

Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 4 / Autumn 2016

Autumn wind-down spooktacular!

Nova Scotia weather and foliage aren't the only things changing around these parts - here at Coastal Action we're also in a season of transition as our summer staff head back to university, contracts are completed, and summer projects, requiring daily trips to various field locations, wrap up.

Coastal Action still has various field work on the go: the migration of American eels from our rivers and streams to their ultimate destination (the Sargasso Sea) continues, we're still angling the lakes for invasive species with the Atlantic whitefish project, and of course our LaHave River Water Quality project is a year-round effort!

In this issue, we'll take you to Sweden, where our Executive Director is part of a joint effort

between two countries to better understand and implement coastal management action. Also featured are 'tails' from the Atlantic whitefish project and a glimmer of new hope, wetland creation in the Petite Rivière watershed, and a profile on the Straight Pipe Citizens Group.

Our main feature for you recounts the recent Growing Green Festival, held in Bridgewater in September, where Coastal Action staffer Bernice Theriault (who was in the thick of the festival planning and execution) has rounded up all the details of this fun, informative, and jam-packed weekend.

Enjoy the issue - and have a safe, spooky, and treat-filled Hallowe'en!

Jennifer McKinnon, Editor 

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Coastal Action staff (and a few of their children, as well!) getting ready for Hallowe'en during Staff Day at the Morton Centre on October 21st.

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, established in December 1993, is a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns in the South Shore region of Nova Scotia. Our goal at Coastal Action is to promote the restoration, enhancement, and conservation of our ecosystem through research, education, and action. Our vision is a healthy environment supporting thriving South Shore communities.



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Community-Based Coastal Management in Sweden by Brooke Nodding



Brooke Nodding and her counterparts in Malmö, Sweden.

Coastal Action's Executive Director, Brooke Nodding, has been working with a PhD student at the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden for the past year to develop a community-based coastal management model. Brooke lent her support, information, and a Canadian perspective to Jenny Larsson. Most recently, Brooke travelled to Malmö to participate in workshops

held in the Region of Skåne, south of Sweden, during the week of September 19-23 to discuss the possibility of initiating a community-based coastal management model for the Hanöbukten Bay area. The level of interest and enthusiasm from the Swedish stakeholders in collaborating with Coastal Action in moving this model forward was amazing! 🐟

A Glimmer of Hope by Andy Breen



Juvenile Atlantic whitefish.

In a year that heralded grave concerns for the long term survival of the Atlantic whitefish in the Petite Rivière watershed, the only glimmer of hope was the discovery of 53 juvenile Atlantic whitefish.

These fish were captured in the Rotary Screw Trap at the base of Milipsigate Dam between May 11- 27, 2016. In 2015, 4 Atlantic whitefish had been captured in this

same location. The importance of this discovery cannot be underestimated; not only does it mean that there must have been an adult population of Atlantic whitefish in Milipsigate Lake in 2015, but also it could be a potential source of broodstock for a captive breeding program. We will continue to post updates on our website and social media as we move forward. 🐟

Creating a Wetland in the Petite Rivière Watershed by Emma Kinley



Transported organic material pre-flooding.

Coastal Action has wrapped up the last of the Wildcat Shale Pit Remediation & Wetland Expansion Project this field season. The project involved transforming an old abandoned shale pit into a highly productive wetland habitat by spreading organic materials and vegetating the barren landscape. This project limits highly acidic waters and heavy

metals from washing into the adjacent Wildcat Brook (caused by the exposed pyritic shale). The acidic water can be detrimental to aquatic life. By covering the exposed pyritic shale, the overall water quality of the brook will improve, creating a healthy natural habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. 🐟

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Growing Green Festival by Bernice Theriault



TD Tree Days volunteers at the outdoor classroom.

The Growing Green Festival took place on September 16 – 17, 2016, and included several key components: Earth Savers of Tomorrow, Crave Local, the Watershed Sustainability Bus Tour, TD Friends of the Environment Tree Planting, the Sustainability Fair, and the Up!Skilling Expo. The Coastal Action team was an instrumental part of the success of the festival.

The festival welcomed 16 schools from South Shore Regional School Board and over 1,460 students to the Earth Savers of Tomorrow event. This was the biggest event related to the Festival and the first

of its kind in Lunenburg County. Growing Green was an opportunity for students to get out of the classroom and experience firsthand the variety of organizations in and around the community. One highlight included the natural playground (created by Helping Nature Heal) where students could walk the maze, play on a log teeter-totter, dig in the sandbox, build an inuksuk, or be 'king / queen of the castle' on the dirt pile. Natural playgrounds bring imagination back into play.

Another Growing Green highlight was the creation of a "Living LaHave River". Over 1,200 students lined up to create a giant watershed and river, as well as branches representing straight pipes that feed into the river. A drone video will soon be available to show the outcome at www.growinggreenfest.com

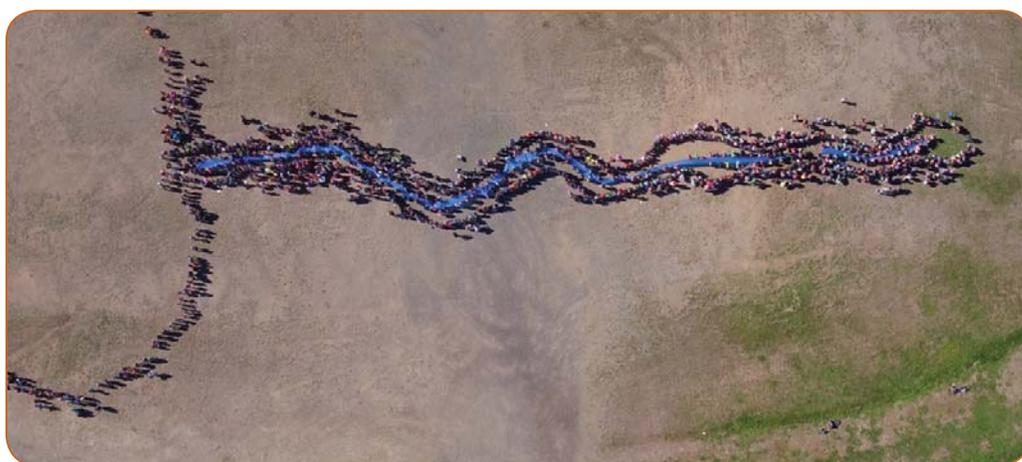
A night of live entertainment, in the beautiful Wile's Lake Farm Market greenhouse, allowed for a mix-



Crave Local celebrates local food.

and-mingle atmosphere at the Crave Local event, showcasing local food and beverages from around the community. The public had an opportunity to visit the Growing Green Festival's sustainability fair and UP!Skilling Expo on Saturday the 17th, welcoming over 30 vendors/organizations.

The Coastal Action team lead two major components of the Growing Green Festival: the TD Friends of the Environment Tree Planting and the Watershed Sustainability Tour. The outdoor classroom tree planting on the LaHave River added over 100 trees and shrubs to the river's shoreline. The watershed tour showcased stream restoration projects taking place throughout the LaHave and Petite Rivière Watersheds, the Fish Ladder at Morgan Falls, and the creation of a wetland in the Wildcat Shale Pit. 



Earth Savers of Tomorrow building "Living LaHave River with the help of 1,460 students and 60 adults!"

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Profile: LaHave River's Straight Pipe Citizens Group by Emma Kinley

The Straight Pipe Citizens Group (SPCG) is a sub-committee of Coastal Action's LaHave River Watershed Committee (LRWC). The SPCG was formed by a group of dedicated volunteers in response to public concerns regarding the level of fecal bacteria in the LaHave River Estuary from straight pipes. The original purpose of the committee was to educate local residents and government about these concerns.

During the summer of 2014 and 2015, the SPCG collected weekly water samples from five shoreline locations along the LaHave River Estuary between June and September. These samples were tested for *enterococci* and the

results were published on social media and the Coastal Action website. These results were found by Stella Bowles, a sixth grader, who was inspired to speak out and create heightened awareness regarding straight pipes polluting the LaHave. Stella soon performed her very own elementary school science project, testing the water quality in the LaHave and recording the results.

A big thanks goes out to both the Straight Pipe Citizens Group and Stella, inspiring the community and government to work towards improving septic systems along the LaHave River Estuary; and to the generous anonymous donor,

for their *one million dollar* donation to The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to help fund these changes. Improvements to the health of the LaHave have only just begun! 🐟



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg accepting anonymous \$1M donation.

Want to hear more about topics covered in this issue ?

If you'd like to read further, in-depth information regarding the stories highlighted in this issue, please visit our website (www.coastalaction.org) where we post more detailed updates on all of our projects. We have lots on the go here at Coastal Action: research, education and outreach, public engagement activities, and volunteer opportunities. If you'd like to see a report on one of our projects or events in the *Coastal Chronicle*, send us an email at editor@coastalaction.org.



Our home: Captain Angus Walters House in Lunenburg.

Coastal Action is a not for profit conservation organization. By donating financially to any of our projects we will provide charitable donation tax receipts. We also sell various articles of clothing, accessories, and maps; all proceeds go to Coastal Action!



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