

ecology action centre
annual report 2007/08

Letter from our directors: Growing resilience

It is a welcome luxury for us to step back to ask what makes the Ecology Action Centre such a healthy, vibrant organization and how we to continue to have such profound impact on Nova Scotia's environment.

Credit is due to our remarkable ability to act like an ecosystem – by working on many different things in a diversity of ways, by meshing our many independent parts to make a beautiful whole, and by working endlessly to build connections.

A look at our accomplishments this year shows the EAC approaching our mission to green the province in a rich variety of ways – from educating kids about traffic safety to producing respected policy documents. EAC thrived this year by engaging people in our province-wide green mobility consultations, by educating people about sustainably caught seafood, by inspiring people to relish local food, and by kicking people in the butt about bad coastal development. Read on in this report for a greater taste of these and many more successes.

Reflecting on the year, it feels as if the interconnectedness of our work has blossomed. The urgency of climate change has not only put the environment definitively on the public agenda, it has also galvanized EAC to deepen our collaborations, both internally and externally.

For this public commitment to the environment to become more deeply rooted, we need to continue to build a strong environmental movement and a better society in a multitude of ways. We need to mobilize young people through projects like our *Inconvenient Truth* film tour; we need to support strong communities like Digby Neck; we need to continue to influence policies to support energy efficiency; we need luscious green victories like the protection of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes; we need more sound forestry science that screams the truth; and we need more allies like the industry groups working with us to create greener buildings.

Nature has known for eons that diversity builds resilience. So, as EAC's remarkable team forges ahead, remember: the more the merrier!

Mark Butler, Policy Director
Maggy Burns, Internal Director

Letter from our Chair: Changing climates

The good news is that the EAC has enjoyed another solid year in financial terms and continues as a highly effective organization, increasingly seen as the 'Go To' place for environmental understanding.

The bad news is that this takes place in a rapidly changing climate which places ever greater demands upon the organization. We are, as part of the process of growing, being asked to represent an ever bigger spectrum of interests and concerns. We are routinely approached by groups and organizations who, in the past, simply considered us as gadflies. Now we are seen as a resource for guidance and education, sometimes even for approval.

This is a huge responsibility and one we continue to gladly accept. We are blessed with a strong, able and committed board who, while happy to fiercely debate issues, has always managed to achieve consensus through out the year. I truly appreciate their amazing hard work and their support as, I am sure, do the staff. The staff of the EAC continues to shine in so many ways. It has been a year of change for a number of them who have already moved on or are in the process of going on to fresh pastures. Several are going on to start (or complete) their PhD's while others are going to other exciting opportunities. It is sad to lose them but it also leads to renewal as new and wonderful candidates appear to take on the challenges.

In a way this is both timely and healthy. It is ever more apparent that we must develop our skills across our traditional boundaries. The committees need to cross reference their work, pull in ideas and resources from each other and develop joint approaches to issues which are either best served that way or fall between the cracks.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tireless efforts of the standing committees who rarely get noticed. They play a vital role in every aspect of the EAC and very much define how we operate. An example would be the Personnel Committee who worked so hard on helping us carry out the Leadership Review. The other committees are equally deserving of praise.

Finally I wish to thank the core staff for their unfailing efforts, their endless enthusiasm and their continued contribution to keeping the EAC on track. I look forward to sharing in our continued evolution in the coming year

Simon Melrose,
EAC Chair of the Board



Core Report

Core Staff: Emma Boardman, Maggy Burns, Mark Butler, Jason Cohanin, Jessica Gilbert, Peter Gorman, Benna Koeghoe, Niina Luus, Ainsley MacCuish, Heather McKibbon, Miranda McQuade, Zoë Miles, Alicia Polonsky, Carla Vandenberg, Emma VanRoyen

The EAC's core operations thrive because of the hard work of our standing committees, made up of staff and volunteers. Here are some of their accomplishments:

Fundraising Committees

Raising funds to support the EAC's core operations is the result of a number of hard-working subcommittees. We're proud to have exceeded our own expectations this year, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and our many wonderful donors.

- We successfully concluded our first-ever capital campaign! Thanks to over 140 amazing individual donors (giving a remarkable average of \$885) and two great fundraising events, we reached our \$140,000 goal. This paid for the renovations that have made our Fern Lane home an inspiration in green building and staff comfort.
- Thanks to our marvelous organizing committee the 9th Annual Garden Party and Auction was great fun! The event raised over \$17,000, more money than ever before.
- The tireless Garden Party Committee also launched our Sustainable Transportation Lottery this year, which raised over \$14,000. The three lucky winners took home a one-year Smart Car lease, a bicycle, and a pair of running shoes.
- Other fundraising highlights included our annual Chemical-Free Christmas Tree sale, our second annual lecture, featuring Canadian thinker Thomas Homer-Dixon, a substantial donation of gift certificates from the Summit Spa, and many generous donations from members and supporters.

Home Maintenance Committee

This important committee works to keep a (non-leaky) roof over our heads. One of our accomplishments this year was to settle into a smooth routine of monthly strategy meetings and hands-on work parties.

- Thanks to our Solar Gain Project we conducted an assessment of our solar system's efficiency and we're poised to make some key improvements.
- We overhauled our storage systems in the basement and began building a beautiful and practical clay floor.
- In between, we improved our kitchen (including a new, energy-efficient fridge), made our backyard garden greener and more beautiful, and much, much more.

Membership & Outreach Committee

The outreach office has been busy this year with exciting improvements on some old standards including our Between the Issues, our annual lecture series, and membership drives. This committee strives to promote the Ecology Action Centre in the greater community, keep our members informed of our activities, and engage new members and volunteers.

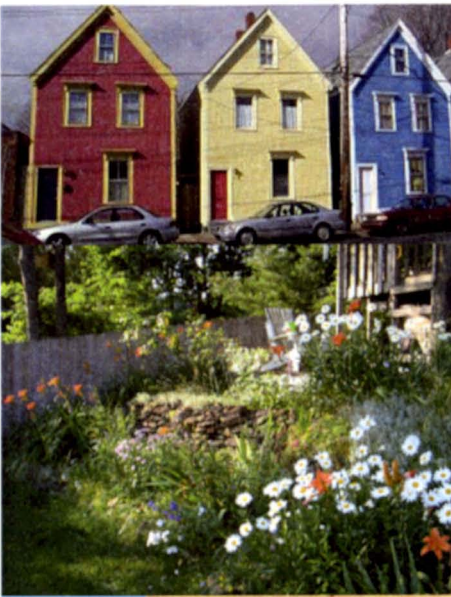
- The EAC has renewed its commitment to building strong relationships with our members and our community. This year we worked to encourage more dialogue through a member survey, website updates and stronger membership relations.
- We held another successful canvass with over 250 members joining and currently the EAC has 1150 members.

Personnel Committee

In addition to its work to ensure a positive and productive work environment, this hardworking committee executed an organization-wide leadership review to help guide the transition from our part-time Managing Director to a new leadership approach. Thanks to the work of this committee, and other changes at the Centre, we now have a team of three directors - a full-time Financial Director and part-time Policy and Internal Directors

Website Committee

This committee had an adventurous year. We located a talented web design company - Bright White Communications, working with Shoreline Consulting Group completely pro bono - to help us revamp our four-year old website. We made significant progress towards a refreshing new website structure and design. Stay tuned for the launch of the new site early next year!



Built Environment Committee | BEC

Encouraging the development of communities that are in harmony with the natural and social environment, through approaches like planning and natural building.

Projects

Healthy Lawns: Chris Benjamin

Green Renovations: Geraline Blyleven, Trisha Dempsey, Zak Miller, Claire Simmons, Kim Thompson

Planning Intern: Alan Howell

Highlights

- BEC co-hosted a successful workshop on green renovations for older and historic homes with the Heritage Society of Nova Scotia, and held several Lunch & Learn sessions on topics relating to urban planning and green building.
- Our Green Renovation Program surveyed Halifax NGOs on their interest in green renovations.
- We produced the *HRM Planning Report* designed to help a general audience understand the planning process & evaluate a new development proposals.
- We published the *Green Reno Tool Kit* – a reference document for homeowners, contractors and builders intending to create more sustainable homes and offices.
- Our healthy lawns program helped to found the Pesticide Free Nova Scotia coalition and has played an active role in its efforts to reduce the use of cosmetic pesticides in NS
- Working with TIC we assisted the Chebucto Neighbourhood Association citizens' group in its fight against the widening of Chebucto Road.
- We followed the HRM by Design process and wrote letters offering opinions, comments and suggestions.
- We established a Green Renovation Advisory Group to help with developing workshops and materials to educate homeowners and industry professionals.

Coastal Issues Committee | CIC

Supporting better coastal planning and management through research, education, engaging and mobilizing the public, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Projects

Reconnecting the Coast: Jennifer Graham

Better Beaches Management: Colleen Thompson

Navigating the Maze: Alexi Baccardax

Changing Climate Changing Coasts: Amber Nicol

Highlights

- We were an active part of the province-wide alliance of community and environmental interests that led to the rejection of the proposed White Point quarry. The review Panel recommended refusing the quarry and developing provincial coastal policy.
- We welcomed the government's leadership in promising to develop a much needed Coastal Coastal Development Strategy by 2010.
- In partnership with the Coastal Communities Network and Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia we organized *Changing Climate, Changing Coasts* a learning circle on climate change adaptation where over 50 participants learned how to reduce community vulnerability to climate change.
- In the annual *Climate Change Report Card* we pushed for climate change adaptation.
- We updated *Navigating the Maze: A Citizens' Guide to Coastal Action in Nova Scotia*, and distributed it far and wide.
- We completed a report on tidal power in the Bay of Fundy in the context of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
- We revitalized the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia and are working with allies around the province on a coastal policy agenda for Nova Scotia.
- We contributed to *Going Coastal* CBC Radio's exciting series on coastal issues in NS.

Energy Issues Committee | EIC

Promoting research and education around practical approaches to, and education about, renewable energy and energy conservation initiatives.

Projects

Atlantic Canada Sustainable Energy Coalition: Brendan Haley

Solar Gain: Janice Ashworth, Wayne Groszko, Dave Lovekin, Phil MacKenzie

Highlights

- We led the negotiation of a demand side management “settlement agreement” between all parties before the Nova Scotia Utilities and Review Board to invest \$13 million in energy efficiency in 2008-2009 and to transition to a performance-based, independent administrator.
- We published *Pathways to Sustainable Energy Prosperity* document which Chronicle Herald columnist Ralph Surette called “a crisp document leaning mainly on the economics and outlining the opportunity, the pitfalls and even the public psychology surrounding various energy choices, it’s the best I’ve seen documenting what has to be done and the (mainly political) hurdles to be overcome”.
- We led the fun and successful “Under 2 C” campaign to raise awareness of climate change on the lead up to UN negotiations in Bali, Indonesia.
- Our Solar Gain Project assessed solar thermal energy potential at 15 medium-to-large facilities in Nova Scotia, and advised over 100 people about solar thermal energy supply for their homes.
- We recommended to the provincial government that the incentives for solar hot water installations be continued for four years and increased from a 10 percent to a 14 percent rebate. The province adopted a 15 percent rebate to be continued for three years.



“...could it be that after 36 years, public opinion in this province has finally aligned with the eco-evangelizing mission of the Ecology Action Centre?”

Chronicle Herald editorial





Food Action Committee | FAC

Encouraging Nova Scotians to produce and eat local, environmentally friendly foods. Promoting good food policy and the conservation of farm land and farming knowledge.

Projects

Food Miles: Marla MacLeod, Jennifer Scott

HelioTrust: Jennifer Scott

Urban Garden: Garity Chapman

Highlights

- FAC has an active and growing group of volunteers who manage the committee and make all of the projects possible.
- We published *Local Food Procurement Policies: A Literature Review*.
- We launched the Food Miles Project with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture – a three year research, policy and education initiative examining the social, economic and environmental impacts of a primarily imported diet as compared to a primarily local diet.
- Our Urban Garden Project worked with approximately 100 youth, aged 5-13 at the Halifax Independent School and the Halifax Military Family Resource Centre.
- We conducted a seven week program on organic vegetable gardening, worm composting, herbal medicines and local foods at the two garden sites.
- HelioTrust offered workshops, events, and Open Farm Fridays from May to October at Red Fox Farm. We published and distributed the book *Twilight Meetings – Celebrating the Wisdom of Our Farmer-Mentors*, and grew and distributed Red Fife Heritage wheat seed.
- FAC volunteers hosted three successful Musicians for Farmers events with over 400 people in attendance.
- We sold out of our second printing of *Eating By the Seasons* cookbook and are planning a third printing.



Transportation Issues Committee | TIC

Encouraging more province-wide options and increased investment in sustainable transportation such as public transit, carpooling, walking and cycling.

Projects

TRAX: Laena Garrison, Jesse Joice, Stephanie Sodero, Maggy Burns, Amanda O' Rourke

Active & Safe Routes to School: Janet Barlow, Cheyenne Dickinson

Steer Clean: Maggy Burns, Scott Gillard, Andrew Martin, Ian Rowberry

Bike Again: Volunteer run

Highlights

- We distributed \$138,000 in Green Mobility Grants project to nine NS communities for sustainable transportation infrastructure projects such as bike paths, commuter trails and vanpool services.
- Our TRAX project developed a Green Mobility Strategy for Nova Scotia based on consultations in communities across NS.
- We planned and hosted the first annual provincial Green Mobility Forum to launch sustainable transportation into the public agenda.
- Thanks to our ASRTS project 132 schools participated in Walk to School Week 2007 including 24,000 students.
- ASRTS obtained support to create an active transportation safety skills education program for children and youth and promoted transportation planning and launched the Pace Car program throughout NS.
- ASRTS began the School Travel Planning national pilot program involving five NS schools
- Our Steer Clean project retired 134 older, high polluting vehicles in exchange for sustainable transportation incentives and launched CleanCarsCanada.ca
- We co-hosted a National eNGO summit on vehicle fuel efficiency regulations

Promoting sustainable ocean-based livelihoods and marine conservation in Atlantic Canada.

Projects

Ocean Zoning and Sustainable Fisheries: Marc Carrel, Susanna Fuller
Ecological Analysis of Fishing Gear Impacts: Jen Ford, Susanna Fuller
SeaChoice and Sustainable Seafood: Sadie Beaton, Anna Magera
Sable Island: Mark Butler

Highlights

- Thanks in part to our work, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization agreed to put a process in place to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems by December 2008.
- We continued to help SeaChoice to grow as Canada's Sustainable Seafood Program.
- We joined 14 other conservation groups in North America in developing and launching a Common Vision for Environmentally Sustainable Seafood.
- We continue to work with the Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association to promote Chedabucto Bay trap caught shrimp – a local, sustainable and low carbon footprint delicious bit of the ocean.
- Through our work with local seafood processors, hook and line groundfish has been available at local markets over the past year.
- In partnership with the Marine Conservation Biology Institute and the Living Oceans Society, we hosted a national workshop on impacts of fishing.
- In partnership with World Wildlife Fund we spearheaded a partnership with the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management planning office to develop a Spatial Conservation Action Plan for the Scotian Shelf.
- We initiated a community conservation project in Port Mouton and are collaborating with the Friends of Port Mouton Bay for a sustainable future for human and non-human residents of the bay.
- We published a peer-reviewed paper on reducing cod bycatch through long-lining with fabricated baits, with the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association
- We continue to sit on the National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee, to increase communication and consultation on fish habitat with environmental groups across Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- In partnership with the Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre, Bear River First Nations and the Coastal Communities Network, we screened *In the Same Boat* in 15 locations across the Maritimes.
- We are celebrating Environment Canada's announcement of continued funding for a human presence on Sable Island and protection the island as a National Wildlife Area.



The Ecology Action Centre has always given our students meaningful opportunities to gain hands-on experience through internships and volunteer opportunities. Not only does the EAC continue to be a driving force for creating positive change in Canada, they play a significant role in engendering a passion for environmental issues amongst individuals.

Tarah Wright, Ph.D.
Director of Environmental Programmes
Dalhousie University

Wilderness Issues Committee | WIC

Working for better forestry, less clearcutting, a network of legally protected areas and other conservation measures that will help protect Nova Scotia's wildlife and nature.

Projects

Public Lands: Kermit DeGooyer, Raymond Plourde

Standing Tall: Joanne Cook, Hana Hermanuk, Minga O'Brien, Tiffany Rainville, Jamie Simpson

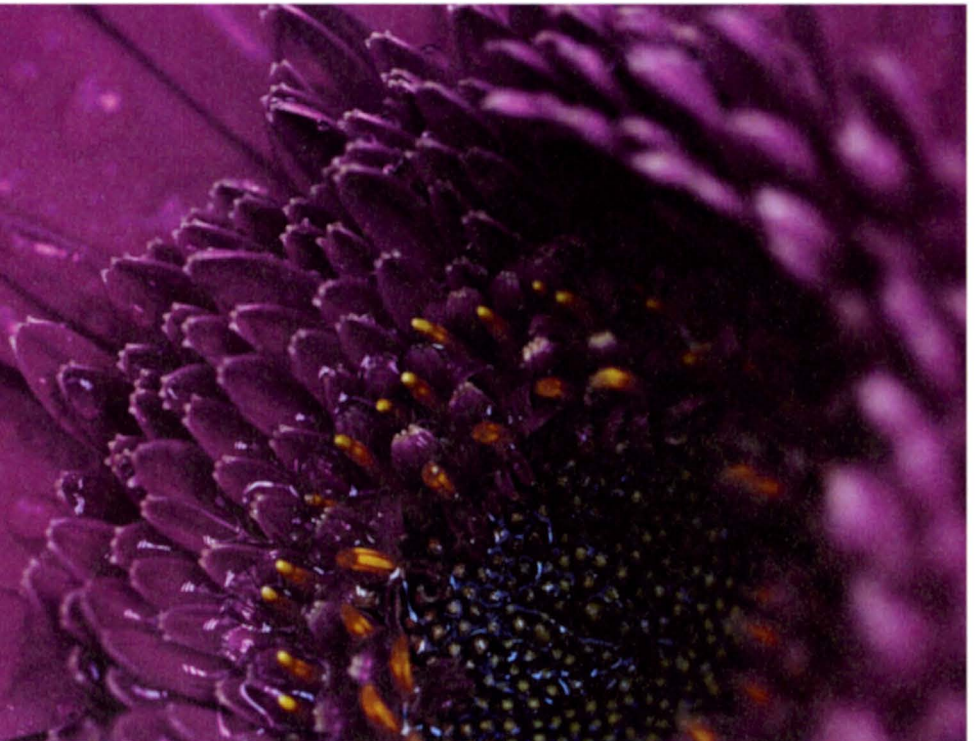
Highlights

- Standing Tall co-hosted the first ever Acadian Forest Science Conference.
- We negotiated an agreement with Neenah Paper, other NGOs, and the provincial government to move forward on Wilderness Area designation for Ship Harbour Long Lake on the eastern shore (14,000 ha).
- Our Public Lands Campaign helped secure Wilderness Area protection for the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes area (1,350 hectares) and 10,500 hectares of high conservation value lands that the Province acquired from Bowater Mersey in southwestern Nova Scotia.
- We played an active role in the Ministerial Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Committee to help bring sanity and responsibility to OHV use in Nova Scotia.
- We helped to raise the bar for industrial forestry practices and conservation of important ecological areas under industrial tenure by working with StoraEnso (now NewPage Port Hawkesbury) and assessors during the company's Forest Stewardship Council certification.
- We played lead a role in raising awareness within the conservation community of public consultations on provincial natural resources strategies.
- We organized a media campaign around the Voluntary Planning consultations, including an animated web portal and articles in the Chronicle Herald and other media.
- We created an information package about forests and forestry in Nova Scotia for public use during the Voluntary Planning consultations.
- We received contracted and volunteer research on forest subsidies, and comparisons of legal aspects of forestry among various jurisdictions for use in developing submissions to the voluntary planning process.
- We organized an alliance of nearly 50 Nova Scotia groups committed to supporting the work of Standing Tall and participating in the Voluntary Planning consultations.



"For over 30 years the Ecology Action Centre has dedicated itself to making Nova Scotia a healthier and cleaner place to live. The EAC is an inspiration for all Canadians."

The David Suzuki
Foundation



Our Funders

Thank you to all the foundations, organizations, businesses and individuals who have contributed money and in-kind resources to the Ecology Action Centre over the past year! We could not do the valuable work we do without your generous contributions.

Built Environment Committee

Canadian Ultimate Players Association
Environment Canada – EcoAction Community
Funding Program
Province of Nova Scotia

Coastal Issues Committee

Bonnell Cove Foundation
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Davis Foundation
Mountain Equipment Co-Op
Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund
Natural Resources Canada
Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association
Salamander Foundation
Individual donors

Energy Issues Committee

Conserve Nova Scotia
Environment Canada – EcoAction Community
Funding Program
Environment Canada – Science Horizons Program
Henry P. Kendall Foundation
Human Resources & Skills Development Canada
Solar Nova Scotia
Oak Foundation
Individual donors

Food Action Committee

Human Resources & Skills Development Canada
Mountain Equipment Co-Op
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture – Agri-Futures
October Hill Foundation
Individual donors

Marine Issues Committee

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
David Suzuki Foundation
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
Earthwatch
J.M. Kaplan Foundation
MCBI / Moore Foundation
Nova Scotia Communities Foundation
Tides Canada
World Wildlife Fund
Individual donors

Transportation Issues Committee

Conserve Nova Scotia
Centre for Sustainable Transportation
Environment Canada – EcoAction Community Funding
Program
Environment Canada
Green Communities
Halifax Regional Municipality
Insurance Bureau of Canada
Metro Transit
Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour
Nova Scotia Health Promotion & Protection
Nova Scotia Road Safety Advisory Committee
Province of NS – Transportation & Public Works
Resource Recovery Fund Board
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Individual donors

Wilderness Issues Committee

Atlantic Council for International Cooperation/Canadian
International Development Agency
EJLB Foundation
The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
Henry P. Kendall Foundation
Marguerite Hubbard Charitable Foundation
The McLean Foundation
Mountain Equipment Co-Op
The Ivey Foundation
Sage Foundation
Individual donors

EAC General Projects

Halifax Regional Municipality
Human Resources & Skills Development Canada
Mountain Equipment Co-Op
Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps
Patagonia
Individual donors

“Providing financial support to the Ecology Action Centre is an investment in the future of our province, and I know that it will pay ecological dividends. We are very fortunate to have the EAC and its dedicated, energetic staff.”

Graham Smith
Director, Sage Environmental Program

Treasurer & Financial Director's Report

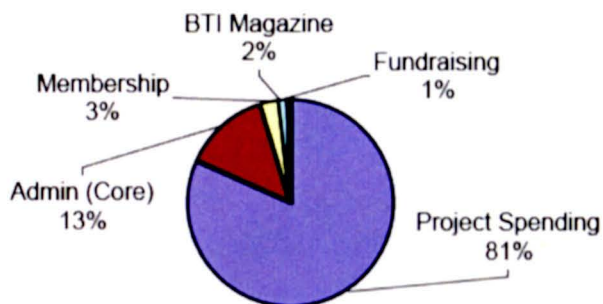
Thanks to the efforts of many people, the EAC continues to enjoy financial stability. The EAC ended the year with an excess of revenue over expenses of \$27,416. In order to ensure future stability, the Board approved the establishment of a Reserve Fund. At year end, \$27,250 of the excess was transferred into the new fund. This fund can only be used for unexpected building costs, expenses impacting business continuity, legal action or investments to further the EAC mission.

Following are a few highlights that contributed to EAC's financial stability. Gross revenue for core and projects was once again strong for the 07/08 fiscal year (\$338,443 and \$1.3 million respectively). Almost all core revenue line items realized growth over the previous year. Hats off to the organizing committee behind the Garden Party and the Sustainable Transportation lottery – they were responsible for 60% of the fundraising revenues. The capital campaign committee achieved its goal – more than \$140,000 was raised since the campaign began in 2005.

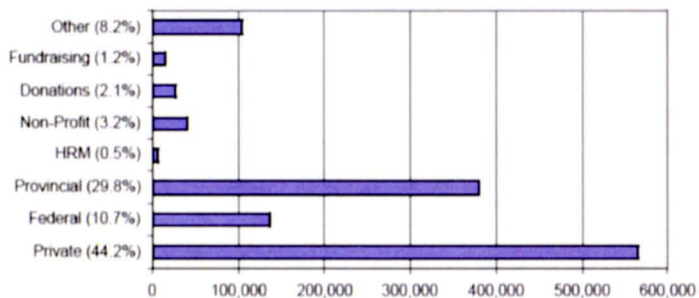
Core expenses increased by 10% over the previous year. Most of the expense increases are linked to increasing the capacity of core in order to provide more support to project staff and activities.

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2008. The audit was completed by Grant Thornton LLP. To obtain copies of the complete audited financial statements, call our Financial Director at (902) 442-0254.

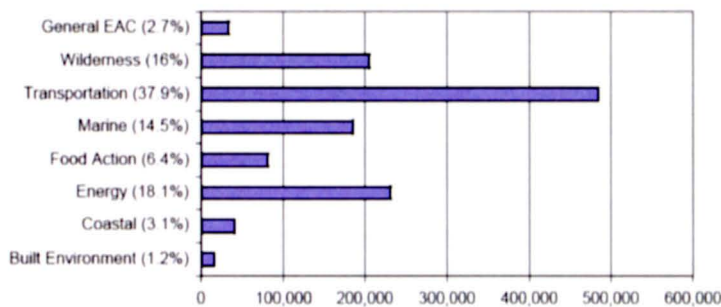
Overall Spending Breakdown 07/08



Project Funding Sources 07/08



Project Funding 07/08



Treasurer & Financial Director's Report

Statement of Operations

	Yr Ended March 31	
	2008	2007
Revenue		
Fundraising	58,690	36,024
Admin fees on projects	143,085	128,877
Membership & donations	77,675	70,740
Operating expense recoveries	16,763	10,981
BTI revenue	9,851	11,070
Interest on savings	9,555	3,862
Miscellaneous	4,476	5,710
Capital contribution	18,348	16,142
Project revenue	1,455,561	1,335,812
Project expenses	-1,455,561	-1,335,812
Total Revenue	338,443	283,406
Expenses		
Fundraising events	13,345	15,773
Bank & payroll fees	4,501	3,133
Between the Issues	26,276	21,911
Depreciation	20,661	17,945
Fern taxes, financing, maintenance	14,349	16,001
HST	2,834	4,627
Insurance	6,794	6,924
Membership, advertsg, travel	3,452	3,137
Office materials & equipment	17,015	16,691
Professional fees	10,290	8,500
Project contributions	16,135	0
Renos & rent	0	18,474
Utilities	5,858	6,969
Wage & benefits	169,517	142,727
Total Expenses	311,027	282,812
Excess of rev over expenses	27,416	594

Balance Sheet

	Yr Ended March 31	
	2008	2007
Assets		
<i>Current</i>		
Cash & cash equivalents	418,077	444,247
Marketable securities	22,600	21,685
Receivables	108,609	132,137
Prepaid expenses	6,713	3,059
	<u>555,999</u>	<u>601,128</u>
Property & equipment	333,520	344,809
Total Assets	889,519	945,937
Liabilities		
<i>Current</i>		
Payables & accruals	109,061	53,658
Deferred project revenue	360,229	499,519
Current portion of mortgage payable	4,781	4,492
	<u>474,071</u>	<u>557,669</u>
<i>Long-term</i>		
Deferred capital contributions	170,547	146,036
Mortgage payable	81,414	86,161
Note payable	29,500	49,500
	<u>281,461</u>	<u>281,697</u>
	<u>755,532</u>	<u>839,366</u>
<i>Surplus</i>		
Operating surplus	59,459	47,951
Investment in capital assets	47,278	58,620
Reserve fund	27,250	0
	<u>133,987</u>	<u>106,571</u>
Total Liabilities	889,519	945,937

Ecology Action Centre's Vision

A society in Nova Scotia which respects and protects nature and provides environmentally and economically sustainable solutions for its citizens.

Ecology Action Centre's Values

- EAC members, volunteers, and staff believe that the environment is tied to the well-being of society.
- EAC supports a climate of innovation.
- EAC comes from and supports the "grassroots".
- EAC aims to engage the public in dialogue for environmental improvement.

Ecology Action Centre's Purpose

Simon Melrose-Chair
Howard Moore-Treasurer
Nancy Wright-Secretary
Robin Aitken
Jennalle Butcher
Judith Cookey
Grant MacDonald
Nancy Neatt
Tim Roberts
Hudson Shotwell
Mark Tinmouth
Julie-Ann Vincent
Brian Wentzell
Rocky Yao
Peter Zimmer

"EAC has consistently used its position of leadership in environmental stewardship not only to advocate for specific outcomes that are based on good science, but for an approach to decision-making and to the development of policy that is strongly based on best available science and on the values and principles that are essential to science-informed decision-making, including openness, transparency and accountability. Without question, one consequence has been the greater involvement in decision-making not only by EAC but also by other community groups and by individuals who are more informed and empowered than would otherwise be the case."

William Lahey, Former Deputy Minister, NS Department