



Left, low tide in the Bay of Fundy at Parrsboro, N.S., right, high tide.

too costly. The plans became more practicable in 1973 when oil prices began to rise. A study published in 1981 offered a plan for the construction of a dam five miles long, from Economy Point to Cape Tenny across Minas Basin, to be equipped with 128 turbines with a total capacity of 4,864 megawatts. It would cost \$6 billion. That dam would be followed by two similar projects in Cumberland Basin, below Amherst, and at Shepody Bay below Moncton, N.B.

There are doubters. The system could raise tides down the coast to Boston, and though the Nova Scotia government is enthusiastic, the federal government and the government of New Brunswick are not.

A much smaller—20 megawatts—pilot program is, however, well underway. A power plant is being built on the Annapolis River, an estuary not far from Digby. A 250-ton straight-flow (Straflo) turbine, the largest of its kind in the world, is in place. If the Straflo test is successful, the technology will be applied in a larger project in the Minas Basin.

Handsome History

Harry Bruce, a celebrated Nova Scotia writer, and photographer Chic Harris have compiled a loving book called *A Basket of Apples*. It features Nova Scotia towns, people, seascapes, churches and old houses and is, in its own original way, the best of guidebooks. It can be found in bookstores all over the province.

Here's one of Harry's observations:

"Nova Scotia . . . is so close to being an island that her people are like island people, and islanders have certain things in common. For one thing, the sea dominates their history. The story of any inhabited island is one of voyages and vessels, of comings and goings by water, of pursuing fish in the sea and trade goods over the sea, of fight-

ing, dying, and thriving on the dark ocean. Even the folklore of islands looks seaward, toward eerie lights and apparitions, the wails of the long-drowned, wandering ghost ships, and blazing-phantom ships. Islands tend to be a shade more spooky. . . ."



The Bluenose II, from *A Basket of Apples*.