

## **Ocean Sciences Centre to temporarily close public access and education program at Logy Bay site**

Due to ongoing construction at the Logy Bay site, the Faculty of Science will be closing the public education program at the Ocean Sciences Centre (OSC) for the 2011 and 2012 summer seasons, and public access until Jan. 1, 2013.

Memorial University is currently constructing a \$16-million cold-water and deep-sea research facility at the Ocean Sciences Centre, which will include a number of buildings and engineered structures at the Logy Bay site.

“The OSC will be a significant area of construction activity, with delivery and movement of construction materials and with the movement of dangerous heavy equipment, through to the fall of 2012,” said Keith Hiscock, assistant director of development and renewal with the Division of Facilities Management at Memorial. “Special precautions will have to be taken to provide secured pedestrian and vehicular circulation routes for faculty and staff. However, due to the extensive nature of this construction and the fact that almost all areas of the site will be impacted, it is necessary, for obvious safety reasons, to close the OSC to the general public until 2013.”

The first phase of construction, which involved horizontal directional drilling from the OSC’s parking lot into Logy Bay to provide a new cold seawater source, has been completed. The next phase of the project is the construction of the base for a new pump house and a new building to house research facilities for investigating invasive species, fish diseases, and deep-sea organisms. There will also be additions to the Dr. Joe Brown Aquaculture Research Building, the existing tank building and a new fresh water artesian well.

“The Ocean Sciences Centre has played a continuous role in public awareness in marine sciences through public and marine science programs since 1988,” said Dr. Mark Abrahams, dean of the Faculty of Science at Memorial. “The current public education program is a complimentary, interactive and interpretive outdoors activity for over 15,000 tourists, schoolchildren and local visitors each year. The most popular feature of the program is an outdoor observation platform for viewing the facility’s captive population of harp seals. We regret this interruption in our program delivery and look forward to welcoming visitors back in 2013.”

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For more information, please contact Kelly Foss, communications co-ordinator, Faculty of Science, Memorial University, at 709-864-2019 or [kfoss@mun.ca](mailto:kfoss@mun.ca), or Danielle Nichols, research marketing manager, Ocean Science Centre, at [dnichols@mun.ca](mailto:dnichols@mun.ca) or 709-864-2459.