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CHARLOTTE COUNTY

# COURIER WEEKEND

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## Aquaculture worker helps rescue man whose boat overturned

Barb Rayner

MCCARTHY'S POINT

Luckily for Graham Teare, a Cooke Aquaculture employee was not too far away when his small aluminum boat overturned as he was making his way back to shore at McCarthy's Point on the Bay of Fundy.

Teare, a retired fisherman, had taken his 12-foot boat out to Pocologan Island to take a walk around last Wednesday when the fog started to come in. He decided to head for shore.

"There was very little wind, but there was a ground swell which came behind me and it got right under the boat as I was going along. It went sideways and the boat flipped.

"It was just like a whale got underneath me. I tried to hook back on the throttle, but the boat overturned. It was just a freak accident."

Teare, who has worked on the water all his life, said he never learned to swim although he has tried. He said he had a life jacket on, but it couldn't have buckled properly because it flew off when the boat overturned.

"I tried not to panic too much. Every time I got to the side of the boat, she rolled, but I managed to get to the bow and spread-eagled myself on the bow and the waves kept hitting my butt."

Fortunately, he was not too far from shore so when he saw someone walking around, he called for help. He said he understands both Shirley Chesley and Guy Mailhoit called 911. In the meantime, Jerry



Barb Rayner/Courier

**Graham Teare, right, had a hearty handshake for Jason Giddens, who came to his aid after his small aluminum boat overturned at McCarthy's Point.**

Chesley came out in his kayak to see if he could help.

"He couldn't do much, but he stayed with me until the boat came."

Jason Giddens was on a boat working at one of Cooke Aquaculture's salmon sites when a call came through from the Coast Guard in Halifax to say there was a man in the water clinging to a piece of wood.

"He was only a couple of miles away from me. I threw him a lifeline and I tried

to get him into the boat, but he is a large man. He didn't have a life jacket on and he said he couldn't swim."

Teare said he suggested Giddens just tow him into shore on the life ring as they were not too far away from the walkway but he was afraid Teare might get sucked under the boat.

"I was with him for probably about 20 minutes until the St. George Fire Department arrived with their rescue boat. Some-

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- Graham Teare

body on shore had heard him calling for help and they called 911 who got hold of the Coast Guard," said Giddens, who is himself a volunteer with St. Stephen Fire Department.

"He was quite fatigued and it was cold water. It was 14.8 degrees. I helped get him into the rescue boat, then we towed his boat ashore for him and put it by the floating dock for him."

Teare, who lives at McCarthy's Point, said it was a scary situation when his boat overturned, but he knew the aquaculture workers would be getting off work within an hour so figured someone would see him.

"I was in the water about an hour-and-a-half, but it wasn't too bad," said Teare.

"I was able to walk up the walkway then they put me in the ambulance, checked me over and did a couple of tests and said I was okay. I went home showered and cooked supper, but after supper I did have cold chills a bit.

"It was close, but there was a happy ending. Everybody says I have nine lives anyway."