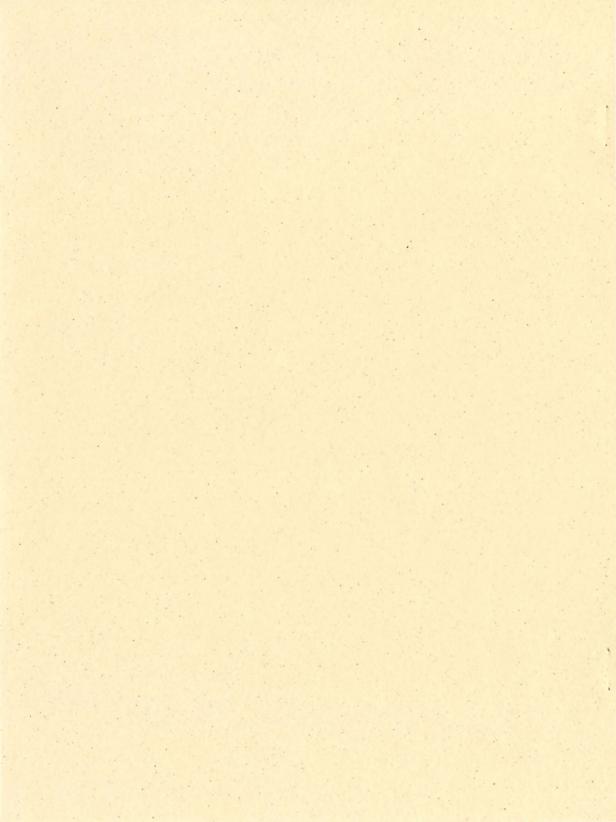




annual report 2001-2002



# ecology action centre annual report 2001-2002



#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| Chair's Report                  |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Issue Committee Reports         |    |
| Marine Issues Committee         | 7  |
| Coastal Issue Committee         | g  |
| Transportation Issues Committee | 11 |
| Urban Issues Committee          | 13 |
| Wilderness Committee            | 14 |
| Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail | 15 |
| Harbour Committee               | 16 |
| Energy Committee                | 16 |
| Core Committees                 |    |
| Fundraising Committee           | 17 |
| Personnal Committee             | 18 |
| Membership Committee            | 18 |
| House Committee                 | 18 |
| Events                          |    |
| Breaking Ground Conference      | 19 |
| Garden Party                    | 19 |
| Christmas Trees                 | 19 |
| Education                       |    |
| Between the Issues              | 20 |
| Hemlock Circus                  | 21 |
| Internal Director's Report      | 22 |
| Office Manager's Report         | 23 |
| Treasurer's Report              | 24 |
| Volunteers                      | 25 |
| Funders and Sponsors            | 26 |
| In-Kind Contributors            | 27 |

annual report 2000-2001









#### **Executive**

Peter Austin-Smith, Jr. – Co-Chair Susanna Fuller – Co-Chair Lianne Giswold – Treasurer Tricia MacLeod - Secretary

#### Board of Directors - Term Concluded

Caroline Cameron Susanna Fuller June Hall Fred Harrington Karen Hollett Veronica Sherwood

#### Continuing

Kevin Blair Tony Bowron Penny Doherty Tamara / Ben Lorincz\* Mike Milloy Peter Austin-Smith, Jr. Lianne Giswold Tricia MacLeod

\* Ben Lorincz replaces Tamara Lorincz from April 2001 –September 2002

#### **Office Staff**

Mary MacLeod, Office Manager Mark Butler, Internal Director

#### **Membership & Special Events**

John Abati, Spring 2002 Emily McMillan, Fall & Winter 2001/2 Jessica Block, Summer 2001

#### **Marine Issues**

Mark Butler, Marine Issues Coordinator Jennifer Ford, Marine Communications Coordinator Lara Gibson, Committee on Marine Bio-invasions Jayne Roma Heidi Schaefer Lesley Carter

#### **Deep Sea Corals**

Susan Gass Andrea Sayfy

#### **Coastal Water Trail**

Sue Browne Sheena Masson

#### Salt Marsh Restoration

Tony Bowron Allison Fitzpatrick, Summer 2001

### Transportation Issues Committee TRAX

Alexandra Fischer, TRAX Coordinator Stephanie Sodero, TRAX Coordinator Wayne Groszko, Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Rebecca O'Brien, TRAX Coordinator, maternity leave Dave Mitchell, Winter 2001/2

#### **Active and Safe Routes to School**

Stephanie Sodero, ASRTS Coordinator

#### Wilderness

Kermit deGooyer Scott Brown Veronica Sherwood

#### Vision

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

#### **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.

#### **Purpose**

EAC is an independent organization that strives to work with partners to:

- Provide up-to-date environmental information;
- · Pursue researched solutions; and
- · Act as a watch-dog for the Nova Scotia environment.

## chair's report

### to the 2002 annual general meeting









2001 marked the 30th year that the Ecology Action Centre has been educating on and advocating for environmental issues in Nova Scotia. We continue to be ever appreciative and grateful to our supportive members, volunteers, staff and friends of the Centre, without who EAC would not have been in existence for three decades. The centre has taken on some major initiatives in the past 12 months, and seems to be ever expanding. To follow is a brief timeline of the past year, outlining significant events and activities at the centre:

- Summer 2001: The Marine Issues Committee, with Sierra Legal Defence Fund as legal council requested a judicial review of the issuing of trawling licenses on Georges Bank, without a proper environmental assessment of the fishing gear and subsequent destruction of fish habitat. The decision to take legal action was a difficult one, and we hope that the end result will lead to protection of sensitive sea floor habitats.
- Fall 2001: The 30th Anniversary of the EAC was celebrated at St. Mary's Boat Club. Members, former staff, former board members all brought their memories of the past 30 years. The event was a good reminder of what the centre has accomplished in the past.
- 2001/2002: This year saw a change and expansion of staff members. Kermit Degooyer, Coordinator of the Wilderness Committee left the Centre for a life of travel and adventure. Scott Brown worked to complete the Public Lands Campaign. Rebecca O'Brien, TRAX Coordinator began a year of maternity leave in July and was replaced by Stephanie Sodero.

Rebecca will return in October 2002. In the Spring of 2002, John Abati was hired as our fulltime membership coordinator. Despite the success of the EAC at running projects and specific issue related educational programs, the core of the organi-zation is our membership.

- December 2001: Once again, Cheryl Benjamin coordinated the chemical free Christmas tree and wreath sale. The event was successful and continues to be one of the Centre's major fundraisers.
- Winter 2002: In response to growing concern about
  the effects of offshore oil and gas, EAC formed an
  Energy Committee which will advocate renewable
  energy sources, increased public consultation on oil
  and gas leases, and generally raising awareness of the
  effects of the oil and gas industry. A Coastal Issues
  Committee was also formed to address salt marsh
  habitat, access to coastal areas and land conservation
  issues where the land meets the sea.
- Winter/ Spring 2002: The publication of the proceedings from the Deep-Sea coral symposium as well as the proceedings from the Biological Invasions Workshop were exciting milestones for the Marine Issues Committee. Both were successful scientific meetings that have raised the level of awareness and spawned further research. EAC has been quoted in MacLean's Magazine and Canadian Geographic.

- Spring 2002: In addition to ongoing projects such as TRAX and Bike Again!, the Transportation Issues Committee completed a feasibility study on early vehicle retirement in Nova Scotia, ran a vehicle emissions testing clinic with Environment Canada and will conduct an anti-idling campaign in the coming summer.
- Spring 2002: In partnership with Dalhousie School
  of Planning and the Evergreen Foundation, EAC held
  an urban green space conference entitled Breaking
  Ground. This event was one of five in Canada, and
  focused on green spaces and urban planning in the
  Atlantic Region.
- EAC has been growing and growing...at one point
  this year we employed 12 people. Despite an overhaul
  and cleaning out of the library, additional phone lines
  and new computers, the Centre is bursting at the
  seams. A House Committee was established this year
  to explore the options of finding a permanent home
  for the Centre. This will be a major focus for the
  coming year.

We would like to thank our dedicated staff and volunteers, without whom none of the aforementioned events and accomplishments would have happened. In closing, I would like to thank board members who have completed their terms this year.

Karen Hollett has had a long history with EAC, and her legal expertise has been invaluable to the Centre. June Hall, in addition to being the only reason we manage to publish Between the Issues four times a year, has been a board member for four years. June took on the monumental task of reorganizing the library this winter. We cannot begin to thank her enough.

Veronica Sherwood, active in Hemlock Circus, Harbour Clean-up (specifically in efforts to stop the privatization of the treatment plants) and the Wilderness Committee is leaving the board, but will continue to be involved in EAC at the committee level.

Fred Harrington, Wilderness Committee representative has finished his term and looks forward to spending more time in Cape Breton.

Caroline Cameron, who has been wonderful in reminding us to keep rural Nova Scotians in mind, is completing her Masters Degree and will be spending most of the coming year out of the city. We hope that Caroline will join us again. Linda Roberts resigned in December to travel. Linda was a great asset to the board and will be missed.

Susanna Fuller who has been Co-Chair for the past two years, and on the Board for three is stepping down so that she can finish her thesis. This coming year will welcome seven new board members.

Submitted by, Susanna Fuller and Peter Austin-Smith

## ecology action centre issue committee reports





#### Marine Issues Committee

#### **Court Case**

On March 20, 2001 the Board of Directors of EAC unanimously agreed to proceed with a judicial review of what we consider to be illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. On July 4, 2001 we asked a judge to review the decision by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to reopen Georges Bank off southwestern Nova Scotia to groundfish draggers. This year we are once again challenging DFO's decision to allow dragging on Georges.

In December 2001, DFO brought a motion seeking to exclude from the Federal Court's consideration of the case all the expert evidence—six scientists have submitted affidavits in support of our position. The motion was argued in court on April 9th, 2002 and argued well may we add.

What we considered a controversial move, now seems like a widely accepted and obvious next step. The response to the court case from scientists, students, coastal residents, journalists and editorialists, funders, and fishermen has been very supportive. (Although many fishermen are watching and wondering whether right will ever win over might when it comes to fisheries management.)

The avalanche of research on the negative impacts of dragging continues. In March the U.S. National Academy of Sciences released a report that catalogued the impacts of dragging and instructed managers to immediately take steps to reduce impacts. They identified three measures: 1) reduce fishing; 2) use less destructive gear types, such as bottom hook and line; and 3) close areas with fragile habitat.

#### Other Marine Work

In July 2001 we had the luck to receive some additional funding and the wisdom to hire Jen Ford as Marine Communications Coordinator. While one would assume that the addition of a second staff member would lighten the load...we now have two, instead of one, busy marine coordinators.

Some of the projects that Jennifer is working on include the following:

Coastlines: a natural history column that appears in six weekly newspapers around the province.

Virtual Museum: we are providing material for the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History's new website "Eyes on the Edge of the Sea: Creatures and Controversies on Canada's East Coast".

Changing Landscapes, Changing Seascapes: a workshop organized by EAC and five other groups for those working on resource management, community-based management and nature conservation in Atlantic Canada.

Coral Newsletter: providing a monthly electronic newsletter to the Coolcoral Listserv.

We continue to work on sustainable fishing practices in other fisheries, particularly the swordfish long-line fleet which has a bycatch of up to 20 species, including several endangered species. What particularly distresses and infuriates us about this fishery is DFO's refusal to recognize harpooning as a more selective fishing method (no bycatch) and encourage it. We have not been successful in really bringing about change in that fishery and are re-examing our options.

Seven point three million hectares. That's the area of Nova Scotian waters that is under exploration licence. (The landmass of Nova Scotia is 5.3 million hectares.) As a result we could spend all our working hours on oil and gas issues. In the last year we have submitted comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Bids NSO1-1 (9 licences)(Nov. 2001), Canadian Environmental Assessment Act amendments (Feb. 2002), Offshore Oil and Gas waste Treatment Guidelines (April 2002), and the EnCana Deep Panuke Project Comprehensive Study (April, 2002).

We have been active members in the Save our Seas and Shores (SOS2) Coalition and participated in a DFO science review and the Public Review Commission's Hearings in Wagmatcook, Cape Breton. We are hoping that science and the importance of traditional industries prevail and governments institute a moratorium on these three coastal licences and protect sensitive areas. The Committee On Marine Bioinvasions (COMB) has continued to combat biological invasions through public awareness, education, and advocacy. The COMB choir (Gretchen Fitzgerald, Jayne Roma, Annelise Chapman, Anthony Chapman, and Lara Gibson) made its debut on November 2nd at the 30th birthday party for the Ecology Action Centre. Our workshop, Marine Biological Invasions: A Perspective on Atlantic Canada and New England, was a watershed for much of our activities in the past year. This event brought together government, industry, academic researchers, the media and the general public to look at the issues of marine bio-invasions on the East Coast.

As a result of the success of our workshop, COMB was invited to sit on the newly formed North East Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel. Lara Gibson, our workshop co-coordinator, has been participating in this US-Canadian group, which provides a forum where various levels and departments of government, academics, NGO's, and industry can interact to address the problem of aquatic bioinvaders. Also as a consequence of contacts made at the workshop, COMB member Gretchen Fitzgerald was invited to participate in ground-level discussions aimed at formulating a national code on invasive species. At a meeting hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Federation last November, parties working in the field of biological invasion reached a consensus that we need to act now to prevent and control bioinvaders. Participants at this meeting identified key principles and approaches for dealing with biological invasions in Canada. COMB has opted to participate in a multi-stakeholder working group that will refine how to implement the recommendations of this national group.

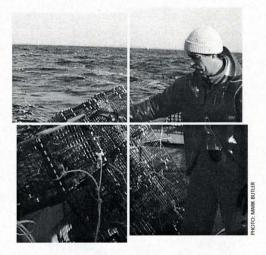
In April, thanks to the expertise and diligence of Anthony Chapman, Lara Gibson, June Hall and Heidi Schaefer, COMB was proud to announce the publication of the workshop proceedings. As well as being a compendium of information on biological invasions for this region, the proceedings signify COMB's role as one of the only conservation groups in Canada addressing the issue of biological invasions. The recommendations delineated in the proceedings have given COMB renewed focus and momentum as we attempt to convey the severe consequences of biological invasions to implicated industries and the general public and urge governments to enact effective policies to deal with this threat.

COMB continues to participate in Transport Canada's Atlantic Canada Marine Advisory Subcommittee on Ballast Water. We are lobbying for more effective ballast water regulations, ones that will stipulate standards for ballast water treatment, address the problem of hull fouling organisms, and ballast sediments. We are also urging enhanced monitoring for bioinvaders and compliance with existing guidelines for the management of ballast. Our role on Transport Canada's sub-committee has been instrumental in increasing focus within the regional Transport Canada office on this issue, as well as encouraging research on ballast water as a vector for bioinvaders..

Lately, much of COMB's efforts have centred on eliminating an alternative ballast water exchange zone in the Gulf of St Lawrence. We feel that exchanging ballast in this area represent s a serious threat to this ecosystem. Furthermore, efforts on the part of the Great Lakes to enshrine this exchange zone in legislation create a disincentive to create effective ballast management policies. In addition to lobbying and generating media attention on this issue, we are attempting to enhance awareness within the shipping industry about the need for effective ballast water management. To this purpose, Alana Pelrine has created a brochure on the subject of biological invasions and ballast treatment, which we intend to publish and distribute to ship's crews.

On June 11th - Ocean's Day - COMB called on members of the general public to participate in the first ever Bioinvasion Beach Patrol. This event signals our first foray into monitoring for bioinvasions. We hope that community participation in this event will be a precursor for more intensive monitoring for bioinvasions in Halifax Harbour, an initiative that is being spearheaded by Lise Chapman. COMB continues to meet at the EAC on a semi-regular basis. Projects we are considering in the upcoming year include a Bioinvaders Bus traveling exhibit, Halifax Harbour monitoring, and the formation of a national coalition to battle bioinvaders.

Submitted by, Mark Butler



#### **Coastal Issue Committee**

Nova Scotia's 7,600 km of coastline are home to an astonishing variety of habitats, and are under increasing development pressure.

In recent years, two of EAC's major activities have involved this transition zone between land and sea – the Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail project (newly established as an organization in its own right, separate from EAC) and the Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Problem was, we never knew quite where to put them- with the Wilderness Committee or with Marine Issues. Increasingly, too, we've found ourselves dealing with coastal questions beyond the scope of our two projects. Clearly, the time was ripe for a new EAC committee: the Coastal Issues Committee (CIC) was established this past fall.

Our Goal: To promote coastal conservation and sustainable coastal communities in Nova Scotia.

#### Our objectives:

- To promote the conservation of coastal landscapes, habitats and species.
- To ensure and enhance public access to the coast.
- To communicate coastal environmental issues to resource users and the general public and engage them in the stewardship of the coastal zone.
- To promote sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities.
- · To promote sustainable coastal planning.

We're working towards these objectives in the following projects and areas:

- The Community Based Salt Marsh Restoration Project, which is concerned with the conservation, preservation and restoration of coastal habitats on the Bay of Fundy;
- The Coastal Waters Trail, which targets conservation and management of coastal lands and islands for wildlife, low impact recreation and public access. We're maintaining close links to this project, even though it's fledged from EAC;

 A Conservation Strategy for the Maritimes: identifying conservation opportunities throughout the Maritimes and fostering partnerships to take action to conserve the coastlines.

A fundamental component of each of these activities is to increase public awareness of coastal issues.

Our first joint activity: A response to the interim report by the Voluntary Planning Task Force on Non-resident Land Ownership in Nova Scotia, which was released in September (for a copy, contact Tony Bowron at EAC).

Ongoing and future activities include the development of our response paper into a full-fledged position paper around which an educational/media campaign could be launched on the issues of coastal land ownership, access and coastal development.

A fundamental component of all our activities is to increase public awareness of coastal issues – by developing educational resources, giving presentations, engaging with federal, provincial and municipal governments, becoming involved with community groups and other stakeholders.

An invitation: The Coastal Issues Committee invites everyone interested in coastal environments and livelihoods to take part in our activities. We meet at EAC on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. For info, contact Tony Bowron (chair) at 429-2202 or coastalissues@canada.com.

Submitted by, Tony Bowron

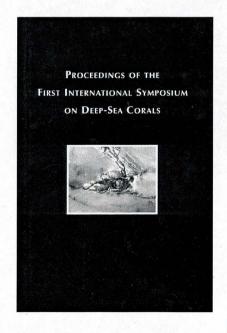
#### **Salt Marsh Restoration Project**

The past year has been an exciting and busy one for the salt marsh project. Activities during this time concentrated on conducting an assessment of tidal restrictions along highway 215 in Hants County. This inventory of tidal crossings was intended to identify and assess tidal restrictions and barriers, such as highway culverts, in order to produce a list of priority sites for restoration, finalize site selection and prepare for restoration work.

The resulting report (An Assessment of Tidal Crossings along Hants County's Highway 215: Opportunities and Recommendations for Salt Marsh Restoration) summarized the summer's field work and made recommendations for the mitigation and restoration of salt marsh and tidal river habitats at the identified problem crossings.

The report that was produced on the summer's activities is being used to generate discussions with project partners towards the selection of a problem crossing for restoration. A potential site has been selected and we are currently very busy consulting with property owners, the local community and preparing the summer field season.

We are continuing to strengthen our relationships with key project partners and supporters including Department of Transportation and Public Works, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Ducks Unlimited Canada. During this period we have also continued our broader education, advocacy and coordinating role.











ALEXANDRA FISCHER AND REBECCA O'BRIEN OF TRAX.



## Transportation Issues Committee

This year has seen significant growth in TIC's involvement in transportation issues and the momentum continues to build!

In partnership with Clean Nova Scotia, TIC launched a National Cycling Campaign, asking the federal government to promote cycling as a mode of transportation. With the beginning of the HRM regional planning process TIC will be submitting a position paper to the Healthy Growth panel. We hope that our presence will help to move the sustainable transportation agenda forward. This year, a TIC volunteer made a generous donation to help send HRM Traffic and Transportation Manager, Dave McCusker, to the first national transportation demand management conference in Vancouver.

The death of Corey Mock, an avid cyclist, on July 9, 2001 was a sobering event that has led the province to look more closely at cycling safety. TIC will organize a memorial ride for Corey this July, in order to raise awareness about the need to share the roads. Several studies and results from the Statistics Canada Census revealed that Nova Scotians have particularly inactive lifestyles and are victims of high rates of lung disease and asthma. In the coming year we hope to educate people about the health implications of transportation habits. To follow is a more detailed account of the work accomplished by the individual TIC projects in the past year.

#### **TRAX Project**

TRAX has continued to be a strong advocate of sustainable transportation in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Through our trip reduction programs, we are working hard to establish incentives at workplaces to encourage employees to switch their commuting mode away from single occupancy vehicles. This past year, as we entered the second phase of our project, the number of organizations we are working with has expanded even further. Our popular active transportation project

with Dalhousie University nursing students, entitled "Two Feet, a Heartbeat and a Bus Pass," was put in place both at Health Canada and the Department of Natural Resources. TRAX has also continued its work with university groups and Metro Transit to implement the U-PASS system. This year, attractive promotional posters were prepared, surveys were conducted on university campuses and referendums will take place in the fall of 2002. With any luck, HRM will provide a universal bus pass system for students in the fall of 2003.

In terms of public education and outreach, we implemented a successful Metro Transit advertising campaign for the second year running, with colourful posters up on the interior and exterior of buses, as well as on bus shelters. We continued to engage the public through presentations and substantial media coverage. We have been active on a number of committees, such as the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee and Road Sub-committee and the HRM Bikeways Taskforce, to name a few. The Sharing the Road Committee, which was formed after the death of local cyclist Corey Mock, has prepared a pamphlet for drivers and cyclists with clear information on the rules of the road, as well as more comprehensive coverage for the next printing of the Driver's Education Handbook. In terms of infrastructure, new bicycle racks have emerged throughout the city - some with the EAC logo, others more anonymous, with more on the way.

We have continued to nurture our relationships with Metro Transit, HRM and a number of other partners. In an innovative partnership, TRAX helped to fund the hiring of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for HRM. To build on the efforts of 2000, TRAX organized the Commuter Challenge for businesses and government departments and helped organize Bike to Work Week - both events were held in June of 2001. The second Earth Car Free Day in Halifax took place on April 25th, 2002. This year, Fredericton, NB and Corner Brook, Nfld. took Mayor Peter Kelly up on his challenge to other Atlantic Canadian cities. Halifax's participation more than doubled – but Fredericton put us to shame with a total of 940 registered participants in comparison to our 575! Get ready for next year – the Car Free race is on!

#### **Active and Safe Routes to School Program**

The goal of the Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) program is to encourage more students to walk and bike to school, instead of having their parents drive them. This project is run cooperatively by the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission, Go for Green and TIC. As the program is still relatively new in HRM, a lot of work has focused on spreading the word about the program, through meeting with parents, teachers and principals, as well as by including information in materials that go directly to teachers. Some schools have already enthusiastically embraced the program, such as Springvale Elementary where they have instituted "Walking Wednesdays". Springvale staff meet students along designated routes so that students can get exercise and benefit the environment by walking, while at the same time addressing parents' fears of bullying and 'stranger danger' by having staff present. Currently, ASRTS is trying to get as many HRM schools as possible involved in Environment Week and preparations are already beginning for International Walk-to School Day. held in the first week of October.

#### **Early Vehicle Retirement**

Gillian Austin and Angelica Feigin completed a twomonth contract with TIC to assess the feasibility of an early vehicle retirement project in HRM. The aim of the project is to encourage retirement of older, high emissions vehicles (pre-1987) and provide incentives for people to adopt less polluting transportation modes. For example, a person could receive a year's worth of bus passes or \$500 towards a Commonweal Carshare membership in exchange for retiring their older car. Funding for the project was provided by Environment Canada, and this study was one of nine across Canada. A proposal to implement the project will be written and vehicle scrappage may become a project of TIC in the coming months.

#### **Vehicle Emissions and Anti-Idling**

The main focus of TIC and TRAX's work to date has been to get people out of their cars. We acknowledge that this is not feasible for everyone, so we are expanding our focus to include education on the effects of vehicle emissions. TIC has recently hired Kate Thompson to organize a vehicle emission testing clinic (May 22-24) and Michael Leitold to coordinate an anti-idling campaign with vehicle fleets in HRM, encouraging them to Turn It Off.

#### **Bike Again! Community Project**

Bike Again! has been volunteer-run since its inception in the fall of 2000. To date, over 200 bicycles have been repaired and given out to community members. Bike Again! has worked closely with Metropolitan Immigrants Settlement Association (MISA), Canada World Youth and dozens of volunteers. Donations of bikes continue to come in with little solicitation! Bike Again! is housed in the basement of the Bloomfield Community Centre, and is looking for workshop space. This coming year, we will be finally able to hire a paid coordinator to work on the project. TIC would never have accomplished so much this year, were it not for incredible volunteers and dedicated staff. A big thanks to them!

Submitted by, Susanna Fuller, Alex Fischer and Stephanie Sodero

#### **Urban Issues Committee**

The Urban Development Issues Committee (UDI) has been relatively inactive over the past year. A Strategic planning session was held in June. It was decided that there was sufficient interest to keep the committee going. At that time, a project was proposed, where photos of good/bad development would be collected over the summer. The idea was to create a photo display that could be used at public meetings, particularly those put on by HRM as part of the regional planning process. The intent was to stimulate discussion about how development needs to become less car dependent and how that would look by using examples from across HRM.

A follow up meeting was scheduled for Sept. 11. As we all know, events forced the cancellation. The committee has not been able to reform since, as there has been little interest. The committee has been dormant, with plans to push for a seat on the regional planning process, which would be shared with TIC/TRAX.

On a positive note, a member of UDI attended a public meeting in November on development charges for new subdivisions. These charges are intended only for master plan areas, but staff was pushed to include all areas on the suburban fringe, however, staff did not change their position, feeling that those lands could be rezoned to holding if large scale development applications begin.

Also, as part of the good/bad development photos, CBC Radio 1did a piece with myself, traveling to various parts of HRM, and explaining what was positive or negative. Examples included the Gottingen St/Quinpool rd. area as positive, and Clayton Park as negative, but with potential walkability that was not considered when the area was developed.

At this time, the UDI committee is working on a position paper for the regional planning process, and hopes to play a role on the regional planning partnership committee, in addition to attending various public meetings as part of the regional planning process.

Submitted by, David Aalders









#### Wilderness Committee

#### **Public Wildlands:**

The Wilderness Committee has been actively promoting the protection of Crown land through the "New Vision for Public Lands" Project. WC helped establish a broad coalition of support for public lands protection from local conservation groups, businesses, municipalities and individuals. This Public Lands Coalition identified a total of 19 "hotspot" areas in need of conservation. As part of the promotional campaign, WC has developed a brochure/ poster on the Ship Harbour Long Lake proposed wilderness area which includes postcards to facilitate lobbying, newspaper ads promoting protection of several proposed areas, as well as professional road signs. To date, pressure from WC led to a moratorium on resource activities in one of these hotspot regions, and no future activities planned in some others.

Throughout the year, WC increased public awareness about wilderness conservation and forestry practices through substantial media coverage and presentations to a number of different audiences such as schools and church groups. In addition, one of our volunteers prepared and distributed an information package on Ship Harbour Long Lake to local high schools.

#### **Forestry Practices:**

A Maritime Steering Committee of the Forest Stewardship Council was struck to work on regional forestry standards for certification. The WC representative to this committee has played an important role in continuing work on the refinement of these standards for the Acadian forest type. We have also supported the Softwood contact group's request to include environmental considerations in the softwood lumber debate.

The Clearcut Nova Scotia website has been updated and includes information on the impacts of clearcutting and on more sustainable alternatives, articles, aerial photos, links and a discussion forum.

EAC participated in the Nova Forest Alliance for much of the year, in an effort to promote sustainable forestry. However, in March, the Ecology Action Centre, along with the Nova Scotia Environmental Network and the NS Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, withdrew from the Nova Forest Alliance due to the industry bias of the organization and the fact that little had been done to reduce clearcutting in the province. Since then, some initial work has been done to establish a forestry coalition with conservation groups and woodlot owners to move towards sustainable forestry practices in the province.

The coordinator of the wilderness committee for several years, Kermit deGooyer, left the committee early in 2002 to travel and attend school. We would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication. Scott Brown acted as coordinator for the public lands portion of wilderness activities for the early months of 2002. In the coming year, we hope to be able to hire another full-time coordinator, continue our work on public lands protection and expand our forestry focus. In addition, we plan to expand the educational activities of the committee. For example, this summer, a committee member will be leading guided hikes in HRM's wilderness areas.

Submitted by, Alexandra Fischer





#### **Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail**

During the summer and fall of 2001, Sue Browne worked on establishing campsites for the Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail. With funding from the NS Sports and Recreation Commission and Mountain Equipment Coop, she surveyed public islands and coastal lands in the Terence Bay - Prospect area. The idea was to collect information on the ecology and use of the lands to determine how to site campsites with the least impact. She also opened up discussion with the residents of the coastal communities to determine the level of community support or concern. The consensus was that conservation and access protection is important and Sue is working within a regional context to designate the public lands. There is also talk of doing remedial work on Hearn Island, which is the only public island with a sand beach in the granite coastline and consequently highly overused and abused. Future work on the water trail will be undertaken by the NS Coastal Water Trail Association, which was established in the fall. A board of directors is creating a plan of action for the next year and establishing a membership and volunteer network. For more information contact Sue at 902-852-3082 or seatrail@istar.ca

Submitted by,

Sue Browne





#### **Harbour Committee**

EAC has been working for several years to get the Halifax Harbour cleaned up.

Rosalee Grette Lydon has headed up the harbour committee for the past 13 years. Rosalie worked hard this year to push for a source control bylaw that limits the substances that can be dumped by businesses and industry. Rosalee agreed to sit on the Harbour Bid Selection Committee in Fall 2001. Because this position required that she not communicate with anyone outside the Committee including the EAC and because EAC had grave concerns about the privatization bid, EAC and Rosalee came to a mutual agreement that Rosalie would not be representing EAC on the Selection Committee.

In 2001, the Selection Committee of HRM was faced with deciding who would be awarded the contract for the primary sewage treatment plants. EAC joined several other NGOs, including the Council of Canadians in forming a coalition against privatization of sewage treatment. Unfortunately, the Harbour Solutions Committee awarded the contract to Suez-Lyonnaise, a multinational water resources company. This is a precedent in Canada, and marks the first time that a public water resource has been privatized.

Since the decision of the Committee, it has not been easy for Rosalee to distance herself from the decision and the Board of the EAC has made the decision to continue to work on Harbour Issues, but does not support a private solution. We thank Rosalee for the considerable time and effort she has put into making Halifax Harbour a cleaner place.

Submitted by, Susanna Fuller

#### **Energy Committee**

The new Energy Issues Committee (EIC) of the EAC was electrified into existence in February of this year with its first and very successful committee meeting. EIC is focused on increasing the awareness and implementation of truly renewable energy sources in Nova Scotia, and in exploring the lessons learned around the globe in developing and using renewable energy technology.

This inspired and eager committee intends to tackle a number of energy related issues ranging from province-wide initiatives, to local, "in your own home" projects that are most relevant to the citizens of Nova Scotia. For example, the EAC is currently seeking a new home to accommodate its growing staff and volunteers. EIC decided this new home should also act as a demonstration for innovative and effective ways to increase the amount of renewable energy used in homes, increase the energy efficiency of homes, and demonstrate conservation measures that can be adopted by most Nova Scotians today. This is just one of the many ideas EIC has for bringing better energy practices and options into the everyday lives of EAC's members, and future members, in Nova Scotia and across the country.

Submitted by, Kevin Blair

#### **Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee has been occupied with two main activities over the past year: (1) an assessment of EAC's need to acquire new database management software to enhance its ability to retain and organize information relating to fundraising and membership activities, and (2) the production of the annual fundraising appeal letter mailed to members and supporters.

The first of these activities involved conducting a series of meetings with EAC volunteers and staff, the purpose of which was to determine the information needs of staff and volunteer committees, and to identify the best way to obtain suitable software at a minimal cost. After considerable consultation and research, the Committee concluded that the best option for the Centre is an application called eBase (which is made available to community organizations at minimum cost and is being used by many environmental groups in the US and Canada). It then began conducting tests to ensure eBase can in fact satisfy the EAC's requirements. To date, the results of those tests have been encouraging, so the Committee hopes to make final recommendations regarding its implementation sometime in the next few months. With luck (and a lot of hard work), the Committee anticipates the new database may be operational by Fall 2002.

In consultation with the issues committees and the Board, the Fundraising Committee also produced and distributed the annual fundraising appeal letter in November 2001. In general, the Committee was pleased with the response to the appeal. However, feedback received from some members and donors suggests that there needs to be improved coordination between the Fundraising and Membership Committees, particular in relation to contacts with members and donors. In accordance with its responsibilities under the EAC's by-laws, one of the Committee's goals for 2002-2003 is, therefore, to work toward the development of a strategic plan encompassing all of EAC's revenue generating activities, including memberships, special events, submissions to funding organizations, and direct mail fundraising appeals.



CAROLINE CAMERON AND JESSICA KIM AT THE GARDEN PARTY

In closing, many thanks to Lianne Giswold, Mike Ruxton, and Luke Pelot for all their efforts as members of this Committee. In addition, special thanks to Chris Henkelmann and Tricia MacLeod for lending their technical expertise and to Mary MacLeod for her goodnatured support of the Committee's work. New members are always welcome. The Committee now holds its meetings in members' homes, so please contact the EAC for details if you are interested in becoming involved. The Committee meets the second Thursday of each month.

Submitted by, Janice Brown

#### **Personnal Committee**

The Ecology Action Centre strives to be an open and equitable employer. As the Centre continues to grow, the need for a personnel policy with guidelines to ensure consistency has become increasingly apparent. As a result, the Personnel Committee of the Ecology Action Centre has had several meetings this year to develop the Centre's first personnel policy. This document was discussed with staff and Board members and will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The policy deals with issues such as hiring, vacation and performance appraisals.

Submitted by, Alexandra Fischer

#### Membership

We are a membership-based organization. Members make the EAC work! A large membership makes our voice strong, credible and accountable. Membership dues are an independent, diversified source of funding which financially supports the office and the staff. The more members we have, the more people we are able to reach, and in turn, the more people that are able to reach us.

Given the importance of members to the EAC as an organization, the Membership Committee was formed to recruit new members and to continue to nurture the relationship with its existing members. Retaining existing members into future years has become an important focus for the committee. A strong renewal-mailout program has been developed, and more membership payment options are available, ranging from one-time payments and monthly contributions, to automatic renewal from your credit card or bank account. The Membership committee has helped make it easier for members to remain a valued part of this organization. We hope everyone will re-member the EAC and help the membership committee and the coordinator to continue to increase membership.

Once again, September was Membership Month at the EAC. This year's campaign continued with the popular "members to members" drive and "call centres" were held here in the EAC offices. While the September 11, 2001 tragedy in the United States certainly affected new membership numbers, the campaign successfully increased numbers from last year, reaching 550 members immediately after the drive. "A membership a day" is our new motto, and we look forward to a particularly successful year for membership at the EAC.

As the EAC values the support, ideas, and contributions of its members, this committee appreciates hearing about any concerns or input the membership would like addressed. To contact the committee, we may be reached by calling the office, or by email at our new address: remembereac@ecologyaction.ca.

Submitted by, Kevin Blair and John Abati

#### **House Committee**

We need a permanent home. We are into our thirties and it's time! We have established a Home Sweet Home Committee made up of members of the community and long-time supporters of EAC. We are investigating mortgage rates, checking out suitable areas, determining our requirements (kitchen, meeting room, energy efficiency, etc.), and planning a capital campaign. Anybody reading this who has ideas about location, possible partners, and opportunities please contact us. We are open to teaming up with other NGOs.

Submitted by, Mark Butler

## ecology action centre events

#### **Breaking Ground Conference**

For the third year in a row, EAC was a partner in the Dalhousie Planning Symposium. This year, the Evergreen Foundation provided funding for "Breaking Ground: Greening the Urban and Regional Landscape". Over 150 people from students, to professional planners, gardeners and policy makers attended the three-day symposium held in Pier 21 from March 20-22. This year, there was a focus on the Atlantic region, with people presenting green space projects and plans from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland. The keynote speaker for the conference was renowned Belgian architect Lucien Kroll, who presented on participatory design projects and innovative ecological communities.

Submitted by, Susanna Fuller

#### **Garden Party**

The third annual garden party was held on Sunday, May 6th at Saint Mary's Boat Club. We were yet again favoured with great weather. Having fixed a regular date, the Sunday before Mother's Day, has helped ensure excellent attendance. Auctioneer John Dunsworth along with the help of emcee Olga Milosovitch did an amazing four hour performance, inveigling about \$9,200 from a generous crowd. There were incredible items at great prices, over fifty lots in all as well as about forty silent auction items.

The experienced and ever efficient Garden Party Committee along with a loyal slate of competent volunteers pulled off a smoothly run event. Most importantly, people had fun. So spread the word for next year-same time, same place! In the meantime a very sincere thank you to the sponsors, supporters, volunteers and Garden Party Committee members.

(Reprinted from last year's Annual Report as it occurred in May 2001.)

Submitted by, Peggy Cameron

#### **Christmas Trees**

10 years! That is how long the Ecology Action Centre has been working with Sheldon Rafuse of Family Trees in New Ross, Nova Scotia, to contribute to an environment with fewer chemicals. The annual sale of chemical-free Christmas trees and wreathes is the EAC's second largest fundraiser, selling over 300 trees and 100 wreathes this year, and raising over \$4,000.00 for the Centre's operation. Beginning in October, over 40 volunteers and staff contributed their time and enthusiasm to the organizing, promoting, selling, decorating, picking-up, and delivering of trees and wreathes. As always, the grand finale is tree pick-up day where EAC supporters meet, exchange seasonal best wishes, and enjoy a treat from Santa's elves! A sincere thank-you to all our volunteers and customers for their continued support of our annual sale and for contributing to a healthier environment.

See you at the Farmer's Market in November!

Submitted by, Cheryl Benjamin

## ecology action centre education









#### Between the Issues

Since the last AGM, Between the Issues has appeared three times; the next (Summer) issue should appear in early July.

This year we welcome a new designer, Neil Fraser of Studio Verit, who joined us last summer. Neil has been experimenting with full-process colour, though we can only afford it on eight pages (one flat) of each issue. Our major effort this year was a special edition on energy, which came out in March. BTI is not cheap to produce (over \$2000/issue and rising), though advertising covers some of the costs.

BTI is the mouthpiece of the Ecology Action Centre, and for many members the only contact they have with the Centre. We mail copies to members and distribute much of the rest of our print run of 2000 (more for special editions) to libraries, universities, health-food stores, cafes etc., around metro. Extra copies are always available at the Centre.

I'd like to thank Neil Fraser, design and lay-out; Michael Wile, advertising; Jeanne Ju, ecobrief illustrations; Lynn Brooks and Judy Cookey, who help me with distribution; and of course our many, many contributors.

Submitted by, June Hall

#### **Hemlock Circus**

Current volunteer members: Emma Boardman, Mark Butler, Robert Hansen, Veronica Sherwood, Martin Willison, Pamela Wentzell -with help from Paul Shreenan in recording radio play, and training (in-kind donation) from Zack Fraser

In the past year, Hemlock Circus (EAC's theatre group) has performed plays and given environmental theatre workshops at many elementary schools and youth groups across the province; at Wolfville's Spring Fair; at two Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN) events; at EAC special events, including the 30th anniversary party and the marine fundraiser; and at Dalhousie University classes. We have also performed well-received stunts at various protests throughout the year, some of which have gained the attention of the media for important issues, such as privatization in the Halifax Harbour Cleanup.

Although this year we have had to say good-bye to devoted and valued members Caitlin Hancey, Lisa Christie and founder, Nancy Shackell, Hemlock Circus is still going strong. We will soon record a play about marine issues for broadcast on CKDU, and possibly other radio stations, with the generous help of Paul Shreenan. We also have planned a skill-building workshop with Irondale Ensemble Project, which is likely to kick off the creation of our next play.



MARK BUTLER AND MARTIN WILLISON OF HEMLOCK CIRCUS.

In the next year we hope to hire a part-time co-coordinator and increase our number of performances. The establishment of a lecture series to go along with our performances has been discussed, and we hope to implement this as well in the next year. We also hope to expand our membership, so if you are yearning for a chance to nurture your inner beetle, or just want to do your part in educating our children and annoying our politicians, please give us a call.

Submitted by, Emma Boardman

# internal director's report to the 2002 annual general meeting

EAC recently conducted a small survey of conservation organizations in Atlantic Canada with a focus on funding. We were surprised to learn that membership fees make up a small proportion of nearly all groups' funding, between approximately 10-20% of total funding. When we crunch the numbers EAC is somewhere in this range.

Yet without membership I think EAC would cease to exist or at least be a very different organization than it is today. Members are a measure of our support. Members help keep us honest. Members learn from us, and we from them. Some members have been with us for more than 30 years, the lifetime of the organization. This year we are working hard on raising membership and have hired a coordinator to help us.

Without volunteers, that is active and engaged members, EAC would certainly cease to exist. Volunteers fundraise, volunteers go to schools, volunteers come up with new projects, volunteers talk to the media, volunteers go to protests, volunteers sit on the Board of Directors, and much more. At times in the organizations' history, it was only volunteers that kept us going.

Volunteers are also helping us to find a permanent home. EAC, perhaps in concert with other NGOs, is interested in acquiring a building. If you know of an ideal location or building, have an idea, or know someone who can help us with the capital campaign please call us. We're here to stay.

Submitted by,

Mark Butler





SUSANNA FULLER AND MARK BUTLE

# office manager's report to the 2002 annual general meeting





MARY MACLEOD

This has been another busy year in the EAC office. With the help of Lianne Giswold and Tom Krausse, I have made refinements to the accounting system that enable us to better see the overall financial picture. The changes also give a better idea of where the projects are as part of EAC and on their own.

One way of understanding how active we have been in the office is to look at the bank accounts we operate and the projects they support. We currently have 14 active accounts – although one, Coastal Water Trails, will be closing in the near future. Six of these accounts are new this year. We run nineteen projects from these accounts. Fourteen of these projects are on-going and include things like Between the Issues and Salt Marsh. Two are new accounts that will support new projects, such as the Anti-Idling Project. A couple will be closing this year, while at least one may keep going as an outgrowth of a completed pilot project.

We have lots of people in the office, some days more than others. There has been some staff fluctuation, but we generally have 9 or 10 people on staff at any given time. Some of our contractors may work out of the office for some or all of their term, and of course, we have volunteers for project and general EAC work. I have been lucky to have regular help from Emma Boardman on a weekly basis, and to have two students from the Sacred Heart School, Brooke Bateman and Meaghan Miller, on Wednesday mornings for the last nine months.

We have added another computer and telephone to our equipment inventory, and now run four EAC telephone lines as well as the dedicated TRAX line. A lot of our general interaction with the public takes place on the phone or by e-mail, special events aside! We have launched a new web page and have a new web address this year (www.ecologyaction.ca) – web communication grows and continues to be a source of new contacts, especially new members.

We continue to wrestle with how to provide space for more people in the office. The library now houses two workstations. June Hall has done an incredible amount of work on culling the library collection to meet our objective of a current working collection, with only EAG archival content. This is a job that is on going. We will probably require a student or other dedicated individual for a prolonged stint of data entry once the culling is complete, as no cataloguing has been done for some time.

We look to be busy again this year, with several significant projects, and a new membership database in the offing.

Submitted by,

Mary MacLeod

### treasurer's report to the 2002 annual general meeting

The Ecology Action Centre has prepared audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2002. The following are some financial highlights for the Ecology Action Centre this year:

- Revenues remained stable this year with project funding received during the year at \$303,000, supporting twelve projects as a result of the addition of several new smaller projects compared to \$293,500 last fiscal year, supporting six projects.
- In April 2001 the Ecology Action Centre received a bequest of approximately \$70,000. This money has been invested until the Board makes a determination on the most effective use of this money.
- Net income for this year is significantly higher compared to last years' net income of \$9610. The main contributor to this increase in net income was the receipt of the bequest.
- And finally, in the last year, the Ecology Action Centre
  is seeking a judicial review of the Department of
  Fisheries and Oceans' decision to allow dragging on
  Georges Bank. The Ecology Action Centre has made a
  provision on our financial statements for possible court
  costs and damages.

For the upcoming fiscal year the Ecology Action Centre is looking forward to continued project funding for current and new projects in addition to increased membership revenues. We continue to make every effort to diversify our funding sources.

Submitted by,

Lianne Giswold

Alana Pelrine Alex Fischer Alex MacLellan Alison Cude Allison Evans Anabelle Singleton Andrea Savfv Andrew Edwards Andrew Weatherbee Angela Birch Angela Silvaggio Anne Gregory Annelise Chapman Ben Lorincz Beth Cairns Beth Cameron Boris Worm Brooke Bateman Cameron Jantzen Caroline Cameron Cedric Pilon Cheryl Benjamin Chris Feetham Chris Haag Chris Henkellman Christian Haag Christina Alcorn Cynthia Grove Daniel Rainham Dave Mitchell David Lev Derek Davis Donna Stevenson Doug Regular Emma Boardman Emmony Nichollsf

Erin Carrothers Frank Fawson Fred Harrington Freiderike Kirstein Friedemann Brauer Geordie Ochterlony Gillian Austin Gordon MacLeod Gretchen Fitzgerald Hanita Koblents Heidi Schaefer Holly Reid Ianice Brown Jason Mueller Jason Taylor Jaun Carlos Jayne Roma Jeanne Ju Jeannette McAllister Jenn Ford Jennifer Graham Jesse Williams Joanne Weiss John Janmaat John Shimeld Judy Cookey June Hall Karen Hollett Kathryn Parlee Kermit DeGoover Kevin Blair Kristal Rolle Kurtis Trzcinski Lara Gibson Lianne Giswold

Linda Tam

Lisa Bugden Lisa Trevisan Liz Boyle Louise White Luke Pelot Lynn Brooks MacKenzie Oglivie Margo Gesser Maria Recchia Mark Butler Martin Willison Mary MacLeod Matthew Parsons Maxmillien Trzcinski Meaghan Miller Melissa Taylor Michele Raymond Michele Thomason Michelle Brunet Mike Milloy Mike Ruxton Nancy Chiasson Nancy Shackell Nick Brooks Nobuko Murai Pablo Montova Pamela Wentzell Pat Kipping Patricia Betts Paul Shreenan Peggy Cameron Penny Doherty Peter Austin-Smith Peter Feige Ray MacCallum Rebecca O'Brien

Rob Hansen Robin Musselman Rochelle Owen Rosie Kerr Ross Mayhew Ryan Thoms Sadie Bryant Sandra Luken Sarah Evans Sherry Hubers Sonia Edworthy Stephanie Sodero Steve Morash Sue Browne Sue Manovill Susan Day Susan Gass Susanna Fuller Tamara Lorincz Tarah Wright Tom Krauss Tony Bowron Tony Chapman Tony Ricciardi Tricia MacLeod Tyler Field Veronica Sherwood Wavne Groszko Wendy Macgregor Wyatt Lawrence Zack Fraser

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Bay Port Plant Nursery Bebbington Industries Birdsall Worthington Pottery Black River Hydro Ltd. Blomidon Nursery

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Celtic Colours Festival

CESR

Charlotte Lane Café Christie Chaplin Saunders

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Cole Harbour Heritage Farm

Conservation Action Fund, New England Aquarium

Convention on Biodiversity Office, EC

Coopers Inn - Shelburne

Cornhill Nursery

Crabtree & Evelyn - Micmac Mall

Dalhousie Environmental Law Student Society

Dalhousie Nature Conservation Class

Dalhousie Nursing Program (Allana LeBlanc and

Frederike DeZeeuw)

Dalhousie School of Planning Daltech, Dalhousie University Daniell MacAuley Darcy Rhyno

David and Deborah Stewart

David Patriquin

Davis Conservation Foundation

Day Lily Heaven Deborah Kugyk Denise Jeffreys

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Donna Stevenson Doug MacKinlay

Dr. Bradley Walters, Acadia University EcoAction Fund (Environment Canada)

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Gary Grant Goose Lane Editions Great Ocean

Haliburton House Inn Halifax Regional Municipality Heartwood Bakery & Café

Heather Lawson Helen Lofgren Henry & Judith Fuller Henry P. Kendall Foundation Holiday Inn - Dartmouth Home Grown Organic Foods

Human Resource and Development Canada (HRDC)

Summer Career Placements Program

Ian MacLaren Inka Milewski

Into the Wilderness Expeditions

i-skreme productions Jack Nauss Bike Shop Janet Doble

Jennifer's of Nova Scotia

Jim Smith
John Noville
Just Us Coffee
Katherine Gascon
Kathi Petersen
Larry and Lillian Sears

Lizzy Bugs Lorraine Donati Lowland Gardens Lucky Rabbit Pottery Maggie Lucas Marcus Goodick

Marcus Goodick Margaret Husas Maureen Nowlan Meike Martin-Soontiens

Mekolas Brook Metro Transit Metro Transit Michael Hayes Michael Ruger Miller Waste Systems Morning Glory Morris Pottery

Mountain Equipment Co-op

Moving on Sustainable Transportation (Transport

Canada) Natural Wonders Nature Colours Nicholas Marsh

North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation

(NAFEC

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Nova Scotia Folk Pottery

Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History

Nova Scotia Potters Guild

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission

Pastamimi Pat Foote Pat Woods Paul Shreenan Paula MacDonald Peggy Cameron Philip Woods

Piercey's Building Supplies

Plovers

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Shance Saloff
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Shayne McQuaid, DFO Sierra Club of Canada Sierra Legal Defence Fund

Spirit of the Wheel Springvale Nursery Steve-O-Reno's Café Tangled Garden Tapestry Tangents

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Terra Nova Landscaping

The Coast The Trail Shop The Wood Studio Tim Worthington Transport Canada Tyler Field

Underground Eyewear Unlimited Country Urban Alchemy Valley Nursery

Virtual Museum of Canada, Department of Canadian

Heritage Wareshana Wendy Snooks

Wildlife Habitat Canada Wolfville Spring Fair

YMCA Zack Fraser

We have inevitably missed some people in our thank yous. We apologize and sincerely thank all those who

have assisted EAC in the last year.







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