Fisheries school "has made a difference"  Pictou Advocate
Oct. 6, 2006
The Evening News (New Glasgow)

Allen Tobey was sitting in a restaurant when a young fisherman approached him, a baby in his arms.

It was 1979, and Tobey was teaching his first course as an instructor for the School of Fisheries. He was showing newcomers to the ground fishery in a southern Nova Scotia community how to make and mend nets.

The fisherman was having trouble with his net and asked for Tobey's help. They met the next morning and solved the problem.

Twenty-three years later, Tobey found himself back in the same community, giving a navigation course. Into his classroom walked the baby of that young fisherman. He was preparing to captain a boat belonging to his father.

The legacy of the School of Fisheries "is not what the school has accomplished but rather it is the lives in which we have made a difference," Tobey said during a celebration this week of the school's 60th anniversary.

The school, based in Pictou, started as part of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries in 1946 and became part of the Nova Scotia Community College system in 2001. It delivers diploma, certificate and customized programs in such areas as marine safety, aquaculture, marine navigation and fishing gear maintenance.

The school trains about 1,500 people a year, including participants in First Nations fisheries.

Tobey recently retired as academic chairman for the school after 27 and a half years with the facility.

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