



Doing the groundwork

*Come By Chance
rezoning for
new refinery*

By KIRK SQUIRES

The Town of Come By Chance is doing its part to secure a new refinery for Placentia Bay.

Come By Chance Mayor Joan Cleary says the town is in the process of rezoning a tract of land on the west side of the Come By Chance River from rural to industrial.

"Their boundary clips the side of the Southern Head peninsula and our access road is going in through the parcel of land designated within the Come By Chance town boundary," explains Nick Gillis, project manager with SNC Lavalin. SNC Lavalin is carrying out the front-end engineering for the new refinery.

"We are going through the process with the town to rezone that area as industrial so we can get our access road in through there and build our jetty which would be in that zone as well," adds Gillis.

He says as far as they know there are no other towns that will require rezoning.

"We're delighted to do it," says Cleary.

"It (a new refinery) is going to be major for this area and for the province," says Cleary.

Having the access road to the refinery running through that area has another benefit for Come By Chance.

Cleary says the access road will open up a large area of land within the town's boundary.

"We have talked about that for years; if there was only some way we could get across the river to open up the potential for tourism and hiking over there. We think that is a bonus for us in that respect."

Whether that area on the west side of the river can also accommodate residential development is something Come By Chance hasn't addressed yet. Cleary says the town will also have to assess the residential requirements a new refinery will bring.

"That is something we need to do, not only as a town but a region. This refinery could be a real possibility and, if you look around at the communities and the number of potential residents, no one has really sat down and said how many people can we accommodate."

Cleary says the area to be rezoned is not huge.

"There is no need at this point to do a complete change for that whole area. We have a lot of people in there with cabins and crown land grants. We have no desire to disturb them at all," she says.

The town will only rezone the area of land required by NLRC.

"We are pretty keen on this (new refinery). Obviously this is not going to happen tomorrow but we are very optimistic."