

EAC ANNUAL REPORT | 2006/7



ecology action centre **vision**

A society in Nova Scotia which respects and protects nature and provides environmentally and economically sustainable solutions for its citizens.

ecology action centre **values**

EAC members, volunteers, and staff believe that the environment is tied to the well-being of society.
EAC supports a climate of innovation.
EAC comes from and supports the "grassroots".
EAC aims to engage the public in dialogue for environmental improvement.

ecology action centre **purpose**

EAC is an independent organization that strives to work with partners to:
Provide up-to-date environmental information;
Pursue researched solutions; and
Act as a watch-dog for the Nova Scotia environment.

eac board members 2006/7

Simon K. Melrose-Co-Chair (Appointed June 2006)
Daniel Rainham-Co-Chair (Appointed January 2005)
Nancy Wright-Secretary (Appointed June 2005)
Howard Moore-Interim Treasurer (Appointed January 2007)
Hudson Shotwell (Appointed June 2006)
Michel Furlong (Appointed June 2005)
Luc Cayer (Appointed June 2006)
Grant MacDonald (Appointed January 2007)
Caley MacLennan (Appointed June 2005)
Nancy Neatt (Appointed June 2006)
Robin Aiken (Appointed January 2007)
Ramsey A. Wright (Appointed June 2006)
Judith Cooley (Appointed January 2007)



Ecology Action Centre

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co-chairs' letter

Maturity, effectiveness and influence.

Since the EAC has turned 35 it is clear that, as demonstrated by our continued growth, our new-found maturity has not resulted in complacency.

As indicated at last year's AGM, the EAC is a significant employer, making a direct contribution to our community. It is also apparent that other employers appreciate the mentoring the EAC provides and are eager to find a home for graduates who have spent time with us.

The real demonstration of our maturity comes from the inclusion of EAC staff in the formulation of policy instead of simply being asked to comment after the event. Examples of this include helping to shape the Sustainable Prosperity Act, engaging in the FSC audit of Stora Enso and initiating and supporting the Colin Stewart Forest Forum. We helped in encouraging NSPI to make a major financial commitment to Energy Efficiency. We are a critical part of planning our future forestry management policy through Voluntary Planning, again, not as commentators, but as active participants in the process.

There is some serendipity in all of this. As governments finally begin to recognize issues that are all too familiar to the EAC they realize that they need help, so are actively seeking our assistance.

While this is a wonderful recognition of the hard work, dedication and expertise of our staff and volunteers, it is also a significant responsibility. As a board of directors we must always remember that we cannot become too aligned with the establishment without risking our impartial ability to comment and criticize. Focusing on our values and asking our members for their views allows us to keep a balance.

Sustaining these activities as well as all the other programs are an expanded core staff, a successful capital campaign and a growing membership presently at the 1500 member level. This continued growth will ensure that the EAC continues to remember its inner child, viewing our province and society as sources of joy while staying on course as we strive to improve them.

Simon Melrose and Daniel Rainham, Co-Chairs

directors' letter

According to a recent US study the rate of global CO₂ emissions increased by 3% between 2000 and 2004. As someone on the EAC Energy Issues Committee list-serve said that's enough to curdle your milk in the morning.

As environmentalists some might say we are used to bad news, but we certainly don't revel in it. In fact, here at EAC we have been feeling increasingly buoyant over the last year, because of an apparent deepening and widening of environmental concern amongst Canadians, because of a remarkable year of growth and celebration for the Centre, and because of some very concrete advances for the environment of Nova Scotia which are chronicled in the following pages.

The Centre's staff, volunteers and members can take credit for many of these advances. Nova Scotians and their decision makers are starting to listen to us. It feels good.

Although the news about increasing global emissions is deflating, we know EAC can make a difference globally – just look at the small, but mighty role we played in alerting the world to the ravages of bottom trawling this past year.

When it comes to climate change we can make a difference around the world by acting locally and thinking globally. We can continue the work of making Nova Scotia one of the greener provinces in the Canadian federation and thereby creating a voice for stronger environmental policies at the national level, and by extension, at the international level.

EAC is a local organization and there is nothing more local than where you spend most of your working hours – your workplace. Moving into our new Fern Lane office space has allowed our volunteers and staff to do so much more in the last year. In our new home we celebrated our 35th year in style at our Roaring '20s Recycled Soiree, grew to 1,500 members, and added many new staff and partnerships. In 2007, we will continue to green Nova Scotia and by extension the world. Join us.

Mark Butler, Policy Director
and Maggy Burns, Internal Director



eac core report

Staff- *Emma Boardman, Maggy Burns, Mark Butler, Maggy Dort, Eleanor Grier, Jesse Joice, Michael Kimber, Heather McKibbon, Zoe Miles, Stephanie Nicholson, Gina Patterson, Sebastien Poissant Labelle, Anne Pryde, Justin Renkema, Ebony Scalf, Kathryn Siegel, Cora Sprouel, Elizabeth Stoker, Carla Vandenberg*

fundraising committee

This committee is charged with fundraising to support overall EAC operations. It is presently active in the form of sub-committees and ad hoc committees. Activities during this busy year included:

- Since its launch, raising almost \$90,000 through our first ever capital campaign. These funds went towards the cost of renovations to our wonderful Fern Lane home. This campaign hopes to wrap up in the first half of the next fiscal year.
- Holding our 8th annual Garden Party. What a success! We raised almost \$14,000 and had lots of fun.
- Celebrating our 35th year in action with a great cocktail and dance party. The Roaring Twenties Recycled was the cat's meow. It raised almost \$5,000 and got lots of toes tapping!
- Organizing a number of other fundraisers and events including our annual Chemical Free Christmas Tree sale, our Native Tree Spree, the creation and sale of EAC T-shirts, a brilliant visit from David Suzuki, one dance party to thank our many Fern Lane renovation volunteers and one street party to celebrate our new North End home!

home maintenance committee

This important and hands-on committee holds monthly (or more) work parties to repair and improve our inspirational green office space. This year we:

- Succeeded in getting our new home into move-in condition!
- Instigated and/or completed a number of finishing touches – an access ramp and outdoor meeting space, a garden, a shower, a rainwater collection cistern, a self guided tour and educational displays, and more.
- There's more planned for the future - watch for a wonderful clay floor in our basement and bike parking at EAC.

outreach & membership committee

The membership committee has recently renewed! Focusing on the bigger picture of membership. Through our outreach efforts we promote the Ecology Action Centre in the greater community, keep our members informed of our activities and engage new members and volunteers in the centre.

- Reaching over 1000 members! For the first time on record.
- Running a successful canvassing campaign throughout the HRM.
- Creating a partnership program for like-minded businesses and organizations and building several exciting partnerships.
- Publishing 4 wonderful editions of Between the Issues magazine with increased distribution and more pages/issue.
- Producing a new volunteer and membership brochure and improving the e-newsletter and annual report formats.

personnel committee

This new committee works on: fostering a welcoming, fun and collaborative work environment; drafting human resource policy documents; and, making recommendations on wage increases and ways to improve human resources at EAC. Some of our many successes this year include:

- Launching the long-awaited Pay Equity Policy.
- Assisting with an excellent Board Staff Volunteer Retreat.
- Fostering a fun and healthy work environment through regular celebrations, opportunities to learn, and a fabulous chalkboard in the bathroom.

issue committee reports



built environment | BEC

The Urban Issues Committee and members of the Home Committee joined forces in February 2007 to become the Built Environment Committee. This committee's mission is to research, educate and advocate policies and practices that encourage the development of communities which incorporate transportation infrastructure, design open space and densities that are in harmony with, and the least detrimental to, the natural and social environment.

PROJECTS

HRM Pesticide By-law Programs *Gregor MacAskill, Mark Beasy, Philana Dollin, Andrea Dykstra, Nicole Gibeau, Marla MacLeod, Robin Musselman, Johanna Nesbitt, Leigh-Anne Outhouse, Leslie Savoy, Rob Teale.*

Urban Archetypes Research *Aktar Abbasi, Trisha Dempsey, Kiersten Holden, Daniel Locke, Leslie Savoy, Kathy Yeats.*

Home for Good Concept and Proposal Development *Lachlan Barber*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully administered HRM's Pesticide By-law
- Helped develop infrastructure for public tours of EAC's green renovation demonstration site
- Participated in the HRM Grand Parade-Province House Committee that resulted in the removal of parking from Grand Parade
- Co-hosted the Green Scene, Halifax's first ever green building home show
- Coordinated the Halifax portion of a Department of Natural Resources study on energy use in different types of neighbourhoods
- Developed "Home for Good" concept and proposal to encourage an understanding of the transportation implications of where we live



coastal issues | CIC

Supporting better coastal planning and management through research, education, engaging and mobilizing the public, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

PROJECTS

Reconnecting the Coast *Jennifer Graham (Coastal Coordinator)*

Salt marsh workshop *Robin Musselman*

Keltic Petrochemicals liquefied natural gas project environmental assessment *Chantal Gagnon*

White Point Quarry environmental assessment *Lynda Russell-Sooriyakuraman, Gretchen Fitzgerald*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Organized "Six years in the mud. Restoring maritime salt marshes; Lessons learned and moving forward" workshop attended by eighty five participants
- Made submission and presentation to provincial review panel for Keltic LNG and comments on the EIA statement for White Point Quarry
- Held a press conference and outreach on climate change impact and adaptation
- Involved in successful campaign for HRM land use bylaw amendments to prevent infilling in the Northwest Arm
- Encouraged development of a provincial coastal strategy and municipal planning to encourage wise development along the coast
- Commented on proposed tidal power project in the Bay of Fundy
- Promoted better protection of NS beaches and updates to provincial *Beaches Act*
- Worked with partners around the province on a variety of coastal issues, with a focus on wetland protection

issue committee reports cont.

**energy issues | EIC**

Encouraging low-emission energy systems through policy and practice.

PROJECTS

Atlantic Canada Sustainable Energy Coalition *Brendan Haley*

Solar Gain *Wayne Groszko*

Movie Series Education & Outreach *Andrea Flowers*

Solar Homes Inventory *Andy O'Brien*

Fern Lane Tours *Amber Cantell, Niina Luus*

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 5,000 Nova Scotians saw *The Inconvenient Truth* and other movies related to energy and climate change.
- Launch of Solar Gain Project aiming to put up 500 solar hot water collectors.
- Over 800 people have toured the EAC's eco-renovated office.
- Electricity-sector economic modeling recommends spending more on energy efficiency than leading jurisdictions in North America and renewable energy production beyond provincial target.
- Province announces mandatory renewable energy target.
- The Standing Committee on Economic Development recommends that the province's energy strategy consider the rural economic development benefits of renewable energy after presentation by EAC and NS Co-op Council.

**food action | FAC**

Promoting and celebrating local, ecological food production and consumption.

PROJECTS

Food Miles *Jennifer Scott, Marla MacLeod*

Harvest Festival *Janna Graham, Jennifer Scott, Sheila Eldridge*

HelioTrust *Jennifer Scott, Sheila Eldridge*

Urban Garden Project *Kyla Milne*

HIGHLIGHTS

- FAC has a growing and active group of volunteers who manage the committee and make all of the projects possible.
- Worked with 100 youth aged 5 -12 at three different gardening sites in the city. Portions of the harvest were donated to Feed Nova Scotia.
- HelioTrust offered a full summer of workshops and events at Red Fox Farm.
- Department of Natural Resources approved EAC as an Eligible Body to hold Conservation Easements under the Conservation Easement Act.
- Held the third annual Harvest Festival. Over 50 farmers and producers participated and over 2000 people attended.
- Produced the *Eating by the Seasons* cookbook, sold 500 copies and has gone into a second printing.
- Red Fife wheat has achieved commercial status, and was featured at Slow Food International's Hall of Taste in Turin, Italy.
- Worked with the Marine Issues Committee to organize *Loaves and Fishes*, an event bringing together fishers, farmers and other members of the local, sustainable food industry in Nova Scotia.

issue committee reports cont.


marine issues | MIC

Promoting sustainable ocean-based livelihoods and marine conservation in Atlantic Canada.

PROJECTS

Ocean Zoning and Sustainable Fisheries *Mark Butler & Susanna Fuller*

Ecological Analysis of Fishing Gear Impacts *Jennifer Ford, Susanna Fuller*

SeaChoice *Tyler Schulz, Jennifer Spencer*

High Seas Moratorium Campaign *Tyler Schulz*

Sable Island *Robin Musselman*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful National Launch of the SeaChoice Program
- National Campaign to gain support for a United Nations moratorium on high seas bottom-trawling (www.deepseas.blogspot.com). (We almost won!)
- Collaboration with Living Oceans Society, David Suzuki Foundation, Sierra Club and CPAWS on a number of marine conservation initiatives
- Continued participation in the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management planning process
- Co-Hosting of the NS Marine Conservation Summit
- Organizing of Sable Island Public Meeting
- Organizing of Loaves and Fishes, a meeting with the purpose of discussing the development of consumer markets for local, sustainable seafood


transportation issues | TIC

Fostering environmentally sustainable and healthy communities through the promotion of sustainable transportation by: reducing single occupancy vehicle trips and related emissions; promoting increased investment in and advocacy for sustainable transportation infrastructure; and, encouraging active living through physically active transportation.

PROJECTS

TRAX *Stephanie Sodero, Laena Garrison*

Active & Safe Routes to School *Janet Barlow, Diana Prosser-Lewis*

Bike Again! *Scott McPhee, Susanna Fuller*

Steer Clean *Maggy Burns, Ian Rowberry*

Commuter Challenge *Lachlan Barber, Cheyenne Dickinson*

HIGHLIGHTS

- 140 schools participated in Walk to School Week 2006 including 27,000 students
- Conducted an Active & Safe Routes to School pilot project with five schools
- Created and pilot-tested the Neighbourhood Pace Car program
- Began consultations with planners on transportation planning for children and youth
- 191 higher polluting vehicles retired and recycled to date, (84 in this fiscal year) and 37 bikes given away!
- Implemented employer transit pass pilot project
- Pushed for incorporation of sustainable transportation and smart growth principles in HRM Regional Planning Strategy
- Organized Halifax's first Open Streets Festival on Cogswell

issue committee reports cont.



Focusing on more protection for our province's dwindling public wildlands, and encouraging better, environmentally responsible forestry practices on public and private lands.

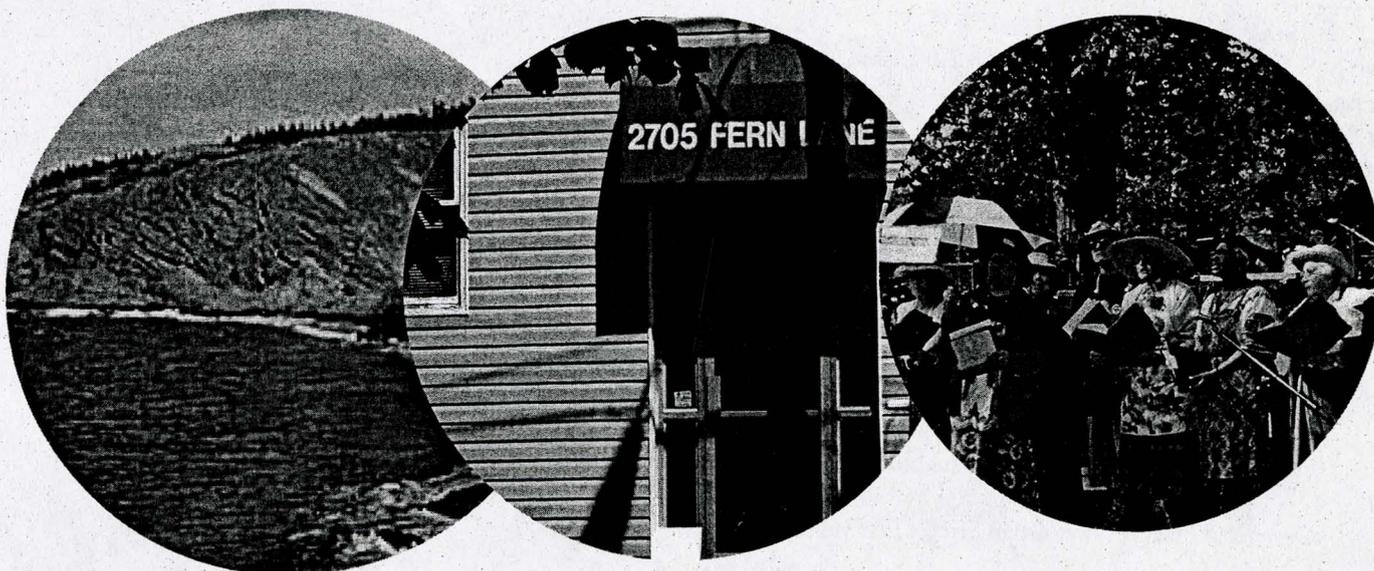
PROJECTS

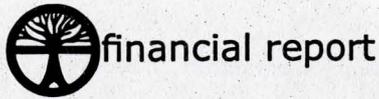
Public Lands Coalition and Colin Stewart Forest Forum *Raymond Plourde and Kermit deGooyer*

Standing Tall Campaign for Environmentally Responsible Forestry *Joanne Cook and Minga O'Brien, Will Martin, Hana Hermanek*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Convinced the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources to use public process led by Voluntary Planning and to develop a new Forests/Natural Resources Strategy.
- Successfully advocated for the conservation of over 24,000 acres of wilderness lands acquired by the Province from Bowater Mersey Paper Company.
- Achieved changes to provincial regulations governing silviculture funding.
- Successfully supported the designation of the new Blandford Nature Reserve on the Aspotogan Peninsula in Lunenburg County.
- Convinced the government to dedicate funding for woodlot owners to work toward healthy Acadian forest on their lands as proposed by Standing Tall.
- Successfully supported passing of the new "Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act".
- Partnered with other NGOs, federal and provincial governments, and academics to organize the first Acadian Forest Science Conference.
- Worked closely with the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada, Stora Enso, and SmartWood on issues around Stora's application for FSC certification.





financial director's | treasurer's report

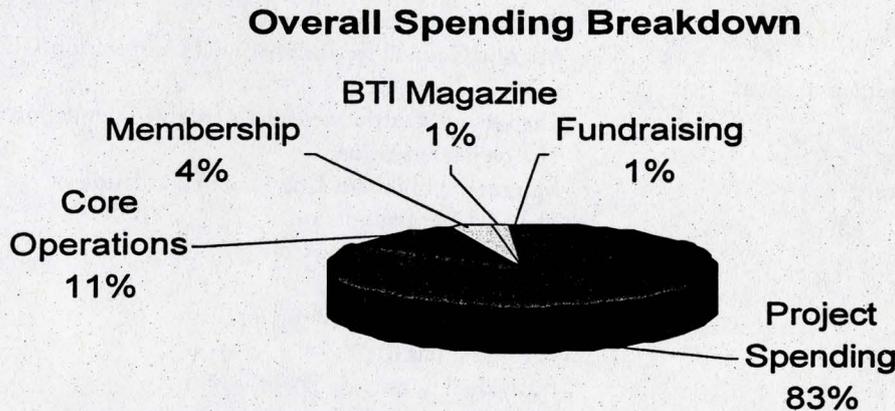
Another incredible year at the EAC! Gross revenue for both core and projects was over \$1.5 million for the 06/07 fiscal year. Gross revenue for core was \$267,265; an increase of 32% over the previous year. The growth was mainly driven by an increase in admin revenues (22% increase) and membership revenues (61% increase). Gross expenses for core grew by 35%, to \$266,670. Human Resource expenses were the main driver, increasing by 59%. Changes included: new Administrative Assistant position; increased hours for the Website Coordinator & Internal / Policy Director positions; salary increases for most core positions; and membership canvassing expenses.

Project revenue for the year totaled \$1,396,255, an increase of 50% over last year and project expenses totaled \$1,335,812, an increase of 45%. The following page contains more detailed information for both projects and core operations.

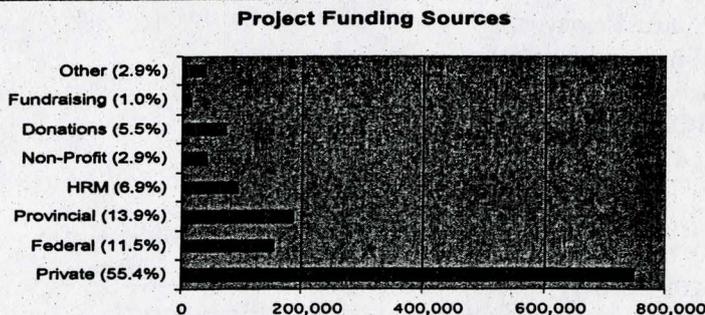
The EAC has prepared audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2007. The audit was completed by Grant Thornton LLP. For a full copy of the EAC's financial statements, call our Financial Director at (902) 442-0254.

financial statements

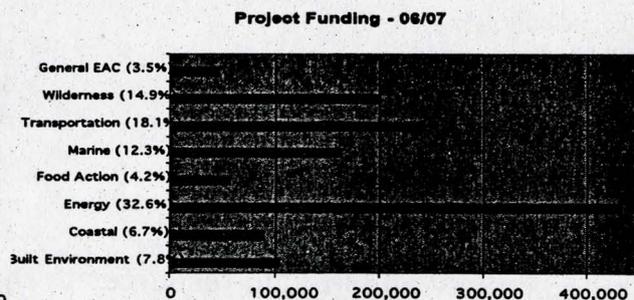
Graph 1. Overall Spending Breakdown



Graph 2. Project Funding Sources



Graph 3. Project Funding



statement of operations

| | Year Ended March 31 | |
|--|------------------------|-----------|
| | 2007 | 2006 |
| revenue | | |
| Memberships & Donations | 74,090 | 51,275 |
| Gar. Par. Auction (net exp of \$1,778 for '07) | 13,862 | 16,565 |
| Christmas Trees (net exp of \$6,772 for '07) | 5,633 | 6,375 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,360 | 2,537 |
| Other Fundraising (net exp of \$7,243 for '07) | 756 | - |
| Interest | 3,862 | 4,449 |
| Capital Contribution | 16,142 | - |
| BTI (net exp of \$21,911 for '07)) | (10,841) | (15,770) |
| Project Revenue | 1,335,812 | 922,376 |
| Project Expenses | (1,335,812) | (922,376) |
| Net Revenue | 105,864 | 65,431 |
| expenses | | |
| Wages & benefits | 142,727 | 89,708 |
| Office materials & equipment | 16,691 | 13,012 |
| Utilities | 6,970 | 3,875 |
| Fern reno, taxes, finance, rent | 34,475 | 34,644 |
| Insurance | 6,924 | 6,520 |
| Professional fees | 8,500 | 8,762 |
| Membership, advertising, trav | 3,137 | 857 |
| Bank fees | 3,133 | 2,548 |
| Depreciation | 17,945 | 1,728 |
| HST | 4,627 | 3,586 |
| Recovery of office expense | (139,858) | (105,940) |
| Net Expenses | 105,270 | 60,080 |
| Excess of rev over expenses | 594 | 5,351 |

balance sheet

| | March 31 | |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|
| | 2007 | 2006 |
| assets | | |
| <i>Current</i> | | |
| Cash & cash equiv. | 444,247 | 405,984 |
| Marketable securities | 21,685 | 150 |
| Receivables | 132,137 | 89,868 |
| Prepaid expenses | 3,059 | 9,618 |
| | 601,128 | 505,620 |
| Property & equipment | 344,809 | 277,747 |
| | 945,937 | 783,367 |
| liabilities | | |
| <i>Current</i> | | |
| Payables & accruals | 53,658 | 38,776 |
| Deferred project revenue | 499,519 | 439,074 |
| Mortgage payable - current | 4,492 | 4,219 |
| | 557,699 | 482,069 |
| <i>Long-Term</i> | | |
| Deferred capital contrib. | 146,036 | 54,661 |
| Mortgage payable | 86,161 | 90,660 |
| Note payable | 49,500 | 50,000 |
| | 281,697 | 195,321 |
| Surplus | 106,571 | 105,977 |
| | 945,937 | 783,367 |

Table 1. Financial Statement. Represents a condensed Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet, extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements.

N.B. For a complete auditors report please contact eac@ecologyaction.ca



ec successes

- Conserving 300 acres of working farm land in Hants County.
- Protecting and restoring over 30 hectares of ecologically significant Bay of Fundy salt marshes at Cheverie Creek.
- Initiating and delivering the Halifax Regional Municipality's by-law program that restricts the cosmetic use of pesticides; cutting the number of pesticide permits by 80% since 2004.
- Building support for the development of a transit pass for students at three of Nova Scotia's universities; the Saint Mary's University program resulted in 50,000 more student rides per month.
- Successfully advocated for the conservation of over 24,000 acres of high conservation value wilderness lands and designation of the Blandford Nature reserve located on the Aspotogan Peninsula.
- Getting 30,000 students walking and wheeling to school during International Walk to School Week.
- Hosting the first International Deep Water Coral Symposium, and advocating for coral protection in Canadian waters.
- Persuading Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources to change silviculture regulations to make it easier for woodlot owners to nurture healthy Acadian forests.
- Calling successfully for the province to create an energy efficiency agency, Conserve Nova Scotia.
- The EAC was named by the Globe and Mail "one of the best run charities in Canada" in 2000 and has been voted as the "best activist organization" in Halifax for three years running by readers of The Coast.

