terminated. These are good paying jobs and the facility provides much needed help to wild Atlantic salmon. Without the facility it will be impossible to fulfill Canada's obligation to the expiration of the species in the Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia.

To this end the provincial government should purchase the facility from the feds and continue on the good work and jobs in Queens. The facili-

ty could be purchased for a nominal fee of \$1 and the management could be handled by McGowan's Lake Fish Hatchery. This is not a precedent as Premier Rodney MacDonald purchased the Margaree Fish Hatchery and it runs today as a salmon and trout rearing facility.

In the past several years juvenile and adult salmon have been released back into the Medway River. Through Fish Friends children in four area schools raise salmon from eggs and release the young into the Medway. This program will end after 2013 unless action is taken now.

As the old slogan went "don't wait for spring, do it now"

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