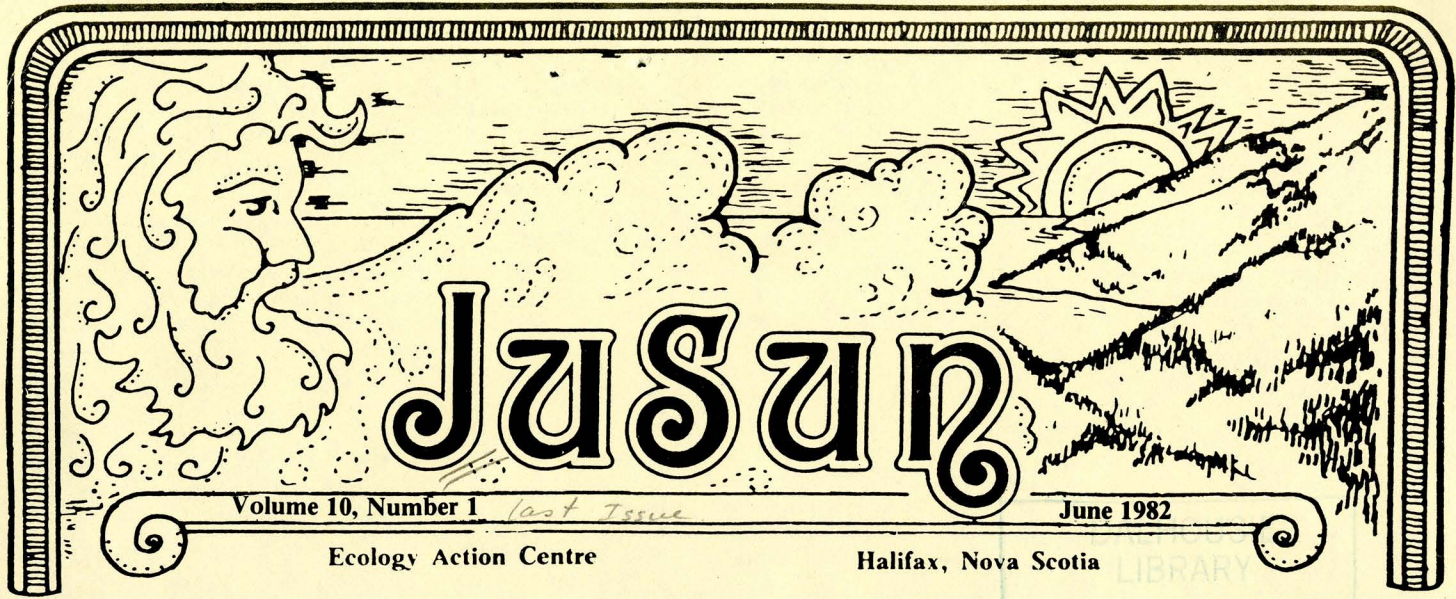


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Volume 10, Number 1 *Last Issue* June 1982
Ecology Action Centre Halifax, Nova Scotia

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1980/1982 BI-ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bessa Ruiz

If the 1960's and 70's have been a period of dawning awareness and early growth for the environmental movement, the early 1980's are seeing a certain maturity. That is, the notion that the health of the physical world around us is of concern to everyone is now generally accepted. We have moved from the "fringe" ("eco-freaks") to legitimacy in the eyes of business, labour, government, and the general public.

This acceptance, however, has meant a turning point in terms of resources and support for all environmental groups, EAC included. Since environmental issues are now part of the 'normal' scene, business and government build their own departments, and procedures, which leaves groups like EAC having to reassess their resources, role and sources of support.

Our year's activity reflects this. The Board has spent considerable time and energy reorganizing to meet the challenge and expects to come out of it with a sense of renewed clarity and strength. In the midst of this process now, we welcome member input. Please contact us if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions.

Grassroots membership - the time and energy and commitment of people - has been and must continue to be our major resource. We have built up a strong base of community support, and seek to maintain and expand this.

Core funding will continue to come from a variety of sources - individual membership, corporate memberships, special events, and so on. It's an ongoing struggle, as we explore every avenue to increase our bases of support.

EAC continues to play a substantial role in N.S.'s environmental movement. The information flow is constant - the phone rings off the hook all day, mail comes in in ever increasing

(continued on page 3)

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE AT A GLANCE

Founded: 1971

Corporate status: Incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act as a **non-profit corporation** Classified under the Federal Income Act as a **Registered Charity** (Tax number 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. Focus is on local and provincial issues, with a secondary emphasis on the regional, national, and international levels. A global, long-term perspective is implicit in the Centre's goals.

Ecology Action Centre advocates **public involvement** in decisions affecting the environment, and works to ensure that everyone involved in that process is as thoroughly well-informed as possible.

Organizational Structure:

- * **Board of Directors**—Elected annually by the members at the Annual General Meeting; responsible for overall policy; meets every month.
- * **Core Staff**—2 part-time and 1 full-time people; responsibilities include research, publications, project supervision, and the library, as well as administration and day-to-day decision-making.
- * **Members' Committees**—Currently include **Agriculture; Energy; Forestry; Uranium; Environmental Education; and Urban & 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

Journal: Jusur - published sporadically, on particular environmental issues.

Newsletter: Between the Issues - published 4 times a year.

Fiscal Year: Year ends March 31. Annual General Meeting after publication of Auditor's Report, in September/October.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS

by Gwen Davies and Ginny Point

The increasing pressure to use chemicals for weed and insect control in forestry and agriculture; the ongoing problem of toxic waste mismanagement; and the arrival of over a dozen uranium mining companies in Nova Scotia made 1980-1982 extremely active years. As will be evident in the following summary of Ecology Action Centre's activities during this period, EAC's approach to these issues involves research, education and action - all of which are mutually complementary and fundamental to the way Ecology Action Centre functions as a public interest group.

1. Uranium Development

A quick look at the activities of the Uranium Mining Committee shows a public lecture in February 1981 on the environmental and health impacts of mining; a two day conference on radiation health effects, sponsored by the Maritime Energy Coalition (of which EAC is a member); a letter writing campaign to dozens of Nova Scotia based organizations asking for support of a resolution calling for a government imposed moratorium on uranium exploration in Nova Scotia; and widespread distribution of an excellent fact sheet on uranium mining written by C.A.P.E. in Hants County. As of November 1981, twenty-six of these groups had passed the resolution.

* In 1981/82 the Committee worked with C.A.P.E. and other local groups to collect over 6000 signatures on a petition to the government of Nova Scotia calling for a moratorium on exploration and a ban on mining of uranium. Public lectures at the Halifax Regional Library were co-sponsored by Ecology Action Centre and two other groups, and a public talk by Dr. Eric Young of the B. C. Medical Association was held as well. At present the Committee is preparing an extensive brief for submission before the Nova Scotia commission of Inquiry into Uranium Mining.

Of course, the real work on the uranium mining issue started years ago with the compilation of information in the Centre's Resource Library. Drawing from a number of sources, the files now contain extensive information, including copies of most of the submissions to the Bates Inquiry recently held in British Columbia.

2. Urban Issues

It was a "win one, lose one" year for EAC's Urban Committee. The shores of Withrod and Long Lakes in the old Halifax watershed lands were spared the immediate threat of industrial development by the Atlantic Winter Fair, thanks to a close vote by Halifax City Council. In preparation for that vote an ad hoc committee of EAC and Community Planning Association of Canada had prepared an extensive report critiquing that site and recommending the old Halifax Forum grounds as an alternative site.

The Urban Committee's greatest disappointment last year came with the groundbreaking for Market Place Plaza (corner of George and Market Streets, Halifax). After losing the appeal

before the Planning Appeal Board, the Committee publicly supported further legal action brought by several other groups at the level of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court. That suit was also lost.

Other activities by the Urban Committee ranged from continued input into the Downtown Committee, to representation to Dartmouth City Council about commonlands/rights of way, a public information session about McNab's Island, and opposition at a public meeting in Halifax to a revised "Harbour Drive" plan for Barrington St. The plan was subsequently approved in principle by Halifax City Council.

On the topic of urban tree management, the Centre presented an extensive brief to Halifax City Council recommending that chemical insecticides not be used on city trees. Several other groups and individuals voiced their concern as well. Happily, the result was a Council decision in favour of non-chemical based insecticidal soap sprays.

3. Recycling

During 1979 and 1980, the Centre's Recycling Committee coordinated a very successful door-to-door paper collection service which averaged 6000 pounds of paper per pick-up day, with an estimated 35-40% of the households in the target areas participating in the program. The service was so successful in demonstrating people's willingness to recycle that private business took over (basically squeezed us out) with promises to cover the entire city. To date, those promises have not been kept.

Still interested in recycling, EAC is now a member of the Secondary Resource development Council (Atlantic Region). The goal of the SRDC nationally is information exchange and promotion of recycling in general.

4. Agriculture

The Agriculture Committee gained considerable support for the idea of "urban farming"

-serious food production in the city - during the past two years by offering lectures and mini-courses to the general public and helping to establish a new independent group called the Halifax Community Gardening Association.

Issues concerning sustainable agriculture were the focus of an evening lecture in Halifax, and two day-long workshops in Tatamagouche, sponsored by the Agriculture Committee. Out of the first workshop came a resolution supported by over a dozen local groups which called upon the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing to create a new position for an agriculture representative with expertise in "sustainable agriculture". By that is meant agriculture which is supportable over the long run in terms of pest control, energy inputs and soil fertility. To date, no such position has been established.

5. Forestry

Forestry issues were in the forefront in the summer of 1981 while EAC worked with other groups to disseminate information about the hazards of herbicides 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T which are proposed for hardwood control in Nova Scotia. The recent announcement of a Nova Scotia Commission of Inquiry into Forestry-related matters, and the prospect of an increased number of applications for herbicide spray permits for this summer of 1982, have prompted the formation of a new EAC Forestry Committee.

6. Environmental Education

In addition to the public education programs sponsored by the above-mentioned committees, Ecology Action Centre undertook various special education projects, such as an outreach program to Halifax City Schools (funded by Halifax City), a monthly lecture series at the Nova Scotia Museum on issues ranging from toxic waste management to occupational health and safety, or further work on the draft environmental law text for high



(continued from page 2)

school students. A special student project last summer (1981) resulted in the production of **Pathways**, a reference book and teaching manual on environmental issues in Nova Scotia. Subsequent teacher workshops were held to further ideas generated in **Pathways**.

Of course, there was also all the day-to-day education work of answering telephone or written requests for information in the office, or speaking upon request to university classes and so on.

7. Research

Implicit in this rundown of activities are the many hours spent on research work done at Ecology Action — the background reading and analysis of issues which enables EAC to take informed positions on issues as they arise. Research was clearly crucial for the ongoing development of the resource library; and the library was in turn fundamental for effective environmental action and committee work. For example, one area in which the Centre is increasingly involved in terms of developing an analysis of, and ultimately taking action on, is the critical problem of toxic materials; and the files have grown substantially on this subject in the past few years.

This not-so-visible, but essential work has augmented in the past two years by various major research projects directed by Susan Holtz, focusing on Soft Energy Paths, Municipal Energy Management, and Solar Access Law (Right to Light). Funded respectively through contracts with the Federal Department of Energy Mines and Resources, the Provincial Department of Mines and Energy, and the Nova Scotia Law Foundation, these undertakings added much depth to the Centre's expanding information base.

All in all, 1980-1982 were active years — ones which brought increased public recognition of environmental issues here in Nova Scotia, and one which brought renewed efforts to investigate and propose environmentally appropriate solutions to the problems we now face.



Susan Holtz and Susan Mayo in EAC offices, 1978 (left to right)

(continued from page 1)

amounts, staff could work (and sometimes do!) a 48 hr. day, and still never catch up with requests, issues to address, etc. This infrastructure role is often an invisible one, work done quietly in the background to support the more high profile stuff we all hear about. The funding crunch is related to this, as we struggle to articulate what we do and why it is important.

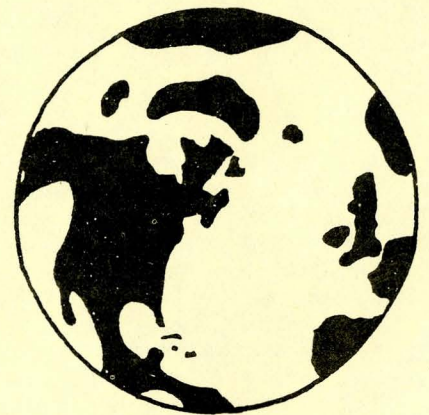
EAC's visible response to issues - advocacy role - is more readily seen (and reacted to), and therefore more controversial than the infrastructure role. **Both** roles are crucial and need support from a **broad** base of people and organizations. We have achieved, over these ten years, high credibility across the province and indeed all over Canada, and have no intention of compromising that.

So far, we have been lucky in terms of staff. They work long and hard, because they are committed to an idea. How long we can sustain this remains to be seen, but at some point, competitive salaries must inevitably become part of our resource base if we are to survive and grow.

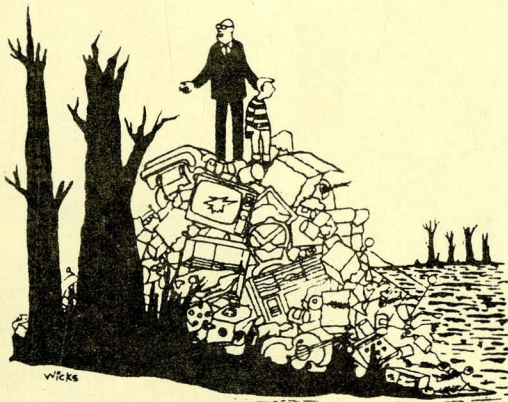
Finally, we are increasingly surrounded in Nova Scotia by issues which we ignore at our peril—notably uranium mining, herbicide sprays, or toxic waste mismanagement. The real fight has just begun, as we struggle to cope with a fundamental transition in the nature of our society and its implications for the environment over the next few generations.

In one sense then, we have "arrived"; yet in another, we have "just begun".

PATHWAYS



A resource and teaching manual about current environmental issues affecting Nova Scotia and the world



'Some day son, all this will be yours'



ecology action centre



The First Ten Years

by Ginny Point

Along the half-lit basement corridor of the Forrest Building, Dalhousie campus, Ecology Action Centre is a sudden bustle of colour, people and information.

One phone is ringing; someone is answering a request for information about recycling on the other line; there is a Forestry Committee meeting in the front room, and a visiting researcher in the back room reading up on uranium mining. It is a typical day at Ecology Action Centre - like many other days in the Centre's ten year history.

And like any other day, the key words are: environmental protection, conservation, recycling, and resource management for a sustainable future. Taken together, these terms provide a framework for the ecologically oriented "conservative society" which is, and always has been, Ecology Action Centre's ultimate goal.

Yet, in some respects, the present day is unlike "any other day" in the past. Ecology Action Centre has experienced significant changes over the last ten years in terms of structure, funding, role, and public image. In this tenth anniversary year, we thought an "end of the decade" report would be of interest to friends and members of Ecology Action Centre.

ISSUES

A quick look at the chronology of events below shows a wide variety of activities ranging from a Recycling Week Campaign to a brief at the Anil Hardboard hearings, the carpool project, the Spruce Budworm Symposium, the "Pointless Lepreau" float in the Halifax Natal Day Parade, or research projects, Solar Access Law for example.

As is evident, the scope of interest touches on matters of municipal, provincial and federal jurisdictions. The overriding theme however, has always been, "Think globally; act locally".

APPROACH

Ecology Action Centre has always taken a three-pronged approach to the issues; with research, education and action the key words here. From work on the "Time for Transit" booklet, to interventions before the Public Utilities Board regarding electricity pricing, or research on "Soft Energy Paths", Ecology Action Centre's work has been both "proactive" and "reactive" over the past decade. The Centre has always stressed the importance of informed public input into decision-making.

STRUCTURE

Despite a consistent philosophy and scope of interest through the years, Ecology Action Centre's structure has changed considerably over the last decade. Beginning as a spin-off project of an experimental course on "Ecology and Action" at Dalhousie University in 1971, the Centre at first depended on student involvement; its first coordinator, Brian Gifford, was a member of that ecology course. Funding came entirely from the Opportunities for Youth Program (OFY) of the Federal Government.

There was a small voluntary Board of Directors and a number of hardworking volunteers.

Between 1971 and 1974, the Centre maintained a staff ranging from one to seven people, thanks to intermittent OFY grants and LIP grants (Local Initiatives Project), with periods of no pay and much dedication.

When the LIP grants ended in 1974, EAC came to a major turning point. In recognition of the need for financial stability, independent of government, the Centre became a registered, private, non-profit society, dependent upon membership fees and donations for its core funding. This step immediately reduced staff to one. However, for the last several years, the Centre has maintained a staff of between two and three permanent employees. With such a small staff, it is clear that EAC owes its success to the many active members and volunteers in the office and on the committees. In fact, it was recently calculated that volunteer and staff time combined now equals about eighteen person-years.

FUNDING

Looking specifically at funding through the years, it is again clear that 1974 was a critical year. From that point forward, membership fees, corporate donations and special fundraising events have been the mainstay of core funding, and this by deliberate policy. The change to diversified funding has made Ecology Action Centre free to pursue the interests of its members with no fear of "government cutbacks".

Financial independence has often meant financial insecurity however. In 1977, Susan Mayo was "laid off" for several months as Coordinator due to lack of funds.

1981/1982 was also a crisis year, as Bill Coffey notes in his financial report (see page 5). Thanks to special efforts by many, finances are again fairly solid.

PUBLIC IMAGE AND ROLE

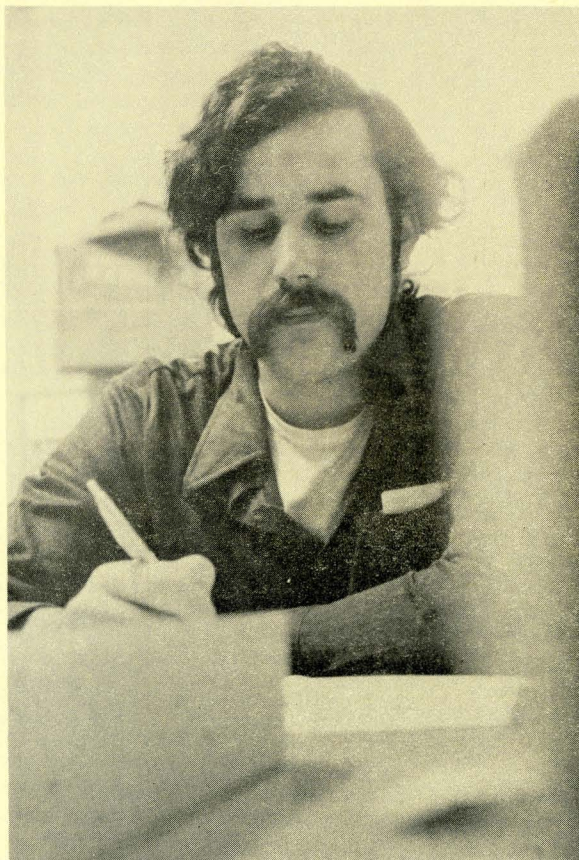
The last major change within Ecology Action Centre relates to its public image and role as an organization. As Bessa Ruiz writes in her President's report (see page 1) the Centre is no longer perceived as a bunch of "eco-freaks". Instead, the Centre commands considerable respect, if not support, from members of private industry, government, the academic community and the general public. It is not uncommon to hear words like:

Ironically, there are probably a number of issues in which the Centre is involved in which we might have an opposing view, and that would probably be the case not only corporately, by from our farmer-shareholders as well. However, we recognize the importance of alternate viewpoints, and the need to support argument with good research and public communication. Also, in the final analysis, a company like ours is really based "in the land", and our objectives cannot be very divergent in the long run.

That is a direct quote from one of the Centre's corporate members.

For people not part of the organization, the Centre's participation in the Public Utility Board hearings into electricity pricing and rate design marked a turning point in the Centre's image. Unlike earlier, highly controversial public hearings such as the Anil Hardboard plant,

(continued on page 7)



Brian Gifford, 1974

From the financial perspective, the years 1980 - 1982 can be characterized as ones of recurring crisis. Financial problems seem to be endemic to community organizations such as ours, which rely on membership fees and donations by individuals, corporations and non-governmental institutions for the vast majority of their support.

Difficulties in the past year were, however, more severe than usual. It may have been that in our enthusiasm to promote public awareness of pressing environmental issues we partially neglected the administrative aspects of the Centre; perhaps we attempted to exceed our limited resources; perhaps some of our usual funding sources began to feel the pressures of the constricting economy. Suffice it to say that times were hard.

Fortunately the story has a happy ending. In the last three months of this fiscal year the Centre was able to generate an unusually large amount of revenue. This was due to a combination of extremely hard work on the part of the staff, the generous response of members to our Christmas S.O.S., a highly successful benefit concert, and an unexpected bequest from the late, lamented MOVE organization. In the end, the Centre managed to show a modest surplus for the year.

For the Staff and the Board, the past year was both chastening and educational. As a result, we have instituted a series of measures designed to promote a higher degree of financial stability. These range from a comprehensive review of the role and goals of the Centre to more efficient office management systems. A large-scale campaign to recruit new members has been initiated, and a comprehensive fund-raising plan has been implemented. The latter has been made possible largely due to the addition to Staff of a part-time Fund-Raising Coordinator, Steve Young. Steve arrived at the Centre during the year-end frenzy and was instrumental in staving off disaster.

The above measures have already begun to show significant results. The financial prospects for the Centre are more positive than they have been for quite some time. With the short-term problems out of the way we may now turn to planning for long-term financial stability.

The accompanying auditor's report gives a full financial breakdown for the year 1980/1981. Pending completion of the formal audit for 1981/1982, our informal, internal audit shows a budget of about \$30,000 for core revenue and expenses, and that approximately 30% of the Centre's 1981/82 revenue was derived from membership fees, another 40% from other donations. The latter includes both corporate donations and grants from municipalities and institutions. Special fund-raising events, consulting fees, and the sale of publications accounts for the remainder.

In terms of expenses, the major portion of our modest budget for 1981/82 is devoted to Staff salaries. The cost of keeping members informed constitutes the second major group of expenses.

Let us bear in mind that these financial statements do not accurately reflect the magnitude or the value of the Centre's efforts. The essence of the Centre is the vast amount of time and energy contributed by its volunteers serving on its various committees and in the office.

BALANCE SHEET
MARCH 31, 1982

ASSETS

	1981	1980
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 2,248	\$4,596
Accounts Receivable	11,980	250
Inventory of publications	782	1,000
	15,010	5,846
Office Equipment, at cost	808	808
Less - Accumulated depreciation	643	601
	165	207
	\$15,175	\$6,053

LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,124	\$1,713
Members' equity:		
Accumulated excess of revenue over expenditures	8,051	4,340
	\$15,175	\$6,053

Clarkson Gordon

Chartered Accountants
12th Floor, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
Halifax, N.S., Canada
B3J 3K5
(902) 429-4080

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
Ecology Action Centre

We have examined the balance sheet of Ecology Action Centre as at March 31, 1981 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, 1981 and its revenue and expenditures for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles described in note 1 to the financial statements applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Clarkson Gordon
Chartered Accountants

Halifax, Canada
September 30, 1981

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1981

	Projects					Total	1980
	CORE	Recycling	Rights of Way	Environmental Law Text	Municipal Energy Management		
Revenue:							
Project grants	\$ 500	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$36,662	\$37,162	\$15,112
Donations and memberships	12,845	-	-	-	-	12,845	13,470
Information services	4,570	-	-	-	-	4,570	3,598
Government grants	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	1,000
Project revenues	-	1,843	-	-	-	1,843	1,991
Miscellaneous	1,761	59	-	-	-	1,820	1,704
Fund raising activities	1,603	-	-	-	-	1,603	4,224
	<u>23,279</u>	<u>1,902</u>	-	-	<u>36,662</u>	<u>61,843</u>	<u>41,099</u>
Expenditures:							
Salaries and benefits	11,183	101	-	50	11,413	22,747	23,815
Consulting and information services	230	-	-	-	18,796	19,026	1,010
Office supplies and services	6,251	104	-	210	882	7,447	4,244
Travel	1,877	923	-	-	440	3,240	795
Miscellaneous	1,698	147	-	8	46	1,899	1,857
Postage	1,424	-	-	20	-	1,444	670
Telephone	685	-	-	-	533	1,218	2,064
Fund raising activities	734	310	-	-	-	1,044	4,699
Depreciation	41	-	-	-	-	41	52
Publications	-	-	-	26	-	26	3,604
	<u>24,123</u>	<u>1,585</u>	-	<u>314</u>	<u>32,110</u>	<u>58,132</u>	<u>42,810</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(844)	317	-	(314)	4,552	3,711	(1,711)
Members' equity, beginning of year	<u>2,909</u>	<u>1,104</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>322</u>	-	<u>4,340</u>	<u>6,051</u>
Members' equity, end of year	<u>\$ 2,065</u>	<u>\$1,421</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$ 8</u>	<u>\$ 4,552</u>	<u>\$ 8,051</u>	<u>\$ 4,340</u>

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 1981

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 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.

the PUB hearing was more technical and less confrontational in nature. The Centre's input was well-researched, and credible, while at the same time recommending major changes in electricity pricing. It was so well received by the PUB that the Board ordered the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to investigate the concept of "marginal cost pricing" as recommended by Ecology Action Centre, although the Power Corporation has yet to implement the Centre's proposal.

EAC's current professional research projects and its concomitant move towards increased research capability may be subtly changing the Centre's image away from a more "grassroots" organization, towards a more "professional" organization. At the same time, however, the Centre is working to a far greater extent in cooperation with numerous local environmental groups which have emerged across the province in the last few years. Highly visible and effective at the grassroots level, these groups' members have spent hours at Ecology Action Centre's Resource Library, and in consultation with the Centre on strategy and effective action.

This complementary relationship which has developed between Ecology Action Centre and other grassroots groups is probably due to the increasing number and complexity of current issues, and to the increasing concern on the part of all Nova Scotians about the environmental consequences of our way of life.

To sum up, the changes that Ecology Action Centre has experienced over the last ten years are as much a reflection of the environmental movement and the political climate surrounding public participation, as they are of Ecology Action Centre itself. Both the Centre and the movement are at major turning points, in terms of funding, structure, role and image. And yet, with more urgency than ever, the issues continue to demand attention. With the threat of uranium mining, for example, or the reality of toxic waste mismanagement, the conserver society is still a concept only.

Highlights of EAC activities 1971 - 1980

1971 - Canadian environmental kit for teachers revised and sent out to Nova Scotian schools;

- Recycling Week co-sponsored, and recycling depot established in Halifax;

1973 - Brief presented to Municipal Development Planning Committee recommending environment related policies for the Municipal Development Plan;

- A Time for Transit pamphlet published;
- Work undertaken with other environmental groups to oppose construction of proposed 12,000 megawatt Stoddard Island Nuclear Power Station; (Successful)

1974 - Brief submitted to the Environmental Control Council regarding pollution at the Anil Hardboard Plant; (successful)

- View Planes By-Laws passed by Halifax City Council with encouragement from EAC;
- EAC recycling program folded due to market instability;



Ginny Point, John Scheibelhut, Susan Holtz, Susan Mayo, and Grant MacDonald in EAC offices, 1980

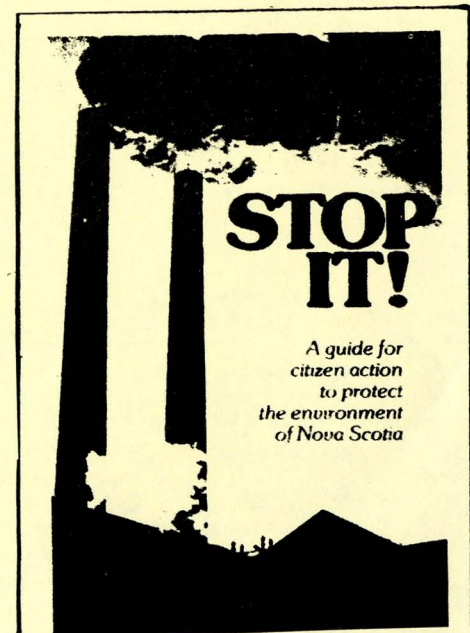
1975 - Susan Holtz given a part-time salary by Halifax Friends Association to join EAC staff as Energy Coordinator;

- Bring Back the Refillable Bottle Campaign launched by EAC, leading to modifications in the Nova Scotia Beverage Container Act;
- Report on waste analysis for Halifax and Dartmouth garbage prepared by EAC for the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission;
- Energy and People Conference co-sponsored by EAC, with over 200 in attendance;
- Report written regarding Wreck Cove Hydroelectric Project, environmental impacts;
- Report submitted to Halifax City Council regarding environmental impact studies in various North American cities, EAC invited to sit on Halifax Municipal Development Plan environmental subcommittee;
- Brian Gifford left EAC; Susan Mayo hired as coordinator;

1976 - Briefs presented by EAC and other local groups to Halifax City Council opposing proposed chemical spray program for Halifax City trees; (successful)

- **Stop It: A Guide for Citizen Action to Protect the Environment of Nova Scotia** produced;
- Intervention before the Public Utility Board undertaken regarding proposed Nova Scotia Power Corporation (NSPC) rate increases, which resulted in the PUB requiring an investigation into "marginal cost pricing" rate structures, as recommended by EAC;
- Spruce Budworm Symposium sponsored by EAC, open to the public;

"Nova Scotia's environment is our heritage and our future."



- 1977 - Carpool Project undertaken with funding from the federal government; 18,000 commuters approached; the number of resulting carpoolers lower than hoped, but successful as a public information campaign;
- Support given to the Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray; (resulted in government decision not to spray chemical insecticides on Nova Scotian forests;
 - Part-time salary donated to EAC by the Canadian Friends Service Committee for work on the energy library;
- 1978 - Report given to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Public Works of the House of Commons on the Management of Nuclear Waste;
- Further intervention before the Public Utility Board undertaken regarding electricity pricing and utility chemical spraying on power line rights of way;
- 1979 - Ginny Point hired as full time staff at EAC;
- Pointless Lepreau Float (borrowed from Fundy Area Concern for Tomorrow) awarded first prize in the Halifax Natal Day Parade, for depicting exhausted taxpayers dragging along a huge white elephant while politicians begged for handouts;
 - Summer projects on "Common Lands/ Rights of Way" and "Law and the Environment" funded through federal government;
 - Spryfield paper recycling project begun;
 - Major anti-nuclear rally at Brudenell, P.E.I. organized by EAC and other members of the Maritime Energy Coalition (800 people) - over 15,000 signatures collected by EAC and other Nova Scotian groups on a petition calling for a moratorium on nuclear power construction, and a redirecting of federal moneys to renewable energy technologies;
 - Brief submitted to the People's Food Commission by EAC's newly formed Agriculture Committee;
 - Two public information sessions on nuclear power given by EAC following the Three Mile Island Accident, and 10,000 copies of a brochure entitled "It Can Happen Here" passed out at showings of *The China Syndrome*;
 - Environmental Lecture Series begun with topics ranging from "Sewage Waste Composting" to "Healthy Foods and a Healthy Land";

- 1980 - Recycling program discontinued due to poor business climate
- Appeal of Market Place Plaza launched before the Planning Appeal Board; (Unsuccessful)
 - Acceptance by Halifax City Council of EAC's recommendation that the Irving Arch in downtown Halifax be designated as a heritage resource. Demolition of the Arch two days later;
 - Briefs submitted to Hon. Marc LaLonde and Hon. John Roberts regarding economic

- aspects of energy conservation and energy policy in conjunction with thirty-five other non-government environmental groups across the country;
- A first cut on a "Soft Energy Path for Nova Scotia" completed by Susan Holtz and Bill Zimmerman and published in **Alternatives**;
 - Susan Mayo resigned as Coordinator; Elizabeth Greenhovens hired as part-time Office Manager;

Ecology Action Centre cancels recycling service

Ecology Action
Centre lecture
set April 20



It's not that simple

For a long time, Ecology Action Centre has been saying that non-renewable or inefficient forms of energy are going to be costly both in dollars and environmental quality. Now that dollar costs are rising, this is not the time to forget about the environmental questions in the choices we'll be making.

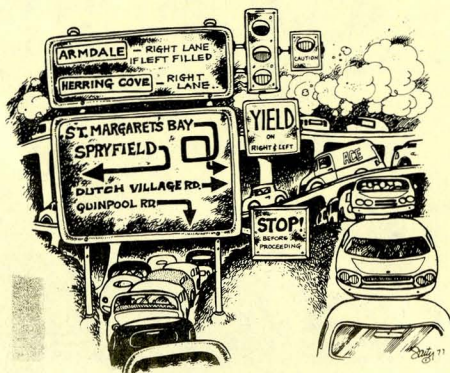
Consider joining us. The Centre needs the participation of all Nova Scotians concerned about the quality of our environment. Make your concern count.



Ecology Action Centre
Forrest Bldg.
Dalhousie University
Halifax, B3 H 3J5

— All contributions are tax deductible. —

\$5.00 individual member	\$50.00 professional member
\$25.00 contributing member	\$100.00 corporate member
	\$10.00 month; sustaining member



15,000 signatures on petition opposing N.S.
involvement in nuclear energy installation

e.a.c. news releases

The Mail Star
Halifax, N.S.
March 28, 1978

Spray Program Gets 'Tarred' Award

HALIFAX (CP) — New Brunswick's spruce budworm spray program has been named recipient of the Ecology Action Centre's annual "Tarred Duck Award" for what it considers the worst environmental event in the Atlantic Provinces during the last year.

Brian Gifford, a member of the environmental group, made the presentations at the centre's annual meeting here Sunday.

He said the most disturbing thing about New Brunswick's 1978 spray program was that the government, after losing a law suit by a family whose land was sprayed without their consent, brought in legislation removing the legal grounds for similar suits in the future. The centre also said Matacil, the insecticide

Brunswick will use this year, has not been adequately tested.

Runner-up for the negative award was Nova Scotia's decision to route the new Highway 101 along a north-south alignment through the Annapolis Valley rather than the south alternative. The group said the north-south route will use up 900 acres of prime agricultural land on 24 farms, while the southern alternative would have used only 267 acres on one major farm.

The centre also presented a positive award — the Sunshine Award — to Nova Scotia's program of home insulation grants and loans. The centre noted that more than half of the eligible housing units in Nova Scotia have used the program.

Ecology Action Centre debt free

The Ecology Action Centre is now debt free, says Anne Martell, president of the new board of directors.

Ms. Martell says an increase in membership has helped put the centre in the black and enabled it to hire a full-time staff.

Susan Mayo, a Dalhousie University graduate with a masters in Marine biology, will be the centre's coordinator while Susan Holtz continues as part-time energy coordinator.

Action centre staff had formerly worked on a volunteer basis.

Ms. Martell says supporters of the centre are encouraged to pledge \$10 per month to help with the centre's funding. Several members have already made such a pledge.

The Telegraph Journal
Saint John, N.B.
February 6, 1979

Ecology group wants deposit placed on one-way containers

The Ecology Action Centre has recommended the Nova Scotia Department of Environment take immediate steps to place a refundable deposit on one-way soft drink containers as has been done in Vermont, Oregon, Alberta and British Columbia.

EAC spokesman Brian Gifford said a deposit on throw-away beverage containers would complement the policy announced by the department last December which was intended to guarantee consumers a choice of refills in every store.

Mr. Gifford said the non-refillable deposit policy does not require heavy subsidization by tax dollars, and would guarantee the success of the government's policy. He said a deposit on one-way containers is a highly effective extension of the guaranteed choice idea.

It would provide consumers with a genuinely equal choice because it would equalize the convenience factor and move the superficial price tier created by having a deposit on refills only. Gifford said the EAC's committee recommendation to the department last week, and the department's decision to consider the non-refillable deposit as an initial measure, but might in the future if the policy of consumers choice does not work. Mr. Gifford said Nova Scotians clearly want to see effective action taken to control the non-refillable. "We believe everything possible should be done to make the beverage container policy work right from the start, and that includes placing a deposit on the non-refillables," he said.

The Mail Star
Halifax, N.S.
February 4, 1976

The Mail Star
Halifax, N.S.
October 3, 1981

Parties answer queries on ec

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) Friday released responses by provincial political candidates to a questionnaire on environmental issues.

An EAC press release said nearly 30 per cent of the 162 candidates running in Tuesday's election responded to the questionnaire. Nearly 100 per cent of those responding favoured notification of applications for permits to spray chemical insecticides and herbicides.

In the field of agriculture, most candidates favoured placing more stress on provincial self-sufficiency in agricultural production.

On the question of a moratorium on the exploration of uranium in the province, the respondents split along party lines, said the release, with the majority of NDP candidates favouring the moratorium, while the majority of Liberals did not. The PC candidates were nearly evenly divided.

On offshore development, the majority of candidates within all parties favoured a public enquiry into the impact of offshore development in Nova Scotia's fisheries. The majority of candidates questioned also favour increased energy efficiency and conservation over the

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| Danny Baker-Toombs | Stephanie Amos |
| Ann Brimer | Ann Brimer |
| Nina Butlin | Nina Butlin |
| George Cooper | Keith Clarke |
| Parker Donham | Bill Coffey |
| Cathy Frazee | Hugh Davidson |
| Jim Frost | Murray Davidson |
| Elizabeth Greenhovens | Al Dow |
| Susan Guppy | Wilson Fitt |
| Hal Mills | Jim Foulds |
| Safei Hamed | Elizabeth Greenhovens |
| Susan Holtz | Lesley Griffiths |
| Grant MacDonald | Safei Hamed |
| Richard MacFarlane | Sandra Haycock |
| Elizabeth May | Peter Hebb |
| Richard Pearson | Susan Holtz |
| Van Penick | Bonnie Kirby |
| Ginny Point | Pat LeBlanc |
| Merrill Rice | Cathy McCarthy |
| Bessa Ruiz | Hal Mills |
| John Scheibelhut | Richard Pearson |
| Daphne Taylor | Clint Mooney |
| Rollie Thompson | Van Penick |
| Fred Wendt | Ginny Point |
| John Wright | Jean Rosner |
| Rick Zwick | Bessa Ruiz |
| | Leslie Shaw |
| | Dave Taylor |
| | Gillian Thomas |
| | Scott Wood |



FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

by Gwen Davies

* as of May, 1982

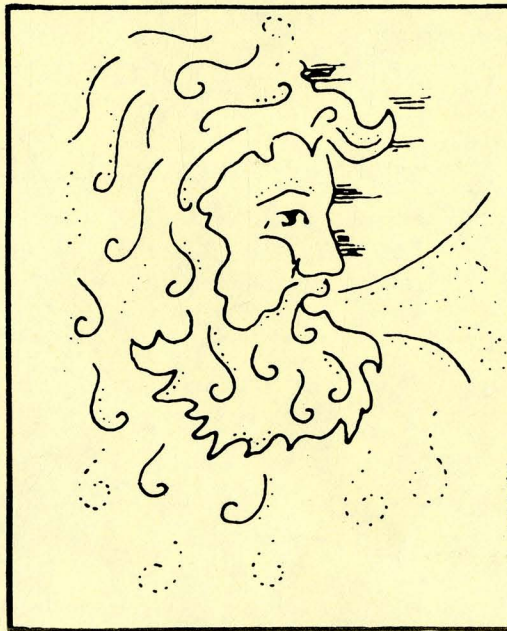
Here's a champagne toast to the volunteers at Ecology Action Centre, who hold it all together. Ecology Action Centre is a member organization whose main work force is volunteer. In a ten year time span, there were even times at EAC when everyone was a volunteer because there were no salaries. Volunteer Centre members make up the committees (generally working with one staff person). These committees are the primary unit for action on the issues which Ecology Action Centre addresses; they develop policies, conduct campaigns and work on behalf of the EAC membership. The Uranium Committee, for example, has undertaken, at times, almost weekly engagements across the province. Similarly, the Urban Committee's volunteer members are constantly leaping into the breach to challenge development proposals, to recommend alternative uses or building designs, and so on.

There are volunteers who work in the office, doing the tremendous number of administrative activities that go along with a large membership organization: bookkeeping and banking, answering innumerable requests for information, looking after memberships, typing, and filing valuable clippings and references. Volunteers have also made legal representations, written briefs, done fundraising, organized events and publicity.... the list is endless. And not least are the dedicated volunteers who serve in the demanding and responsible role of members of the Board of Directors - particularly its Executive. Over the years, the lists of outstanding contributions have been long. Just a sampling of the stalwarts: Kay Lister, Alison Parsons, Geoff Aikens, Alan Ruffman, Don Chard, Paul Emond, Ian MacDougall, Bruce Preeper, Wilson Fitt, Blair Mitchell, Daphne Taylor, Peggy Hope-Simpson, Walter Plaut, Betty MacNeil, Bessa Ruiz, Bill Coffey, Leslie Shaw Without its volunteer staff, the Centre would collapse. Here's to you all!



JUSUN STAFF

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
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| Assistant Editor | Susan Holtz |
| Layout | Ginny Point
Paul Tyndall |



Membership Form

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

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

\$15 individual 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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