
Sea-level Rise & You

St. Margarets Bay Sea-level Rise Workshop Summary Feb 12th, 2017

Questions about Sea-level Rise Pre-Workshop:

1. What is happening with the Antarctic Ice Sheet melt?
2. What is the actual sea level rise that has occurred over the last 50 years?
3. What are the relative sea-level rise amounts for St. Margarets Bay?
4. What is the actual sea-level rise that has occurred compared to the estimate?
5. What is the role of insurance companies and what is the flood probability?
6. Is there a study that looks at the natural shift in climate versus anthropogenic?
7. Are some regions more affected by sea-level rise than others?
8. What is the best guess for when the Tantramar Marsh floods and Nova Scotia becomes an island?
9. How do frequent storm surges figure into sea-level rise?
10. Who is responsible for costs in vulnerable areas, the homeowner, insurance company or municipal/provincial decision makers? And what are the approval processes?

Identified sea-level impacts and vulnerable assets in the area:

- Saltwater intrusion causing septic issues
- Low-lying roads are vulnerable to sea-level rise and storm surges in most big storms
- Beach erosion
- Property erosion (property marker fell into the sea)
- All islands and points are made of glacial till and are easily erodible
- Roads leading out to points are all vulnerable to sea-level rise and storm surge
- Lobster plant is vulnerable

Sea-level rise solutions identified by the community:

- Water service/plan/treatment options for people with salt water intrusion in wells
- House relocation
- Emergency services for getting to higher ground (in cases of extreme flooding)
- Funding assistance to help people in the most vulnerable areas
 - Municipal / Provincial responsibility (funded by taxes)
- Bring back the trains! (less coastal damage needed)

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- Provincial coastal policy
 - Guidance for municipalities
 - By-laws (in the form of restrictions)
 - Coastal setback for sea-level rise in land-use bylaws
 - Restrict future developments in low-lying areas or areas with access through low-lying crossings or causeways
 - Don't allow more building in vulnerable areas
 - Provincial guidelines/rules
 - For vulnerable roads:
 - Bring big rocks to strengthen the road at intervals
 - Small rocks as breakwaters
 - Where there is a bit of land there should be vegetation
 - Move roads
 - Involve NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

The original workshop maps were left in the community with Transition Bay St Margarets. Please contact them if you are interested in seeing the maps.



This workshop was part of the Educating Coastal Communities About Sea-level Rise (ECoAS) project; an initiative designed to translate scientific climate change research into useable information to educate coastal communities in Atlantic Canada about the need for planning for future sea-level rise impacts. The ECoAS project is partnership between the Ecology Action Centre and Fisheries and Oceans Canada and is financially supported by the aforementioned organizations.



Map 1:



Map 2:





Map 3:

