

SPRING → B1



Dr. Thierry Chopin, left, and Prince Albert II of Monaco at the 7th Monaco Blue Initiative in São Paulo, Brazil. PHOTO: ROY PALMER

UNB prof dances way into royal spotlight during conference in Brazil

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SAINT JOHN • Thierry Chopin left a lasting impression on Prince Albert II of Monaco while dancing in Brazil.

Chopin, scientific director of the Canadian Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture Network based at the University of New Brunswick Saint John, was in Brazil in early April after being invited as a guest speaker for the 7th annual Monaco Blue Initiative, held this year in São Paulo.

"I have this routine I do sometimes at presentations," Chopin said on Thursday. "I tell the audience that a good way to remember IMTA [Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture] is to link it with the YMCA song, and do a little dance."

Chopin said after his presentation at the conference, which meets annually to discuss the current global challenges of ocean protection and preservation, Prince Albert II approached him to say that'd he wouldn't soon be forgetting IMTA.

"It's not often you see a scientist dancing," Chopin said. "The prince said he'd definitely remember, so it must have worked."

Chopin's work at UNB focuses on developing innovative technologies and practices with increased environmental sustainability, economic stability and societal acceptability, such

as IMTA.

"With IMTA, farmers cultivate species from different trophic levels with complementary ecosystem functions in proximity," Chopin explained via email. "They combine fed species (e.g. fish and shrimps) with extractive species (e.g. seaweeds, aquatic plants, shellfish and other invertebrates) to take advantage of synergistic interactions among them, while biomitigation takes place."

The Monaco Blue Initiative, founded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute, Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco, reached out to Chopin a few months ago to see if he'd be interested in being one of 16 presenters at this year's conference.

"They said they were aware of the work we are doing here at UNB and wanted me to join," he said. "I think it's pretty exciting that we have that sort of recognition."

Following the MBI conference, Chopin spent an additional four days with peers at the São Paulo State University, where he presented a seminar responsibly farming marine and fresh-waters through IMTA.

"It important to recognize that one animal's waste can be another's food," he said. "It's a combination of recycling all these nutrients and what is waste for one species can be food for the next species."

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"We're maxed out o
we're getting there Sa
said.

Thursday was a weel
folks came from out o
first day of golf in S
Mid-morning found W
ton from Fredericton (

green working on his p
"It's all fun. I'm ver
have the job that I have

"New Brunswick ha
golf courses," he said bu
quin's resident profes
not often get to play or
courses. Golf season ke

well tied to Saint Andre
The Algonquin sche
offs every nine minutes

up of players through
do it every eight minu
finds that things work
extra time.

"You don't want to m
time," Porter said. Staf
later on most days if yo
but you will have to wa

Out on the greens, Co
did not seem to mind
ing through their clot
what it did to their shot

Daigle, making his to
the club which made a
hit the ball. The shot
side. He took a mulliga
by laughed.

in Saint Andrews, this is the earliest opening since 2009 when the season started on April 1 – but closed a week later due to snow. The course opened on May 7 last year.

Daigle grew up in New Brunswick but spent 30 years in Toronto before returning to the province to settle in Saint Andrews. "It's so beautiful I bought a house down here 13 years ago, and now I spend a lot of time here," he said, taking in the view over the bay.

"The 11th hole, they've cleaned out the view and you can see up the river for the first time ... you can see St. Croix Island," said Corby, a retired physical education teacher living in Saint Andrews.

Others remarked on the improved view, too, both on Thursday morning and at the members-only round the day before, Porter said in an interview on Thursday. A decision was made to cut trees to open up vistas of the St. Croix River and Navy Island, he explained. "Everyone feels as though they're playing on a brand new golf course," he said.

"It's a bit cold but we are happy," Porter said about opening day.

He said that 62 golfers booked rounds on Thursday, and 100 on Friday. "And we'll have almost 200 on Saturday and Sunday," he said, explaining



William Houghton came from Fredericton on Thursday for the season at the Algonquin Resort Golf Course in Saint Andrews.

PHOTO: DERWIN GOWAN/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL