

ecology action centre 
annual report 2000-2001

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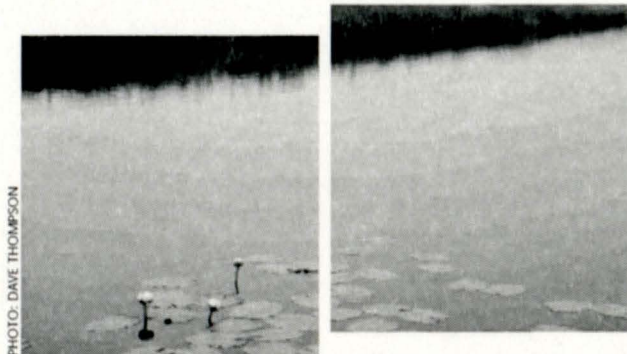


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annual report 2000-2001



PHOTO: DAVE THOMPSON



Executive

Peggy Cameron, Chair
Susanna Fuller, Co-chair
Lianne Crowe, Treasurer
Andrew Weatherbee, Secretary

Board of Directors Term Concluded

Cheryl Benjamin
Peggy Cameron
Derek Davis
Luke Pelot
Holly Reid
Erin Rankin (resigned February 2001)

Continuing

Tony Bowron
Lianne Crowe
Susanna Fuller
June Hall
Fred Harrington
Karen Hollett
Rochelle Owen
Linda Roberts
Veronica Sherwood
Andrew Weatherbee

Office Staff

Ruth MacKenzie (April 2000 - July 2000)
Mary MacLeod (September 2000 - present)
Lynn Brooks, Office Support (during transition)

Marine Issues

Mark Butler, Coordinator
Jayne Roma, MIDI
Heidi Schaefer, MIDI
Lesley Carter, MIDI - contract
Lara Gibson, Marine Biological Invasions

First International Symposium of Deep Sea Corals

Susan Gass, Symposium Secretariat
Christine Patterson, summer student

Salt Marsh Restoration

Tony Bowron

Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail

Sue Browne, Coordinator
Sheena Masson, contract

Transportation Issues Committee TRAX

Rebecca O'Brien, Coordinator
Sue Watson, Coordinator
Alexandra Fischer, Coordinator

Wilderness

Kermit deGooyer, Coordinator

Membership Committee

Jessica Kim, summer student

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

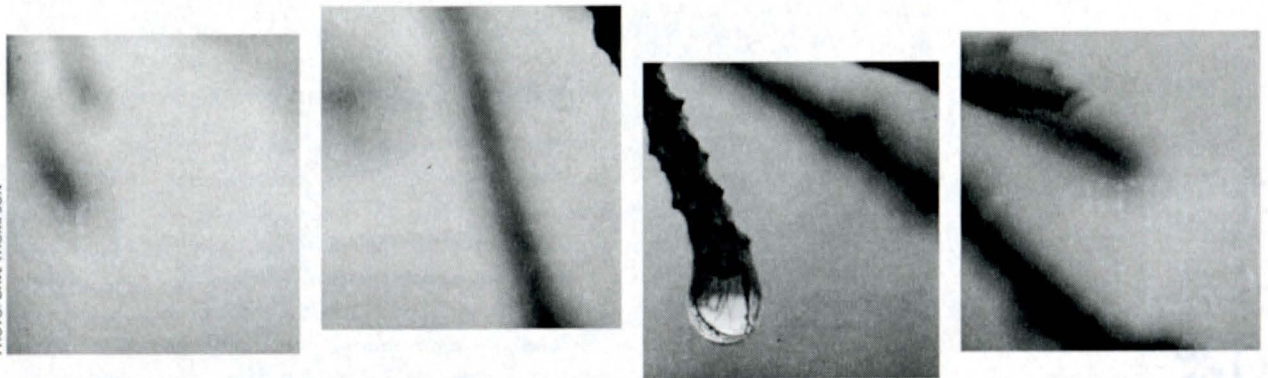
EAC is an independent organization that strives to work with partners to:

- 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 2001 annual general meeting

PHOTO: DAVE THOMPSON



Hello members, staff, and friends of the Ecology Action Centre and welcome to the 30th Annual General Meeting. As with every year at EAC this was a busy and exciting one. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- EAC welcomed Mary MacLeod as the new Officer Manager in August, 2000. Over the past nine months she has done a great job, adapting to a hectic but happy workplace. Both Mary and our Treasurer, Lianne Crowe are to be commended for their patience and perseverance during the process of computerizing the EAC books and modifying the financial reporting.
- The October fall retreat, held at the home of Derek Davis, helped orient Board members and review where the organization is headed. A detailed strategic plan prepared by Rochelle Owen has proven to be a most worthwhile document in guiding the overall direction of EAC.
- With the help of our Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Benjamin, another successful sale of chemical free Christmas trees and wreathes was organized this year. We continue our good fortune in having Sheldon Rafuse provide us with top quality trees to keep the number of customers growing and more than satisfied.
- January furthered EAC's fame when Peter Dalglish, founder of Street Kids International, named EAC as one of his top ten Canadian charities to give a donation to, in an article written for the Globe and Mail. This is quite impressive considering there are over 80,000 registered charities in Canada.
- EAC's February Blues Party held at the North Street Church was successful in helping to get the organiza-

tion's member, staff and volunteers through the longest month. Hope to see you all there next year.

- As an organization EAC has a lot to celebrate in this its thirtieth year. The dedication, enthusiasm, resourcefulness and cooperative nature of those involved ensures that it remains credible. The Committees and projects continue to grow in both effort and effect. Staff and volunteers have organized world class conferences, published leading papers, changed how city hall does business and raised public awareness on an enormous range of environmental issues. Please check out their accomplishments at the kiosks.

In closing I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of several Board members who will be stepping down this year: Derek Davis made an invaluable contribution both to the Board and the Marine Issues Committee and its projects; Cheryl Benjamin has done an outstanding job as Volunteer Coordinator and Christmas Tree Sale Coordinator; Luke Pelot has served beyond the call of duty as past Secretary and Fundraising Committee Chair; and Holly Reid dedicated two full years of her Board service to the duties of Chair. Erin Rankin was active with Marine Issues as well as Board duties until stepping down in February 2001, when work took her out of province. Thank you to the other Board members too for your ongoing contributions.

I would especially like to thank Susanna Fuller who has shared the role of Chair with me this past year.

Submitted by,
Peggy Cameron

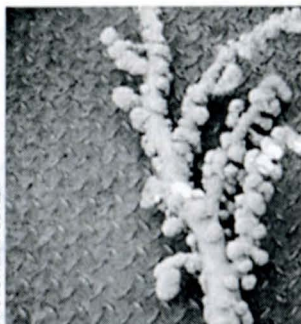


PHOTO: MARK BUTLER



Marine Issues Committee

The Marine Issues Committee (MIC) has had a good year. The highlights were definitely the events: the First International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals attended by scientists from 15 countries; a Salt Marsh Restoration Workshop in Wolfville with briny edibles and great field trips; a MIDI Workshop at which participants took the web accessible database for a test drive, and a Marine Invasive Species Workshop which tackled the tough topic of reducing and preventing non-native species from entering our waters. Each of these events was well attended, engaging, fun, and pushed forward conservation initiatives.

Despite the work of MIC and other conservation minded individuals and organizations we can't say that the ocean has had a good year. New threats or impacts emerged, oil and gas drilling, seabed mining, invasive species, etc, while existing impacts, such as groundfish dragging have yet to be addressed. On the positive side, in certain sectors of the government, industry and society there is a growing commitment to conservation.

The MIC is humming with ideas and people. The dedication and imagination of volunteers and staff lies behind the success of the work we do. And what lies behind the commitment of many volunteers and staff is a love for the ocean: a gannet diving for mackerel, a beautiful day on a bluefin tuna boat off Chebucto Head, listening to Derek Davis describe an obscure invertebrate.

MIC engages in a range of activities from school presentations, to research projects, to community development projects, to the occasional protest. Below are descriptions of the various issues and projects of MIC.

Petroleum Exploration and Extraction

The area of offshore Nova Scotia which is now under license to oil companies is 5.7 million hectares, .2 million hectares more than the size of Nova Scotia. These licenses, granted in the last five years, were issued without any prior environmental screening or public consultation. At a minimum, Nova Scotia needs to reform its licensing process so it is comparable to that of other jurisdictions, such as Norway, the United Kingdom, or the United States.

MIC has participated in two coalitions opposed to oil and gas activities in sensitive areas: NORIGS 2000 for Georges Bank and SOS2 for the coastal waters of Cape Breton. In December of 2000, the provincial and federal governments extended the moratorium on oil and gas activities on the Canadian side of Georges Bank. Just prior to the last federal election in November 2000, the two levels of government announced a review of the licenses issued for the waters off Cape Breton. These two victories are testaments to the power of coalitions.

Sustainable Fishing

Scientists, fisheries managers, and conservationists are paying increasing attention to the impacts of fishing on the ecosystem. The MIC, as have most fishermen, has always considered gear a crucial issue and has consistently requested that those managing the fishery promote the use of less destructive gears. We have focused on two fisheries where we feel this approach is in dire need of application: the groundfish fishery and the swordfish or large pelagics fishery. There is mounting evidence that groundfish dragging has detrimental and potentially irreversible impacts on the ocean floor.

Solutions including zoning the ocean and the use of less destructive gear types. This is an issue we have worked earnestly on for the last five years, and despite arguments based on good science and good economics, we have not made much of a dent on the thinking of the Fisheries Management Branch, DFO. What to do?

In the swordfish fishery, Canada, unlike the U.S., is lucky to have fishermen who still fish swordfish using harpoons, arguably the most selective gear type in the world. Again, DFO Fisheries Management Branch, instead of rewarding this method of fishing, seems

intent on restricting this fleet and pushing hundreds of harpoon fishermen out of the fishery. This year we sponsored talks by Franklyn d'Entremont, a well respected harpooner, at various universities and institutes in the Maritimes. Scientists at BIO described his talks as a real treat.

One of the ways to people's heads and hearts is through their stomachs. Nancy Shackell is coordinating a seafood buyers group which allows individuals to purchase fresh, fresh fish and support sustainable fishing methods.

MIDI

Over the past year, three people have been working on MIDI: Heidi Schaefer, Jayne Roma and Lesley Carter. Among other things, these MIDI employees have been busy making presentations to various groups and organizations, hosting workshops, participating in conferences, and entering information (species, habitat, location, photo and reference) into the MIDI database. Funding for these positions has been through DFO student internships, a Gulf of Maine Council Grant, and other smaller funding grants from DFO. EAC has administered these funds.

In October 2000 MIDI became a society under the Nova Scotia Societies Act and the Society will administer all future funding and programs. The MIDI Society is planning an Annual General Meeting either on June 21 or the 22nd, 2001.

Significant progress has been made in the past year. With the technical support of Environment Canada, the MIDI website database was launched in June, 2000 (www.fundyforum.com/MIDI). In January of this year, at a workshop organized by MIDI staff, sixty people took the website for a test drive, both by contributing species descriptions and looking up species.

MIDI partners include:

NS Museum of Natural History, Fundy Forum, Centre of Geographic Sciences, Integrated Coastal Planning Project (Daltech), Environment Canada, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Marine Biological Invasions

The Committee on Marine Bioinvasions is a sub-committee of MIC. COMB is a member of the Ballast Water Committee-Atlantic Region and the Canadian Marine Advisory Council. As members of these committees we encourage government and industry to take the fundamental measures required to reduce and eliminate

the establishment of exotic species in our marine waters.

The Committee On Marine Bio-invasions (COMB) recently hosted a successful workshop, Marine Biological Invasions: A Perspective on Atlantic Canada and New England, May 13th to 15th 2001, at the University of Kings College. In total 70 people attended, from both the US and Canada and participants represented academic, government, environmental, industrial and private sectors interests. By all accounts the workshop was a great success. The main result of the workshop is an increase in awareness about bio-invaders and the scope of the problem. The workshop allowed diverse interests to discuss common problems and find possible solutions. The workshop attracted a wide variety of press, including CBC Television and Radio, the Chronicle Herald, the Daily News, the Canadian Press and the Toronto Star. Momentum and initiatives from the workshop will be carried forward by the volunteers of COMB.

Deep-sea corals

2000 was an excellent year for building awareness of deep sea corals in Nova Scotia and around the world. MIC organized the First International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals and it was a great success. One hundred and twenty-five people came to the Symposium from fifteen countries. Presentations were made on the biology, ecology, mapping and conservation of corals. Following the Symposium there was a one-day workshop to provide an opportunity for more discussion on the conservation of corals. The International Forum on Deep Sea Corals was formed as a result of this workshop to further research and conservation efforts around the world.

The Symposium initiated a lot of media coverage for deep sea corals. Articles were published in the Globe and Mail, the National Post, the local Halifax papers as well as the New York Times. A good measure of the success of the Symposium is that there will be a Second International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals in Oban, Scotland in 2003 and the third in Monterey, California at a later date.

Following the Symposium, the MIC has been working to publish the proceedings of the Symposium. This volume is expected to be ready by August 1, 2001. A "coolcoral" list-serv was also set up to help facilitate communication between all the parties interested in deep sea corals. In April of this year we received funding from the Conservation Action Fund of the New England Aquarium to support the work of the International Forum for Deep Sea Corals.

In 2000, the MIC also received \$7000 from Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) to carry out a research project to follow-up on Heather Breeze's coral report published by MIC in 1997. The WHC project involves mapping deep sea corals off Atlantic Canada based on four methods of data collections:

1. fisheries observer reports;
2. DFO groundfish vessel surveys;
3. museum collections; and
4. interviews with fishers in Cape Breton.

This project was started in 2000 with the collection of coral specimens from groundfish vessel surveys. The project will continue as part of Susan Gass' Masters of Environmental Studies thesis project at Dalhousie University.

Salt Marsh Restoration in the Bay of Fundy

The salt marsh restoration project has had quite an exciting and encouraging first year. We have fostered partnerships with coastal communities along the Bay of Fundy, scientists, and government departments. We developed an educational slide show, a landowner and media kit on the value of salt marshes and the role that restoration can play in the conservation of salt marshes throughout the province.

A list of potential restoration sites has been compiled and we are working with the Department of Transportation to expand this list by identifying tidal crossings in Hants County that are restricting tidal flow to coastal estuaries. This summer, with the assistance of a summer student, we will be working on restoring tidal flow to a chosen salt marsh.

In November we organized a workshop entitled *Getting Dirty: the Why and How of Salt Marsh Restoration in the Bay of Fundy*. The workshop was a resounding success with over 40 participants representing government, academia, environmental organizations and community groups in attendance. For a copy of the workshop report contact the Centre.

Species At Risk Act Sub-committee

The subcommittee on Species At Risk, part of the Marine Issues Committee, is preparing a brief outlining its concerns regarding the proposed Species At Risk Act (SARA, C-5) from a marine perspective. The 10-12 page brief will be submitted to the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainability in early May. Mark Butler and a volunteer have been invited, as part of a marine issues panel, by the Committee to give a 10 minute presentation in Ottawa, on May 30th, 2001, and answer questions during a 3 hour session. The EAC may be the only NGO to present the Committee concerns regarding

SARA from a marine conservation perspective. Letters to the Minister and an overview of the brief can be found at the Marine Issues website, as will the full brief once it has been submitted to Ottawa.

Publications

With the addition of the below documents, the MIC's publications list now stands strong at 15 items. Publications range in price from pre-paid to \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for postage. For a complete list of MIC publications including a brief description of each item and the price, please visit the MIC website or check out the back of the next *Between the Issues*. Speaking of websites, we are exploring options and opportunities for making our publications available online, however, only the Symposium Program is currently available digitally. To order any or all of the MIC publications, simply contact the EAC.

Our two newest publications are:

Program of First International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals Held in Halifax, NS, July 30 - Aug. 3, 2000. Available online at http://home.ISTAR.ca/~eac_hfx/symposium/

Getting Dirty: the Why and How of Salt Marsh Restoration - Proceedings of the Salt Marsh Restoration Workshop Held in Wolfville, NS, November 5-7, 2000. Price: free, but \$5.00 for postage requested.

Submitted by,

Mark Butler, Jayne Roma,
Heidi Schaefer, Lara Gibson, Susan Gass,
and Tony Bowron

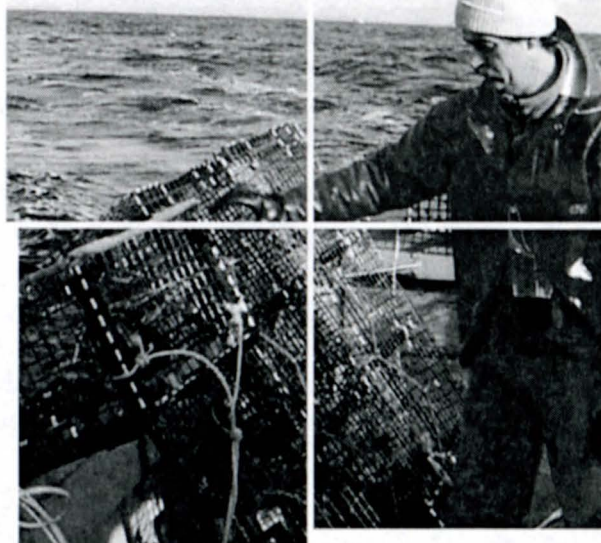


PHOTO: MARK BUTLER

PHOTO: KINE HALL



Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail

In the last year we opened the pilot project water trail between Lunenburg and Halifax and published a trail guide which is in its second printing. We are currently putting together a project to look at wilderness campsites on islands, which includes working with residents and community groups and coastal land owners. We want to figure out the logistics of developing and maintaining campsites by selecting 3 - 4 in the Terence Bay - Prospect area to work on this summer. We aim to create management plans for each site over the summer and do any necessary construction next spring and summer.

Thus far, we have a \$5000 grant from Mountain Equipment Coop and some funds from the Friends of the Environment Foundation (amount not yet confirmed). We have an application into HRDC through the HRM trail program to hire myself and Sheena Masson for a year. Aside from the campsite work, we would research coastal sites between Halifax Harbour and Ecum Secum and complete the HRM portion. This includes funds from a number of other sources such as FRAM, Sport and Recreation and HRM.

We have addressed various conferences and continue to do so. We presented the water trail at the Outdoor Leadership Development Conference in April. Future engagements include the Heritage Rivers Conference in New Brunswick in June and the North American Water Trail conference in the fall in Maine.

Submitted by,

Sue Browne



PHOTO: ROCHELLE OWEN

ALEXANDRA FISCHER AND REBECCA O'BRIEN OF TRAX.

Transportation Issues Committee (TIC)

Transportation has been increasingly in the forefront, especially in the HRM, where urban sprawl off the peninsula is contributing to traffic growth on the peninsula. TIC been working on several projects, including the Bike Again! Community Bike Project, where used bicycles are being fixed and then given to people who cannot afford a bike and will use it as their primary mode of transportation. The project has a workshop and has held several bike fix up days. Proposals have been submitted to funding agencies, and with some luck we will be able to expand in the coming years. The organization of the first Earth Car Free Day, held on April 19, 2001 was taken on by many TIC members. We continue to have new members at meetings. TIC drafted and approved a strategic plan for the next few years, so we will be better able to mark our effect through advocating for sustainable transportation.



TRAX Project

The last year has been an eventful one and has seen TRAX develop a strong reputation for its work to promote sustainable transportation modes. With funding secured for the next year (so far all of the funding sources we have applied to have given us money for the project to continue), the project is on the right "TRAX" to continue to play an important role in pushing for alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle.

Trip Reduction Programs

This past year we have continued to implement trip reduction and/or carpooling programs with a number of large workplaces, such as Environment Canada, Department of Transportation and Public Works, Department of Natural Resources, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and Nova Scotia Power. We have put in place a variety of concrete incentives to encourage employees to switch to alternative modes of transportation, such as

lotteries for free parking spaces for carpoolers, free bus passes and free vanpooling service, on-site bus ticket sales, on-line carpooling registration, carpool matching services and workplace presentations, to name a few. In addition, we worked with community nurses from Dalhousie University to implement an active transportation pilot project with Environment Canada. A number of organizations are being contacted in order to start new trip reduction programs for Phase 2 of the TRAX Project.

Public Education and Outreach Campaign

Throughout the year, TRAX has participated in a number of transportation-related committees, such as the Municipal Bicycle Task Force (the city's first bike policy has been drafted by us), the DalTech Symposium Planning Committee (this year's topic was transportation), the Climate Change Hub and the Transportation Issues Committee. TRAX is also involved in the U-Pass concept (a universal transit pass for students at Dal, SMU and The Mount that could potentially double our present Metro Transit ridership).

We have given public presentations on transportation and climate change to a wide variety of audiences, including City Council, primary schools, universities, workplaces and multi-stakeholder public consultations to name a few. We helped design and commissioned a very successful advertising campaign to promote Metro Transit, with posters going up on the interior and exterior of buses, as well as on bus shelters. Two different bumper sticker designs are also now available at the Ecology Action Centre to promote carpooling and respect for bicyclists.

TRAX helped to organize several successful events, such as Commuter Challenge in June of 2000 and Bike to Work Week in September. We recently promoted the first Earth Car Free Day (April 19, 2001) for HRM in partnership with Clean Nova Scotia and the Halifax Regional Municipality, through a variety of means such as billboards, posters, media interviews and a proclamation by the Mayor and at the Provincial Legislature in support of the initiative.

The event was fairly revolutionary by HRM standards and was considered a success. The expectation is that it will pave the way for similar events in the coming years. Finally, TRAX has been continuously updating its website (www.trax.ns.ca) which serves as an important on-line source of information on transportation issues in Halifax. The website has developed into an excellent tool for TRAX in promoting large events and allowing us to provide a user-friendly ride matching service.

Submitted by,

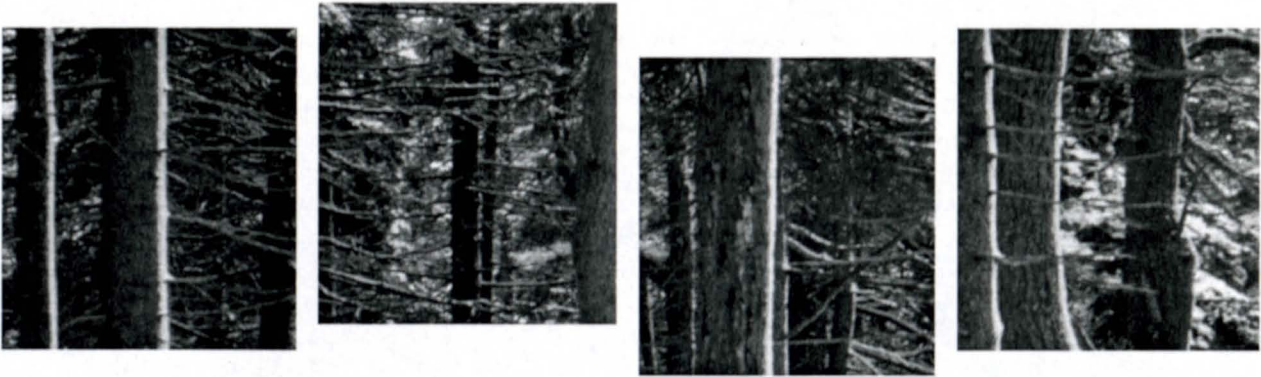
Susanna Fuller, Rebecca O'Brien and Alex Fischer.

Urban Issues Committee

The Urban Issues Committee has been quietly working on promoting a better understanding of the links between urban sprawl, and traffic, health and economic activity. For the municipal election last fall, we compiled a questionnaire for distribution to community groups, including resident associations, community economic development groups, and environmental organizations. These groups used these when candidates came knocking, or at candidate debates. The feedback we received indicated that the questions were useful in demonstrating the degree (or lack thereof) of understanding about these issues. Since that time the committee has not been very active, but there are plans to get going again.

Submitted by,

David Aalders.



Wilderness Committee

The Wilderness Committee is committed to protecting and restoring the full spectrum of Nova Scotia's native terrestrial biodiversity. Two focus areas have emerged:

1. protection for public wildlands and
2. forestry practices

Public Wildlands:

Whereas legally protected wildlands offer the best hope for preserving terrestrial biodiversity and the provincial government is the largest landowner in Nova Scotia, the WC focuses on obtaining legal protection for public lands.

In 2000-2001 the WC spearheaded the creation of the Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition, a diverse coalition of groups dedicated to preserving public lands. The WC drafted a 12 point Action Plan and works closely with coalition groups to implement the plan to press the provincial government for more legally protected areas. We have established good relationships with provincial tourism industry and hunters/anglers umbrella groups and smaller local associations to this end.

The Province is currently reviewing two wilderness proposals launched by the WC, and has committed to a third. An unpopular new plan for Crown lands (IRM), proposed in September, continues to drive Coalition groups to lobby for more protected public wildlands. Updates are posted at our website, www.publicland.ca.

Forestry Practices:

Whereas there is probably no greater threat to Nova Scotia's wildlands than forestry as currently practiced, the WC works to expose the damage of industrial forestry and promote alternatives (e.g., selection harvesting).

In 2001, after several months of writing and research the WC launched a second website, www.clearcutnovascotia.com. The site showcases Nova Scotia's forests from the air and provides resources on forestry practices, statistics, activism, etc.

The WC also became a member of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), a "green" labelling certification scheme for wood products. We have a representative on the Maritime Regional Committee, which oversees standards. The FSC is still in its infancy here, but could provide an avenue for at least a partial transition away from industrial forestry.

The Committee has up to twenty volunteers and a paid Coordinator.

Submitted by,

Kermit deGooyer, May 2001.

PHOTO: DAVE THOMPSON



Harbour Committee

Background:

The Harbour Committee formed in 1988 to help further the cleanup of Halifax Harbour with particular interest in plans to treat our sewage. We provided suggestions to the Fournier Task Force who set water quality objectives (1990) and participated in the EA of the flawed HHCL plan (1992-93, a project that sunk in 19950. We attended the Halifax Harbour Solutions Symposium (1996), and I served on the Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee, 1998) which developed the standards and recommendations that HRM was to use in its sewage treatment plan. (See Towards a Cleaner Harbour, BTI, Nov. 1999, for a description of the HRM plan.)

Synopsis:

The focus was on furthering three particular recommendations that HRM has been slow to implement:

government financing, separation of combined sewers, and source controls. We did so through student and public education, engaging the Sierra and the Dal Sierra Youth Clubs, persistent encouragement of HRM Staff and CAO, and lobbying Councillors and Cabinet ministers. I met with residents groups and attended a workshop on improving the Harbour environment.

Student Education:

Undergraduates as well as graduate students from numerous disciplines came by regularly to discuss Harbour cleanup and borrow reading material. I attended student presentations at TUNS on solar aquatic treatment options. These same architectural students and an undergraduate made separate presentations on solar aquatics to Council, and they were well received. One councillor suggested that solar aquatics be considered for Herring Cove. Imagine that.

Public Education:

Sierra Club I reviewed various issues on Harbour cleanup with a representative of the Sierra Club for inclusion in a public information flyer for the Sierra Club's door-to-door canvas. Flyers, discussing these issues, were made available during canvas to those citizens of HRM interested in the Harbour.

Separation of Combined Sewers:

HRM Developing Policy Last Fall HRM hired a consultant to develop a Water Resource Management Policy Study that includes "criteria to be used on a sewershed specific basis to determine if separation of combined sewers is feasible, and if... feasible (to) define criteria under what circumstances it would be undertaken." This constitutes the requisite first step of Advisory Committee recommendations. We're gradually countering the resistance to sewer separation.

Dal Sierra Youth Presentation to Council:

I addressed the Dalhousie Sierra Youth who wanted a role in Harbour cleanup and who decided to tackle the separation issue. Once well prepared, Peter Young made an informed presentation to Council (Feb. 2001) on the importance of separating the combined sewers. I lobbied new Councillors not familiar with this issue and, along with other members of the former Advisory Committee, urged Staff and Council to get on with it.

Source Control:

The purpose of source control is to insure that toxins don't go down the drain. HRM has hired a pollution prevention coordinator and developed a Wastewater Discharge By-law. This no net degradation by-law is a commendable step forward but we could go farther. David Wimberly has asked the Harbour Committee to work with him in urging HRM to aim for a policy of zero toxic discharge. (A tough sell. Is there a middle ground?)

Resident Groups:

Members of the Dartmouth Harbour Drive Residents Association were angry because they were not consulted beforehand about the sewage treatment plant destined for their backyard. We discussed Lang's WIMBY model (in which citizens participate in the process) that HRM was supposed to use for site selection. We considered suitable albeit expensive compensation: the Trans Canada Trail going by their front yard! Armdale/NW Arm residents discussed ways to improve water quality in their nook of the Arm.

Lobby for Federal Largesse:

In a nutshell, as of November 26, Bernie Boudreau was going to try to get us \$100 million for Harbour Cleanup (75 for the project and 25 for sewer separation/replacement, and I believe he would've succeeded). As of Nov. 27, the voters of Dartmouth had other intentions.

Preserving the Environment of Halifax Harbour (March, 2001):

This workshop, aimed at improving the environment of the Harbour and organized by Fisheries and Oceans and HRM, was productive. One particular recommendation merits follow-up: establishing an independent organization to serve as "Harbour champion". The findings will be presented to council in June. The papers given, ranging from metal contamination through recovery of lost habitats, are currently available through the Harbour Committee.

Submitted by,

Rosalee Grette Lydon

ecology action centre

other committees and groups

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been developing an overall plan for EAC funding that considers the contributions of membership, administration fees and the two major fundraisers, the Garden Party and Christmas Tree Sale. An appeal letter to members was sent out in March. The Garden Party and Christmas Tree Sale are carried out by event committees, whose reports follow.

Christmas tree and wreath sales campaign

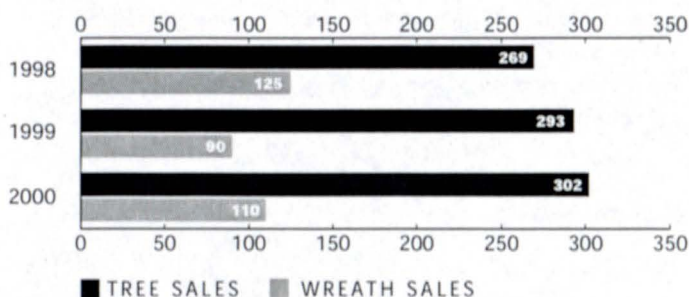
The annual chemical-free Christmas tree and wreath sales campaign continued to grow this year. EAC's second largest fundraiser brought in approximately \$3,000, but most importantly, contributed to a chemical-free environment! Over 35 volunteers and staff contributed to this terrific effort, taking tree orders at the Halifax Farmers Market and Christmas craft fairs, putting up posters, calling past customers, decorating wreaths, taking telephone calls in the office, and organizing our sales database. Tree-pick day continues to become an annual EAC event with hot cider and treats from Santa's elves. Sheldon Rafuse, Family Trees, New Ross, supplied our beautiful trees and wreaths again this year. Geordie Ochterlony generously placed our tree order forms in the organic food boxes his business distributes through-out HRM.

Thanks everyone and see you at the Market in November!

Submitted by,

Cheryl Benjamin

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALES 1998-2000



CAROLINE CAMERON AND JESSICA KIM AT THE GARDEN PARTY.

PHOTO: ROCHELLE OWEN

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.

Submitted by,

Wendy MacGregor



Between the Issues (BTI)

This year we failed to match our millennium achievement (four issues), but the three issues we did produce were received with enthusiasm. Our biggest effort to date, the Winter 2000/01 edition, which was devoted to transportation, consumed a great deal of energy on the part of both the editor and the design and layout staff.

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 about 600 addresses and distribute much of the rest of our print run of 2000 (more for special editions) to libraries, health-food stores, cafes etc., around metro. Extra copies are always available at the Centre.

BTI is not cheap to produce (over \$1500/issue and rising). Our advertising income has certainly improved this year, but does not pay all the bills.

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

Submitted by,

June Hall

Habitation Committee: A Permanent Home

The EAC has been informally debating the pros and cons of a more permanent home for some time. In December, 2001, the Board established a committee to examine formally the costs and benefits of purchasing a building or other long-term housing arrangement. The Habitation Committee, made up of Linda Roberts, Luke Pelot, Mark Butler and one member at large, drew up a list of pros and cons, and consulted other organizations that had purchased buildings, such as Clean Nova Scotia and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. The Committee also developed draft criteria with respect to location, cost, financing, management of the building, features and condition of the building.

The Committee made the following recommendation to the Board:

"That the Board pursue looking for a permanent home if (a) we can recruit a Capital Campaign Committee; and (b) the Board is willing to make this a priority project (fund-raising and profile priority). The Capital Campaign Committee will be asked to take on a three year task to raise \$50,000." At its March meeting the Board deferred any decision about proceeding until October. At present neither the Board nor the staff have the time or resources to commit to raising funds for a permanent home.

Submitted by,

Mark Butler

Hemlock Circus

Hemlock Circus uses popular theatre to spread awareness of environmental issues. In previous years, it has created *Revolving Doors*, a play which educates the audience on wilderness conservation issues, *More*, which centres on issues of consumption, as well as a short skit demonstrating the effect of dragging on the ocean floor.

In the last year Hemlock Circus has performed these previously written plays for members of the Canadian Environmental Network from across Canada at their AGM, for an introductory biology class at Dalhousie University, and for Ecology Action Centre members, board, staff, and volunteers at the Annual General Meeting in June 2000 and for the EAC party in February 2001. The group performed at the Museum of Natural History for an Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2001. Hemlock Circus is currently in the process of creating a play involving marine conservation issues, and is expecting to complete this play for stage and radio within the next few months. Performances and workshops for schools and participants in the after-school program at the George Dixon Centre are also planned for the near future.

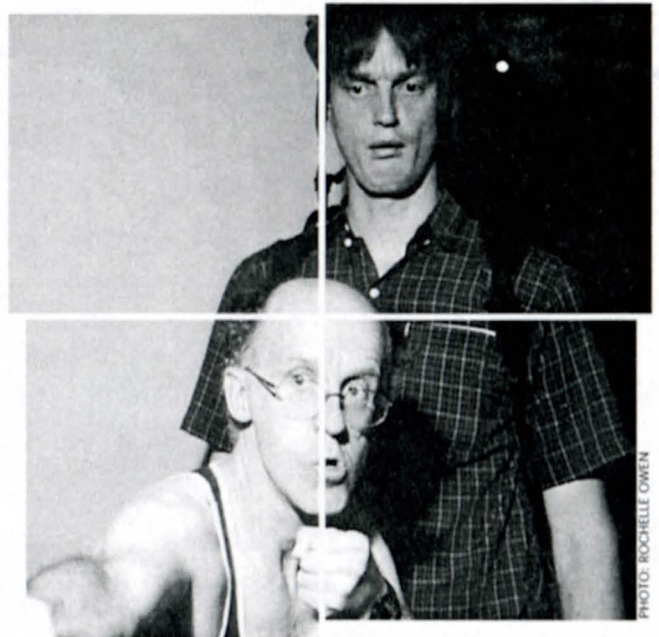
Submitted by,
Emma Boardman

Membership

The Membership committee is involved in retaining and recruiting members for EAC. As EAC values the support, ideas, and contributions of its members, there is a special membership committee for this purpose.

The first Membership Month campaign, which will be an on-going event, was launched in September 2000. Activities such as a "members to members" campaign and phone bank were undertaken. We had the pleasure of receiving a donation of a bicycle from Cyclesmith to raffle off for our "members to members" campaign. From the activities of membership month and on-going renewal phone calls and letters we have moved our average monthly membership rate from 350 to 530. We hope to increase membership to 1000 member by Jan 2002.

Submitted by,
Rochelle Owen



MARK BUTLER AND MARTIN WILLISON OF HEMLOCK CIRCUS.

office manager's report

to the 2001 annual general meeting

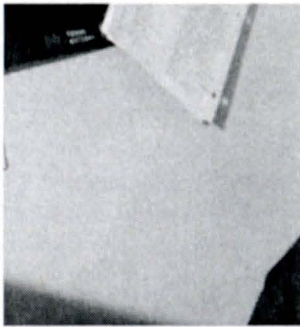


PHOTO: ROCHELLE OWEN

MARY MACLEOD



With the new fiscal year I started my eighth month with EAC. In the preceding months EAC has set up a computerized accounting system that, now that it's in place, will enable us to plan more effectively where money will be spent and see more clearly if what was planned actually happened. Getting to this point has been a bit tortuous, but has already proven to be worth the effort.

We acquired three new computers and a printer, with the accounting in mind, but also with an eye to providing the kind of office support that our busy projects need. Email retrieval, storage and reply has been facilitated, and we have established a mailing list to enable more "paperless" communication to members. If you would like to be on the list, please give us your email to be included. Royal Bank PAC was successfully transferred to the new system, and we will be transferring membership, as well. The purchase of three new phones has helped call handling, and a new line installed with the Carshare project has become a computer dial-in line, leaving the Fax number dedicated to in- and out-going faxes.

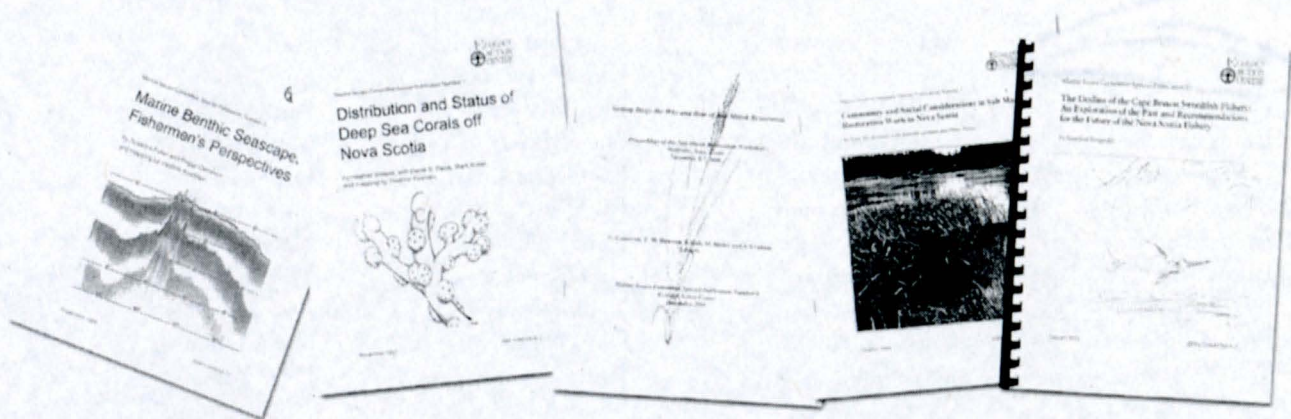
EAC continues to be in a sound position financially, thanks to strong project teams, excellent fundraising and member support. Our small core of PAC members continues to grow. Thank you to those of you who make this significant contribution to the EAC. Many others support with generous memberships, additional donations, and by supporting the tree sale, the garden party, other fundraising efforts and - most importantly - volunteer work.

In the coming year I will be working, with Lianne, our Treasurer, on a more detailed accounting of planned and expended budget and other office efficiencies.

Submitted by,

Mary MacLeod

ecology action centre publications



Associated Fauna of Commercial Scallop Grounds in the Lower Bay of Fundy

by Susanna Fuller. April 1998. 90 pages.

Between The Issues (BTI): Published Quarterly.

Community and Social Considerations in Salt Marsh Restoration Work in Nova Scotia

by Tony Bowron, with Jennifer Graham and Mark Butler. October 1999. 15 pages.

Conservation Lost at Sea, Discarding and Highgrading in the Scotia-Fundy Groundfishery in 1998

by Heather Breeze. November 1998. 15 pages.

Coral Booklet - Deep Sea Corals Nova Scotia's Secret Forest

The Decline of the Cape Breton Swordfish Fishery: An Exploration of the Past and Recommendations for the Future of Nova Scotia Fishery

by Gretchen Fitzgerald. January 2000. 57 pages.

Distribution and Status of Deep Sea Corals off Nova Scotia

by Heather Breeze. November 1997. 60 pages.

Diversity and Distribution of Associated Fauna of Commercial Scallop Grounds in the Lower Bay of Fundy

by Sara Magee, Ellen Kenchington, Dale Roddick, Derek Davis, and Mark Butler. October 1999. 15 pages.

Epibiota of Scallop Beds in the Lower Bay of Fundy

by Sara Magee, Ellen Kenchington, Derek Davis and Mark Butler. 100 pages.

Getting Dirty: the Why and How of Salt Marsh Restoration - Proceedings of the Salt Marsh Restoration Workshop Held in Wolfville, NS, November 5 - 7, 2000.

Edited by Caroline Cameron, Tony M. Bowron, June Hall, Mark Butler and Jennifer Graham. 27 pages.

Managing Our Fisheries, Managing Ourselves

edited by Laura Loucks, Tony Charles and Mark Butler. 1998. 83 pages.

Marine Benthic Seascapes: Fishermen's Perspectives

by Susanna Fuller and Peggy Cameron. September 1998. 64 pages.

The Nova Scotia Coastal Water Trail: A Guide for Recreational Boaters (Lunenburg to Halifax)

by Sue Browne, Sheena Masson and Sean Smith. July 2000. 72 pages & maps.

Program of First International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals Held in Halifax, NS, July 30 - Aug 3, 2000. 50 pages.

Submission to the Georges Bank Review Panel submitted by the Marine Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre

by Erin Rankin, Mark Butler and Tim Church.

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volunteers

Dave Aalders
Christina Alcorn
Christene Almon
Doug Bamford
Kim Belyea
Susan Bennet
Angela Birch
Leigh Bird
Kevin Blair
Emma Boardman
Tony Bowron
Heather Boyd
Liz Boyle
Freideman Brauer
Heather Breeze
Dave Brickman
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Sue Browne
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Mark Butler
Maria Cain
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Micah Donovan
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Patricia Elliott
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Gretchen Fitzgerald
Meredith Flannery
Susanna Fuller
Leanne Gardiner

Marcus Garnet
Louise Gass
Susan Gass
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Annie-France Gravel
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Christian Haak
June Hall
Caitlin Hancey
Rob Hansen
Ariel Harper
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Leif Helmer
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Anne Marchildon
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Olga Milosovitch
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Kathleen Morrison
Randy Mosher
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Rebecca O'Brien
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Stephanie Sodero
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Lisa Trevisan
Jamie Van Wart
Dan Walsh
Gerald Walsh

Kathy Wardle
Sue Watson
Pamela Wentzell
Max Westhead
Louise White
Jesse Williams
Kate Willison
Martin Willison
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Peter Young

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DFO: Habitat Management Branch
and Oceans Act Coordination Office

Davis Conservation Foundation

Department of Natural Resources (NS)

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Miller Waste Systems

Bubby Mooers

Nova Scotia Pottery Guild

Nature Colours

Alice Reid

Martin Willison

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in-kind contributors

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Dr. Allan Ammann, USDA-NRCS, New Hampshire | Dr. Michelle Dionne, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Wells, ME | What-a-Site Networks! |
| Atlantic Boating News | EDM Environmental Design & Management | World Wildlife Fund Canada |
| Atlas Wine Merchants | Tim Farmer | |
| Laura Barkhouse | Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists | |
| Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Minas Basin Working Group | Garrison Breweries | |
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| Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada | Rob Hansen | |
| Coastal Adventures | Bev Lamb | |
| Community Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS) | Oliver Maass | |
| DFO: Oceans and Coastal Management Division | Metro Transit | |
| DHM Communications | Hugh Morse | |
| Dalhousie Instructional Media Services and Conference Services | National Estuarine Research Reserve, Wells, ME. | |
| Dalhousie University | Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History | |
| Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (NS) | Nova Scotia Sea School | |
| Department of Environment (NS) | Loring Porter | |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Habitat Division | Propeller Brewing Company | |
| Department of Municipal Affairs, Geomatics Centre (NS) | Science and Management of Protected Areas Association | |
| Department of Natural Resources (NS) | Sea Sun Kayaking | |
| Department of Sports and Recreation Commission (NS) | shunpiking | |
| Department of Transportation and Labour (NS) | Sobeys | |
| | Susan Snow Cotter | |
| | Staples the Business Depot | |
| | Chris Wallace | |
| | Jesse Williams | |

notes



ecology action centre

1568 Argyle Street, Suite 31
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2B3

p: 902.429.2202

f: 902.422.6410

e: eac_hfx@istar.ca

www.chebucto.ns.ca/environment/eac