

Annual Report 2002-2003

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

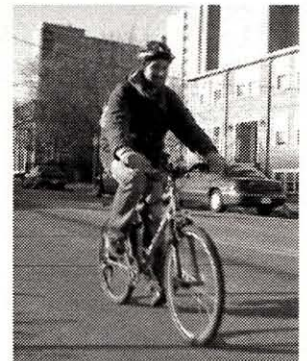
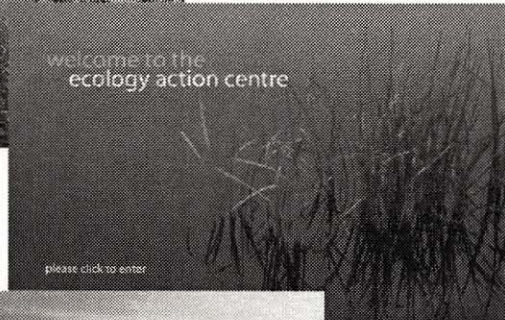
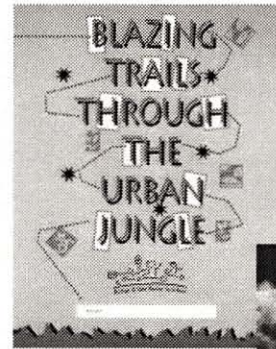
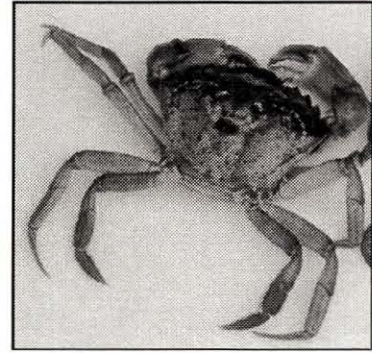


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Please note that this is the second edition of the 2002-2003 Annual Report. This edition includes previously overlooked volunteers and supporters, along with corrections of report submitters. The overall content of the report remains the same.

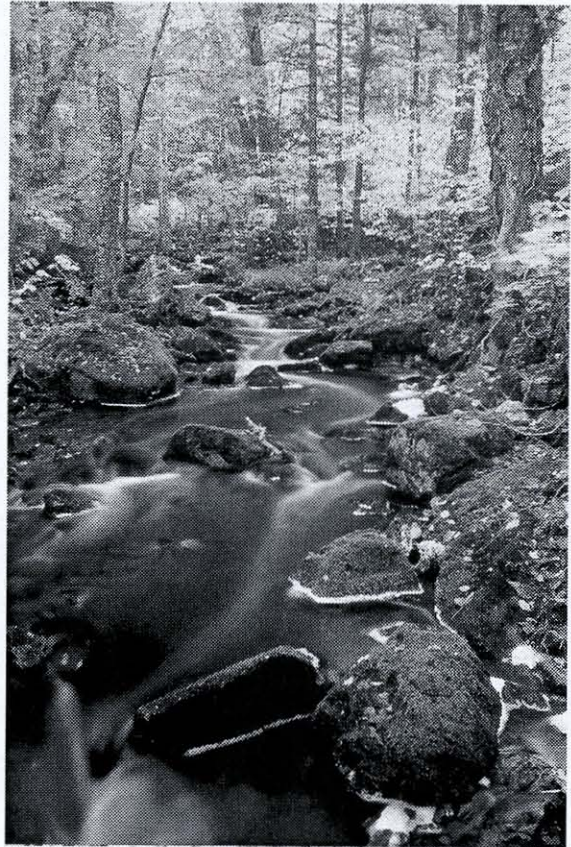
Annual Report 2002-2003

Executive

Trudie Richards - Co-Chair
Gregor MacAskill - Co-Chair
Lianne Giswold - Treasurer
Tricia MacLeod - Secretary

Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Heather Paquet | Jayne Roma |
| Jennifer Graham | Kevin Blair |
| Maggy Burns | Maida Murray |
| Michael Oddy | Mike Milloy |
| Sue McKinney | Tamara Lorincz |
| Tony Bowron | |



Staff

Salt Marshes:

Tony M. Bowron, Project Coordinator
Nancy Chiasson, Field Technician (summer 2002)
Jennifer Graham, Outreach & Education Coordinator
Shirley-Ann Dalton, Tidal Barriers Auditor with Municipality of Colchester
Laura Mullan, Tidal Barriers Auditor with Municipality of Colchester

Harbour:

Sue Browne, Proposal Writer (winter 2002)
Jerry MacKinlay, Harbour Project Coordinator

Marine Issues:

Mark Butler, Marine Issues Coordinator
Penny Doherty, Marine Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Ford, Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Coordinator

Transportation Issues:

Janet Barlow, Active & Safe Routes to School
Chris Brackley, Anti-Idling
Alexandra Fischer, TRAX
Susanna Fuller, Bike Again
Rebecca O'Brien, TRAX
Robynn Moody, Youth for Environmental Action/ASRTS

BTI:

June Hall

Office:

Brenda Hall, Office Manager

Wilderness:

Raymond Plourde, Public Lands

Hemlock Circus:

Emma Boardman

Vision / Values / Purpose

Vision

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

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.

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.



Chair's Report

In our 31st year, EAC has many things to be proud of, and as co-chairs of the board we are pleased to present a perspective on the year in review. In somewhat of a diversion from usual practice, we offer a poetic account of EAC developments, and hope we haven't omitted any news of special significance. EAC moves forward with a sense of optimism and confidence. We continue to become more widely recognized, involved, and influential through our efforts. Numerous organizational, committee, project, and individual successes are the result of many diverse contributions to EAC, as you will observe in this report. We thank everyone who has been involved, and those who are joining us now, as we continue our work to protect the Earth.

The year goes by it seems to fly, it even seems absurd,
But now once more we have the floor to share reflective words.

There were changes in the ranges of the issues and the cast,
And as a board, the reward has been to keep a sturdy mast.

Tricia we will miss ya, same for Tony and Lianne,
Also Penny they're so many, we must thank them as we can.

They joined a board with open doors
to help us reach our goals,
With visions and decisions that do
help us as a whole.

We brought in fees with Christmas
trees and gardening delights,
Plus memberships and donor gifts and
grand Suzuki nights.

In the courts and news reports we
offer different choices,
With MIC and TIC and now there's
FAC we have so many voices.

And the volunteers throughout the
year all lend their helping hands,
Building health and natural wealth on
all our public lands.

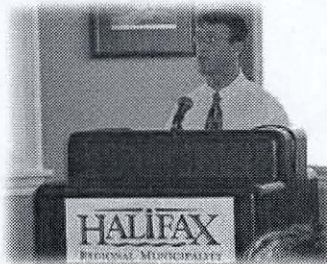
There are pressures and new measures for computers and the phone,
Less office space it's now a race to find us a new home.

The ebb and flow of work you know is on a rising tide,
For EAC is gaining speed and strength with every stride.

The staff are great they all relate to issues and our goals,
We're pleased to see they all agree to handle many roles.

A toast to all, we're standing tall, as we close this chapter,
Not in the red, we look ahead to times of health and laughter.

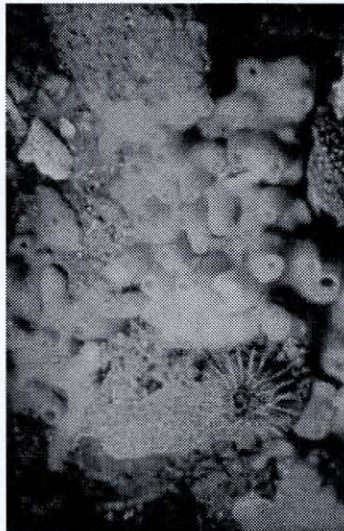
- Submitted by Trudie Richards and Gregor MacAskill



Marine Issues Committee

Court Case

We filed an application for a judicial review of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans decision to reopen Georges Bank to groundfish draggers in June 2001. As part of our application we filed sworn affidavits from six scientists on the impact of dragging on fish habitat. DFO objected to these affidavits on the grounds they were filed after the decision was made to reopen Georges. We have spent most of the last year fighting DFO's objection. In December the Federal Court upheld an earlier order by the Court agreeing with DFO and striking out all six affidavits. Ugghh. However, as part of the decision the Judge concluded that there was already enough documentation before the Court for it to rule on the matter. The documentation includes 120 documents the EAC filed in May 2001.



EAC and DFO will likely be arguing the case before the Court over the summer or early fall 2003. If you surmised that DFO doesn't want to debate the science in court or anywhere for that matter, you are right. In their Memorandum of Fact and Law filed on May 5, 2003 they stated, "The Respondent (DFO) neither acknowledges nor denies that fishing by way of trawling or dragging on Georges Bank causes 'HADD' (harmful alteration, disturbance or destruction of fish habitat)."

We have continued our public education efforts. Articles mentioning the court case have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*, *Shelburne County Coastguard*, and the *Chronicle-Herald*. In March 2003 a group of Dalhousie students organized a benefit for the court case raising almost \$2000 and some of the proceeds from the David Suzuki event are also going toward the case.

We continue to work on promoting sustainably caught seafood. The 'we' is the Marine Resource Centre (Digby), Centre for Community Based Management, St. Francis Xavier University Turning the Tide, Saint Mary's University, and the Marine Issues Committee of EAC.

We are making some headway on encouraging industry and government to adopt or support more sustainable fishing practices, but the goal is big - yet crucial to the ocean's future—and to date progress has been incremental. We have been successful - from West to East - on protecting corals. In 2002, DFO established a coral conservation area off SW Nova Scotia to protect the bubblegum trees. In 2003, DFO will likely announce the designation of the Sable Island Gully MPA which harbours corals. Finally, there is growing interest in protecting a newly discovered colony of the stony coral, *Lophelia*, on the eastern edge of the Scotian Shelf.

Short-sighted Coastal Development

"A fisherman calls EAC concerned about petroleum exploration on his coastal fishing grounds. A long-time summer resident, who has just heard about a proposed salmon farm off her property, requires information..." So starts an editorial in the Fall 2002 issue of *Between the Issues*. The Marine Issues Committee has been working with community groups around the Province who are concerned about proposed developments which they believe are bad for the environment and the long-term economic prosperity of their communities. The question facing many communities is do

we want to exploit non-renewable resources, such as sand and gravel or oil and gas, at the expense of long-term renewable industries such as fishing and tourism.

At the present all of the projects are on hold because of economic conditions and/or opposition from local community and environmental groups.

Other Marine Work

In October 2002, Penny Doherty took over Jen Ford's position of Marine Communications Coordinator. Some of the projects Penny is working on include:

Coastlines: a natural history column about coastal wildlife and habitats and traditional resource use that is distributed to eleven newspapers around the province.

Leatherback Turtle Recovery Plan: Penny is a member of a team of stakeholders who are working together to produce a recovery plan for this endangered species.

Ocean Zoning: we are exploring the utility and applicability of zoning as a management tool for the Scotian Shelf and Gulf of Maine. Our interest in zoning arises from a realization that we must adopt both a comprehensive approach to area-based management of our oceans both for ecological and socio-economic reasons. Penny is conducting research for this project through literature searches and interviews with a range of ocean professionals.

Virtual Museum: we completed our work for the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History's new website "Eyes on the Edge of the Sea: Creatures and Controversies on Canada's East Coast".

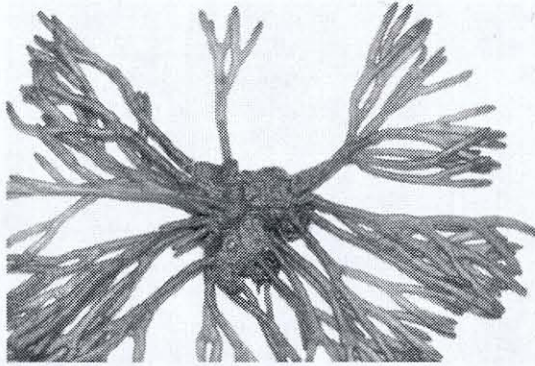
Changing Landscapes, Changing Seascapes: we organized and had a successful workshop for groups involved in resource management, community-based management and nature conservation in Atlantic Canada. We produced proceedings of the workshop and distributed a document entitled "Funding Capacity and Strategies of Conservation Groups in Atlantic Canada" by Jen Ford to workshop participants.

- Submitted by Mark Butler



Committee on Marine Bioinvasions

In the past year, the oyster killing parasite MSX invaded the Bras d'Or Lakes, green crabs crept further northwest in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and fears were raised that a proposed quarry in Digby Neck would result in more unregulated ballast being discharged in the Bay of Fundy. Yet, even as Atlantic Canada was inundated with the threat of bioinvaders, more and more voices were raised, calling for actions needed to prevent new introductions and to reduce the spread of invasive species. In Atlantic Canada, the Committee on Marine Bioinvasions has continued to play a vital role in bringing the issue of bioinvasions to the attention of policy-makers, industry, researchers, and the general public. With the increasing profile of invasive species, we hope that our work will result in key changes in policy such as regulation of ballast water, public outreach campaigns, and monitoring for bioinvaders.



The discovery of MSX (*Haplosporidium nelsoni*), in the Bras d'Or Lakes in the fall of 2002 has been a focal point for COMB's activities this year. All evidence points to ballast water carried in ships traveling from Baltimore as being the source of the MSX invasion. The presence of MSX may have far-reaching implications for ecosystems in which oysters play an integral role. MSX has also cost oyster growers millions of dollars in losses, and has resulted in the closure of this industry in the Bras d'Or. Ironically, even as laboratories in Atlantic Canada identified the parasite in dead and

dying oysters, the 2002 Report of the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) upbraided the Canadian government for failing to prevent bioinvasions. COMB members fully supported the findings of the Commissioner's audit, and Lara Gibson composed an open letter calling on the Ministers of the Environment, Transport, and Fisheries and Oceans to respond to the recommendations of CESD report.

Meanwhile, as Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officials scrambled to respond to invasion of MSX, guidelines for the management of ballast in Atlantic Canada were being deliberated in Ottawa. The Annex was drafted by Transport Canada's Atlantic Sub-committee for the Management of Ballast Water, of which COMB is an active member, and is consistent with international rules for the management of ballast. Amongst other things, the Atlantic Annex strongly recommends that ships not discharge ballast in vulnerable areas such as the Bras d'Or Lakes and the Bay of Fundy, and discourages the use of an alternate ballast water exchange zone in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Unfortunately, even as news of the devastation caused by MSX echoed through the nation, shipping industry representatives decided to withhold their support for the Annex. In the following months, COMB has fought tirelessly to maintain the ecologically sound recommendations of the Annex, but we still anxiously await approval from national regulators. As members of the Transport Canada Sub-committee, COMB has also successfully promoted scientific research, and ballast water carried to vulnerable areas such as the Bras d'Or Lakes will be sampled in the summer of 2003.

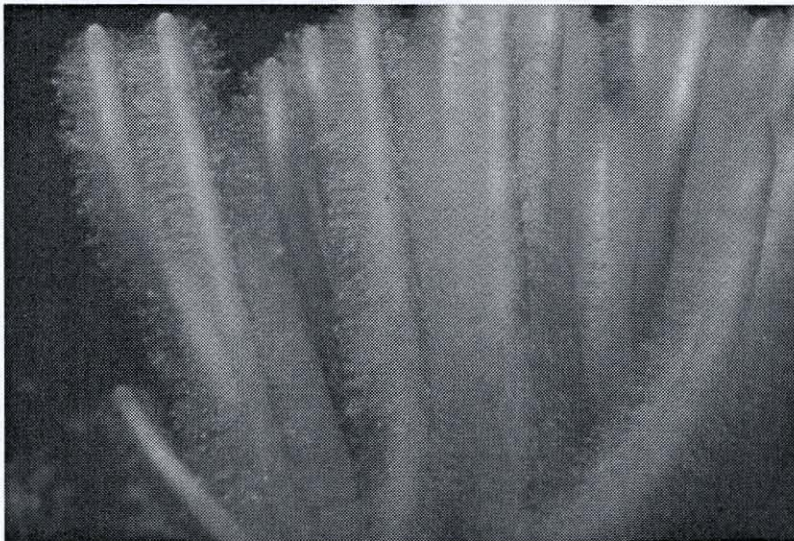
Outreach activities abounded this year, with appearances of COMB members in print, radio, and television media as well as presentations and panel discussions. Items expressing COMB's point of view have appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* and *Daily News*, Victoria County's *Victoria Standard*, the *Pictou Evening News*, ASN's *Breakfast Television*, CBC radio and television, the *Sou'Wester*, and *Fish Farming*. Because of the outbreak of MSX in Cape Breton, greater ties were forged with the Bras d'Or Stewardship Society. The Society has included articles on the issue of bioinvasions written by COMB members Susanna Fuller, Gretchen Fitzgerald, and Beth Cameron in the last two editions of its newsletter, *The Blue Heron*. COMB member Annelise Chapman presented her research on the invasive seaweed *Codium* sp. at a meeting aimed at detecting and preventing marine bioinvasions hosted by the US National Estuary Program last November. In February, COMB collaborated with the Nova Scotian Institute of Science to organize a panel discussion on the subject of biological control of bioinvaders. In an attempt to increase awareness of the issue of bioinvaders amongst local DFO scientists, COMB arranged for Mark Hanson, a research scientist with DFO Moncton, to speak at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography on his experience monitoring bioinvaders in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Gretchen Fitzgerald and Susanna Fuller also presented to a maritime law class at Dalhousie University on the subject of the precautionary approach and ballast water policy. Of course, COMB also made a splash (with a little help from Beth Cameron's live green crabs!) at the "Evening with David Suzuki" event hosted by the EAC, where we launched our petition calling on the Canadian government to regulate ballast water.

COMB has also maintained a strong voice at the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS)

Panel, a bilateral US-Canadian group that is forging a regional approach to invasive species in the New England states and Atlantic Canada. Jennifer Ford has rassed up more Canadian involvement on the Panel, resulting in a representative from the New Brunswick provincial government and national representation from the DFO at a NEANS Panel meeting this May. COMB was well represented at this meeting, where we learned much about the US National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, rapid response plans to eradicate invasive species, and many other the initiatives that are occurring south of the border. We also participated in preliminary plans for a meeting to discuss regional approaches to ballast water management to be held in Halifax this October. As usual, we were impressed and inspired with advances that have occurred in the US, and learned a lot about creative solutions to the invasive species problem. Getting Canada to catch up to the US in terms of policy and research and to increase Canadian participation in the NEANS Panel remains a focus of our work. COMB has also maintained active with the Commission for Environmental Co-operation, and accepted an invitation to participate in a meeting held in San Diego last spring to workshop continent-wide strategies to deal with the issue of biological invasions.

In recent months, it has become more and more apparent that COMB is at the cusp of a wave of imperatives to stop bioinvasions. The Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans issued a report on invasive species this May entitled *Aquatic Invasive Species: Uninvited Guests*, which urged the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to regulate ballast water and commit to key actions to prevent the spread of invasive species. COMB had submitted a brief to the Standing Committee, and our insistence that action be taken on this issue was echoed by the findings of the report. Simultaneously, World Wildlife Fund – Canada issued its first *Nature Audit*, in which invasive species were identified as a key threat to Canada's natural capital and a drain to our economy. The Canadian government has also formed four working groups on invasive species. These groups will report to the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers this summer on what Canada should be doing to combat invasive species. We are certain that the work carried out by COMB has created some of the momentum behind these calls for national action and we intend to continue to be at the forefront of this issue in Atlantic Canada. Plans for the upcoming year include creating a full-time invasive species coordinator position, organizing a "Bioinvaders Bus" traveling display, and the creation of a national bioinvasions coalition. With the success of our invasive plant display at the EAC's Annual Garden Party, we are also considering a foray into the terrestrial realm. If you would like to become involved with COMB or if you would like to sign our petition calling for the regulation of ballast water, please contact Gretchen Fitzgerald at 902-453-9228 or fitzgerg@dal.ca.

- Submitted by Gretchen Fitzgerald



Coastal Issues Committee

The Coastal Issues Committee (CIC) continues to be defined and driven by its projects. In fact, we really should consider changing the name of the committee to the Restoration Issues Committee (RIC) given that the two big projects are both restoration projects. The past year has seen significant growth in CIC's efforts to study, protect and restore salt marshes in the Bay of Fundy and to take on the monumental task of trying to conserve and restore the ecological integrity of Halifax Harbour.

A bit more information on both of these projects is included following the updates on our other coastal work.

Pro Bono Law Program: CIC had four students from Dalhousie's Law School Pro Bono Placements Program working on several research projects. The students were researching Nova Scotians' rights and privileges to access to coastal areas as well as provincial and federal legal and policy mechanisms that potentially mandate the protection and restoration of coastal habitats such as salt marshes.

St. Mary's University Student Projects: Three students from Dr. Roxanne Richardson's course Environmental Studies course did small research projects for the Committee. Lesley Manley produced a field guide to the birds of Nova Scotia's coastal marshes. Mandy Pike made two posters about Nova Scotia salt marshes and conducted research on the history of a potential restoration site. Ozlem Suleiman took on the difficult task of analyzing the data from the soil samples we collected last summer on the marsh.

Coastal Campaign: CIC was a sponsor of last fall's "Toast to the Coast" Campaign and members of the Committee participated prominently in three of the four events. More details about T2C are provided in the Membership Committee section of this report.

Coastal Land Use: CIC continues to advocate wise use practices in coastal areas. Following last month's flood damages, CIC issued a press release that was later followed by an interview on Maritime Noon.

Coastlines: CIC regularly contributes columns on coastal issues to *Coastlines*.

Salt Marsh & Tidal Rivers Restoration Project

The Salt Marsh Project's last year can be best compared to riding a roller coaster: there have been highs, lows, and highs again. And there was definitely a time or two when we were definitely upside down – no wait, that was just when I fell in the Creek!

The Minas Basin has become the main focus of activities for the Salt Marsh and Tidal Rivers Restoration Project and we have a number of ongoing activities in the area including: public education, community outreach, school programs, research, fieldwork, and collaborative restoration planning.

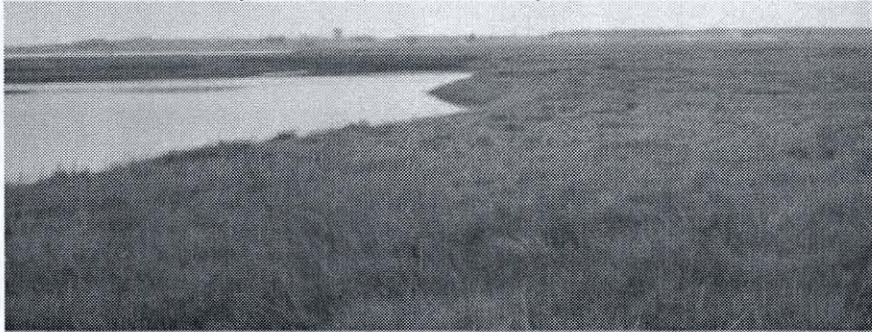
The EAC has completed two tidal audits in the Minas Basin. The first, during the summer of 2001, focused on coastal Hants County, from Maitland to Cheverie. Twenty-one tidal crossings were found. Of these, nine were partially restricted and five were completely restricted. In 2002, in partnership with the Municipality of Colchester County, a tidal audit was completed for the entire coastal portion of Colchester County. Of the 54 tidal crossings in Colchester County, 29 were completely or partially restricted. In 2003, the tidal auditing project will expand into Cumberland

County through to the New Brunswick boarder and from Cheverie, in West Hants, to Blomidon, in Kings County.

The tidal audit process was essential to identifying tidally restricted river systems. And as a result of the audit process in Hants County, most of the summer and fall of 2002 was spent outside playing on one of the restricted marsh systems. Cheverie Creek, a small tidal river and salt marsh system restricted by an undersized culvert, was selected as our potential restoration site in the spring of 2002. During the summer, we collected baseline biophysical information about the marsh. We conducted a detailed vegetation survey, took soil samples, buried sedimentation plates in the marsh, digitally mapped marsh features, measured salinity and began a fish survey of the Creek and pannes (marsh ponds).

We also established contact with the property owners along the Creek, and with local conservation and community organizations. In the winter of 2003, we began a salt marsh education program at the Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School in Summerville, and made presentations to the Environment Committee of the Municipality of West Hants and the Rural Development Authority.

Plans for the summer of 2003 include further hydrological modeling and monitoring, GIS mapping and fish, bird, salinity, and temperature surveys. We will also expand the community outreach



program; and collaborate with project partners such as the Department of Transportation and Public Works to design and plan for the possible replacement of the restrictive culvert at Cheverie Creek.

The EAC also has an interest in several other sites with restoration potential or where changes in marsh systems could be tracked over time. The Bass River reference site is an unrestricted tidal river and salt marsh system where baseline data will be collected as a comparison site for Cheverie Creek.

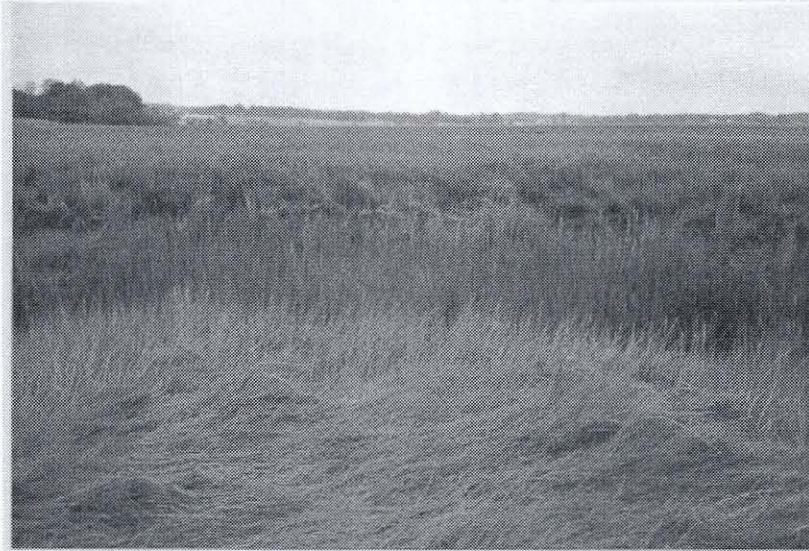
The Tennacape River is a large river completely restricted by a causeway and misplaced culvert. We plan to begin community discussions and preliminary baseline data collection at this site during the summer of 2003. There are also monitoring activities planned for Mill Brook, near Cheverie and at a site along the Cogmagun River in Center Burlington. We will also begin work on community outreach and environmental education activities in areas around these sites.

The project also continues to build contacts with potential partners elsewhere in the Bay of Fundy, with the aim of continuing to catalyze the expansion of salt marsh restoration efforts throughout the region.

Other Issues

In November 2002, the Salt Marsh Project reached the end of its three-year funding partnership with NAFEC. We faced a funding gap from November until April 2003. All project activities that occurred during this period, including the community outreach, partnership building, proposal development and project planning work, was completed by CIC volunteers, particularly Tony Bowron and Jennifer Graham.

We are now in a much better financial situation having submitted proposals to, and been funded by: Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's Habitat Restoration Fund, and the Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Fund. We have also received support for two salt marsh interns from Environment Canada's Youth Horizons



Program and the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Science and Technology Youth Internship.

We have also recently submitted proposals to HRDC's Summer Employment Program and to the Gulf of Maine Council's Action Grants.

CIC also intends to apply for ESRI conservation grants to access GIS software to develop our in-house mapping capacity.

- Submitted by Tony M. Bowron and Jennifer Graham

Halifax Harbour Watershed Restoration Coalition

The Halifax Harbour Watershed Restoration Coalition (HHWRC) is the result of a project initiated by a group of non-governmental organizations (Clean Nova Scotia, Eco-Efficiency Centre, Ecology Action Centre, Friends of McNabs Island, School for Resource and Environmental Studies [Dalhousie University], and Sackville Rivers Association) and Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund (EDF).

The need for an organization to coordinate interests and activities pertaining to the harbour has been recognized for some time. For instance, it was one of the principle recommendations from the workshops entitled "Preserving The Environment of Halifax Harbour" held in 1999 - 2000.

The project undertaken by the coalition includes monies from the EDF for projects that will kickstart the process of repairing environmental damage done to the harbour and its environs. Any community organization will be invited to submit proposals to the steering committee of the coalition. All project proposals that are consistent with EDF policy and include matching funds will be evaluated. All projects must be community-based and must focus on the harbour and/or its adjacent watershed(s). The approved projects will form the basis of a twenty-month action plan that the coalition has committed to.

For the purpose of the projects, the harbour and its watersheds are considered as Hartlen Point to Chebucto Head with the watersheds that drain into the harbour defining the other three sides.

The coalition thus far has a broad membership. In addition to the groups listed above, it includes most government agencies that have a mandate that impinges on the environment such as: the

Department of National Defense, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Transport Canada, NS Department of Environment and Labour, NS Department of Natural Resources, NS Department of Tourism and Culture, HRM, the Halifax Port Authority, and the Halifax Water Commission. Also involved are the Downtown Halifax Business Commission, Halifax Harbour Advisory Board, Mi'qmaq Native Friendship Centre, and the Nova Scotia Museum.

The HHWRC held a very successful workshop on April 5th at the Weldon Law Building. It was attended by about 40 people. The workshop was opened by Howard Epstein, MLA for Halifax Chebucto. There were talks given by officials from DFO and HRM as well. The group held an open space forum which was designed to allow everyone to participate in brainstorming ideas for repairing environmental damage to the harbour and its adjacent watersheds. Subsequently, everyone broke into discussion groups to discuss the topic generated by the open forum. Six papers suggesting action items were generated. Since then, the Coalition has sent out a call for proposals for projects to be included in the action plan which is due in June. The Coalition has struck a selection committee that will be reviewing the proposals and evaluating them against selection criteria.

The coalition is currently planning its next meeting, where the future role and direction of the Coalition will be discussed. A draft bibliography of documents and resources related has been developed and circulated to all members of the Coalition.

-Submitted by Jerry MacKinlay

Transportation Issues Committee

Active & Safe Routes to School

The Active & Safe Routes to School program (ASRTS) experienced a lot of growth since the fall of 2002. In September, its mandate broadened from an HRM focus to that of a provincial focus.



The major event of the year was International Walk to School Day, which took place on October 2, 2002. Students from 23 schools across the province walked, biked or used some other active mode of transportation to and from school. This one action served several purposes: getting students active and healthy; cutting down on traffic congestion around schools; improving air quality; and making safer, calmer streets and neighborhoods.

Fall and early winter were times to focus on publicizing the program to schools along with school boards, public health offices and environmental organizations across the province. Presentations were also made to science and social studies teachers at their annual fall in-service.

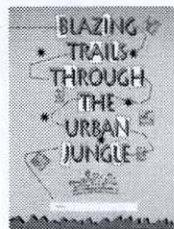
The Halifax Regional School Board enthusiastically endorsed the program after viewing a presentation on the program. The board has also recognized the program on its web site and will add International Walk to School Day to its school calendar. Presentations made to 17 schools, mainly within HRM, established a foundation for further action around physical activity and school safety in the coming year.

Two newly created publications include the Get Active Guide (best practices guide for ASRTS in Nova Scotia) and a new ASRTS web page on the EAC web site.

A major project on which work started in early 2003 is the Pathways for People Active Transportation Tour. This project will help expand the ASRTS program across the province and make it more appealing to junior and senior high schools.

Pathways for People Active Transportation Tour

January saw the creation of a new project under the Transportation Issues Committee. The Pathways for People Active Transportation Tour is a partnership of the Ecology Action Centre's Active & Safe Routes to School program, Youth for Environmental Action and the Nova Scotia Office of Health Promotion.



The purpose of Pathways for People is to promote walking, cycling and other active modes of transportation in 25 communities across Nova Scotia between April and November 2003. Although all members of a community are targeted, the focus is on getting children and youth engaged in active transportation in their daily lives. Each tour stop will include: a public forum on active transportation; local decision-maker meetings; school and youth meetings; and distributing a community tool kit.

- Submitted by Janet Barlow

Youth for Environmental Action

In February 2003, Youth for Environmental Action (YEA) joined the EAC's Pathways for People Active Transportation Tour. YEA is a youth-run service that supports a growing network of youth and youth groups across the province. Through networking, education and training, and acting as a resource YEA's aim is to build the capacity of youth to research the issues, educate around



solutions, and take action for a more ecologically sustainable and socially just society. YEA has moved from the HeartWood Institute, Bridgewater, and will remain as part of the EAC until the project ends in December. It will then move to HeartWood's new satellite office in Halifax.

This partnership has provided the tour a chance to connect with youth-run groups, and gain YEA's knowledge and expertise in working with youth groups. YEA has benefited through office support, connected with new communities, and spreading the word, provincially about this growing network!

- Submitted by Robynn Moody

TRAX Project

This has been an exciting year for TRAX, as sustainable transportation issues have been high on the public agenda throughout the year.

Our most tangible success in the past year was the approval of the Universal Bus Pass for Saint Mary's University which will enable students to use their student card as a bus pass for the entire academic year. The reduced bus pass rates will be incorporated into the annual student fees. TRAX was instrumental in working with the Student Union, Metro Transit and others to promote the U-PASS. We hope this will pave the way for other universities to follow suit. Besides the U-PASS, TRAX promoted transit through radio ads, bus shelter posters and the purchase of information posts for key locations around the city that will be put up later this year. TRAX also helped organized the Northwest Arm ferry pilot project which ran in the fall of 2002.

We have worked with several federal, provincial and private employers on our trip reduction programs, and have received survey results indicating that the program is indeed successful at shifting the modal split away from single occupancy vehicle driving.

HRM's Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, originally hired through a joint funding arrangement between TRAX and HRM, played an active role in many issues such as the installation of more bike racks as well as the development of HRM's first Bicycling Master Plan. The permanent position of Transportation Demand Management Coordinator has now developed from this position.



TRAX worked with Service Nova Scotia and several other stakeholders to produce a Cycling Safety handbook for drivers and cyclists. Its content will serve as the basis for the revised Driver's Handbook when this is reprinted.

Raising public awareness of the importance of sustainable transportation has continued to be an important role for TRAX to fulfill. We have achieved this through extensive media coverage and public presentations throughout the year. In June 2002, TRAX organized the Commuter Challenge for Halifax for the third year and participation rates were dramatically higher than the previous year. The following month we organized the Corey Mock Memorial Bike Ride.

TRAX was also active in pushing for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the federal government, which finally occurred in December 2002. Funding has now been secured for a project focusing on energy and climate change through the Kendall Foundation.

TRAX is very grateful for the financial support of Environment Canada's EcoAction program and Department of Natural Resources for the past year.

- Submitted by Alexandra Fischer

Anti-idling Project

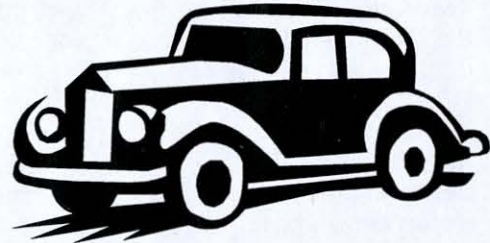
Thanks to a grant from Environment Canada, EAC was able to start work on a fleet-centred project to reduce the levels of idling in HRM. Mike Leitold and Chris Brackley worked with Emergency Medical Care, Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works, HRM Combined Fleet Services and HRM Metro Transit to disseminate information on the impacts of idling and to work with management to identify possible strategies to reduce idling. For Metro Transit, a report exploring economically viable alternatives to overnight winter idling of their buses was produced. Besides these four fleets, a tailored anti-idling pamphlet was produced for Yellow Cab Co., the largest taxi company in HRM.

Given the short time frame of the project, the focus was on training the trainers, though some general public outreach was also undertaken via community and business forums and media pieces.

- Submitted by Alexandra Fischer

Vehicle Emissions Testing Clinic

The Ecology Action Centre successfully organized a three-day vehicle emissions testing clinic in May 2002. A total of 341 vehicles were tested for emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons and other pollutants, as well as on their tire pressure and gas cap seals. Environment Canada, the partner organization and funder surveyed motorists on driving habits, maintenance practices and awareness of environmental effects of emissions. The EAC took the opportunity to expand the mandate of the clinic by distributing information about sustainable transportation in general and alternatives to driving. The clinic is a great way to reach the non-converted and raise the level of awareness of the impacts of automobile pollution. Thanks to Kate Thompson for her work on this project.



- Submitted by Alexandra Fischer

Wilderness Committee

Over the past year, the Ecology Action Centre's Wilderness Committee has been active in communities around Nova Scotia in a number of different ways. From educational wilderness hikes in the Halifax Regional Municipality, to promotion and marketing of sustainably harvested wood, to the continuation and revitalization of the Public Lands Campaign (www.publicland.ca), the Ecology Action Centre has maintained a prominent role in preservation, education, supporting communities in identifying candidate protected areas, and sound forest stewardship across the province and in the region.



The 2002-2003 year brought fresh, new faces to the wilderness committee: Raymond Plourde, formerly of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association took the reins of the Public Lands Campaign from predecessors Scott Brown and Kermit deGooyer. There was a significant renewal of the Public Lands Campaign aimed at promoting the completion of Nova Scotia's overdue Protected Areas Network. Interest and attention was also renewed in our "hot spots" - areas identified by EAC as environmentally significant and therefore priority

areas for protection. Working with over 40 local interest groups from across the province, we have been able to highlight and gain strong public support for protection of these 18 areas on publicly owned (i.e. Crown) lands.

Two particular areas have been highlighted for protection this year, Gully Lake and James River-Egg Mountain. EAC obtained a government report through a freedom of information, which clearly recommended that the area be protected. EAC released the report to the public in February and media focus has been significant and ongoing ever since with both news reports and strong, supportive editorial columns and features. The issue was raised repeatedly in the Nova Scotia Legislature. The Government has recently stated that these two areas are now "at the top of their list" and under active consideration for protection. We hope to see some real results in the upcoming year.

Pam Langille's efforts in sustainable forestry in the Wilderness Committee's "Standing Tall Campaign" implemented a combination of education and outreach, promoting certification, the work of the Genuine Progress Index (GPI Atlantic) Forest Accounts and the use of native, sustainably harvested products to benefit private woodlot owners as well as begin to foster the growth of a market for these products.

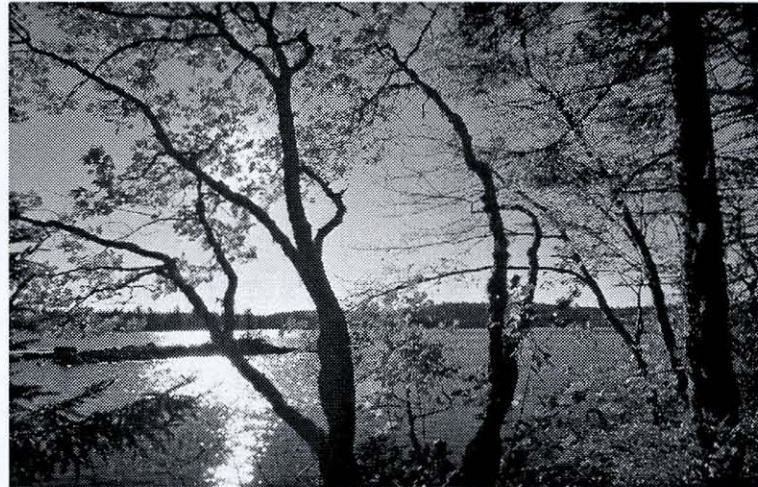
EAC's Wilderness Committee, while no longer a part of the Nova Forest Alliance, maintains an active role in the Forest Stewardship Council, striving to implement sustainable practices in the forestry sector in Nova Scotia. The Wilderness Committee continues to strive to improve forestry practices on Crown (public!) lands by forestry companies, both large and small. As well, the Wilderness Committee hopes to maintain ties with private woodlot owners and user groups in support of sustainable forest management.

Educational hikes on public land in the HRM, led by Chris Brackley, in the summer of 2002, were enormously successful. The project also produced a fantastic hiking and educational guide to make residents of the HRM aware of the wondrous resources in their own backyards. Chris plans to continue with more hikes this summer – watch for your opportunity to get involved!

Most recently, the EAC's Wilderness Committee has had prominent representation in discussions with the provincial Department of Natural Resources, in an attempt to express our views and concerns about the way YOUR land is being "managed." We have also been directly engaged in the growing public debate over the use and abuse of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in Nova Scotia. We anticipate playing a significant role in the upcoming Voluntary Planning regulatory review governing ATV use, which was announced recently by government. We at the EAC sincerely hope to maintain open dialogue with government on behalf of the public and in furthering our goals of protecting environmental values in Nova Scotia.

These are only a few of the projects the Wilderness Committee has participated in over the last year. For more information, contact us at the EAC to find out what we're up to.

The Wilderness Committee thanks all its volunteers for their continued dedication over the past year in securing funding for projects, developing ideas for new projects, and for making the attaining of goals a possibility. Without you, the Wilderness Committee would not be what it is today. Thank you again.



- Submitted by Mike Milloy

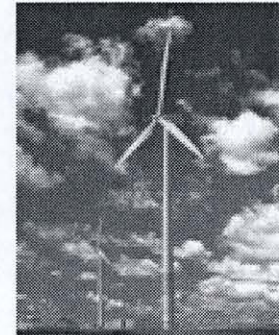
Urban Issues Committee

- ☛ In May 2002, we issued a press release with the Transportation Issues Committee and Transport 2000 on the widening of Highway 103 to Tantallon. The release received coverage in both local papers and an interview with Global TV.
- ☛ The Committee submitted a position paper to the HRM Regional Planning Committee in June 2002.
- ☛ In October 2002, the committee revived itself with a new mission and goals.
- ☛ Hosted a guided walk, tracing the original path of the Freshwater Brook through Halifax in December 2002
- ☛ Hosted a Freshwater Brook design charette on February 22, 2003 at the NS Museum of Natural History to examine different ways of recognizing the Brook. We are hosting a follow-up meeting June 9th, to put forth recommendations to HRM.
- ☛ From January to April 2003, the Committee reviewed and provided comments on the Timberlea masterplan area

- Submitted by David Aalders

Energy Committee

A little over a year ago, a few people got together and formed the Energy Issues Committee (EIC). With gas exploration in Nova Scotia's offshore, a few wind projects popping up here and there, and what would become Canada's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on the horizon, it was obvious that the EAC should once again focus its efforts on how Nova Scotians power their daily lives. Since then, the committee has been actively bringing-in speakers, touring energy facilities, and promoting energy efficient technology.



In September 2002 we brought Guy Dauncey, author of "Stormy Weather – 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change", to Nova Scotia to speak at a number of venues on climate change, health, and how communities can take control of their atmosphere. Also in the fall of 2002 we had the pleasure of hosting researchers from the Wakasa Wan Energy Research Centre in Fukui, Japan, to discuss renewable energy developments in the province and across the country.

EIC has enjoyed various guest speakers at our monthly meetings – Dr. Larry Hughes of Dalhousie University, Joan McDougall of Nova Scotia Power's Green Energy Program, and George Klass of Turbowinds Canada Inc. to name just a few. We've also toured the Tuff's Cove generating station and ThermoDynamics, a solar energy company, in Dartmouth. This last tour gave us the opportunity to meet students from the Auburn High Eco-Team.

Last year the Committee decided to dive into the compact fluorescent bulb business! With a focus to increase the number of energy efficient bulbs being used in the city, EIC now sells a variety of bulbs that save money, energy, and the environment all at the flick of a switch. (Check out our advertisements in the latest copy of *Between the Issues* for prices and details).



Finally, EIC is pleased to announce that at the end of April 2003 we were able to bring Howlan Mullally on as Energy Coordinator with generous funding from the Kendall Foundation. Having gained a coordinator, EIC looks forward to moving deeper into provincial and national energy policy. We welcome Howlan, and are excited about this next year with him on board.

Throughout the year, EIC has continued to grow. Our members come from varied backgrounds but are brought together with a common interest in energy issues and concern for the way we will meet our future energy needs. This next year promises to be interesting, challenging, and rewarding. Please come and join us the third Tuesday of every month at 5:15 at the EAC.



- Submitted by Kevin Blair

Membership Committee

We are a membership-based organization. Members are to the EAC what passion is to art, what leaves are to trees, and what...well...gills are to fish. Members let the EAC breathe! A large membership makes our voice strong, credible, and accountable. Membership dues are an independent, diversified source of funding that supports the office and staff. The more members we have, the more people we reach, and in turn, the more people are able to reach us.

Given the importance of members to the EAC, the Membership Committee was formed to recruit new members and to continue to nurture the relationship with its existing members. Retaining existing members into future years continues to be an important focus for the committee. Diverse membership options continue to be made available to suit the needs of an equally diverse provincial community. We hope everyone will remember the EAC and help the membership committee to continue increasing membership.

Our latest membership drive – the Toast the Coast campaign – was a great success this past year. In an effort to highlight the increasing concerns related to continual coastal development and branch out beyond the confines of HRM, Toast the Coast brought the EAC to various coastal communities around the province. This campaign promoted awareness not only of the EAC and its continuing need for support through membership, but also of the power held within communities to affect change in their local environment.



We look forward to a successful year, and some new faces, in membership.

Please remember to encourage one friend, co-worker, or loved one to become a member so that the EAC can continue its work for an environment that we all depend on and love. The committee would appreciate hearing from you! To contact the committee, please call the office, or email us at remembereac@ecologyaction.ca.

- Submitted by Kevin Blair

Between The Issues

Since the last AGM, *Between the Issues* has appeared four times; the next (Summer) issue is due out in mid-August.

This year was pretty much business as usual. Neil Fraser of Studio Verité, who joined us in 2001, continues to provide excellent service as design and lay-out person. Three aspects, however, have particularly caught our attention: cost, advertising and distribution.

As I report each year, costs continue to mount. Lagging revenues from advertising, however, were a larger financial concern in 2002. Our thanks to Jen Graham for agreeing to take on this difficult task for the last two issues, and for finding so many ads.

Maida Murray has been a big support all year. She is working actively to find no-cost ways to expand distribution outside metro. For instance, both the province and HRM have agreed to distribute multiple copies to all of their libraries. As an aside, it's hoped that wider distribution will allow us to attract more advertising.

In addition to those named above, I'd like to thank Jeanne Ju, ecobrief illustrations; Lynn Brooks and Judy Cooney, who help me with distribution; and of course our many, many contributors, and especially Dan Walsh, who is willing to tackle any topic. I look forward to working with the new Outreach Coordinator, who will take over many of the small managerial tasks associated with producing the magazine.

- Submitted by June Hall, Editor



Hemlock Circus

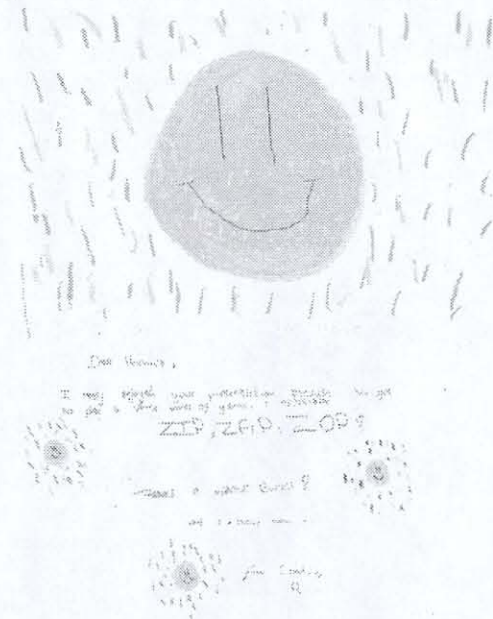
We had a great year continuing our valuable work of adding humour and fun to serious environmental issues. We gave workshops at various schools, youth groups, and community events, some of them including our new combination play/workshop, *The Nova Scotia Habitat Bus*, starring Moose, Beaver, Owl and Mouse. Also, our first-ever radio play, *Out of Sight*, dealing with the mysteries of the deep waters off the coast of Nova Scotia, went on the air with the generous help of Paul Shreenan and CKDU.

In September of 2002, Stephen Cross of Irondale Ensemble Project led us in a skill-building workshop. The workshop was instrumental in the creation of a new play: an update on *Jack and the Beanstalk* with a theme of renewable energy sources. It was performed and well-received at two rallies encouraging Canada's government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol (now ratified). Our Captain Environment made appearances at these rallies and elsewhere, going wherever issues called.

In December of 2002, we were finally able to hire our first staff person, Emma Boardman, as Hemlock Circus Coordinator.

As for future plans, this May, at the Ecology Action Centre's fundraiser featuring David Suzuki, we will debut a new dramatic work, profiling a recent scientific theory about the mass-extinction of the dinosaurs. Other plans for this year include many more workshops and performances. Though we'll continue to work with whatever issues we feel need us, one major focus this year will be developing and bringing our climate change-themed plays and workshops to new audiences to educate the public on the issue and what they can do. We will hopefully have some funding from the Kendall Foundation and elsewhere to do this. We also hope to attract a few more volunteers – anyone is welcome, experience not a necessity!

- Submitted by Emma Boardman



Internal Director's Report

Action is our Middle Name.

Action is our middle name and an active year it has been. We now have a full-time Wilderness Coordinator, a part-time Energy Coordinator, and are seeking support to hire staff to work on forestry and marine invasive species. The Transportation, Coastal, Marine, Marine Bioinvaders and Urban Committees are as active or more active than ever. We welcome the newly formed Food Action Committee. Bring on the local organic food.

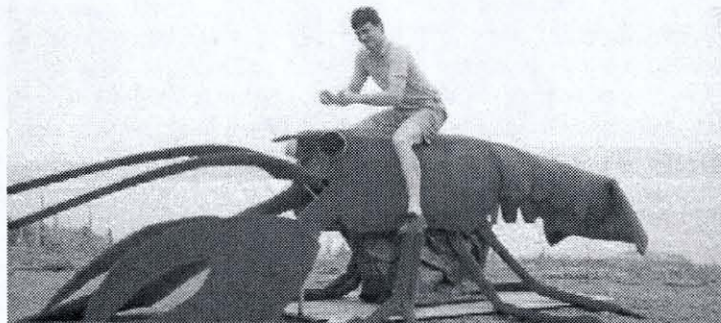


As EAC grows the space available to staff, volunteers, and committees diminishes. More than a year ago the Board recognized that we needed a permanent home. We spent much of the last year exploring the feasibility of acquiring a home with other organizations. Owing to a variety of circumstances we have decided to proceed on our own. We once again appeal to all of EAC's friends and supporters for any help you can provide in finding EAC a permanent home.

Finally, we are just about to hire a full-time Outreach Coordinator. Volunteers and members are the heart of EAC. We need a full-time, paid coordinator to attend to and build our membership.

Thanks for everybody's efforts and enthusiasm. We hope all this action is making Nova Scotia a better place for human and non-human inhabitants.

- Submitted by Mark Butler



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the financial statements for The Ecology Action Centre for the year ended March 3, 2003. The following are some financial highlights:

- The Ecology Action Centre has seen a very busy 2002-2003 fiscal year with a significant project revenue increase to \$425,682 compared to project funding received last fiscal year of \$303,000. Deferred revenue this year is approximately \$213,200 which will support projects under the Marine Issues Committee, the Transportation Issues Committee, the Coastal Issues Committee and the Wilderness Issues Committee.
- The source of funds for the project revenues was an equal mix of government programs funding and private foundations.
- Fundraising proved to be a strong source of revenue for the Centre this year with several significant events including an organic Christmas tree and wreath sale and the Garden Party and Auction.
- In 2002, the Ecology Action Centre's revenues exceeded expenses for the year by \$29,257.

For the upcoming fiscal year the Ecology Action Centre is looking forward to continued project funding for current and new projects. In addition we continue to make every effort to diversify our funding sources.

For full financial details and notes, please refer to the audited financial statements.

- Submitted by Lianne Giswold



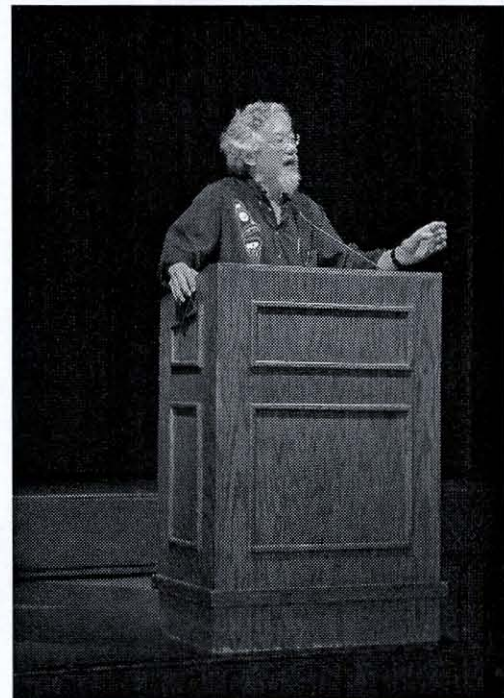
Volunteers

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Warner | Gretchen Fitzgerald | Melanie Corkum |
| Amanda Barry | Heather McKinnon | Michael Oddy |
| Amber Robinson | Heather Paquet | Mike Milloy |
| Andrew Hebda | Heidi Schaefer | Mohammad Vadiee |
| Angela Birch | Howard Epstein | Monique Breau |
| Angela Griffith | Irondale Ensemble Project | Nancy Chiasson |
| Anne Gregory | Jackie Jirgala | Nancy Shackell |
| Annelise Chapman | Janette Rodewald | Neesha Rao |
| Anthony Chapman | Janice Mitchelmore | Ashley Miller |
| Avigail Aronoff | Jayne Roma | Nobuko Murai |
| Barry Sawyer | Jennifer Ford | Noemi Sol |
| Ben Lorincz | Jennifer Graham | Ozlem Suleiman |
| Beth Cairns | Jennifer Meurer | Patrick Hughes |
| Beth Cameron | Jennifer Scott | Paul Hawkins |
| Billy Murphy | Jess Dalsop | Paul Shreenan |
| Bonnie Macgregor | Jesse Williams | Peggy Cameron |
| Boris Worm | Jessica Patterson | Penny Doherty |
| Brooke Dilley | Jim Wolford | Peter Austin-Smith |
| Caitlin Hancey | John Davis | Peter Martin |
| Caitlin Rutherford | Josh McLean | Preet Bhogal |
| Calinda Brown | Judy Cookey | Rob Hansen |
| Carol Hickey | Jeanne Ju | Robyn Hall |
| Caroline Cameron | Dan Walsh | Robynn Moody |
| Carolyn Green | June Hall | Sandra Luken |
| Cathy Caldwell | Kara Johansen | Sarah Anderson |
| Cathy Crouse | Kathy O'Brien | Sarah Townsend |
| Catriona Cunningham | Kevin Blair | Shawn Fader |
| Celina Thompson | Kimberly Murray | Sheila Mann |
| Cheryl Benjamin | Lara Gibson | Sierra Legal Defence Fund |
| Cheryl Paulus | Lara | Sue Browne |
| Chris Brackley | Sylvia Mangalam | Sue Mckinney |
| Chris Cormier | Leslie Corning | Susan Cardill |
| Christine Smith | Lianne Giswold | Susan Gass |
| Claire Oswald | Linda Douglas | Susanna Cheng |
| Colin Gennoe | Linda Roberts | Susanna Fuller |
| Darcy O'brien | Linda Tam | Sylvia Mangalan |
| David Aalders | Lisa McCuaig | Tamara Lorincz |
| David Crystal | Liz Boyle | Tanya Cameron |
| David Ley | Liz Morrison | Ton Sloan |
| David Suzuki | Lousie White | Tony Bowron |
| Deanna Paeis | Lucy Crawford | Tony Chapman |
| Derek Davis | Lynn Brooks | Tony Diamond |
| Dr. Danika Van Proosdij | Lyse Boyce | Tonya Crawford |
| Elizabeth Dowsett | Maggy Burns | Tricia MacLeod |
| Emily McMillan | Maida Murray | Troy Swan |
| Emma Boardman | Mandy Pike | Trudie Richards |
| Erin Lecky | Marie Frenette | Tyler Field |
| Erin O'Tool | Marjorie Willison | Veronica Sherwood |
| Friederike Kirstein | Mark Butler | Victoria Fry |
| Genevieve Paisley | Marlene Davis | Walter Reagan |
| Graham Read | Martin Willison | Wayne Groszko |
| Greg Shriver | Matt Leforte | Wendy MacGregor |
| Gregor MacAskill | Megan Mills | |

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 Friends of McNab's Island
 Geronda Photography
 Go for Green
 Great Ocean Natural Food Market



Green Garden Fruit & Vegetable
 Grunt's Glass
 Halifax Seed
 Heartwood Bakery & Café
 Heather Fougere Esthetics,
 Henry P. Kendall Foundation
 Home Grown Organic Foods
 Human Resources Development Canada
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 Ian McKinnon
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 Jeff Brown
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 John Neville and Joyce Martin-Neville
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 Cooperation
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 Nova Scotia Folk Pottery
 Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History
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 Woozles Childrens Bookstore
 Yvonne Lynch
 Zwickers Art Gallery

We have inevitably missed some people and organizations in our thank yous. We apologize and sincerely thank all those who have assisted the EAC in the last year.