

Spec Coll.



### HOW IT IS WITH US...

The acorns are sprouting in our office kitchen, the maple sap is running in the trees near New Germany, and the ducks are on the pond. Spring has come early to the province in its diverse and subtle ways.

Somehow our office chaos still functions effectively. We've caught up in the backlog of typing and sorting of old files and literature. Many thanks to Marilyn Knight for coming in during the school break to do a full day of office work. And the membership continues to grow in small leaps and bounds.

We could still use some more legal-size file folders and also volunteer help with actual filing of material into the library.

Research is underway with respect to the use of *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (B.T.) which is a microbe that kills the larvae of moths and butterflies (lepidoptera). The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests intends to test spray B.T. on 5,000 acres in Victoria County, Cape Breton and on 10,000 acres in Cumberland County in an effort to kill spruce budworm larvae. In addition, we are concerned about herbicide use in the province, and the general use of toxic chemicals. In particular, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. 2,4,5-T was recently banned from use in the United States after a study in Oregon indicated that, in the sprayed areas, there was an increase in the number of women who miscarried. Herbicides are used in Nova Scotia in home gardens, large scale agriculture, and for bush control on roadsides and Power Corporation rights-of-way.



Ongoing attendance on the Downtown Committee, an advisory body to the Mayor of Halifax, has lead the Urban Committee to review policy statements for the development area near the Town Clock, namely the land bordered by Brunswick Street, Sackville Street, Barrington Street and George Street. We feel this area should be developed in harmony with the style and size of such buildings as the Halifax School Board Building (see picture).

Two students from the Dalhousie's School of Business Administration are doing an extensive study into the feasibility of paper recycling in the Halifax/Dartmouth area and our big hope is to have two or three small trucks operating in neighborhoods around the Metro area collecting domestic paper waste for re-use, starting in September.

Susan Holtz is doing extensive research and public education on the regulation and energy policy implications involved in the recent formation of the Maritime Energy Corporation. As well, she and several other members of the Centre are looking at the new proposed Atomic Energy Control Board guidelines for radiation exposure in the event of a nuclear reactor accident. Despite much recent research which indicates that low level exposure to radiation is even more dangerous than previously thought, the gist of the new proposals is to relax standards in the event of a serious accident.

Well, that is how it is with us this fine spring day.

### NOTES FROM THE 1979 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by Ginny Point

The 1979 Annual General Meeting of the Ecology Action Centre was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on February 3, at the Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax. Susan Holtz and Susan Mayo began with a look at the EAC's activities in 1978.

#### Past Year's Activities

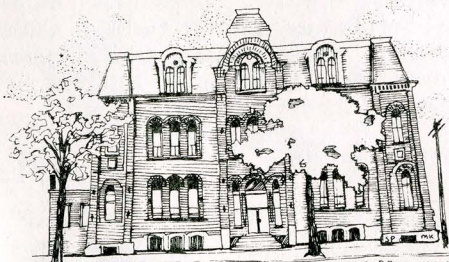
One of the most significant accomplishments was that the Centre survived the 1977/1978 financial crisis. There are now three staff (one full-time, and two part-time). Many thanks to all those who supported the Centre financially this past year.

In terms of specific projects, the Energy Committee began a major research project to examine various scenarios regarding energy supply and demand for Nova Scotia until the year 2025. The committee intervened in a seven day Public Utilities Board hearing (P.U.B.) last spring, as well as having submitted a brief to the P.U.B. outlining a more open and effective process for such hearings. The Urban Development and Transportation Committee met and acted on a variety of issues ranging from regional parks to heritage resource management. Continued interest in recycling prompted a feasibility study of recycling for Halifax by the Recycling Committee, which will be completed in April 1979. Finally, an Agriculture Committee has been formed to consider how to pursue a sustainable agricultural base in Nova Scotia.

#### Finances

The Centre's total revenue for 1978 was \$17,454. Five hundred (500) current individual membership donations comprised the bulk of the Centre's funding. All corporate and municipal contributions were also much appreciated. Special thanks were also given to the thirty-three sustaining members contributing \$10.00 per month, to the Halifax Friends Meeting who contributed \$3,439 for Susan Holtz's part-time salary, and to the Canadian Friends Service Committee who donated \$3,150 towards the energy librarian's salary and capital expenditure on books/journals for the library.

[Continued on Page 2]



HALIFAX SCHOOL BOARD BUILDING CORNER SACKVILLE AND BRUNSWICK STS.



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**ANNUAL SUNSHINE AND TARRED**  
**DUCK AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Budget**

Grant MacDonald presented a projected budget of \$29,700 for 1979, broken down as follows: Educational Services \$10,395, Research Services \$8,910, Action Development \$4,455, Administration & Support \$5,940. This includes a \$21,000 staff salary component which allows for current staff plus a part-time secretary and a part-time administrator. This budget reflects a shift towards increased educational services.

**Constitution**

Five revisions to the constitution were approved regarding the basic objectives of the Ecology Action Centre, the responsibilities of the Working Committees, the Standing Committees, and the Board of Directors. Thirty-eight minor word change revisions were also approved. The new constitution will be printed shortly, and made available to EAC members upon request.

**New Board of Directors**

After a warm thank you to the retiring Board Members, and special recognition to Peggy Hope-Simpson for her work, on membership processing, the list of proposed new Board Members for 1979 was reviewed. No new nominations from the floor were offered. The entire list of proposed members was nominated and approved as follows:

Danny Baker-Toombs	Susan Mayo
Lesley Barnes	Richard Pearson
Ann Brimer	Van Penick
George Cooper	Ginny Point
Parker Donham	Ken Powell
Martin Gursky	Bruce Preeper
Safie Hamed	Alan Ruffman
Susan Holtz	Bessa Ruiz
Peter Kavanagh	John Scheibelhut
Grant MacDonald	Phil Thompson
Richard MacFarlane	Peter Wainwright
Anne Martell	Rick Zwick

**Tarred Duck and Sunshine Award and Sunshine Maker Awards**

Then, accompanied by Richard MacFarlane's dramatic piano playing, Brian Gifford presented the suspensefully awaited Tarred Duck and Sunshine Awards. (See Press Release page 2).

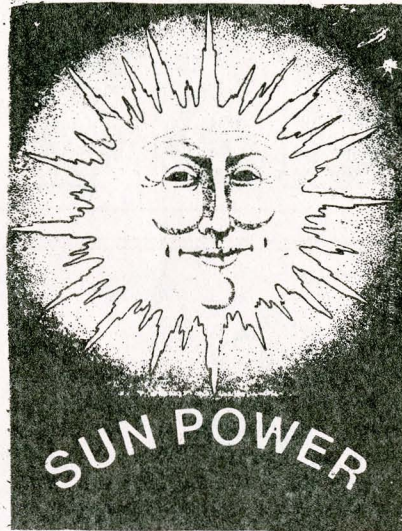
Thanks go to the CBC Design Department for their excellent graphics on the awards. And last but not least, Anne Martell presented Susan Mayo and Susan Holtz with T-shirts reading "EAC Sunshine Makers". We all know they deserve it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

**Feature Presentations**

Linda Christianson-Ruffman of St. Mary's University, and David Brooks from Energy Probe, Ottawa, delivered thought provoking presentations on "The Environmental Movement: Where It's Been and Where It's Going". Copies of their presentations are available from the EAC office.

Ecology Action Centre announced today at its Annual Meeting held in Halifax the winners of its annual awards for positive and negative environmental events, the Sunshine and Tarred Duck Awards.



Brian Gifford, member of Ecology Action Centre, presented the Tarred Duck Award for the worst event of the year to the Province of New Brunswick for its continuing aerial pesticide spray program. Mr. Gifford commented, "There were several aspects of the 1978 spray program which were especially disturbing. First and foremost of these was the legal battle in which private individuals, the Friesens, sued for having their land sprayed against their instructions. After a long court case, the issue was decided in their favour but the New Brunswick government then brought in new legislation removing the legal grounds for any similar suits in the future."

"Extensive spraying of the spruce budworm continues unabated and the New Brunswick government is proposing an experimental decrease in the buffer zone between sprayed and inhabited areas."

Finally, the Centre is concerned about the use of the chemical Matacil which is proposed for the 1979 spray program, despite the fact that it has not been adequately studied in the environment for long-term and synergistic effects.

Runner-up for the Tarred Duck Award goes to the Province of Nova Scotia for its decision to route the new Highway 101 using the North-South alignment down the Annapolis Valley rather than the South alternative. The North-South route has a far more serious impact agriculturally, using some 900 acres of prime potential agricultural land rather than the southern alternative of 267 acres. As well, only one major farm is affected on the route not chosen, while the North-South road will affect some 24 farms; the cleared acreage on the chosen route is also much more extensive. In light of Nova Scotia's limited amount of good farm land, and in view of the close similarity of costs for the two routes, this choice, in the Centre's view, was the wrong one.

Ecology Action Centre presented its Sunshine Award for the positive achievement to the Nova Scotia Insulation and Weatherization Program. Brian Gifford stated, "The single most significant aspect of energy policy in the Centre's view is increasing energy efficiency. The loan and grant program which has been instituted in the province has been very successful to date. More than 50% of the eligible units have been retrofitted."

"Space heating requirements are one of the biggest ways in which energy is used in Nova Scotia, amounting to perhaps one quarter of the total energy consumption and this program has been one major step in the right direction."

The Centre, however, feels that the people who have yet to insulate their homes should take advantage of the education programs about insulation, such as the Province's toll free insulation telephone number, in order to make sure that costly mistakes aren't made.

Honourable mention was given to the team of citizens, Joanne Lamey, Maureen Vine, Don Higgins and Alan Ruffman, who made an appeal against Dartmouth City Council's refusal to rezone land along Lakes MicMac and Charles to park. This area has been shown as park for people in the region as far back as 1945. Moreover, it was shown as parkland in the approved Regional Plan and the City's own Municipal Development Plan. The City commissioned a study for a park plan and chose to zone only publicly owned land. The citizens felt that all the land should be protected by a park zone until such time as the city can acquire the land.

The Centre thinks it is especially significant that these people went before the Nova Scotia Planning Appeals Board without a lawyer, one of the first times that this has happened in a significant case. A good precedent has thus been set for increasing the input of ordinary citizens in decision-making processes.

It should be noted however that although it has been almost a year since the appeal was heard the Board has yet to file a decision.

**RECYCLE YOUR MAGAZINES**

We need your help to keep our library up-to-date. If you subscribe to any of the following magazines, and would like to donate your copies to the Centre once you've read them, we'd be most appreciative. We guarantee that they would be put to good use.

**Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist, Nature, Science Forum, New Scientist, Ecologist Quarterly, Scientific American, The Ecologist, Futures, Petroleum Economist, Environmental Science and Technology, Undercurrents, Energy International, Chemical Week, Rain, Transportation and Research News, Alternatives.**





## CHEBUCTO ROAD HOUSING ASSOCIATION AND "THE OLD DAIRYLANDS"

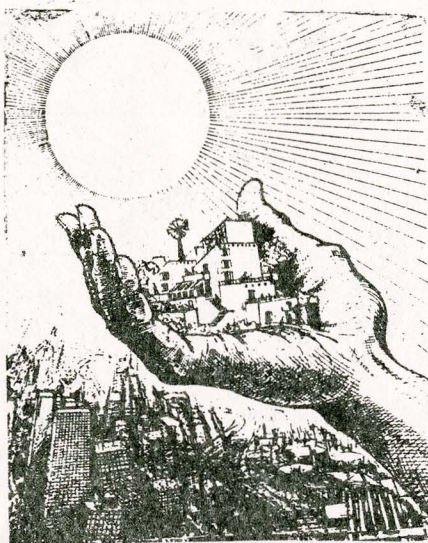
by Kathy Kuusisto  
and Lesley Griffiths

Since 1975 residents of Ward 4 have been engaged in a struggle with a Nova Scotia corporation over the use of a small parcel of land within their neighbourhood. The outcome of this struggle could determine the future of this inner city community.

The neighbourhood is an older working class district that has been in transition during the past fifteen years or so, and thus has been identified by Halifax City Planning Department as a "soft area" under the new Municipal Development Plan (MDP). It is that area bordered by Quinpool Road, Robie Street, Chebucto Road and Oxford Street. The parcel of land in question is the old Farmer's Ice Cream Plant on Chebucto Road between Windsor and Oxford Streets, which has been owned by Twin Cities Co-operative Dairy Ltd. since the early 1960's. There has been a dairy operation on this acre and a quarter site since 1905. When the city's master plan was drawn up in 1952 the land was zoned C-3, and it has been zoning which has been the key to the controversy ever since.

When Farmers Ice Cream Plant closed its doors in 1975, local residents petitioned City Council to downzone the lot so that future development could be controlled. Under the C-3 zone virtually anything could have been constructed without the consent or even the acknowledgement of surrounding residents. The City, then in the midst of putting together the policies and objectives of the MDP and anxious to show its commitment to the ideals of the Plan, supported the request. Consequently, the lands could not be developed beyond the new R-2 zone limits without City Council's approval. The downzoning also meant that the owner, Twin Cities, could not realize easy profits based on land speculation.

In 1978 Twin Cities approached City Council with an application for an R-3 zoning to permit the development of a six storey apartment complex on their land. The neighbourhood strongly opposed the rezoning and the apartment proposal for a number of reasons. One concern was the land speculation that would probably accompany such developments within a residential area. As well, the piecemeal destruction of the Old South End by similar projects over a relatively short period of time provided a disquieting example of what could easily happen. (Already the neighbourhood was facing the development of the Quinpool Road lands.) Finally, there was a growing scarcity of family housing within the peninsula, while the vacancy rate for bachelor and one-bedroom units was on the increase. Council therefore rejected the rezoning application.



That was almost twelve months ago. The land remains undeveloped. The ice cream plant has become a derelict structure that invites vandals, and the dumping of wrecked car bodies, with all the attendant hazards to adventurous children. Demolition of the crumbling structure was begun in the late months of 1977, but was halted shortly before the rezoning application went to Council. Since then, nothing has been done to the building or the site. The dangerous structure remains almost as a form of punishment to be endured by area residents for opposing Twin Cities.

It is not as if there have not been other offers for the dairylands. Offers based on the assessed value of the land at the present R-2 zoning have been made. Chebucto Road Housing Association (CRHA), a non-profit housing organization, has been attempting to negotiate with Twin Cities management for the purchase of the land since May 1978, but without success.

CRHA was formed by several local residents in response to the concern over the future use of the property. During the past eighteen months the volunteer, working board has secured financial support under Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) non-profit co-operative housing programme, engaged an architectural firm, Community Habitat and Resource Team Ltd., and put together a housing proposal for the site. CRHA's proposal is a reflection of the surrounding land use patterns; it is an attempt to strengthen the neighbourhood through development rather than the common pattern of weakening it. The Association proposes to construct thirty-two units for families and senior citizens. The units would range from one to four bedrooms in size, and be contained within seven, two- and three-storey buildings along Duncan Street and Chebucto Road. The buildings would be separated by private gardens, but would be held together through common space. The design of the structures reflects the neighbouring houses in both architectural features and construction material. In addition, the proposal has included several energy-saving features such as passive solar devices, heat sink walls, sloping roofs and a central heating plant to insure reasonable operating costs in

the future. The project, which would be owned and managed by the non-profit housing association, is gaining strong support from area residents.

At the moment, it appears that Twin Cities is still hoping for a more traditional development on the site despite CMHC's freeze on Assisted Rental Programme Funds and the increased vacancy rate within the city. Nevertheless, the growing determination of the neighbourhood to preserve its traditional land use patterns, and the viability of the non-profit housing project may just convince Twin Cities Dairy to begin negotiations with Chebucto Road Housing Association.

*Note: For more information on the CRHA, please contact Kathy Kuusisto at 423-4625, or Lesley Griffiths at 429-8134.*

### UPDATE: MARINA ARMS APARTMENTS

The last newsletter (Volume 7, No. 1) contained a copy of the EAC's Urban Development and Transportation Committee's brief regarding the proposed Marina Arms Apartments for the site currently occupied by the Jubilee Boat Club. Due to some changes in the developer's plans, the Committee presented a revised brief to City Council on February 14, the main thrust of which was very similar to the original.

On March 1, Halifax City Council, taking into account EAC and other citizen groups' objections, voted to reject the developer's application. Voting in favor of the motion to reject were Aldermen Shannon, Maley, Downey, Meagher, Hamshaw and Sullivan.



#### Insight

*I'm not as strong nor as high  
As a giant oak.  
My voice is not like that  
Of a great wave.  
My mind is not as keen as nature  
In all her giving ways.  
My face does not hold  
The beauty of a flower,  
Nor my body, the scent of a rose;  
The vastness of our universe  
Combined with mysteries on earth  
Inspired me to compose these words.*

by Andrew Robichaud





# NEW BRUNSWICK

Dear Editor,

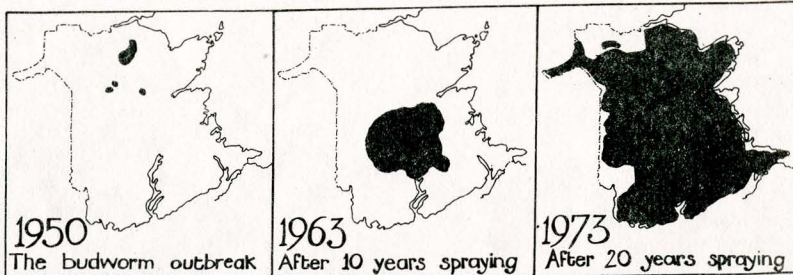
I learn with regret that the provincial government intends to permit the spraying of approximately nine square miles in the Crowdis Mountain area of Victoria County with the poison "B.T." and another similar area in Cumberland County on the mainland of Nova Scotia.

If it is carried out I have no doubt that the test will be "successful". Neither Crowdis Mountain, nor indeed any of Cape Breton Island or mainland Nova Scotia, has previously been sprayed so the natural predators of the budworm are at peak population. In twenty-five years of trying, New Brunswick never again achieved the high rate of kill of the first year of their spray programme. That first spraying of 200,000 acres in Northern New Brunswick killed 99% of the budworms in the sprayed area and resulted in a four-fold increase in the area of infestation and the "need" to spray 400,000 acres in the following year. So much for success with spray.

The egg-mass counts by which the budworm epidemic is monitored decreased in all areas of Cape Breton Island last year and in all counties but Richmond in 1977, without any artificial controls being used.

B.T. [*Bacillus Thuringiensis*] is an intestinal disease intended in this case to kill the spruce budworm by affecting its ability to eat.

Like all new sprays B.T. is presumed more or less safe, and certainly not as dangerous as what has been used before, until proved otherwise. Although B.T. is used for controlling garden "pests", particularly the cabbage butterfly, it has not been used extensively and indeed the proposed spray programme on Crowdis Mountain is being introduced by way of a test.



FROM "AERIAL CONTROL OF INSECTS" DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OTTAWA

The figures for Victoria County are as follows:

- 1974 - 370
- 1975 - 676
- 1976 - 1832
- 1977 - 771
- 1978 - 435

(The figures measure the number of egg-masses per ten square meters of foliage.)

Nature has her own ways to balance the scales. All indications are that the peak of the epidemic is passed.

The purpose of a spray programme is not however to kill the budworm. Rather the purpose is to keep the needles on the trees. By so doing we can keep an overmature fir alive for another year and ensure that there is a good food supply for any budworms which escape the spray to continue the reproductive cycle. It is well known that large areas of the Cape Breton Forest are "overmature" and are falling down more or less as fast as they grow, with or without the budworm. These woods are typically very densely stocked with old Balsam Fir which is the budworm's favourite dinner menu.

What is needed in Cape Breton, and indeed all across the Maritimes, is a vigorous programme of intensive forest management. We are fortunate to have the beginnings of such a programme in Nova Scotia. We must pursue it with diligence and we should avoid being diverted into a spray programme which can only prolong the spruce budworm epidemic and create graver problems year by year.

Yours truly  
Christopher King  
R.R. No. 1 Baddeck  
Nova Scotia

**Editor's note:** Address your letters of concern to Premier John Buchanan, P.O. Box 76, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Hon. George Henley, Minister of Lands and Forests, P.O. Box 698, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

### JUSUN STAFF

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### Annual Membership

The Centre is entirely dependent on its members for support. All payments are tax-deductible and a receipt will be issued. Suggested donations for annual membership follow. **Please enter my membership as**

- an individual member, \$5.00
- a contributing member. \$25.00
- a professional member, \$50.00
- a corporate member, \$100.00
- a sustaining member, \$10.00 / month for one year.

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed.

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