

## Fun in the Sun Hits Labrador's North Coast

Continuing its commitment to support community-focused events on the North Coast of Labrador, Aurora was proud to sponsor three festivals full of music, games and food for all ages in three towns this summer. Aurora provided food for and staffed the festival BBQs at the Makkovik Trout Festival, the Rigolet Salmon Festival, and Postville's Fun in the Sun week.



The Makkovik Trout festival, held in mid-July, saw a high turnout this year, due in part to it being the 150th anniversary of the founding of Makkovik. Food features prominently in the Trout Festival. In addition to the BBQ, pictured here, one of the main events is the Trout Supper, where the fish is prepared in a variety of ways, from smoked, to stewed, to brewis.



Earlier in the summer, Aurora also sponsored the North West River Beach Festival, with our contribution going to help festival organizers bring country artist Charlie Major to Labrador for that event.



Zena Sheppard, right, presents Aurora's contribution to Postville's Fun in the Sun festival to the town's Recreation Director, Pauline Manak, whose son Kaden appears at centre.

Our Vice President of Labrador Affairs, Ches Andersen, Manager of Environmental Affairs, Lela Evans, Community Relations Manager, Waylon Williams, Zena Sheppard, our Community Liaison Officer in Postville, and Cal Priddle, a long-time employee of Aurora, all pitched in make the events a success. We would also like to thank community members who helped us at the BBQs.

## Aurora Mingles at Expo

In June, Aurora made its 4th consecutive appearance at Expo Labrador, an event which sees government, business and community representatives in Labrador come together over a three day period. Aurora maintained a booth throughout the event, answering questions from a range of conference participants and discussing our plans for the Michelin Project. We were pleased to be invited to participate in the Department of Natural Resources scavenger hunt this year, which saw a number of conference participants and students visiting from the local school learning more about the mines and minerals sector through a question and answer contest.

## Environmental Baseline Studies: Learning About the Environment Today to Prepare for Tomorrow



Field biologists from Stassinu Stantec carry out ecological land classification this summer to help identify habitat and landforms in the Michelin Project area. The proposed road route from North West River to the Michelin site and port site near Postville was the focus of several baseline studies this year.

Since 2005, Aurora has been doing environmental baseline work in the Michelin Project area in preparation for development. This work has focused on the following areas:

- Wildlife
- Air quality
- Weather
- Water quality and quantity
- Fish and birds
- Natural background radiation (including radon)
- Traditional knowledge
- Ecological land classification

Environmental baseline studies are required for major mining projects that have to go through an Environmental Assessment in Canada. They are carried out to collect information about what the environment is like before any development takes place.



A Sikumiut employee measures fish collected during 2007 freshwater baseline program in Michelin Project area.

“These studies are important for two reasons,” said Lela Evans, Aurora’s Manager of Environmental Affairs, who has been involved in Aurora’s baseline work since 2008. “First, they give us the information we need to design specific parts of the Michelin Project. Knowing about the environment where we operate allows us to build safe and long-lasting infrastructure with as little impact on the land and people as possible.”

“As an example, if a road needs to be built across a stream, we have to know how much water is flowing through that stream at different times of the year. The types of fish that live in or move through the stream have to be identified. Using this type of information, engineers will ensure that the right culvert is placed at that stream crossing to build a road that is safe in local climate conditions and that also protects water quality and fish. To me, environment and engineering are connected.”

The second important role of environmental baseline studies is to support company and government monitoring programs.

“Monitoring programs serve to protect us. They will identify and track any impacts a project may have on the surrounding environment,” said Ms. Evans. “This is done by comparing the information collected before development with the information collected regularly during construction, operations and closure. Monitoring ensures that the measures we put in place to protect people and the environment are working properly and it helps identify any areas for improvement.”



Andrea Hoyt of Nain conducts a winter water quality survey for Sikumiut in Michelin Project area, winter 2009.

Sikumiut Environmental Management Ltd. and Aivek, both Labrador Inuit businesses, Minaskuat Limited Partnership, an Innu company, and now a new Innu business called Stassinu Stantec have been working with Aurora on most of our environmental baseline work.

As well, Aurora has contracted Golder Associates, a worldwide mining and environmental consultancy based in Ontario, to carry out the baseline studies on water flow in our project area and along the proposed road route from North West River to the port site. Golder is a recognized world-leader and has been carrying out this kind of work all over the world for 60 years.

Ensuring that radiation levels in and around the project area are measured and understood is a key part of Aurora's environmental baseline program.

"We began working with SENES early in our baseline program because of their expertise in radiation in natural and industrial environments," said Ms. Evans. "They've worked for industry, government and public interest groups across Canada and around the world, which speaks to their credibility among different stakeholders. They have designed and carried out our baseline studies on air quality and natural background radiation and radon levels."



Golder Associates undertook baseline work on stream flow and depth measurements in the Michelin Project area in 2009 and 2010. Here, Golder employee Tyrel Lloyd sets up measuring equipment.

Throughout the environmental baseline program, we have been consulting with government agencies to make sure that the work we are doing conforms to the standards set by agencies like the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada. We have also made the results of our baseline work available to the Nunatsiavut Government for review.

In our consultations along the North Coast of Labrador, we have heard that residents are interested in knowing more about the baseline work we have done. In response, we will be making the results available to the public in the near future and will have our team on-hand to answer any questions people may have.



Grant Feasby (l) of SENES has been in Labrador with Aurora's team to take part in community consultations and help explain radiation in uranium mining to residents. In 2009, he visited air quality monitoring stations in the project area with Lela Evans (r).

## Environment Week Photo Contest Winners Selected

To recognize Canadian Environment Week in June of this year, Aurora organized a photo contest for youth in Postville and Makkovik asking them to submit images from around their communities which reflected this year's Environment Week theme, 'Embracing Life on Earth'. We also asked them to describe how their selected photo showed this theme. Winners were selected in July and represent a variety of perspectives on how Labrador youth embrace both their natural and cultural environments. Contest winners and their photos can be seen below.



**First Place:** April Gear (Postville)



**Second Place:** Jerry Kohlmeister (Postville)



**Third Place:** Brad Andersen (Makkovik)



**Honourable Mention:** Beverly Winters (Makkovik)



In describing how their photos fit the theme 'Embracing Life on Earth', this year's winners spoke of the beauty of the natural environment, the significance of the cultural landscape, and the importance of sustainable living (reducing, reusing and recycling). Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who took part in the contest.

At left: First place winner April Gear (r) receives her prize, a Canon digital camera, from Aurora's Communications Advisor, Kelley Power (l).

Any questions or comments? Please contact us:

Happy Valley-Goose Bay  
tel: 709.896.6777

Postville  
tel: 709.479.9872

Makkovik  
tel: 709.923.2204

[www.aurora-energy.ca](http://www.aurora-energy.ca)

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