



Ecology Action Centre
40 YEARS OF ACTION

B E T W E E N T H E
issues

vol. 29:2 summer 2011



**CELEBRATING
40 YEARS OF
MAKING CHANGE**

an ecology action centre publication
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BETWEEN THE issues

an ecology action centre publication

VOL. 29 NO.2

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action in verse

Bluffy

By Nanci Lee

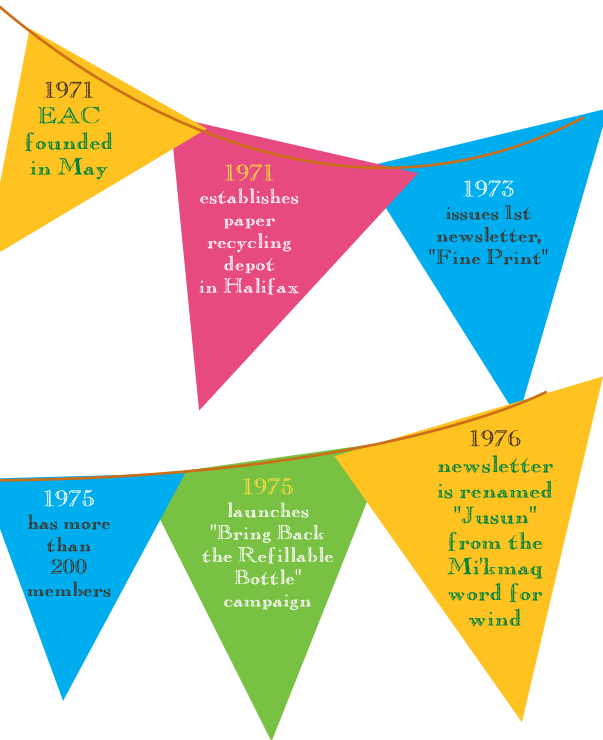
Languid, lichen-draped
beguiling old man.

Stand us down in your
broody black spruce dens.

There are small creatures
clamouring at your ankles.

Still some fern-flirting left in you
expose those granite barrenns.

*Composed on Day #4 of EAC's 40 Days of Action
during the "Poetry in the Bluff" hike.*



1971
EAC
founded
in May

1971
establishes
paper
recycling
depot
in Halifax

1973
issues 1st
newsletter,
"Fine Print"

1975
has more
than
200
members

1975
launches
"Bring Back
the Refillable
Bottle"
campaign

1976
newsletter
is renamed
"Jusun"
from the
Milkmag
word for
wind

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Letter from the centre

A Wonderful 40 Year Journey!

This edition of *Between the Issues* marks a milestone – the EAC is 40 years young this summer. And while we’re at it, we’d like to point out that this is also *BTI*’s 30th year!



Putting together this special anniversary edition of *BTI* allowed us the rare opportunity to look back. Like the EAC itself, *BTI* is usually firmly grounded in the here-and-now. We provide our readers with information on current events impacting our environment and ideas for how they can take action to promote change. As the title of a regular feature explains, ‘action is our middle name’. It was nice to take a break from the action to reflect on where we’ve been.

For those of us who are relative newcomers to the EAC, it was a great chance to learn how it all started. The Centre has come a long way from the small group of dedicated volunteers eking by on government grants and working out of donated digs on the Dalhousie campus in 1971. Those early years were fraught with uncertainty. Despite its many early successes, such as establishing the first paper recycling depot in Nova Scotia

and playing a major role in the successful opposition to the proposed Stoddard Island nuclear plant, the EAC came close to folding on several occasions in those first years. Fortunately, the dedication of those early staff and volunteers saw the EAC through the rough patches.

One of the most interesting things we’ve learned in assembling this edition is how constant the core values and ideals of the early EAC have remained. EAC staffer Emma Boardman tracked down and spoke with EAC personalities from the last four decades. While their individual stories give a sense of the huge changes both to our environment and the way we view it over the last 40 years, they all speak of the commitment to action and outreach that has been at the core of the EAC from the start.

It’s also been valuable to reflect on the origins and growth of the EAC’s issues committees. These committees are the heart of what EAC does, and whether they’ve been around for a long time or are relative newcomers, their history is fascinating and takes us to the heart of the action.

We’ve also taken a bit of a tour of Halifax over the decades by tracing the EAC’s many homes over the years. And mining old issues of *BTI* and its predecessors *Fine Print* and *Jusun* has provided a picture of some of the best and worst of the last 40 years. In the ‘best’ category, Susanna Fuller paints a picture of how the EAC’s work has expanded from a Nova Scotia-centric focus to encompass a broader range of issues that defy political borders. And Scott Fotheringham pulls up his sleeves and throws on some hip-waders to descend into the muck to review the EAC’s Tarred Duck environmental villains over the years.

We are especially privileged to bring you essays by two of Nova Scotia’s best-known writers, Ralph Surette and Harry Thurston, who provide poignant and powerful reflections on our changing relationship with our environment.

It’s been a wonderful journey for the editorial team. We’d like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to our members and volunteers, without whom there would be no EAC. You have made the last 40 years possible. We can’t wait to see what your dedication will inspire in the next 40!

- *BTI* Editors



1976
produces "Stop It: A Guide for Citizen Action to Protect the Environment of Nova Scotia"

1977
EAC talks to 18,000 commuters about carpooling

1979
EAC's logo is adopted

1979
EAC's "Pointless Lepreau" float wins 1st prize in Halifax Natal Day Parade

1979
EAC begins Spryfield paper recycling project

Voices for the Future: The Environmental Imperative

By *Ralph Surette*



Photo: Ray Plourde

I started in journalism in 1966 with a brief summer job at the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*. My most memorable assignment was writing a feature about coal smoke spewing out of the Nova Scotia Power Corp.'s Water St. plant that was an increasing nuisance in the city. It was my introduction to the concept of pollution—and it stuck with me like no other subject over the ensuing 45 years. I'm not sure when the broader ideas of "environment" and "ecology" kicked in but they came quickly, mainly in the form of the abuse of chemicals and a more general sense that the environment and the living ecology it surrounds were being degraded by our industrial ways, with the OPEC oil crisis of 1973 providing a powerful reminder of our increasing over-dependence on the oil supply.

It kept worsening, but until a decade or so ago I maintained the faith that reason would prevail and that all this would be straightened out, as scientists confirmed the gravity of the crisis with its sinister global warming component, as governments gathered to address the issues and as public awareness of the impossible path we were on seemed to grow. After all, the Water St. plant was shut down and the larger problems seemed manageable as well.

Then something happened. The more insistent the gathering crisis became, the more resistance there was to admitting that it existed at all. It was all a conspiracy, a "socialist plot" as the present prime minister of Canada then described it,

and polluting industries, right wing think tanks and various propagandists aided by a shallow media got to work more or less successfully telling people what they wanted to hear: that nothing is happening and that any attempt to deal with this non-problem would affect economic growth and dampen our cherished excesses.

Now, 95 per cent of the world's scientists notwithstanding, to even utter the words "climate change" or "global warming" in public is considered a sort of provocation that brings down a hail of vituperation from the usual well-funded sources, regardless of the Arctic ice melting, seas rising and acidifying, climate mayhem worsening, the food supply in danger because of it, and so forth.

On the local scale, I've semi-retired to my birthplace in Yarmouth County to find fish, birds, bees and frogs at about 10 per cent of what they were when I left circa 1960, with the forest trashed, invasive species infesting the waterways, and winter ice reduced to perhaps half or less or what it was. Or, to keep it up close, in 1971 the Ecology Action Centre was created, part of the broader movement of youthful contestation of many things at the time. As with similar initiatives in other provinces, the broader society saw this as pot-smoking hippies agitating, if it noticed at all.

Today, the EAC is the authoritative voice on environmental matters in Nova Scotia. To call this a good and remarkable thing, however, would be inadequate. It is, rather, a matter of dire necessity. The EAC's voice is destined to become louder, and its role to become greater, as the illusion that nothing is happening crumbles sooner or later and as Nova Scotia governments, whatever their stripe, struggle uncertainly with the forces at hand.

And the government is indeed struggling, mainly with the tradeoff between traditional jobs and environment, and the difficulty of making the jump to truly sustainable energy with the change in lifestyle that implies. For the environmental movement, there are two large considerations as it plots its future course. One is that, in North America, provinces and states (and sometimes municipalities) are carrying the ball entirely. The national governments in both Canada and the U.S. are either part of the denial (Canada) or incapable of movement (the U.S.). Secondly, it is useful to remember that provincial governments are not the only actors even in their own jurisdictions. The bigger actor is the public, and the attitudes it brings to the subject.

In Nova Scotia, the public has responded very well to the recycling program, but otherwise - notably with regard to the crucial business of energy conservation and local alternatives - we remain much like elsewhere, taking small and inadequate steps. The reality is that only the rising price of conventional energy is going to force the issue. The environmental movement generally has been unable to do this with mere logical argument. Its main challenge with regard to the public will be to show the ways in which the transition can be made

as the pain rises. Its challenge with regard to the provincial government - by my estimate, neither a leader nor a laggard - will be to press for the policies that will bring about progress this sort of progress. Meanwhile, at the federal level, there is little hope on the short term - the Harper government is an in-house operative for the resources industry, notably the tar sands, with a yen to weaken environmental controls. The best that can be hoped for there is that reality will burst through the ideological wall at some point.

On the larger scale, the problems that seemed easily soluble in 1971 are arguably now out of control. One EAC example is coastal protection. In 1971 the issue was protecting coastal lands to protect the ecology and preserve public lands. Now the issue is getting people out of harm's way as seas rise, possibly catastrophically, and as storms get worse. The point is that practical solutions based on civilized public processes are getting more and more difficult. The way forward will be mostly as a result of repeated crises. There will come a time, and it's not too far away, when the environmental movement will in fact finally be believed.

Ralph Surette is a lifelong freelance journalist who has worked for most major Canadian print and electronic media, in both English and French, as well as many international ones, and was most recently known for his column in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald and commentaries on CBC and Radio Canada.

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A Brook and a Boy: On Becoming an Environmentalist

By Harry Thurston



Photo: Ray Plourde

I became an “environmentalist” a half century ago, at the age of ten, before the word had been coined. I grew up on Brook Farm in Yarmouth County and much of my childhood was spent along its namesake stream, where I fished for smelts and trout or simply wiled away happy hours watching water striders, song birds, and frogs. But in the summer of 1960, the brook was transformed from a pure, spring-fed font into a foul-smelling sewer. The reason, I learned later, was the lengthening of the runway to accommodate jet planes at Yarmouth airport, which bordered the back of my father’s property. The runway encroached upon the wetland source of the brook and the run-off - a toxic mixture of sediments and hydrocarbons - poisoned its formerly pure waters. Fifty years have passed but the fish have not returned and I have never forgotten the hard lesson learned so early: progress sometimes comes at a cost to the natural world and our own human happiness.

This event sensitized me to the rise of environmentalism as a social movement when I entered Acadia University to study biology in the late 1960s. But at the end of my sophomore year, one more eye-opening calamity sealed my lifelong commitment to protecting the environment. I had a summer placement as a research technician at the Department of Fisheries lab in Yarmouth. My job was to test the effluent - a green, putrid slurry - from herring meal plants to see if some usable protein could be recovered as a by-product. The absurdity of what I was doing became clear later that summer when all ten plants shut down for lack of herring. While I was trying to recover a minuscule portion of these fish being ground into cattle feed, the entire stock itself had been fished to commercial extinction, under the eye and with the blessing of the federal authorities charged with its management and protection.

In fact, the fleet that had plundered the Georges Bank herring stock had already pillaged the West Coast herring and then

had sailed through the Panama Canal to continue their rapine on the East Coast. It would be two generations before those stocks began to show recovery, which should have served as a warning. But two decades later, another subsidized fleet visited the same destruction on the northern cod stocks. We have no idea how long it will take before those stocks recover, or if they ever fully will, because of fundamental changes in the ecology of the Northwest Atlantic brought about by overfishing.

Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring* and mother of the environmental movement, once wrote that there is no point in writing about the ocean if you leave out the poetry. While still a biology student, poetry became my avocation and then my vocation. Poetry, I discovered, was the best way of connecting to the wonder I had felt as a child in the presence of nature - to that boy lost for hours along the brook. Eventually, I combined my love of writing and the natural world as an environmental journalist and natural historian.

In the late 1970s, I found myself living in the community of River Hebert, near one terminus of a proposed tidal power dam that was to be constructed across the Cumberland Basin. I spent the next decade, first as a citizen activist and later as an investigative journalist, studying the impact of such a development on the rich marine life of the Bay of Fundy. It culminated in the publication of *Tidal Life, A Natural History of the Bay of Fundy*. Although this book helped to draw public attention to the richness of this ecosystem in our backyard, three decades later we are again facing a choice between development of this renewable source of energy and its destructive potential. Although the technology has changed, unfortunately the mindset of maximizing Fundy’s power has not and the present-day scheme to immerse up to 200 in-stream turbines in the Minas Channel may prove as destructive of marine life as a dam.

The recurrent dream of Fundy tidal power was a century old in 2010 and has gone through a number of revivals. It rose to the forefront of energy options during the OPEC oil crisis of the 1970s and now is high on the agenda because of the need to address the climate change crisis, which again can be traced to oil consumption. It is an issue that continues to present us with a moral dilemma: alter our ecosystem or alter our lifestyle.

Many would argue that we have no choice but to manage the natural world, our influence is so pervasive. In fact, we have become a geological force and our impact on the Earth and the welfare of other species is already large enough that it will register in the geological and paleontological record millions of years from now. We are living in a new era dubbed the Anthropocene for the measurable human impact on ecosystems, biodiversity, and extinction rates.

As individuals we must also ask ourselves, what will we leave behind to mark our passage? I have spent the last six years working with a group of concerned citizens known as Cumberland Wilderness. Our goal has been to see a protected area estab-

lished in the Chignecto Game Sanctuary and adjacent crown lands, including the Fundy coastline. That goal came closer to reality with the recent release of proposed boundaries for two new wilderness areas in Cumberland County. The Kelley River Wilderness Area will protect 20,000 hectares of some of the best Acadian forest still standing in the province and the Raven Head Wilderness Area will add another nearly 5,000 hectares along 36 kilometres of Fundy coastline, including a significant salt marsh at Sand River.

I have been exploring these wild and beautiful areas for more than three decades. During this time, they have cultivated a wonder and respect for the natural world that I first learned as a child on Brook Farm. It is comforting to think that they will not be exploited in future in the name of progress.

Harry Thurston is the author of more than twenty books of poetry and non-fiction. His most recent book is Animals Of My Own Kind, New and Selected Poetry (Vehicule Press, Montreal). In the fall 2011, Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation will publish The Atlantic Coast, A Natural History.

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La Vie en Vert

Welcome to our “green society page” where we provide you with an inspiring (and pleasantly green-tinged) view of recent happenings in the EAC community.

In case you missed it, by far the most exciting thing happening in the EAC community lately was our “40 Days of Action” celebration. For our 40th birthday we wanted to do something that reflected and furthered EAC’s spirit of activism and engagement. We landed on the idea of “40 Days of Action” – yes 40 consecutive days of events! We figured it was sufficiently dramatic to mark our 40th plus a great way make change, engage a wide range of supporters, and have heaps of fun. During the 40 days we collected trash, we dressed up, we protested (more than once), we built raised beds, we launched a new alliance, we ate together often, we got outside, we baked for our friends, we debated, we created a video, we thanked our bus drivers, we seed bombed, and so much more. And we prevailed... it was no easy task but, as you can see here, the results were well worth it!

Phil Pacey leading a group on a Ghost Building Walk to discuss the history of development in downtown Halifax.

Celebrating our history and our future at the Cogswell Interchange Picnic which kicked off the 40 Days of Action on Earth Day. In the 1970s the EAC was part of the successful fight to stop the Barrington Street Expressway through downtown. Now we’ve just launched an alliance called “Our HRM” to fight for increased density, less sprawl and a greenbelt.



Our friends at the Sackville Rivers Association with EAC Board Co-Chair, Karen Hollett. Our province-wide Birthday Cake Delivery project meant 20 environmental organizations received cakes as a ‘thank you’ for their amazing work!

Our Green Avengers about to take on the Bluenose Marathon. Our superhero costumes were a big hit and the team raised \$4,749!!



Sustainable Forestry Interns Heather Fleming and Leonie Mercier enjoying the Otter Ponds Woods Walk.



Photo: Amy Hawke



Our “Voices for the Coast” video, which premiered to MLAs and the general public on May 25th, highlights the urgent need for a NS Coastal Act.

EAC’s highly qualified foodie, Marla MacLeod, enjoying Mussel Fest where we served a sustainable seafood feast of Indian Point Mussels cooked in local wine and Dragon’s Breath cheese.



Photo: Brad MacInnis

Our Canaries in a Coal Mine event, held outside the Nova Scotia Power Annual General Meeting, was classic EAC: eye-catching street theatre with a powerful message!

Photo: Kathy Gurrholt

Zombies Emma Boardman and Amy Hawke celebrating Friday the 13th in unprecedented style at our Eco-Zombie Walk.



HRM Councillor Jennifer Watts celebrating 'Thank a Bus Driver Day'.

Photo: Amy Hawke



Photo: Amy Hawke

Just one of the parts of the extraordinary interactive art installation now on our Fern Lane building. At the 40 Days of Action finale over 100 people of all ages joined us for a BBQ and street party and the launch of the installation. Haven't seen it yet? Come by for a visit!

Photo: Amy Hawke



Morgan Mercer and Breanna Westway joined about 25 'Wild Things' who came together at the Halifax Seaport Market and performed a spirited rendition of The Troggs' "Wild Thing" - flash mob style.

Where Are They Now?

Interviews by Emma Boardman

Many people have been involved in making 40 years of action happen. When planning *BTT's* 40th Anniversary issue, we wondered "Where are these people now? Wouldn't it be nice to get in touch with some of them and find out?"

When I initially contacted the people interviewed below, most began by naming several others they deemed much more interesting subjects, before finally agreeing to speak of their experiences. While time and space constraints prevented us from talking to everyone who has made a difference at EAC, we caught up with five wonderful, inspiring and dedicated people who have been involved with EAC during its 40 year history.

The 1970s: Kathleen Flanagan

On my way to meet Kathleen Flanagan at her Halifax office, I expected to hear how much has changed since she and her friends developed the Ecology Action Centre in the 1970s. After all, I was toting a mini-computer to the interview, and we had just confirmed plans to meet over email. I was pleasantly surprised - and uplifted - to learn how much has stayed the same at the EAC since the beginning. The technology may have changed, the membership and staff may be larger, and we may be more respected and known by the public at large now, but the passion, values and dedication of the EAC and its people seem to be largely the same.

How did you get involved with the Ecology Action Centre?

It was founded by a close friend, Brian Gifford. And many other friends were also involved in the Centre in the early days, including my husband, David Roback. Several of us shared a house at that time, so we talked about the issues on a regular basis. I became an EAC employee in 1973. It was a constantly evolving situation. We went from grant to grant so sometimes we were paid and sometimes we were not.

What was EAC's focus in the early days?



Photo: Dave Roback

Recycling was the first issue that we took on. Particularly recycling paper, but also glass and tin, and composting was quickly seen as something that could be done on an individual level.

There was also a lot of activity related to deciding what kind of city the people of Halifax wanted to live in, and creating the conditions under which that city could thrive - affordable housing, green space, public transit.

We emphasized action and education - both were core. We continued to learn and never thought we knew everything. We talked to the people who were closest to the situation - experiencing the problems. We looked to scientific experts to tell us what we needed to know but, at the same time, we maintained a healthy skepticism about "experts". We tried to find the right balance of experts and ordinary citizens.

Another principle that we felt was important was making sure young people were involved - because we quickly realized that if things were going to change, the next generation would have to take up the cause. That is where the future lies. So we made a practice of going into the schools to provide children with the information, trying to make it understandable and show them that these problems are not unsolvable - there is

something they, even as children, could do about the situation.

The idea that "we can do something" is intrinsic to the ecology movement. The issues can seem overwhelming but in fact we can all do something. And very cooperative by its nature - we can do things individually but ultimately we have to work together to resolve these problems. We are all responsible for the state of the environment, not just ourselves and our families.

It seems that much has stayed the same at the EAC since the 70s....

I still very much see values from the 70s in the EAC of today. The values and principles and driving imperatives from the early days of the EAC continue to sustain the actions and philosophy and perspective of the EAC now. For example, when the Ecology Action Centre renovated the Fern Lane house and transformed it into a green house, they did it as a demonstration project as well as an educational tool. One of the EAC's first projects was demonstrating that recycling paper was feasible and practical. The project was intended to demonstrate that recycling is financially viable.

That mixture of action and education - that both are important - has continued.

EAC has greater credibility now, a real sense of authority that has been acquired through 40 years of activity. There's a huge gap between what was known then and what is known now. There's a much better acceptance of the importance of environmental issues. Just understanding is really critical - it's the first step. An informed citizenry and informed consumers are important for two reasons. We bring about change by the choices we make as individuals - biking, taking the bus, recycling, making informed choices. But we also need to demand policies and regulations that will support sustainable development and environmental awareness. Individual choices and collective regulations - the two go hand in hand.

1979
EAC
Forms
Agriculture
Committee

1980
prints 1st issue
of "Between
the Issues"
magazine

It must feel good that something you helped to create 40 years ago is still going strong!

I can't tell you how wonderful that is. But there were many hands that touched the environmental portfolio, many people involved in pushing it forward. Shared responsibility, shared vision and shared values create that continuity. Many of the things that EAC is doing now echo what was discussed and undertaken 40 years ago.

A lot of that had to do with building in a reflective process at the beginning - not just doing things by the seat of our pants (though we did a lot of that too), but also reflecting on the long-term goals at the same time.

What have you been working on lately?

Right now I am project manager for a national research project about learning in the workplace. Workplace learning is a way to ensure equity, to ensure that no one is left behind when there are technological changes in the workplace, to ensure that adults have opportunities to learn new skills. Learning does not end with childhood. Adults need to have ongoing opportunities to learn what they need and want to learn in order to be productive workers, but also to be effective citizens, parents, and consumers. Every aspect of our lives involves learning.

I'm also still a practicing artist and photographer.

Are you still in touch with the other people who were involved in the EAC in the seventies?

My husband and I are still close friends of course! And we have kept in touch with many of the people from the early days of the EAC. Our friendships were built on shared values - particularly a sense of responsibility for the problems faced by the world. We have a shared set of values and a shared vision of what the world could look like based on principles of sustainability and well-managed development. We are not

against development - we just believe that development should be done in a sustainable way that benefits everyone.

The 1980s: Cristina Pekarik

Cristina Pekarik was involved in the EAC from the mid-eighties until 1990. She started out as a volunteer, then worked as Communications Director, and later became a co-director with Lois Corbett.

How did you get involved with EAC?



Photo: EAC Archives

I know Elizabeth May way back from the early days when she took the legal case against pesticide spraying in the Cape Breton Highlands. I heard her speak one evening and signed up to volunteer for EAC.

At the time I was working as a freelance journalist so I volunteered to do communications and got more and more involved. Then Susan Holtz and Leslie Griffiths became my mentors. I was lucky to have such strong intelligent leaders to learn from.

I first became involved in environmental issues in Honduras, where I grew up. At the time, deforestation of the rainforest was becoming very apparent there. Transformation of the land was becoming evident. Honduras has the first man-made desert in the Americas.

What campaigns did you work on at EAC?

One of the most successful campaigns I worked on was Acid Rain. It was something government, industry and NGOs all worked on. I was pleased to be a part of that campaign, which was

ultimately successful. There was a lot of support in the development of the technology. The smelting industry installed scrubbers in their machines which reduced emissions. It was an international effort - environmental issues don't respect national boundaries. Believe it or not, the government of Brian Mulroney - Lucien Bouchard was the minister of the environment at the time - was interested in helping ENGOs, industry and government work together. They were interested in working on solutions.

One of the less positive memories I have of EAC was working on fisheries issues. Scientists were consolidating research on the Atlantic fishery and its crash. I formed a fisheries committee but we didn't manage to build the important relationships and networks necessary for momentum. We weren't able to have a conversation between the scientists and community activists and industry. It was a very different experience from the Acid Rain campaign where government was informed and active.

We also did recycling. That was in the day everything was going to the landfill. The thinking has changed so much in twenty years. I learned a valuable lesson while working on that campaign - issues tend to be complex. We had adopted a reusable is better, then recyclable, but we have learned to question that hierarchy because we found out that detergents with phosphates being used meant that from a life-cycle perspective, there was a higher environmental footprint from reusable cups than disposable Styrofoam. So we couldn't just break it down to "reusable is good, disposable is bad."

I was also very involved in the Halifax Harbour issue. I felt that as an environmental organization, we had a responsibility on social justice issues. One of the areas being proposed for a sewage treatment plant was the old site of Africville. Where do environmental and social issues meet? Science should be the foundation for issues but we also need to look at social and community issues. We need to engage people who will be affected by the issues. The social implications are very, very important - I see that now living in the North, too -

when you have a historically disenfranchised community you need to do the work with the community, bring them in and make the case for it, including compensation for it.

There wasn't always enough support for the social side of the issues at EAC.

I hope some of that has changed now. [I tell her about the EAC's current work with Lincolnville, and the Marine Issues Committee's work with fishing communities, and mention that EAC now has over 30 paid staff.]

Wow - it has changed! We went from hand to mouth - eight people was the largest number of staff (during acid rain campaign). We'd go on EI - well, it was UI then - for some of the time while we were writing the grants. We had no core funding. We used to have AGM meetings with just the Board.

When I was involved, environmental groups were not widely respected. I enjoyed working at EAC because for most issues that we faced, we didn't take the approach that we need to "take a hammer" to every issue - not everything needs to end up in court or be regulated. We thought through what would be most effective and searched for solutions. For example, for acid rain it was a technological solution, for other issues like Halifax Harbour it was about changing mindsets.

What are you working on now?

I'm a Senior Policy Advocate for the Yukon government, in the Energy, Mines and Resources department. One of my recent projects was to develop an Enclosure and Reclamation Policy.

What are some of the differences between Nova Scotia and the Yukon in terms of environmental work?

Some of the solutions are quite different. In Nova Scotia a third of the land is privately owned whereas in the Yukon the vast majority is crown land. So the dynamics for decisions are quite different. It leads to different strategies. In Nova Scotia you have to work with more partners, which takes a lot more work and due consideration. Here all

you have to do is say "hey this is a really important piece of land" to get the process started. There's a difference in who has the power.

The 1990s: Nancy Shackell & Veronica Sherwood

Nancy Shackell is a marine biologist who joined the EAC Board in the early 1990s and later helped to obtain funding for the Marine Issues Committee's first staff member. Veronica Sherwood became involved in the EAC when she responded to an advertisement for canvassers in the early 1990s, and was later asked to join the Board

Since Nancy and Veronica originally came together through the EAC's theatre group, Hemlock Circus, which was started in 1998 with the shared interest of finding fun ways of providing environmental education to the public, it's not surprising when Veronica says, smiling, "We don't want to do a serious interview. Hemlock Circus was never serious. Well, except when we were arguing."

Why did you start Hemlock Circus?



Photo: Emma Boardman

Nancy: The idea came up because Mark Butler and I were invited to schools to give presentations on marine issues, and the kids kept falling asleep. Once, we were speaking at a junior high and the kids were cleaning their nails, so I started to do these scenes from another theatre group (Fishnet Peoples Players) and the kids woke up. We decided that's what we were going to do. So we made plays and did workshops in schools. The kids created their own theatre, on how habitat means "home" to wildlife.

Veronica: I think Mark or Nancy asked me to join. I had done a bit of theatre

before and it sounded like a lot of fun. The thought of being in plays about wildlife or habitat protection was a real inspiration for me.

Nancy: I think the dinosaur presentation was the best production. It was about how the dinosaurs caused their own climate change through driving really big cars and rejecting bikes because bike helmets wouldn't fit over their horns. In effect, dinosaurs were responsible for their own extinction. Rob Hansen [Veronica's husband] delivered that as a Powerpoint presentation, as an introduction to a talk by David Suzuki in 2003. He played a great straight-faced scientist- Dr. D. Kline.

What other plays did you work on?

Nancy: The first two were "Revolving Doors" which was about forestry and "MORE" which was on who/what defines over-consumption. I played a person mindlessly watching TV - why not? I worked hard all day. People told me after, "You are so good at looking stunned." But that was my natural expression, and I was too embarrassed to tell them.

Veronica: Irondale Theatre Ensemble helped us develop some plays, and it worked well. Mind you, we're all really opinionated, so there were frustrating times but we had a really good time. Martin Willison was fearless and would try anything - we could always count on Martin to go over the edge. He still does, wasn't he a Tuft Cove's smokestack a few weeks ago?

How did people react to Hemlock Circus?

Veronica: People loooved it...I think. Environmental stories can be depressing, but the plays made us all laugh. There were some great characters that came out of Hemlock Circus. I still don't know why Martin didn't win an award for his Blanding's Turtle [in "Revolving Doors"]. I'm not sure he was even nominated....Nancy was also a most excellent Pigeon.

Nancy: We also had the marine one where the minister was dragged down

to the ocean floor to be put on trial by the animals. It turned into a radio play called "Out of Sight".

Veronica: Four of us did a presentation for an elementary school. Different characters talking about recycling. We stood on stage in the gymnasium and there were about 200 kids. We had Captain Environment [played by Rob Hansen] and his friends: Mark was Marine Man and Emma was Tree-na, Wilderness Warrior. I had a treasure chest and I'd pull out different things asking kids where each item went. There were things like empty cans and plastic bags. Near the end I pulled out a big clump of cooked spaghetti - what do we do with this. It was supposed to be compost but instead of saying compost, they all started chanting "EAT IT!! EAT IT!! EAT IT!!" We all just looked at each other.

Nancy: What did you do?

Veronica: I think Captain Environment ate some cold spaghetti.

What are you guys working on these days?

Nancy: One of the really essential parts of coming of age and developing yourself as an environmentalist is Veronica Sherwood's Kripalu Yoga class - this is a shameless plug for Veronica's yoga biz.

What would you say to the EAC on our 40th anniversary?

Veronica: I think EAC should be proud of their amazing accomplishments over the years. It's the people. I like that EAC has always been open to people on the edge of society... I have met some of my best friends through EAC. And some really driven, interesting, individual folks.

Nancy: They are dedicated, independent thinkers and really add to progress in the Maritimes.

The 2000s: Heather McKibbon

Though she started out working with the Transportation Issues Committee, Heather McKibbon was best known as "The Membershipinator" of the mid-00s. As the Outreach Coordinator, she helped push EAC's membership to over a thousand, where it still stands today, as well as regularly attracting new EAC partners, funders and volunteers with her warm, contagious energy, enthusiasm and sense of fun.

How did you get involved with EAC?



I was working at the Paper Chase Cafe across the street from the EAC's Argyle street office. I befriended Angela Bischoff, who was the TRAX Coordinator at the time. We talked about some of my environmental interests and she invited me to volunteer and write a proposal to fund what became Steer Clean. Then I was hired on as the Assistant Coordinator of the project after the proposal was successfully granted. Maggie Burns was the Coordinator. From there I worked on a couple of different transportation projects. Then, I heard that Communications and Outreach had an opening. I was intimidated, but was encouraged to apply. There was a trial period to see if it could happen - and I think that Mark Butler felt I was successful because I continued on in the position.

I think so! As I remember, he was pretty sad to see you leave.

I still have a piece of coral that Mark gave me. I've been carrying it around with me and treating it like it's gold,

and just a couple of weeks ago I got it framed.

Was Transportation your main area of interest at EAC?

Transportation was a gateway to the bigger picture of the Nova Scotian environment as a whole and the EAC as an organization. I am of course passionate about transportation issues too.

You were here when EAC moved to Fern Lane. There's a lovely legacy of you in the office where I now work, because volunteers working on the house on your birthday that year decorated the area where your desk was to be with the beach glass art. What was it like to be a part of that model green renovation?

It was really exciting to see what the EAC community was capable of doing as they came together to invest in its future, both financially through the Capital Campaign and through the green renovation itself, which was pushing the envelope on renovations at the time. That woke people up I think. If a small ENGO can do this, it's time for the industry and private sector to catch up.

It was also inspiring to watch the ways the EAC community collaborated on a consensus model to make the decisions. I think that it's a unique feature that EAC possesses to be able to work on committee-based decision making. It was really tried and tested through that process as I remember it. After many frustrating meetings, I think it was impressive what we came out with.

You worked hard to boost EAC's membership. Why is membership so important?

Membership is a quintessential representation of what the EAC stands for - aside from environmental policy change and a change in attitude from people of course. Membership gets to the core values of EAC, which is about getting the community involved. In

1980
more than
600
members

1982
presents
briefs to
the McCleave
Uranium
Inquiry

times of need we've gone to membership to make difficult policy decisions, or when we have been in need of funding. With the capital campaign we really reached out to our members and a recent example of how strong the EAC network is. But it's always an area that can continue to grow.

What was with the bell?

The bell was an antique bell that I found at an antique store around the corner from Fern Lane. It was just a beautiful bell I fell in love with. I kept it in the office, and every time we would receive a membership I would ring it, and most people would clap. It was an incentive and a celebration. If it could have been champagne, I would have done that but...

What have you been up to lately?

I am currently working for the Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative.

I am helping to bring to market local community power to the residents of Ontario. Community power is a class of sustainable energy projects that are owned, developed and controlled by residents of the community, so the community members become the shareholders. It's a way of demonstrating the community's commitment to sustainability, a way for people to have a closer association with the power that feeds the grid. It works in conjunction with the Feed-in Tariff program Ontario has legislated...I understand Nova Scotia is considering a similar model?

Any acting gigs or dressing up as a crab at intersections? [Heather had several side jobs as an actor while she was working at EAC, and she joined in the fine EAC tradition of dressing up for rallies]

Yep, I still do voice acting for short animated videos. In a couple of weeks I'm going to be moving out of Toronto

into the country near Georgian Bay. I'm excited about living near the water again! And I'm looking forward to working on some pet projects and doing my own gardening.

What do you think the EAC will be doing 40 years from now?

I expect EAC will still be around, causing a ruckus, making itself heard, doing the work it's doing now, embracing what's needed in order to respect the environment.

Itching to share your stories from EAC's past? We'd love to hear from you! Write: betweentheissues@ecologyaction.ca

Emma Boardman started at EAC as a volunteer in 1999 and now she is the Centre's Web Manager. She often contributes her formidable writing talents to BTI on undercover assignments.



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Action HQ

By Jonathan Rotsztain with Erin Burbidge

Home is where the heart is - and judging from the EAC's various locales the Centre has a huge heart that stretches all over Halifax. The EAC was founded 40 years ago and has grown from a group of committed students to Nova Scotia's leading environmental advocate and innovator. In this visual history, we revisit EAC's home bases, where the EAC has studied, strategized, engaged and positively changed the way government, business and citizens interact with our shared environment. And long may this last!

Carleton House: Spring-Autumn 1971

The EAC's first home was the private house of its founders on Carleton Place. The Centre, which emerged from a Dalhousie University course, was founded with two initial goals: to prove recycling (half of all waste at the time) would be viable for Halifax, and to become a source of public information on environmental matters. A \$5,000 government "Opportunities for Youth" grant financed five summer employees, while founding Coordinator Brian Gifford and fellow enthusiast Tim Sullivan drove taxis to earn their income.



Photo: Jonathan Rotsztain

EAC's founding Coordinator Brian Gifford at the Centre's original home, 40 years later.

Forrest Building: Autumn 1971-Spring 1982

The EAC quickly outgrew its private digs, moving into a basement office in Dalhousie's University Avenue Forrest Building rent-free. There, the EAC developed an environmental kit

for schools, piloted Halifax's first experimental recycling program and launched its original newsletter, Fine Print. The Centre built and organized around responsible transportation and urban development, anti-pollution and nuclear power, continued expansion of recycling and educational programs and the beginnings of food, forestry and energy conservation advocacy. In 1975, Gifford was succeeded as Coordinator by Susan Mayo who in turn was replaced by office manager Elizabeth Greenhavens in 1980. Fine Print was renamed to the Mi'kmaq word for wind - Jusun - and the first Between the Issues appeared in 1980. Membership had grown to over 600 by the end of this exciting period.



Photo: Jonathan Rotsztain

A basement office in Dal's Forrest Building housed the EAC rent-free for 10 years as the Centre continued to expand and grow.

Old Provincial Archives: Spring 1982-Spring 1984

The EAC next relocated to a third floor office in the old Provincial Archives, the current Chase Math Building on the Dalhousie campus - still rent-free. Liz Archibald took on the Coordinator role from Ginny Point while the Centre combatted uranium exploration and continued its work in the energy, development, forestry, food and educational outreach fields. The EAC also briefly inhabited the School of Social Work's Hancock Hall, on the corner of Coburg Road and Oxford Street during the Summer of 1984. Hancock Hall was demolished in the summer of 2002.



Photo: Jonathan Rotsztain

The Chase Building née the Old Provincial Archives was the EAC's final spot on Dal campus.

Roy Building: Fall 1984-Spring 1989

After 14 years of rent-free support from Dalhousie University, the EAC moved to a commercial office space in the historic Roy Building (Suite 520) on downtown Barrington Street. The more central location allowed for greater public access and closer proximity to Nova Scotia's corridors of power. The adjustment to paying rent was difficult, and the established membership helped the Centre deal with a financial crisis that ensued from its new responsibilities. With Liz Archibald Calder as Coordinator, the EAC pushed back against growing herbicide and pesticide use, overfishing and increasing environmental destruction in the free-trade era. The Centre was also firming up its links with other local, provincial, national and international environmental NGO's and related groups to build broad coalitions to work together for effective change. A huge (and ongoing) success of this period is the beginning of gardening and compost projects.



Photo: Jonathan Rotsztain

The move to private office space in the centrally located Roy Building set off a financial crisis that membership helped EAC survive.

Veith House: Summer 1989-Summer 1996

The EAC's next move was to more modest and cozy accommodation in Veith House at Veith and Devonshire Streets. Sharing the third floor with allied organizations, Oxfam Canada and Deveric Publishing, the Centre was led by co-directors Cris Pekarik and Lois Corbett. The EAC launched a Marine Issues Committee focusing on harbour clean-up and assisted the residents of North Preston in fighting the location of a landfill in their community. (EAC continues to work on landfill location and environmental racism in 2011). The EAC was able to ease up on recycling issues, as Halifax got serious about its garbage impact. The Centre launched its chemical free Christmas tree fundraiser and audited the environmental impact of the Halifax G7 Economic Summit. In this period, the EAC had a succession of executive directors: fiery media magnet Howard Epstein, Karen Hollett, and Gwenda Wells.



Photo: Jonathan Rotsztein

The EAC continued to grow and fight alongside other activist organizations from the Veith House on Veith Street.

Granville Street: Summer 1996

The EAC recovered in its upstairs office on Granville Street (above the Red Herring Bookstore) from the loss of its court case to stop a coal fired generating plant being built in Point Aconi, Cape Breton. Reduced to a part-time office manager and a number of active volunteers, the EAC rebuilt by starting the School Grounds Naturalization Project, and situating its work in Agenda 21 developed at the 1992 Rio Summit.



Photo: EAC Archive

The EAC's former and short-lived office space on Granville Street is now one of Halifax's many abandoned lots.

Argyle Street: Fall 1996-Spring 2006

The EAC's final downtown headquarters was at the corner of Argyle and Blowers Streets.

From Suite 31 at 1568 Argyle Street, the EAC overcame years of debt to be financially debt-free. Paradoxically, membership was at a low with the Centre once again entering a building and development period. The EAC hosted its first Garden Party fundraiser event, now an annual tradition. The EAC's decade on Argyle Street was a time of growth, both in membership and staff numbers. Twenty-five people in 1,600 square feet proved difficult, even for an organization as solution-oriented as the EAC. A search for a permanent home was launched.



Photo: EAC Archive

Former staffer Angela Bischoff in front of EAC's ultimate downtown digs on the Argyle entertainment strip in downtown Halifax.

Fern Lane: May 2006-Present

After an extraordinary nine-month effort to renovate the property, the EAC moved into its first "owned" space in Halifax's North End in May 2006. The new home brought with it huge transformations. Owning the building meant many new opportunities to "walk the talk" and the Centre got involved in issues around green building and renovation. It also brought with it a new sense of community for staff and volunteers. Most of all, the renovation galvanized an extraordinary level of engagement from volunteers who contributed over 4,000 hours of work to this epic (and highly democratic) green renovation.

During 2010, the EAC counted 61 people on staff (not all at the same time mind you, or the current home would not be big enough!); and numerous successes across all of the issue committees. The five years at Fern Lane have further defined the EAC as Nova Scotia's largest environmental organization, and having a permanent home has allowed the Centre to work on internal policies and culture - a fitting endeavour for a middle aged organization!



Photo: EAC Archive

The EAC continues to educate, organize and fight from its current and permanent owned home on the lovely Fern Lane in Halifax's North End.

Jonathan and Erin would like to congratulate the EAC on an amazing 40 years with a huge thanks to the tireless work of staff and volunteers who have fought to preserve our natural environment.

Environmental Villainy Over The Years

By Scott Fotheringham



Photo: EAC Archive

Since 1976, the EAC's Tarred Duck Award has been annually awarded to the Nova Scotian "who has achieved the greatest degree of environmental villainy." Over the decades it is not surprising that EAC members occasionally chose multiple winners since for every Tarred Duck winner there are numerous also rans. The award's language has been toned down since the 1970s and now recognizes "a group or individual who has caused egregious or widespread damage to the environment or advocated for economic development without consideration for the environment." That's not nearly as much fun as recognizing villains!

Looking at the environmental issues of concern to Nova Scotians over the years, it is easy to conclude that we, as a society, haven't learned much. We are still generating electricity and air pollution with coal; still clearcutting, whole-tree harvesting, and decimating wildlife in our forests; still strip mining, and shipping gravel out of the province; still overfishing, bottom dragging, and mismanaging the oceans. It's as if the Tarred Duck Award could be given, year after year, to the same list of perpetrators.

Tarred Duck Awards have recognized "Climate Change Criminals" regularly since Premier John Buchanan won in 1990 for being "second to none in promoting coal-fired electricity generation, and his project of the year, the new plant at Point Aconi." The following year the Nova Scotia Power Corporation won "for its stubborn position and determination on the construction of Point Aconi." Nova Scotia Power won again in 2005 for air pollution. Most recently, Stephen Harper's government won in 2007 for keeping Canada in the Dark Ages with regard to climate change policy.

The forestry industry, never a slacker when it comes to environmental villainy, won for a particularly sad event in 1998 when J.D. Irving Ltd. was singled out for their around-the-clock clearcutting in the formerly quiet forests surrounding the Nova Nada monastery. Irving was fingered for not granting "the monks of Nova Nada the solitude and peace they deserve." This forced the Carmelite monks to move after twenty-six years in Yarmouth County. Last year, Northern Pulp and Paper won for its "continuing practice of obliterating thousands

of acres of wildlife habitat in one 'fowl' swoop", for "their destructive whole-tree harvest carried out at Caribou Mines", and the Abercrombie Point mill in Pictou County, which resulted in the damming of Middle River and the polluting of Boat Harbour. Sharing the award in 2010 was the Nova Scotia Government "for continuing its policy of supporting industrialized forestry, both through subsidies and inadequate regulations. In particular, for allowing the burning of forest biomass (a.k.a. trees) to generate cheap electricity without harvesting limits or proper regulations on harvesting practices." Deforestation and climate change within the same policy? Way to go Nova Scotia!

In 2002, Gordon Balse, Nova Scotia's Minister of Natural Resources, won "for his single-minded courtship of the oil and gas industry and his refusal to respond to public inquiries on the potential gravel mine on Digby Neck."

Fishing issues continue to draw recognition. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans was a dishonourable mention in 1998 for "mismanagement of fisheries and total disregard of the opinions of fishers and its own scientists." In 2006 the award went to DFO "for refusing to support a moratorium on trawling on the high seas." Stephen Harper and his government won in 2007 for their failure to support a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling. Which goes to show that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

In 1977, Bill Smith, the editor of the Chronicle Herald and Mail Star, was awarded the Tarred Duck "for his emotional and severely misleading series of signed editorials on the spruce budworm spray controversy." This contro-

1984
hosts Small
Farm
Conference,
"Alternatives in
Agriculture"

1986
co-hosts
workshop on
environmental
conflict
resolution

1988
EAC's
hazardous
waste depots
accept waste
from 600+
households

1989
Wilderness
Committee
has 1st
meeting



1992
EAC's 1st
chemical-free
Christmas
tree sale

1995
Marine Issues
Committee
has 1st
meeting

1996
EAC
moves to
Argyle
Street

1997
EAC is an
intervener in
the Offshore
Energy
Project
hearings

1999
EAC's 1st
Garden
Party
& Auction

2000
Bike Again
project
launched

versy had raged for years in Cape Breton and the rest of Nova Scotia but by 1978, through the efforts of a 23-year old Elizabeth May, spraying for spruce budworm with chemical pesticides ended in Nova Scotia. (Nova Scotia continues to spray with the bacterium Bt.) Unfortunately, the Province of New Brunswick wasn't so enlightened (or didn't have an Elizabeth May equivalent) and won a much-deserved Tarred Duck in 1979 for its continued aerial chemical pesticide spray program.

In 1980, New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield and his government won the award for their refusal to approve a motion for an independent safety inquiry into the Point Lepreau nuclear generating plant. While this is not located in Nova Scotia it is, of course, upwind and not far away, and the New Brunswick government richly

deserved its second consecutive Tarred Duck. Point Lepreau is Atlantic Canada's only nuclear plant and is currently being refurbished, slated to reopen in the fall of next year. Nova Scotia's Natural Resources Minister David Morse won in 2008 for his decision to reopen debate on the uranium mining moratorium. This "has proven deeply unpopular with many EAC members, including those who went through the debate in the 1980s when the moratorium was first imposed." Through persistent public opposition to such foolishness, the province was persuaded to pass the Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act in 2009 that bans exploring or mining for uranium. Phew.

In 1997, Natural Resources Minister Eleanor Norrie and the provincial cabinet won the Tarred Duck for removing the Jim Campbells Barren from the list

of protected site candidates. They did this on a recommendation to open the area for gold mining. Following protests from Nova Scotians, this decision was reversed, and the Jim Campbells Barren was reinstated as a protected area the following year. Another successful result arising from Tarred Duck Award recognition!

Looking back over the decades is in some cases a bad trip down memory lane, but also reminds us that historical reflection is valuable. The Tarred Ducks have at least been a fun way to blow off steam, highlight catastrophes current or in the making, and let villains know they are being watched.

Scott was living in the woods on the North Mountain himself when the Monks of Nova Nada were forced off their peaceful home by feller-bunchers.



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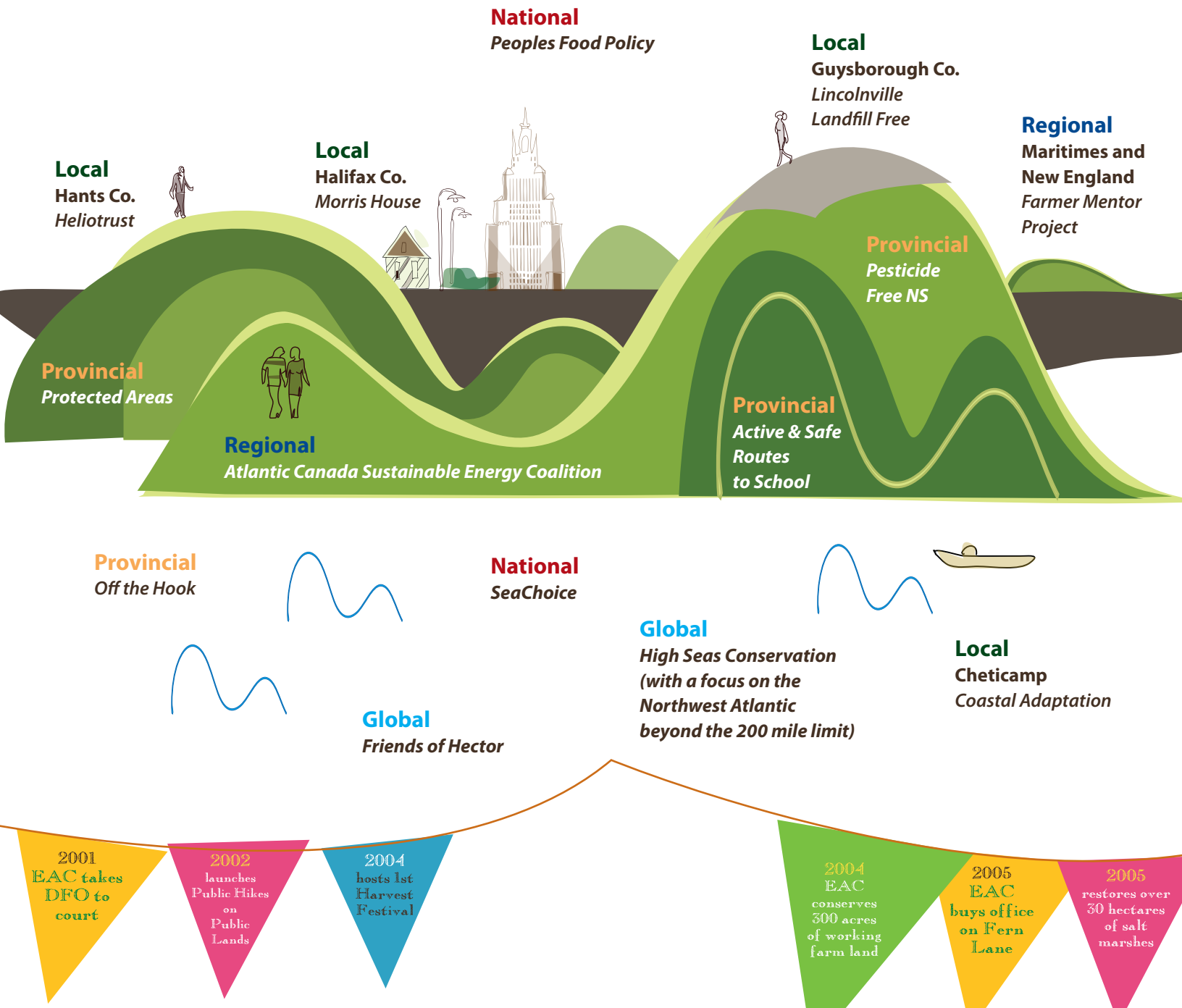
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Oh! The Places the EAC Is Going!

By Susanna Fuller

Although we say it a lot, there is something amiss with the statement: "The Ecology Action Centre has acted as a voice for Nova Scotia's environment for 40 years." A quick scan of the projects and initiatives in the EAC's offices these days shows that we have indeed gone far beyond the boundaries of Nova Scotia, and that our campaigns, projects and efforts to protect the environment are not only local and provincial, but regional, national and in some cases global. We feature a few of these many initiatives here.



A Logo with Roots

By Susan Mayo



Way back in 1977 we thought it would be useful for the Ecology Action Centre to have a picture, symbol or logo that would clearly express the ideals and goals of the group.

I approached Zo Lucas, a young graphic artist here in Halifax, with a few rough sketches drawn by Susan Holtz of a White Pine tree inside a circle, and from these she designed our present

logo which was officially accepted by the Board of Directors in 1979. When Zo first gave us the symbol I went around and asked people what they liked about it, thinking one day I'd write a short article for Jusun, ask for more comments and then get the Board's approval! The comments, no matter what the historical sequence, are worth sharing: "Simplicity...clarity...as if it were derived from or had its 'roots' in the Peace Symbol...organic...it looks like seaweed...dynamic...security and trust...wood-fired energy...decentralization...the circle of eternity: no beginning, no end...the Chinese yin-yang symbol for male-female, dark-light, land-sea; the tree symbolizes land-use planning...it looks like a face with two eyes and a nose and a brain on the top."

We chose the recognizable image of a tree because it is natural and not abstract. The Centre takes on practical is-

ssues and is not concerned merely with theory and policy. Moreover, the issues are of local and important significance. We stay close to where we are rooted, as it were. The frame of the local is the theta, θ , the eighth letter of the Greek alphabet and an international symbol for ecology.

It is interesting to note how coincidentally close our EAC symbol is to the logo for "Branching Out", a Canadian feminist quarterly (which recently stopped publication due to financial difficulties). The feminist movement has several links with the environmental movement, including these two logos.

Let us hope that the spirit of our logo is carried into action here in Nova Scotia through the Ecology Action Centre.

First printed under the title "EAC Logo" in Between the Issues, December 1980

Nova Scotia  Challenge

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NOVA SCOTIA POWER
An Emera Company

NOVA SCOTIA

Now That's Commitment

By June Hall, Thom Oommen and Tim Roberts

We all have issues complicating our lives. Luckily for Nova Scotians concerned with the province's ecological well-being, the EAC has seven amazing issues committees to tackle some of them!

At the EAC, issues committees are where the rubber meets the road. Members, volunteers, staff and curious newcomers meet on a monthly basis to discuss what's going on in Nova Scotia and how we can make things better. Staff members report on the successes and challenges of their work. Brainstorming sessions are held so unfunded areas get some of the 'action' the EAC is so fond of sharing.

Perhaps most importantly, everyone attending issues committee meetings comes to understand that others feel the same way they do, that theirs isn't the only voice piping up on a specific front. Each EAC success story confirms that there is, indeed, strength in numbers. When like-minded people gather with intent to change things for the better, the multitude of voices creates simple momentum leading to positive change.

EAC's issues committees have grown and changed over the years and will continue to evolve. However, the arrival of our 40th year of action seemed like the right moment to reflect on the current issues committees and their respective stories.

Energy Issues Committee



Photo: EAC Archive

It wasn't long after the founding of the EAC that energy took centre stage. The 1973 oil embargo forced energy consumption into the global spotlight.

Shortages, rationing and price increases shocked Nova Scotians. While many powerful voices called for more drilling and the development of nuclear power as responses, the EAC focused on energy conservation and renewable energy.

The Energy Options Committee, as it was then known, met for the first time on November 29, 1975. The connections and enthusiasm of these early days paid immediate dividends. Through the efforts of the committee and recognizing their shared values, the Halifax Chapter of the Canadian Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, offered to support Susan Holtz as part-time energy coordinator. With staff support, the Energy Options Committee was able to conduct research and develop professional presentations and documents.

And the dividends kept coming, even decades later. Thanks substantially to the leadership of Energy Coordinator Brendan Haley, the Energy Issues Committee was instrumental in the province's formation of an independent and accountable energy efficiency agency in 2009. And Nova Scotia now boasts some of the most progressive energy efficiency legislation in North America.

Another big success of the Energy Issues Committee over the years has been in keeping Nova Scotia out of the nuclear business.

In 1972, the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick began discussions on bringing nuclear power to the Maritimes. Stoddard Island on the South Shore was initially selected as a site for the proposed 12,000-megawatt facility. This led to a major public outcry. The EAC worked in coalition with the South Shore Environmental Protection Association to stop the building of this facility.

The Energy Issues Committee has also been outspoken in its call for a ban on uranium mining in Nova Scotia. Over the years it has worked with numerous partners to keep the issue in the news. In 1982, EAC presented to the McCleave Uranium Inquiry along with other partner organizations and

thousands of citizens. The overwhelming majority of responses recognized the health and environmental dangers of uranium mining and called for a ban. In 1985 a moratorium was adopted and in 2009 the Government of Nova Scotia extended the moratorium.

After the shocking events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility in Japan, Nova Scotians should be grateful we never went down that road.

Built Environment Committee



Photo: Lorin Brehaut

It's hard to pin down the point at which a committee began when it has been identified by multiple monikers. The present-day Built Environment Committee was preceded by the Urban (Issues) Committee. The Home Committee in charge of renovations at EAC's Fern Lane office also played a key role in honing the committee's current aims.

In the 1970s the Urban Committee was deeply engaged in matters of urban planning. In its infancy, the EAC was a member of MOVE, a citizens' group that helped stop the construction of Harbour Drive North (aka the Barrington Street Expressway), the planned thruway that was to run along Halifax's waterfront. "We used wide-angle aerial photographs of expressways on posters," recalls Alan Ruffman, former staff of MOVE who helped lead the fight against the urban highway. "We called it 'spaghetti'. At the time it was quite something for a citizens' group to come out against the elected government in such a manner."

The recognition that our built en-

2005
publishes
"Eating
by the
Seasons"
cook
book

2006
EAC joins
Lincolnville
landfill fight

2006
EAC hosts
1st Open
Streets
Festival

vironment exists outside urban centres was behind the adoption of the current “Built Environment” label. The way we live in rural areas affects our surroundings and ourselves as much as it does in cities. A name like “Urban Issues Committee” didn’t reflect enough of a provincial scope for folks involved in the late-2000s when the Built Environment Committee name and mandate emerged.

These days the committee tackles a range of issues. In 2005/06, when it was still the Urban Issues Committee, the EAC’s Fern Lane office renovation inspired the promotion of green renovations and sustainable construction and demolition. For decades this committee has been fighting the use of cosmetic lawn pesticides in HRM and province-wide. We recently celebrated when Nova Scotia’s province-wide ban on non-essential lawn pesticides became official. All the while, urban planning issues never left the committee’s plate. In 2011 “Our HRM” was launched, an alliance EAC initiated with the goal of increasing density, curbing sprawl and establishing a greenbelt in HRM.

Despite its various names and its constellation of focus areas, the common thread of this committee has been a concern for how Nova Scotia’s natural environs and Nova Scotians themselves are affected by the man-made parts of our province.

Wilderness Committee History



Photo: EAC Archive

Through the late 1980s the EAC was involved in forestry and conservation issues, but needed to do more. The Brundtland Commission was calling on nations to set aside at least 12 per-

cent of their land area and WWF Canada had launched its Endangered Spaces Campaign. EAC members wanted organized action.

The Wilderness Committee (WC) held its first meeting in December 1989. Loaded with passionate volunteers (and later, staff), the WC is one of the EAC’s success stories, but it was tough sledding at the beginning. Volunteers did all the work because it took almost ten years to raise the first, small, WC-directed grant. But success breeds success. By May 2004, Veronica Sherwood, then chair of the committee, was able to write “WE ROCK,” rejoicing, in part, in the generous funding the committee could now attract.

By late 1998 the WC had its first full-time coordinator, Kermit deGooyer, who had already worked long and hard for the EAC on the issue of public land, one of the committee’s two main planks (the other being forestry).

The landmark 1998 Wilderness Areas Protection Act, in which 294,000 ha of wilderness were made off-limits to development, was conceived and nurtured by the EAC and a large coalition of environmental groups willing to work with the provincial government. Ongoing work of the coalition has gained protection for several wilderness areas not included in the original Act. “We’ve made an awful lot of progress” says Raymond Plourde, Public Lands Coordinator since 2002. The area of Nova Scotia now under protection is approaching 9 percent, with 12 percent promised by 2015.

As for Nova Scotia’s forests: the word is dire. Clearcutting accounts for over 99 percent of harvesting, and there is virtually no old growth forest left. Since 2002 the committee’s Standing Tall campaign has been working diligently with other environmental groups and progressive elements in the industry to encourage better forestry practices. The government’s forestry bill, due soon, will hopefully result in at least 50 percent less clearcutting. The EAC’s capable Standing Tall coordinators have included Minga O’Brien and Jamie Simpson.

Importantly, WC has gone mainstream – it’s no longer a fringe group. It’s brought a solid, science-based approach to an area where strong opinions often hold sway.

Marine Issues Committee



Photo: EAC Archive

When change is an absolute must, one shouldn’t hesitate to accept help along the way.

The Marine Issues Committee was struck in 1995, hot on the heels of the collapse of many parts of the Atlantic Canadian fishery. The help in question was of the financial variety, a grant secured from the Henry P. Kendall Foundation by Dr. Nancy Shackell, a fisheries biologist and ecologist. The grant enabled the EAC to sharpen its focus in a vital area that had been previously volunteer-driven.

“We felt the root causes of the collapse weren’t being addressed,” says Mark Butler, currently the EAC’s Policy Director and one of the founders of the Marine Issues Committee, years after having worked in the fishing industry.

“The EAC became the first Atlantic Canadian environmental organization to get involved in fishing issues in a substantial way,” Butler says. “Not only considering marine-protected areas, but also technology and gear, as we had some expertise in that regard.”

At the time the Marine Issues Committee was formed, the impact of dragging on industry and habitat was not widely acknowledged. That’s no longer the case, thanks both to the committee’s academic undertakings and its activist leanings.

The Marine Issues Committee has been home to some of the EAC's biggest successes, fitting for a province so tied to the ocean. For example, MIC played a vital role in the world's first symposium on deep sea corals in 2001, which led to concrete conservation measures for bottom habitat.

Asking Butler about MIC's early work and subsequent successes leads to a list of names of people heavily involved from the outset, from Nancy Shackell and Martin Willison to Maria Recchia, Heather Breeze and a lengthy cast of others. The torch was subsequently handed to Susanna Fuller and on down through the EAC's seemingly perpetual cast of amazing marine caretakers.

The Atlantic Canadian fishery has not become an entirely healthy and sustainable entity, but MIC has increased awareness of how sustainable fisheries can be maintained and the committee's work has altered practices along the way.

Coastal Issues Committee



Photo: EAC Archive

It's hard to avoid beautiful coastline in Nova Scotia. When it came time to consider a separate committee to deal with our province's amazing coasts, however, there was a surprising amount of uncertainty about whether it would work.

"Jen Graham and I had a lot of discussions," recalls Tony Bowron, the Coastal Issues Committee's initial project coordinator. "Is it viable? Is it feasible? Are there enough issues to warrant a separate committee? Will enough people want to

get involved?" All questions have since been answered in the affirmative in the decade-plus since CIC's formation.

The committee's initial project regarding salt marsh restoration pre-dates the committee itself, having started in the summer of 1998. The project was originally slotted as part of the Marine Issues Committee. MIC, however, was largely consumed with fisheries-related issues at the time.

Bowron, the salt marsh restoration project coordinator, and Graham, then a super-volunteer prior to her ascent to the Coastal Coordinator position, acknowledged that a gap existed. Nova Scotia's coasts border both the open oceans as well as the inland wild. Unfortunately, coastal issues weren't fitting exceptionally well under either the Marine or Wilderness umbrellas. Walking on the St. Andrews, New Brunswick waterfront one evening during a coastal conference, Bowron and Graham debated whether the coastline warranted its own EAC committee.

The idea was brought before the Marine Issues Committee and then the EAC Board, both of which approved of the friendly separation. The salt marsh restoration project was shuffled from MIC to the newly-formed CIC, which had already started considering other matters related to our coasts. In short order the committee was pulled into diverse areas such as wetland policy, freshwater resource issues and coastal habitat protection.

Over the years the CIC has become more prominent on a provincial scale, both in terms of wetlands preservation and in developing a coastal policy. "There's been a shift from the early years from working 'on the ground' to working at driving policy and public opinion on the broader scale," Bowron notes. "Jen's done a fantastic job!"

Consecutive governments have proven evasive in committing to a firm coastal policy, and the protection of freshwater resources has taken on increased importance. Clearly the Coastal Issues Committee is showing no signs of diminishing in its valuable role at the EAC.

Transportation Issues Committee



Photo: EAC Archive

One of the EAC's first victories was stopping the construction of the Barrington Street Expressway from the Cogswell Interchange through downtown Halifax in the early 1970s. Efforts were led by a group titled the Transportation Team as mentioned in *Fine Print*, the EAC's first newsletter. This precursor to the Transportation Issues Committee worked to push Halifax to expand and encourage public transit over private vehicles. As early as 1973, they scrutinized city transit plans, organized conferences, opposed road widening on Herring Cove Road, and organized for better public transit.

By the 1980s, transportation had taken a backseat to other issues, but it was only a matter of time before the EAC embraced transportation issues again. By 1995, renewed interest in transportation was growing. Around 1998 the first meeting of the newly minted Transportation Issues Committee (TIC) was held.

In order to build momentum for TIC, two volunteers, Wayne Groszko and Sue Watson, prepared a proposal for Environment Canada's Climate Change Action Fund. The goal of the project was to promote active and sustainable transportation to single occupant vehicle drivers in Halifax Regional Municipality. The proposal was accepted and Sue Watson and Rebecca O'Brien were hired to coordinate the Transportation Halifax (or TRAX) project.

Over the years TRAX has expanded its work beyond the borders of HRM and now works across the province encouraging active and sustainable trans-

portation. EAC is also home to the remarkably prolific Active and Safe Routes to School program, which works with schools and families to encourage healthy commuting habits in kids. In addition, EAC has just concluded a third round of funding through the Green Mobility Capital Grants. This program helps fund small-scale active and sustainable transportation projects. TIC provides volunteer energy and input for all these programs.

TIC continues to advocate for better public transit, effective rail options, safer streets for cyclists and pedestrians and more. But one of TIC's most inspiring projects is Bike Again. Since 2000 Bike Again has been providing a supportive space for anyone to learn about bicycle maintenance and repair. Based at the Bloomfield Centre, every week numerous volunteers share knowledge and tools to make cycling accessible to all. The fact that Bike Again is 100 percent volunteer-run serves to remind us what a big impact individual actions and energy can have!

Food Action Committee



Photo: Maggie Burns

The Food Action Committee has become the envy of the other issues committees since its arrival in 2002. FAC

meetings are well-attended and energetic and one FAC fundraiser, the Eating By the Seasons cookbook, has been reprinted multiple times and is a top seller among EAC publications. The committee's success might boil down to the simple fact that growing, sharing and savouring food is such fun. (Especially the savouring bit.)

Fun was at the root of FAC's founding, according to Jen Scott, a long-time project coordinator at the EAC. "I remember at the time we talked about having fun food-related events like a food film festival or harvest feasts," Scott says, recalling a pitch she made to the EAC Board alongside Sylvia Mangalam. "We also wanted to help people understand the costs and benefits of locally produced food versus imported food."

The committee has adhered to its goals of promoting locally-produced foods, though the form of this promotion has evolved over the years.

Harvest Festivals held from 2004-2006 brought farmers and city people together in a positive way, a connection the EAC had been seeking for years (see the Summer 1996 edition of BTI, in which "News From the Centre" refers to a group of EAC volunteers interested in encouraging "discussions between the rural providers of food and urban consumers").

Nova Scotia's very first conservation easements for farms were signed in 2005 and 2006, with the committee playing an instrumental role, and Scott herself a major player in the process.

More recently, FAC was behind the impressive Food Miles project, which took on a more academic angle but

received widespread promotion and opened a wide public discussion about the paths our food takes before it lands on our plates.

As noted on the committee's page on the EAC website, "We all eat and every food choice we make affects farm communities." Rupert Jannasch, another key cog in the development of conservation easements, spoke on this very subject at the EAC's annual general meeting in 2009.

The current model isn't working for farmers in this province. As such, the Food Action Committee will continue its efforts to improve conditions for Nova Scotian food producers. The fact that committee members will have nutritious, delicious fun along the way is reason for all of us to consider joining the crowd.

Do you have something to add to these too-brief histories? We'd love to hear your take on the births, and subsequent growths, of the EAC's issues committees. There's nothing like celebrating a milestone birthday to make you want to preserve and treasure your own history!

June Hall is tackling her (and Brian's) newly obtained wilderness on the South Shore. Tim Roberts is a whippersnapper of an EAC volunteer who enjoyed being educated about the history of the organization. He's currently a regular at TIC meetings but vows to attend meetings for all seven issues committees in the year ahead. Part-employee, part-volunteer for the EAC, Thom Oommen lives in Cape Breton where he grows a small market garden and is learning to love blackflies.

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IMPROVING THE WAY PEOPLE LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

By Mike Ruxton

Of Moose and Men

Eliminating roadside salt pools (RSPs) could reduce moose-vehicle collisions substantially, according to research undertaken by a pair of Quebec universities, Concordia and Rimouski, and the provincial government, using a computer model of the Laurentides Wildlife Reserve.



Janet Wilson

Most current measures to mitigate moose-vehicle collisions target the reduction of roadway crossings, using fencing, overpasses and underpasses, hazing, habitat alteration, and mirrors and reflectors. Fences are highly effective at preventing crossings, but they fragment habitat, so work best when combined with over- and under-passes.

In countries where large quantities of salt are used on winter roads, snow-melt runoff creates RSPs. Canada uses five million tonnes of road salt annually, almost a third of that in Quebec. Sodium is an essential element in the moose's diet, and moose get their daily requirements by browsing aquatic plants or from RSPs. Research shows that moose change their foraging habits to include RSPs.

Researchers modeled five crossing reduction strategies, and concluded that the most effective is to remove all RSPs. This strategy reduced roadway crossings in their model by 49 percent. Concordia researcher Paul Grosman says "When the scheduled time came to go to a salt pool, moose moved directly

to it with purpose. Sodium concentration is two or three times higher in roadside salt pools compared to aquatic plants, and those salt pools increase the probability of moose-vehicle collisions by 80 percent."

Concordia University 18 May 2011, Ecology and Society 2009

Big Beak Troubles

US Geological Society biologists in Alaska are flummoxed by a condition they've named avian keratin disorder. The beak deformity affects Alaska's Black-Capped Chickadees and northwestern crows in particular, but nuthatches and woodpeckers have been found with identical pathologies. Cases were first observed in Alaska, but are now found in British Columbia and Washington State.

The deformed beak is elongated, and often crossed. The disorder was first noticed in significant numbers in 1999, in the Black-Capped Chickadee, and has increased dramatically since. An estimated 6.5 percent of Alaskan Black-Capped Chickadees are affected, and 17 percent of Alaskan northwestern crows. It is seen only in adults, not embryos or hatchlings, and affects the birds' ability to feed and preen.

Biologist Colleen Handel and colleagues published their findings in November 2010. Co-author Caroline Van Hemert notes "they're eating different things, they live in different habitat - crows are mostly intertidal, chickadees tend to be in birch forests. They're kind of occurring in different parts of their habitats and ecosystems, and they're still affected by what seems to be the same problem."

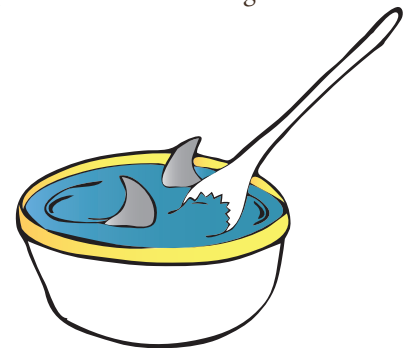
The disease vector is elusive. There are no indications of bacteria, viruses or mites. Various diet deficiencies have been discounted. Environmental contaminants are possible, but no likely candidate has been proposed or detected by necropsy or histopathology. Geographic distribution of the patholo-

gies have been mapped, but haven't yet pointed to a cause.

The Auk 2010, Living Bird Winter 2011, New York Times 8 Nov 2010

Banned in Brantford

Brantford, Ontario has no local shark fishery; no restaurant or grocer in town offers shark fin soup. Still, in May, Brantford city councilors voted unanimously in favour of prohibiting the possession, sale and consumption of the Chinese delicacy. Brantford is the first municipality in North America to do so. Former Brantford MPP Phil Gillies successfully lobbied the city to set an example for others to follow. Gillies is working with WildAid, a San Francisco-based conservation group undertaking a North American campaign to ban the practice of shark finning.



Janet Wilson

Shark fin soup is a special occasion dish usually reserved for events like weddings or Chinese New Year. In Hawaii, which adopted a shark fin ban last year, legislation was deemed necessary to provide a level playing field for restaurant owners. Bans currently exist in Oregon and Washington, and one is under consideration in California. Fifty-five percent of the Asian-American population lives in California.

The European Union has banned finning, but critics say the EU legislation has a gaping loophole. This hole allows a vessel to fin sharks at sea, without landing the entire animal. The weight of fins kept must not exceed five percent of the live weight of the shark catch. The fins fetch on average Cdn\$100/kg, while shark

meat is priced at less than Cdn\$9.50/kg. Since 2007, the UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries has advocated “that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached.” Finning in Canadian waters and by any Canadian licensed vessel fishing outside Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone has been prohibited since 1994.

WildAid, Globe & Mail 17 May 2011, IUCN Shark Specialist Group

The Chicken Chair

The industry group Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) is sponsoring a Chair of Poultry Welfare at the University of Guelph (UoG), with initial funding from March 2011 through January 2017. Professor Tina Widowski, current director of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare at UoG, has accepted the position. She has been on faculty at UoG since 1990; her current research focuses on housing and management practices affecting pigs, poultry and cattle.



Janet Wilson

Robert Gordon, Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College at UoG, insists that the welfare of poultry will be foremost, rather than any industry priorities. One area of study will be poultry housing, covering cages, enriched cages, and aviaries.

Canadian poultry farms typically use battery cages. A conventional cage houses five hens, with an average area per hen of 560 cm². The European Union in 1999 instituted a ban on battery cages, starting in 2012. Manitoba is the only Canadian province committed to phasing out battery cages; their deadline is

2018. Canada has only a voluntary recommended code of practice for the care of poultry.

EFC is a not-for-profit national organization representing regulated egg farmers in all ten provinces and the Northwest Territories. In addition to promoting eggs, EFC develops national standards for egg farming.

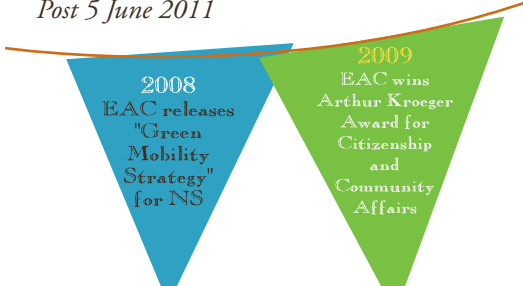
Globe & Mail 11 May 2011, Canadian Poultry 12 May 2011, Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, Canadian Agri-Food Research Council 1993.

Canada, Chrysotile and the Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention obliges members of the United Nations to implement the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure for pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons. Canada has been instrumental in preventing chrysotile asbestos from being added to the list. Chrysotile, the only form of asbestos currently used industrially, is implicated in mesothelioma and lung cancer. While visiting the town of Asbestos, Quebec, during the recent federal election, Stephen Harper said “[T]his government will not put Canadian industry in a position where it is discriminated against in a market where sale is permitted.” Ninety-five percent of the asbestos mined in Canada is exported, mostly to China, India and Thailand.

Adding chrysotile to the Rotterdam Convention would not prevent mining or export; it would make it obligatory to observe the PIC procedure. The fifth meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention takes place in Geneva, Switzerland in late June. Chrysotile is on the agenda.

The Toronto Star 27 April 2011, UNEP, British Govt Office for Science 11 May 2011, The Daily Show correspondent Aasif Mandvi 12 May 2011, National Post 5 June 2011



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- Laura Simpson, *The Chronicle Herald*

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NOVA SCOTIA

Seasonal Gourmet

Berry Delicious Dessert

By *Katrina Ross*

Summer is a great time to visit a local U-Pick to stock up on wonderfully sweet fruit. Check out <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/marketing/contact/landsea/upicko.pdf> or www.pickyourown.org/canadans.htm for a U-Pick near you and make a family outing out of it. If picking your own is not your style, visit your local farmers' market or sign up for a fruit CSA. Berries have high pesticide residue so it is best to buy organic or no-spray whenever possible.

Berries are packed with antioxidants, which help to repair damaged cells in the body making these little gems among the healthiest fruit around.

What's in Season?

Vegetables include: beans, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, eggplant, fennel, herbs, peas, peppers, tomatoes, and zucchini. Summer is the best season for many fruits like melons, blueberries, cherries, plums, peaches, raspberries, and strawberries. For local and sustainable seafood try hook and line haddock or hake (excellent with a strawberry chutney), harpoon caught swordfish (great on the BBQ), mussels, locally farmed arctic char, and mackerel.

Rainbow Ice Pops

1 ½ cup strawberries hulled
 1 ½ cup wild blueberries
 1 ½ cup honeydew or cantaloupe melon peeled and diced
 3 T sugar or honey

Directions

1. Puree strawberries with 1 tablespoon of sugar. Set aside
2. Puree blueberries with 1 tablespoon of sugar. Set aside
3. Puree melon with 1 tablespoon of sugar. Set aside
4. Pour layers of each fruit puree into a popsicle mold, insert pop stick and freeze for 2 – 3 hrs before serving

This is a very healthy snack to be devoured on those hot summer days. The kids will love them.

Berries don't last long, so it is best to freeze them or make jams. Check out the Food Action Committee's blog for canning ideas. <http://adventuresinlocalfood.wordpress.com>

Katrina Ross is a volunteer with the Food Action Committee, coordinator of "Eating by the Seasons" cookbook and avid seasonal cook.



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Photo: Sable Island Green Horse Society

Letters to the centre

I just wanted to congratulate you and the EAC for creating this successful and energetic organization. I hope it survives at least another 140 years!

-Susan Feindel

Congratulations on the three smokestacks demo outside the Emera corporate meeting, reported in today's *Chronicle Herald*!

Demos like that strike a note in people's imagination.

-Mike Eaton, Cole Harbour

We want to send a very appreciative THANK YOU to your staff and Board of Directors for the delicious cake last week. We were overwhelmed by the gesture, and are flattered at being part of your 40 Days of Action.

And most importantly, congratulations on 40 years of dedication to Nova Scotia's people and places.

Thanks again from all our staff.

All our best,

-Judy McMullin, Executive Director
& Gina Patterson, Managing Director, Programs,
Clean Nova Scotia

Hi Grant:

On behalf of the Board and all of TREPA members we would like to thank the Ecology Action Centre for the gift of a cheese-cake commemorating our 25th anniversary. We heard from our Executive Director, John Sollows, that it was delicious.

More than that we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ecology Action Centre for being our mentor over these past twenty-five years. As you will be celebrating your 40th anniversary we expect, and hope, that you will continue to be there for us in the future.

Hoping to see you or another of EAC's representatives at our June meeting.

All the best,

-Carol Jacquard, Secretary
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association



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2010
EAC launches
Off the Hook,
Community
Supported
Fishery

2011
EAC unveils
interactive mural
at Fern Lane
office

2011
EAC has
34 staff and
over 300
volunteers

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Making Tracks and School Travel Planning Coordinator:
Jennifer McGowan 442-5055 walk@ecologyaction.ca
TRAX Coordinator: Scott MacPhee 429-0924 trax@ecologyaction.ca
Bike Again: Jyelle Vogel 431-8215 or Peter Rogers
404-5466, bikeagain@hotmail.com

WILDERNESS ISSUES

Wilderness & Public Lands: Raymond Plourde
442-5008 wilderness@ecologyaction.ca

Halcraft Ad

Councillor Jennifer Watts
District 14 - Connaught- Quinpool
497-4748 (Phone)
490-2626 (Fax)
E-mail: jennifer.watts@halifax.ca



Sustainability is Our Future



***Thanks to the Ecology Action Centre
for 40 Years of Advocacy***

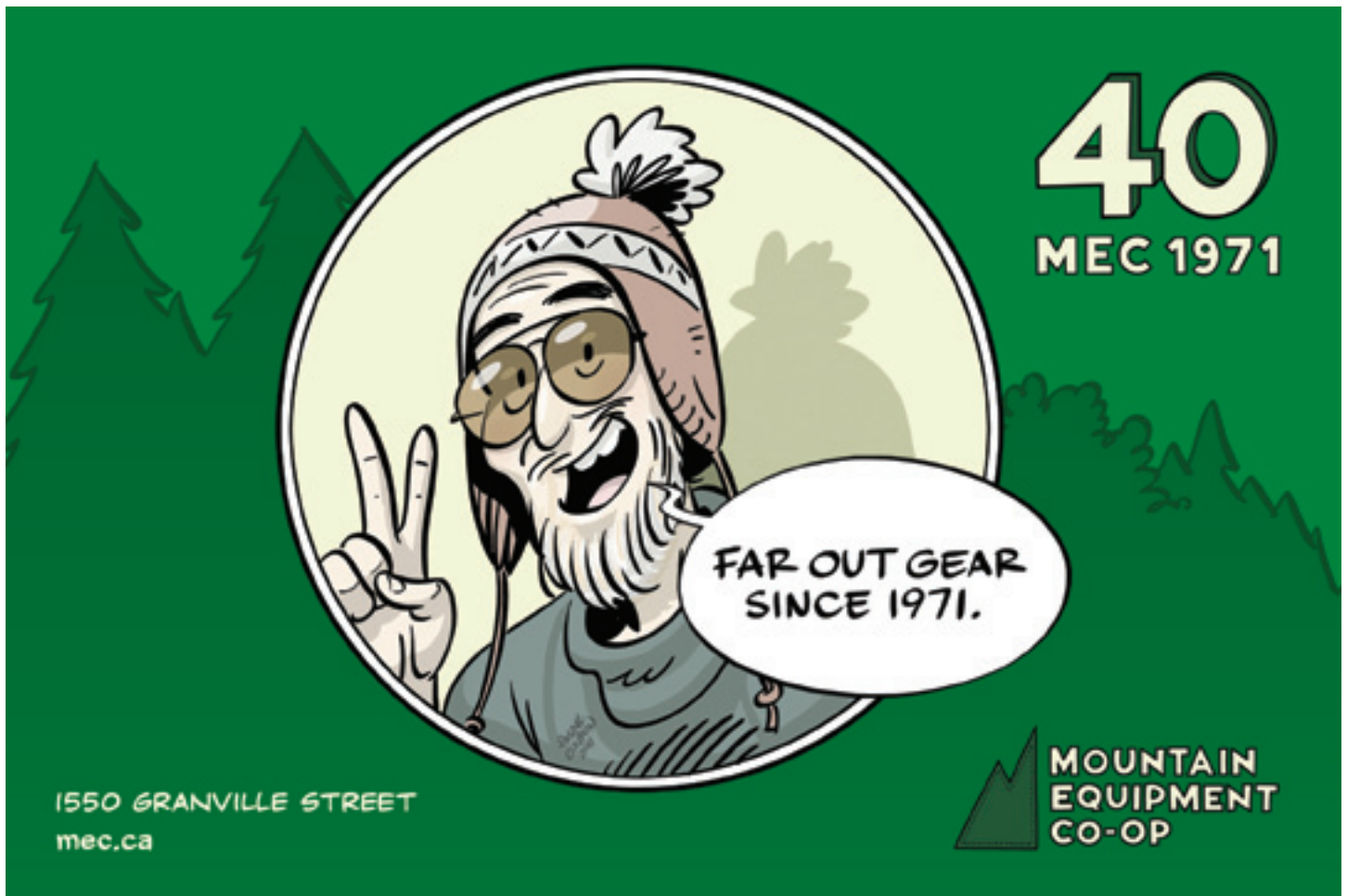


**CREDIT
UNION**

iNOVA

75th year serving your community

You have championed many important environmental issues near and dear to our hearts and continue to be a valuable resource in our community and to iNova Credit Union. Hats off to a knowledgeable group of professionals and congratulations on your 40th anniversary.



EAC Index: Other Big Birthdays This Year

- 10th – Halifax Mountain Equipment Coop
- 30th – Amy Hawke, Feb 15 30th – Jen McGowan, July 17
- 40th – Mountain Equipment Coop 40th – Alternatives Magazine 40th – Environment Canada
- 40th –North End Community Health Centre, Halifax 40th – Jennifer Graham, Aug 18
- 40th Wedding Anniversary - Robert and Christine Boardman, January 2 50th – Mark Butler, March 30
- 75th – David Suzuki, March 24

Recent EAC Successes:

- EAC celebrated, with our allies, the Government’s commitment to lowering speed limits in school zones.
- On June 21st “Off the Hook,” Atlantic Canada’s first community supported fishery and your source for extremely fresh, sustainably caught fish, launched its second season.
- On April almost 100 landowners attended the second “Harvest the Wind” workshop in Port Hawkesbury, co-hosted by EAC.
- In June we launched “Our HRM”, an alliance formed to create a more livable and sustainable HRM by increasing density, curbing sprawl and establishing a greenbelt.

The Ecology Action Centre Needs Your Help



Please fill out this membership form and return to the EAC.

CONTACT INFO:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email (for monthly e-newsletter): _____

Memberships and donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Monthly Contribution:

\$5 \$10 \$20 Other: \$ _____

Annual Contribution:

\$40 Regular \$60 Contributing/Family

\$120 Supporting/Sustaining

\$20 Student/Senior/Unwaged Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash Cheque VISA Mastercard

Name on the card: _____

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If sending a void cheque please sign above.

Ecology Action Centre 2705 Fern Lane Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 4L3 www.ecologyaction.ca