

## 1979/80 ANNUAL REPORT

### OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Grant MacDonald

To meet the challenges of environmental restoration and preservation requires persistence, dedication and a fundamental optimism about the future of life on this planet. The past year at Ecology Action Centre - in fact the last decade - serves to reinforce this point.

The health risks and environmental problems resulting from our move toward a modern industrial society are slowly but steadily encroaching upon the perceived material benefits associated with "progress". All too often, modernization implies a non-sustainable lifestyle, dependent on cheap energy and limitless resources. As a result we suffer problems of acid rain, industrial pollution, waste management, resource depletion, toxic chemical contamination and possible climatological change (due to destruction of the ozone layer and increased concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere).

Despite these seemingly overwhelming hazards, environmental restoration and protection are not impossible goals. In fact, there continue to be a number of significant steps forward. A variety of innovative programs are now available from some sectors of government, designed to promote energy efficiency and alternate energy systems. Industry has taken initiative, in some instances, via recycling or resource recovery programs. Surveys of the general public indicate that people are, in fact, concerned about environmental degradation and are willing to pay the costs of environmental protection. For the past decade, Ecology Action Centre and groups like us have worked to encourage and facilitate such moves toward a sustainable society. However, we still have a long way to go.

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### ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE AT A GLANCE

July 1980

Founded: 1971

**Corporate status:** Incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act as a **non-profit corporation**. Registered tax number is 0413096-59-03.

**Offices and Library:** Forrest Building, Dalhousie University, 5873 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3J5

**Library is non-lending, open to the public weekdays 9 - 5.**

**Telephone:** (902) 422-4311 or 422-3281

**Purpose and General Activities:** **Research, education, and action projects involving the preservation or improvement of environmental quality.** Ecology Action Centre advocates informed **public involvement** in decisions affecting the environment.

#### Organizational Structure:

- \* **Board of Directors**—Elected annually by the members at the Annual General Meeting; responsible for overall policy; meet every month.
- \* **Core Staff**—Three full-time; responsibilities include research, publications, project supervision, and the library, as well as administration and day-to-day decision-making.
- \* **Members' Action Committees**—Currently **Recycling ; Agriculture; Energy; and Urban and Transportation Issues**. Committees are semi-autonomous, setting up their own meetings, structures, and priorities; anyone may initiate a new committee and apply to the Board of Directors for official recognition; anyone may join one or more existing committees.
- \* **Volunteers**—Much support—office, administrative, and fund-raising—as well as some research and action is undertaken by individual members.

Current Membership: (Approximately) 600

Newsletter: **Jusun**. 5 times a year.





## A PROFILE OF LAST YEAR

By Cathy Frazee

The past twelve months at the Centre—ending in March of 1980—were particularly active. In addition to our normal level of operations, we were engaged in several ambitious and important projects, including the production of a draft Environmental Law text book for Nova Scotia schools and the start-up of a residential paper recycling program in two Halifax neighbourhoods.

As this Annual Report outlines, the Centre sees itself as playing an important role in environmental education, research and, when circumstances demand, actions such as our public opposition to the Market Place Plaza proposal for the corner of Brunswick and George Streets in Halifax. Much of the Centre's efforts in these endeavours is devoted to bringing people together, gathering and disseminating information, providing informed commentary on the environmental issues affecting the province and the region, and offering alternative solutions to those problems.

The Centre's success and the reputation it has built up over the past ten years, is due to the very significant contribution made by its staff. Indeed, it is their sense of commitment to what the Centre stands for that must explain the tremendous amount of themselves they give to the Centre's activities. Surely no one has contributed more to the Centre than its coordinator Susan Mayo, who will be leaving us this summer. Susan's high spirit and sense of concern have helped the Centre through some rough times and will undoubtedly set the tone of the Organization for years to come. Her presence will be greatly missed and on behalf of all the members I would like to extend to her our love and best wishes in future endeavours.

In addition to thanking the staff - Susan Holtz, Susan Mayo and Ginny Point - and the Board of Directors, I should also like to thank individual members of the Centre and the many other contributors for their generous support and encouragement over the past year.



The past twelve months at Ecology Action Centre have been active, productive and very demanding. The Centre is fortunate to have such a committed staff and membership.

The work spanned a number of environmental issues, ranging from energy policy and urban development to transportation and resources management. We approached each of these issues from three different perspectives: community action, research and public education—each of which serves to complement the other two. Clearly, community action is a vital means of drawing immediate attention to a given issue, and offering concrete alternatives towards solving the problem. Yet, despite the apparent success or failure of the particular action program, it is the long term effort in terms of research and education that yields the greatest positive rewards. Thus the Centre continues to place a high priority on the low profile - but very important - work associated with research and public education.

What follows is a summary report, outlining the highlights of the Centre's activities during the course of the past fiscal year.

### I. Community Action

The true spirit of community action was perhaps best exemplified in Ecology Action Centre's Recycling Program. The eight months preceding this report saw the successful establishment of a biweekly paper pick-up and recycling service in the Spryfield and Fairview communities. This pilot project, launched in conjunction with the Coalition Supportive Services and the Halifax Guiding and Scouting Movement, netted an average of 6000 pounds of paper per pick-up for recycled use as cardboard or cellulose insulation.

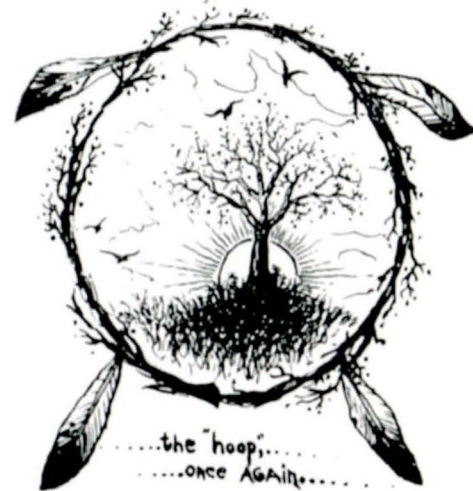
Within the context of urban development and planning in the Metro area, considerable attention has been focused on the "Battle of Citadel Hill". Ecology Action Centre, along with a number of other groups and individuals, voiced its opposition to the construction of a high-rise office complex at the corner of George and Brunswick Streets, directly across from the Halifax Citadel and the Town Clock. Two major briefs, detailing concerns about the height and mass of the proposed development, its incompatibility with other historic structures on Brunswick Street, and other matters arising from issues of urban planning, were carefully prepared by Ecology Action Centre and submitted to City Council. Despite much public criticism of the proposed building, City Council approved its construction. Ecology Action Centre, along with several other groups and individuals, filed a formal appeal in opposition to the building with the Planning Appeal Board. The Board has not yet reached a decision on the matter.

A third local endeavour, in the context of municipal development, focused upon the Plant Wharf - or Irving Arch - the last

remaining arch east of Water Street. Following a presentation made by Ecology Action Centre to the Landmarks Commission, the Commission recommended that the Arch be designated a heritage resource. Council later accepted this recommendation and urged the Waterfront Development Corporation to retain the structure. Despite this official sanction by City Hall, and the cooperative efforts between the Centre and the Heritage Trust Foundation, the Irving Arch was demolished on May 31, 1980.

Other ongoing activities of the Centre included active participation in the downtown planning process, submission of a brief to Halifax City Council laying the foundation for their decision not to spray city trees with toxic chemicals for pest control, a study of the proposed Route 107 by-pass and its implications for transit and land use.

Turning to the larger Nova Scotian community, Ecology Action Centre made representation to the Public Utilities Board hearings in May, 1979. A brief from the Centre focused upon electricity rate design and the questionable use of herbicides by the Nova Scotia Power Corporation.



In the broad forum of political activity, the Ecology Action Centre prepared comprehensive briefs on economic aspects of energy conservation and on energy policy and the environment. These were presented by the Centre to the Hon. Marc Lalonde and the Hon. John Roberts, on behalf of thirty-five non-governmental environmental organizations.

On the anti-nuclear front, the Centre was active in the co-sponsorship (with other Maritime Energy Coalition groups) of a mass demonstration at the Maritime Premiers' Conference in Brudenelle, P.E.I. In addition, Ecology Action Centre undertook the coordination of a petition campaign which drew 15,000 signatures from Nova Scotia residents, urging the declaration of a moratorium on nuclear plant construction, and the redirection of these monies towards the development and implementation of renewable energy sources.



ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

MARCH 31, 1980

	1980				Total	1979
	Core Operation	Rights of Way	Projects Law Text	Recycling		
<b>Revenue:</b>						
Donations and memberships	\$13,470				\$13,470	\$11,934
Government grants	1,000				1,000	1,750
Project grants	890	\$7,382	\$6,840		15,112	6,159
Project revenue				\$1,991	1,991	
Fund raising activities	4,224				4,224	504
Information services	3,598				3,598	
Miscellaneous	1,684			20	1,704	1,382
	<u>24,866</u>	<u>7,382</u>	<u>6,840</u>	<u>2,011</u>	<u>41,099</u>	<u>21,729</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Salaries and employee benefits	14,300	6,547	2,968		23,815	13,210
Office supplies and services	2,003	172	1,783	286	4,244	2,608
Telephone	1,841	87	136		2,064	959
Postage	469		77	124	670	759
Travel	557	238			795	270
Publications	2,139		1,465		3,604	890
Depreciation	52				52	65
Fund raising activities	4,699				4,699	
Information services	1,010				1,010	
Miscellaneous	938	333	89	497	1,857	877
	<u>28,008</u>	<u>7,377</u>	<u>6,518</u>	<u>907</u>	<u>42,810</u>	<u>19,638</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	(3,142)	5	322	1,104	(1,711)	2,091
Members' equity - beginning of year	<u>6,051</u>				<u>6,051</u>	<u>3,960</u>
Members' equity - end of year	<u>\$ 2,909</u>	<u>\$ 5</u>	<u>\$ 322</u>	<u>\$1,104</u>	<u>\$ 4,340</u>	<u>\$ 6,051</u>

## By Grant MacDonald

Like many charitable organizations which depend on the contribution of volunteers and denations in kind, the Centre's financial statements do not reflect the actual magnitude and value of our efforts. Indeed, the statements accurately reflect only the monetary transactions the Centre has engaged in and if we could easily "account" for all the human and material resources employed, the figures would be considerably higher than what the audited accounts indicate. (A glance at Cathy Frazee's report on activities makes that obvious.)

In fact, two large sources of salary funds are not included in the financial statement because they were paid directly from an outside source and did not pass through the Centre's books. These moneys totalled approximately \$4400 from the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment for two summer students, and approximately \$5280 from the Department of Justice for work on the Environmental Law Text, in addition to the \$6840 already indicated on the statement.

That qualification aside, the financial statements present, for the first time, a picture of the Centre's consolidated operations, i.e., both core operations and special projects. It is important to stress that the Centre is not dependent on special projects for survival. Indeed, the Board of Directors of the Centre made a critical decision in 1975 not to undertake any long range activities which could not be supported by membership and donations. Thus, these special projects should be seen as a significant part of the Centre's over all operations but not as essential to the Centre's existence.

Over 50% of the Centre's Core Revenues come from membership fees and corporate donations. The remainder of our funds come from various institutional sources such as the Quakers and municipal governments and from fund raising activities such as book sales and bake sales. Consulting fees and honoraria (for information services), although they come in small amounts, are becoming an increasingly significant source of operating funds.

In terms of expenses, most of our modest budget is paid out in salaries. In 1979/80, the Centre employed three permanent staff - two full time and one part time - and several summertime contract workers, with revenues from Core Operations and special projects. Of particular significance is the expense item "fund-raising activities" which represents the cost of several fund-raising projects, most notably a dinner put on for an Environmental Law Conference in Halifax and the printing of several thousand of our full colour "little planet" posters, most of which have yet to be sold.

The Centre's financial situation appears to be stronger than ever before, but is by no means a justification for complacency. Much more effort needs to be put into corporate fund-raising and into increasing our membership. These are the Centre's two most important sources of revenue and the two which hold the greatest potential for positive results.

*Clarkson Gordon*

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### AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of  
Ecology Action Centre

We have examined the balance sheet of Ecology Action Centre as at March 31, 1980 and the statement of revenue and expenditures and members' equity for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, except as noted in the following paragraph.

In common with many charitable organizations, the organization reports an amount for donation revenue which is not susceptible to complete verification by audit procedures. Accordingly, our verification of revenue from this source was limited to a comparison of recorded receipts with bank deposits.

In our opinion, except for the possibility of adjustments had donations been susceptible to complete audit verification, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 1980 and its revenue and expenditures for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for organizations of this type applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*Clarkson Gordon*  
Chartered Accountants

Halifax, Canada  
July 10, 1980

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 1980

1. Significant accounting policies:
  - (a) Grants—  
Grants are recorded as income in the year they are received from the granting institution.
  - (b) Fixed assets—  
Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on a declining balance basis at 20% per annum.
  - (c) Inventory—  
Inventory is valued at the lower of cost or market with cost being determined principally on a first-in, first-out basis.
2. Income tax status:  
The organization qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 149(1)(f) of the Income Tax Act and is therefore exempt from income tax.
3. Comparative figures:  
Certain of the 1979 figures have been restated to conform with the 1980 presentation.



## II. Research Activities

Research and consultation on various aspects of a Soft Energy Path for Nova Scotia represented a significant challenge for Ecology Action Centre staff person Susan Holtz and Bill Zimmerman, an active member of the Centre. A first-cut analysis of a high efficiency energy scenario to 2025 was completed for publication in the journal **Alternatives** published by Friends of the Earth (Canada), a national organization of environmental groups of which the Centre is a member. These studies in particular - along with external publications and data catalogued in the Centre's energy library - point the way toward a soft energy path which is both economically feasible and environmentally safe and which, by definition, aims not radically to replace but gradually to transform our current energy systems. Such work reflects the Centre's ongoing commitment to a soft path strategy, which features rapid development of renewable energy resources such as sun, wind and biomass, coupled with much greater efficiency.

Complementary consultative projects undertaken by the Centre during the past year include a review and update of Ecology Action Centre's 1977 carpool project and input into Nova Scotia's provincial energy policy, with specific regard to conservation and renewables. Other major research topics have ranged from pollution and toxic chemicals to uranium mining and offshore oil/gas development, always with particular view toward Nova Scotian context.

Also undertaken by Ecology Action Centre during the past year was an extensive survey of common lands and rights of way in Nova Scotia. In a summer-long study conducted by three students under a Young Canada Works grant, important discoveries were made concerning little-known details of public ownership of park lands and legal access to certain trails and waterways. Erosion of these rights-of-way and expropriation of common lands in the wake of increased pressures for commercial development present a serious threat to their survival, according to the Centre's study. And while a final report on the issues is still under preparation, it appears that a new avenue for some form of Ecology Action Centre activity will soon emerge in this area.



## III. Educational Projects

The Environmental Lecture Series most definitely constitutes a high point in the year's educational programming. Lectures were generally well attended and invariably thought-provoking, and focused upon a wide range of topical matters. Themes ranged in scope from informational (**Backyard and Sewage Composting**) to theoretical (**The Consumer Society Reexamined**); from local (**Hallifax: Image of our City**) to global (**Healthy Foods and a Healthy Land**); from practical (**Home Energy Conservation**) to technical (**Electricity Pricing**).

Completion of the draft edition of a high school textbook in Environmental Law represents another significant achievement for the Centre and the outcome of a cooperative relationship with the Dalhousie Law School. While editorial revisions are now under way prior to publication, other educational materials assembled by Ecology Action Centre - notably the Nuclear Information Study Kit - are now ready for distribution. This detailed compilation of articles and other printed information is only one of many resources available for study or research by groups and individuals at the Centre's outstanding library, a facility used daily by layfolk and professionals alike.

Finally, in a continuous outreach programme of public education, Ecology Action Centre representatives have provided active service in extensive media appearances, formal speaking engagements and school visits at the elementary, high school and university levels. Their dedication and competence have combined to establish Ecology Action Centre as a highly respected and credible institution within the Nova Scotian community - and a voice to be reckoned with in the domain of environmental protection and policy.

Danny Baker-Toombs Shop Owner	Susan Mayo Co-ordinator
Lesley Barnes Professor	Alan Ruffman Consultant
Ann Brimer Teacher	Bessa Ruiz Professor
George Cooper Lawyer	Richard Pearson Planning Co-ordinator
Parker Donham Journalist	Van Penick Lawyer
Martin Gurnky Farmer	Glinny Point Library Assistant
Safel Hamed Professor	Kenneth Powell P.R. Director
Susan Holtz Energy Analyst	Bruce Preeper Lawyer
Joanne Langley Student	John Schelbelhut Professor/Administrator
Grant MacDonald Program Administrator	Phil Thompson Consultant/Journalist
Richard MacFarlane Salesman	Peter Wainwright Consultant
Anne Martell Consultant	Rick Zwick Shop Owner

## 1980/81 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Danny Baker-Toombs Health Professional	Richard MacFarlane Salesperson
Ann Brimer Teacher	Elizabeth May Law Student
Nina Butlin Cream Producer	Richard Pearson Planning Co-ordinator
George Cooper Lawyer	Van Penick Lawyer
Parker Donham Journalist	Glinny Point Project Co-ordinator
Cathy Frazee Consultant	Merrill Rice Salesperson
Jim Frost Commercial Analyst	Bessa Ruiz Professor
Elizabeth Greenhaves Office Manager	John Schelbelhut Professor/Administrator
Susan Guppy Program Co-ordinator	Daphne Taylor Project Co-ordinator
*Hal Mills Research Associate	Rolie Thompson Lawyer
Safel Hamed Professor	*Fred Wendt Planner
Susan Holtz Energy Analyst	John Wright Public Administrator
Grant MacDonald Program Administrator	Rick Zwick Shop Owner

\*Nominees - to be approved



By Bessa Rulz

The focus of EAC continues to be a dual one:

- (1) long term education and research
- (2) short term response to current issues, including special interests of the Centre's membership.

Balancing these needs, demands, time and energy is an ongoing struggle, which is sometimes an orderly process, sometimes chaotic, occasionally hilarious, rarely hopeless. But underlying all of the Centre's work is the fundamental belief that environmental protection and wise resource management are non-negotiable prerequisites of a sustainable society. The foundations of our current society were laid at a time when energy was cheap, and the long term health effects of various man-made chemicals were largely unknown. Times have changed, however. Ecology Action Centre is committed to the concept of a conservator society based on a sustainable future. The challenge is to further public understanding and acceptance of these vital principles.

Among the highlights for this coming year is the 1980/81 lecture series, which considers the impact of offshore oil, another look at shopping centres, health hazards of mineral mining in Nova Scotia, urban gardening and lots more. We also are planning an educational outreach program in the schools, and a wide range of committee activities. For example, the various committees envisage planning for future uses of the former Halifax Watershed Lands, monitoring the uranium exploration program in Nova Scotia, and promoting the concept and practice of sustainable agriculture in place of chemically dependent farming programs. All the other work continues - in committee, by EAC staff, the membership and volunteers.

The major long term business this year will be two energy research projects: one on Municipal Energy Management (a contract with the N.S. Department of Mines &



1980/81 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Energy) and a legal study of "solar access" funded by a grant from the Nova Scotia Law Foundation.

The contracts change, but do not eliminate, the question of finances. EAC continues to be, and should always be, in my mind, an organization based on grass roots support, both in terms of time and money. The process should work from the "bottom up" to a large extent and we look forward to members' continued participation and direction. We welcome an increase in 'contributing members', those who indicate by their \$25 cheque their recognition that the basic membership fee covers little more than the cost of newsletters. I strongly urge any of you who can to take the additional step of becoming a sustaining member for a year by sending us 12 post-dated monthly cheques for \$10. Help keep our grass roots strong!

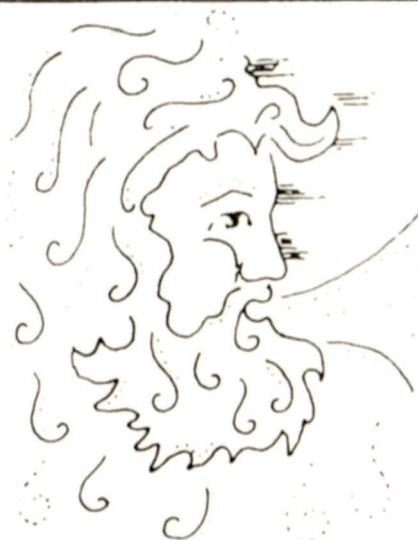
Finally we welcome Elizabeth Greenhovens, our new office manager. We have an in-

credibly committed staff! They put time and effort into EAC far beyond an 'employer's' wildest dreams. Much of our success - past and present - is due to their efforts. They need your support, too.

Our next annual meeting will be in June, 1981 (when we will, in fact, be celebrating the Centre's tenth anniversary). Until then, you are welcome to attend Board meetings (fourth Wednesday of the month), to join in committee work or to volunteer time in the office. I look forward to meeting many new people this year.

JUSUN STAFF

- Editors ..... Cathy Frazee  
Elizabeth Greenhovens  
Ginny Point



Membership Form

I wish to join Ecology Action Centre and receive free copies of JUSUN and BETWEEN THE ISSUES, EAC publications.

- \$10 individual membership
- \$25 contributing membership
- \$75 professional membership
- \$100 corporate membership
- \$10 a month for one year sustaining membership

All payments are tax-deductible. Mail your payment to Ecology Action Centre, Forrest Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3J5 422-4311



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