**From Sandy Martin May 8 2024:**

Well, since I couldn’t be with you today, I had to do something. Here’s the letter I wrote to Tim Houston:

Dear Mr. Houston,
As I write this, a rally is underway on Hollis Street in front of the NS Legislature, our seat of Government. I sincerely hope you are listening to the voices of ordinary Nova Scotians who have made the trek to Halifax from every corner of the province – from rural coastal communities – who are concerned about our coast, their safety, the safety of their communities and the ecosystems that protect us and our way of life.

The Coastal Protection Act is not perfect, but it was a very good start, formed after years of consultation and approved by all parties. You had promised to proclaim this Act, but instead we were given a stripped down version that places the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of property owners and 49 Municipalities, many of which do not have the resources to deal with complex coastal issues. The plan your government presented also has an undertone of entitlement. This looks and feels like another Owls Head. That sentiment is shared by many, many of the 900-strong members of the Facebook group “Coastal Protection Act Now”. This group is part of the newly-formed Coastal Coalition with members from more than 20 advocacy and coastal community groups from around the province.
Please reverse your decision and proclaim the Coastal Protection Act today. Let us work together, as did the original Coastal Coalition in 2007, to bring about real coastal management for the wellbeing and safety of all coastal communities and landowners. Not just for the chosen few.

Mr. Houston, “The seas are rising and so are we”.

Yours sincerely
Sandy Martin
Coastal Coalition