

## **Town of Shelburne Press Release - Re: MV Farley Mowatt**

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

**Shelburne, NS**            The derelict vessel known as the MV Farley Mowatt unexpectedly arrived at the Shelburne Marine Terminal in September of 2014.

Since that time the Port of Shelburne has been communicating with the vessel's owner to remove it from the terminal. As a result of the vessel owner's failure to respond or take any steps to remove the vessel and pay outstanding berthage fees, in April an action was commenced in the Federal Court and the vessel placed under arrest.

Late in the afternoon on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the derelict vessel noticeably began to take on water; Port staff quickly took steps to alert the vessel's owner, local fire and emergency services, the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada who in turn notified other provincial and federal departments and agencies.

The Canadian Coast Guard took charge of the situation, acting to prevent or minimize environmental contamination and address the hazard posed by the sunken vessel. As part of the pollution control effort, the Coast Guard has confirmed it will raise, stabilize and clean off any remaining pollutants from the vessel. The raising and clean-up operation is expected to take at least three weeks.

During the clean-up, the Coast Guard will remain on site and in charge of operations. All costs associated with raising and cleaning the vessel will be borne by the Coast Guard, who we understand will seek compensation from the vessel owner. Once the vessel has been stabilized and cleaned, the Coast Guard's current responsibility will be discharged.

Looking ahead to the successful raising, stabilization and cleaning of the vessel by the Canadian Coast Guard, the Shelburne Town Council is calling on Provincial and Federal governments to address the derelict MV Farley Mowatt and others like it. Town of Shelburne Mayor Karen Mattatall, "Rural Nova Scotia – and Shelburne Harbour in particular – cannot be allowed to serve as a dumping ground for derelict vessels; this is a common issue around the province and across the country and a decisive response from higher levels of government is required."