

Strum Consulting News

Maritime Launch Takes Off, Guysborough, NS

Strum has been engaged to assist Maritime Launch Services (MLS) develop their Canso Rocket Launch facility in Guysborough, Nova Scotia. This state of the art facility is being developed to help service the demand for satellite launch systems. Currently, the space industry is a burgeoning 30 billion dollar industry world wide.

The MLS plan is to provide a launch platform for 8 launches yearly. The facility is being placed near Canso for a number of reasons, a key one being the ability to launch a rocket southward to achieve polar orbit. This site allows due south launches over water to minimize risk to surroundings and people and to take advantage of the need for polar orbital launches. Strum is conducting the Environmental Assessment (EA) process for MLS along with engineering and survey support.



Mulroney Institute of Government Goes Ahead, Antigonish

Last October, Brian Mulroney visited his old alma mater, St. FX. University, located in Antigonish, NS. Canada's 18th Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney was in Antigonish to unveil plans to build the 45 million dollar facility. The new building will house the Institute and contain space for teaching, research, and exhibits along with a special Mulroney memorabilia hall. Mulroney Hall will be 75,000 square feet in space and will house a 300-person auditorium, an open atrium, labs, and administration areas. The Strum team will provide a number of roles, such as supervision of hazardous materials removal from the existing, soon to be demolished structure that will be home to the new Mulroney Hall. Demolition and Hazardous Materials removal has already begun. Strum has also been assigned civil design of the facility, including layout of site grades, drainage, access, and all services. Strum surveyors will provide local control for grade development and our geotechnical team will conduct geotechnical investigations for footings and load bearing structures.



An artist's rendition of the planned Mulroney Hall.

Submitted

Public Works BOMA Waste Audits



The Strum solid Waste Audits group recently completed a substantial solid waste audit program for Public Works Canada (PWGSC). This program required coordination of a large team of technical staff who visited over 40 Federal Canada work sites including Post Offices, RCMP locations, and others. The sites were located across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and PEI.

The audits required collection of waste streams from each site, segregation of waste materials into specialized categories, and quantification of wastes from each facility. The waste was then classified by weight and relative quantities determined as part of the audit program to assess how well recycling and diversion programs were working. The audits required high level security clearance for all site staff. All information was then used to develop Solid Waste Management Plan upgrades for Federal institutions.



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Ellershouse Wind EA and Expansion Project, Municipality of West Hants, NS

An expansion of the Ellershouse Wind Park is underway just south of Windsor, NS. This project will see the total number of existing wind turbines grow from 7 currently to 10 by the end of this year. This project is being completed on behalf of AREA (Alternative Resource Energy Authority), which is comprised of the Town of Berwick, the Town of Mahone Bay, and the Town of Antigonish, each of whom have power production contracts with their own electric utilities. Strum is providing all aspects of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Civil Engineering design on this project.



Having completed an EA earlier, a second EA was commenced last year to characterize the area of expansion at the Ellershouse facility. Strum Technical staff have also provided geotechnical testing associated with extension of the site access roads and turbine pads upon which the new turbines will be built. The Strum civil engineering team will design all roads and develop construction tenders for contractors bidding to complete the work.

Contaminated Site Assessment and Closure Process

Strum has been conducting contaminated site assessment (ESA) and closure development on a number of provincial government sites across Atlantic Canada, particularly Nova Scotia. These sites have been in operation for decades and many have been used as operations and maintenance facilities for heavy equipment throughout the lifetime of each facility. Strum has been retained to assess these sites in order to determine whether impacts exist at the site which could represent risk to humans or the environment.

The Strum Assessment and Remediation Group (ARG) routinely conduct Phase I ESA's on these properties to determine past history and potential for impacts to soils and groundwater at the sites. Phase II ESA involves intrusive testing, requiring the placement and sampling of test pits, boreholes and drilled wells. The final phase after assessing impacts is to develop closure in order to ensure these sites meet appropriate due diligence for government sites.

Strum Projects in Northern Canada

Strum continues to be involved in exciting projects in Northern Canada. Several of these included Labrador mining projects. These projects generally take place in the summer and early fall months, involving Environmental Assessment work, contaminant assessment, and clean up on mining sites across Labrador. Strum has also completed projects in even more remote areas including Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Yellowknife, and Resolute, the most northern community reached by charter aircraft out of Ottawa. Strum staff have developed excellent contacts in Iqaluit, working on a range of building and infrastructure projects including topographic surveys, sewer/water services, road construction, and municipal servicing. We expect to return to Iqaluit this July for another exciting summer in Canada's great North!



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