

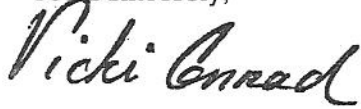
May 25, 2010

Medway River Salmon Association  
PO Box 93  
Mill Village, NS  
BOJ 2H0

I was so pleased to be able to recognize the Medway River Salmon Association in my speech to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly during Supply Debate on Monday, April 26, 2010.

Enclosed please find a copy of that speech.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki Conrad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "V" at the beginning.

Vicki Conrad, MLA Queens

## Supply Debate – Monday, April 26, 2010

The honourable member for Queens.

**MS. VICKI CONRAD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in my place today to speak to debate on supply. I could stand here today and debate all of the positive merits of our government's budget and I could spent countless time on the progressive initiatives that this government, my government, has put in place and committed to and laid the foundation for the betterment of all Nova Scotians.

Mr. Speaker, I can speak to those points at any time but today I will not.

I have stood in my place on a number of occasions here in the House, giving members a glimpse into the constituency of Queens, which includes all of Queens County and the Lunenburg communities of Petite Riviere, Broad Cove, Cherry Hill, Voglers Cove, East Port Medway, parts of Italy Cross and parts of Middlewood.

In the past I have told you about the beautiful geography of Queens, its coastal and inland waters. I have visually mapped out many communities in Queens and their unique qualities, its' beautiful forest areas and vast countrysides and parks, from fishing villages to farming communities. I have highlighted, Mr. Speaker, the many festivals, the fire departments and ground search and rescue teams and I have highlighted the strength of our many volunteers throughout Queens.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to introduce you and the members of this House to some outstanding individuals and organizations in the constituency of Queens, who have made remarkable accomplishments and invested in their own careers while, at the same time, making a positive difference in the lives of many people, their communities and towards education and the environment.

I will start with **Dirk van Loon** and **DvL Publishing**, the *Rural Delivery* publication which Dirk started in 1976. *Rural Delivery* is one of Canada's most well-loved and well-read rural magazines produced, and I quote, specifically for and by people living and working in the country: *Rural Delivery* is a farm and country journal for those who are interested in large or small-scale farming - cattle, sheep, poultry, horses and land use and conservation, backyard gardening, traditional crafts and country pursuits, or for those who simply enjoy country life.

**DvL Publishing** has other publications - *Atlantic Forestry*, *Atlantic Beef*, and *Horse & Pony* magazine. There is also a wealth of information on its well laid out Web site which features an on-line Buy Local Atlantic beef directory as well as a farm book directory and green pages with tips and suggestions for rural life. Dirk, through his publishing and his solid and committed interest in the importance of rural live with all of its natural resources, has reached into many hearts and communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, one organization I would like to bring to your attention is the **Medway River Salmon Association** which was founded in 2006 and is a volunteer not-for-profit organization. Its members and association president **Darrell Tingley** are deeply concerned about the health of the Medway River and its sustainability. The Medway River was once renowned for its lush flowing waters and abundance of fish - especially the Atlantic salmon.

I understand that the river was an attraction for anglers all over the world and some will even tell you of Prince Philip visiting and fishing the river many years back.

Unfortunately, over the years, like many rivers and watersheds across this province, the Medway has been challenged with the onslaught of acid rain and other environmental pollutants which has led sadly to the decline of some fish stocks - especially the decline in Atlantic salmon. **Darrell Tingley** and members of the **Medway River Salmon Association** are working towards bringing the river back to good health and eventually they want to see the repopulation of salmon and trout population through restocking and rearing initiative.

The **Medway River Salmon Association's** goal is to improve the water quality of the Medway River and watershed. They have begun a fundraising effort that will go towards the largest acid rain mitigation project in North America's history to raise the pH level to 5.5 from Eel Lake in Harmony to the estuary in Mill Village. The Medway River Salmon Association boasts well over 50 members from communities all along the Medway River and they have established affiliates and partners with the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the initiatives of the **Medway River Salmon Association** and its goal of bringing back the health of fish stocks of the Medway River.

**Roger Savage**, RCA, is a well-known and renowned artist specializing in watercolours and has lived in Mersey Point, Queens County, for well over 30 years. I first met Roger in the late 1980s when he was volunteering his time at the Mill Village School with myself and members of a community environmental group. There he was showing students how to do silkscreen art. The pattern he was using was an art drawing that one of the students had created for a contest at the school on reducing, recycling and reusing.

Roger is a passionate artist and through his amazing watercolours one gets a chance to visit many small communities and villages around the world. As well, his art brings out natural beauty and wonders such as flowers, rocks and beautiful seascapes. Roger has had many solo exhibitions and group exhibitions in galleries throughout Nova Scotia and Europe.

Roger has experienced and painted at many sites throughout the world such as Austria, Bermuda, the Canary Islands, Columbia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ellesmere Island, Devon Island, the Canadian Arctic, France, Germany and Greece.

He has given many presentations, lectures and workshops and among his commissioned work for Queens General Hospital Foundation, the Liverpool International Theatre Festival and Bowater Mersey Paper Company, Roger was also commissioned for pieces in 1997 for the Royal Canadian Mint and again in 1981 at the Royal Canadian Mint for the \$100 gold O Canada Commemorative coin. Again, Mr. Savage was commissioned to do the commemorative coin in 1979 for the Nova Scotia logo, Canada Winter Games. In 1978 he was commissioned to do the Royal Canadian Mint \$100 Gold Unity Commemorative Coin.

Many pieces of his collections are hung in well over 100 locations. He boasts public collections at Acadia University, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Canada Council Art Bank, City of Berlin, City of Dartmouth, Confederation Centre Art Gallery in Charlottetown, Dalhousie University, and Saint Mary's University. Roger has private and corporate collections in places such as the Bank of Montreal; Canada News Wires; Canadian Imperial

Bank of Commerce; CN Explorations; Crosby's Offshore; St. John's, Newfoundland; General Motors; Nabisco Brand; and National Sea Products, to name a few.

Roger has been the recipient of many grants and awards throughout the years, including the 1980 Nova Scotia Environment Award for the Province of Nova Scotia.

**Vernon Oickle** is another outstanding resident of Queens. Vernon was the editor of *The Advance* for many years, winning many regional, national, and international awards for writing and photography. His work, and I quote, "helped the paper become one of Canada's best weeklies in its circulation class. Today [he is] the editor of the nationally award-winning newspapers *The Bulletin* and *the Progress Enterprise*, both of which have been named Canada's best weekly newspaper in their respective circulation class." As well as editing, Vernon has his weekly comment and opinions section. He approaches his words and comments with reflection, balance, and knowledge, much of the time leaving the reader with good food for thought.

Vernon is the author of nine books, including *Disasters of Atlantic Canada: Stories of Courage and Chaos*, *Canada's Haunted Coast: True Ghost Stories of the Maritimes*, and *The Bluenose*.

Vernon is active in several community organizations, serving as chair of the Liverpool Regional High School Advisory Council and Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy School Advisory Council. Vernon is a true journalist and writer, bringing a touch of history from the past, looking at and critiquing our current affairs, and giving bits of humor, sadness, real time thoughts, and hints of the unnatural.

Another organization I would like to bring your attention to is the **Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute**, a field station operating in Kempt, Queens. The station provides workspace and accommodations for researchers carrying out studies in the area. MTRI is a co-operative of landowners and researchers working together and promoting sustainable use of resources and bio-diversity. MTRI has an established reputation as a topnotch research and education co-operative. I commend the many passionate and dedicated people who work and volunteer at MTRI. Their commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices through research and education is not going unnoticed.

I thank **Amanda Lavers, Ashley Noto, Brad Toms, Brennan Caverhill, Crystal Doggett, Jane Barker, Jillian Barteaux, Josie Todd, Lesley Farrow, Rachel Thibodeau, Tom Neily, Wendy Whynot, Jeffie McNeil, Lilianne Arsenault, Peter Kydd, Colin Gray, Diane Clapp, Harold Clapp, and Jeff Craft.**

I want to finally bring your attention to an amazing group of young people who I had the pleasure of meeting with on the weekend. I was participating as a judge at the 4-H 2010 South Shore Regional Rally, which was hosted at the North Queens Rural High School in Queens. A number of young junior and senior youth from the ages of 9 to 16 showcased their talents through public speaking and speech competitions to demonstrations of cooking and craft skills. They worked solo and they worked in teams. I was so impressed with the level of competence, their confidence in their techniques and presentation skills. These young people were prepared, they demonstrated teamwork, and their wonderful personalities shone through.

These young people have incredible potential and through 4-H are developing skills and confidence so that they will become role models and leaders in their communities and, like Dirk van Loon, Darrell Tingley and the members of the Medway River Salmon Association, Roger Savage, Vernon Oickle, and the many wonderful staff and volunteers at MTRI, these young people, I have no doubt, will have many remarkable accomplishments in their lifetimes. They will invest in their careers while at the same time giving back positively to their community.

I commend and congratulate **Breagh Lane, Serena Meaney, Logan Huskilson, Michelle Riley, Rosalyn Filmore, Katie Dufresne, Grant Cook, Lori Mosher, Emma Rivard, Abby Cook, Miranda Cook, Morgan Cole, Samantha Hawkes, Shane Naugler, MacKenna Silver, Hayley Frail, Emily MacKinnon, Ben Holmes, Brittany Holmes, Amie Riley, Lianne Lenihan, Chelsea Perry, Kaitlyn Harding, Tara McCarthy, Alexander Riley, Andrea Hayward, and Murray Clements.** I wish them every success as they continue to pursue their dreams for a promising and bright future.

Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to give you and the members of this House an idea of who some of our leaders are and who our upcoming leaders in Queens will be for the future of tomorrow.