

Annual General Meeting

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

APRIL 26, 1987

Staff Report - Review & Update:

This year has been an extremely busy one at the EAC offices. We have had increased personnel - with the Job Strategy Training Program Grant we achieved, allowing us to hire 3 people and also the library grant that Catherine Pross organized allowing us to have for the first time a full time librarian.

The following reports tell what we've been up to and where are we going.

**RESOURCE CENTRE:** Please see attached report.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Several innovative steps have been taken this year in our efforts to communicate environmental messages to the public. We have extensively revamped "*Between the Issues*" and we now have a weekly environmental radio show on CKDU called **Earth Action**.

With the help of Jane Tilley, a design student at NSCAD, we have given the newsletter a new look, a new visual focus and hopefully a new readable sense of organization. Learning to typeset, design and layout the newsletter on the MacIntosh Plus computer has been both a challenge and a worthwhile experience. We are actually able through Pagemaker to format the newsletter on the screen - so the days of cutting and pasting are over. "*Between the Issues*" should more and more become an important tool to use to communicate, educate and network.

**Earth Action**, is on for 15 minutes every Monday evening at 5:30 and has given us a great chance to learn more skills. A small (but brave) team of Robert Pross, as engineer, along with Leslie Shaw, Wayne Hall, Cristina Pekarik, Liz and Debrah meet once a week in the studios of CKDU and brave the airwaves. The show consists of interviews, a spot called "Lets Clean It Up", some features and environmental news. Ken Burke from CKDU helped us by teaching us the ropes about radio production and writing and spent many hours helping us to get our idea of a show on the air. THANKS KEN.

Also Debrah Westerburg is leaving after quite a few years and would like to express her appreciation for all the support, information and encouragement she has gotten in her job with EAC for these years. *The staff, the board and the members - not to mention all the interesting people who have been by the office over the years have made this the best job I have ever had. Thanks so much!!*

**SUSAN HOLTZ:** Susan will deliver an update on her work.

**FINANCES:** Please see attached Financial Statement.

**FUNDRAISING:** EAC is initiating a Corporate Fundraising Campaign. Debrah has updated our **Eac at a Glance** and has gathered information on past donors to EAC and also produced information on our most recent activities and also why a corporation should support EAC.

**GRANTS:** We feel very fortunate to have received a CEIC Jobs Strategy Grant this year so that we were able to hire Mary Dwyer Riby, Charlene Pearce and Debrah Westerburg. The work in the office, however seems to be expanding with the size of the

COMPUTER

staff!! This grant worth over \$70,000 gave us employment for one year for three people, bought the computer and paid for added general office expenses. We were also able to take training on the computer - Charlene and Mary took Worldprocessing at St. Mary's and Debrah took Desk Top Publishing there. We also had a small grant that enabled Liz to get training on the MacIntosh both at St. Mary's and through Gunter Muecke. Thank you Gunter for your advice and support.

We did not receive a Summer Student grant this summer.

We hope to get a continuation of our Job Strategy grant that will at least hire our librarian for next year.

**ENVIRONMENT WEEK:** This year EAC decided to apply for money to do an ambitious project under Environment Week. The project is called Household Hazardous Wastes and hopes to promote the idea of reduction and recycling of household wastes while alerting the general public through pamphlets and posters to the dangers that lurk in their own kitchens, bathrooms and basements. Eventually the project will be working towards a Household Hazardous Waste Depot Day.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Many, many people have been in and out of the office this year and made a great impact on the quality of the work we are able to do. We have received a lot of help from Wayne Hall, Cristina Pekarik, Jane Tilley, Mike Marshall, Pam Akerman, Gunter Muecke, Chris Maijka, David Millar, Susan Hower, Neal Livingston - and a special thanks to our board who continues to try to keep this important organization together.

**Susan Holtz Volunteer Award:** This year we have chosen to give this award to an exceptional person who has been working since childhood on a better world and a pollution free environment.

#### **LET'S CLEAN IT UP:**

After much soul searching, The board and staff of e.a.c. have embarked on a *Let's Clean it up* Campaign that will be our goal for the next few years.

Our general focus is around recycling of our wastes and the immediate goal is to increase individual awareness about dangerous household hazardous waste. The long term focus is to educate people about alternatives and encourage the 4 R's of Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and reject. This awareness we project will translate into ACTION at the municipal and provincial levels and push governments into an environmental consciousness about decisions. We will combine this campaign around clean-up issues (Halifax sewage) and long term fundraising.

#### **NETWORKING**

The Atlantic Environment Network represents groups in the Atlantic regions. These groups are all members of the Canadian Environment Network, which has 1000 member groups. This organization structures allows us to lobby the Federal and Provincial governments more effectively because we represent many people.

In our regions it means that there is some money available for networking among groups and occasionally money for core funding of groups. The Federal Minister of Environment hired Environmentist Elizabeth May to advise him on how to work with Environment groups. We are experiencing a Federal Dept. of Environment awareness that Environment groups have well researched positions and know what's happening at the grass roots.

Consultation on the Environment Protection Act by environment, business and industry groups was an example of how environment groups working with government can be affective. E.A.C.'s Susan Holtz and Liz Archibald Calder have been envolved over the past year in studying and commenting on improvements to the draft act. Because Liz is the National Steering Committee representative for Nova Scotia, many environmentalists were encouraged to take part.

Our annual Atlantic Environment Network meeting was held in Fredericton, N.B. on March 28-29 and was attended by 6 people from N.S. representing 4 groups. The meeting discussed

regional issues and planned strategies for toxic chemicals, herbicide use, forest management and economical conversion with groups from N.B., P.E.I., and Nfld. A joint press release was sent out supporting the Innu people of Labrador and asking the federal government to include the effects of militarism in mandate of the Environmental Assessment hearings.

The annual Canadian Environment Network Conference begins May 8-11 in Ottawa at Katimavik. The theme for the conference is Wildlife '87, Pollution Problems and alternative Economics. Donna Smyth and Heather Menses are the keynote speakers on the rise of Citizen Science. Four groups from N.S. will be represented by 8 people.

#### **ISSUES;**

Among the many issues in N.S., the concern for the use and disposal of toxic chemicals heads the list. E.A.C. attempts to tackle this issue with several committees. Ray Cote of the **TOXIC** Committee, has done a pamphlet on OUR Harbours, past and present which illustrates the clean up job that needs to be done all over our province.

The **FORESTRY** Committee has taken on the lack of a hardwood forest management policy and is hot on the trail of the N.S. government for allowing clear cutting of Cape Breton's hardwood forests.

Charlie Restino and Liz have been working with the Dept. of Development on a manual clearing experiment. Attempting to work with the Nova Scotia Power Corporation is much harder because they feel that there is nothing wrong with using 2,4,d to clear power lines.

**URBAN** issues have been constantly stirred up by Alan Ruffman and his knowledgeable campaign to clean up Halifax Harbour.

**CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF N.B. IS ASKING US TO HELP THEM STOP POINT LEPREAU. PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME.** New committees have been requested around Recycling Issues as well as the **LETS ECONOMIC SYSTEM** committee.