



Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 11 / Summer 2018

Summer is Sizzling in Nova Scotia!

Welcome readers, and I hope you're finding ways to stay cool and hydrated while having fun this summer! Here at Coastal Action we're still on the move during this, our busiest time of the year - field season and summer programs are running full steam ahead!

There's lots on the go, including our Environmental Education and Outreach programs at the Morton Centre, as well as ongoing projects like our fish habitat restoration work and our invasive species research. We've been promoting Plastic-Free July on our social media sites, showcasing tips and hints used by our staff to reduce their reliance on plastics. Fellow Coastal Action staff Samantha and myself recently attended the 2018 Coastal Zone Canada Conference (theme:

"Seeking Practical Solutions to Real Issues; Communities Adapting to a Changing World") in St. John's, Newfoundland. And, on July 21, we hosted our Annual Open House and BBQ at the Morton Centre - our largest attendance record yet for this event!

Some of what's in this issue: Danielle has the latest on the 2018 elver season; Sarah shares the deets regarding our new harbour water quality monitoring contract with the Town of Lunenburg; and Brooke gives us a round-up of the recent visit from our friends and partners in Sweden. Also included are articles on rain gardens, microplastics, and our volunteer and bursary award winners. Enjoy!

Jennifer McKinnon, Editor

Chronicle Highlights:



Coastal Action Hosts Swedish Delegation
Page 2



Atlantic Microplastic Research Project
Page 2



Shoreham Village Rain Garden Installation
Page 2



2018 Elver Season
Page 3



Lunenburg Harbour Water Quality Monitoring
Page 3



Profile: 2018 Bursary and Volunteer Award Winners
Page 4



Coastal Action staff and board members following our Annual General Meeting at the Lunenburg Yacht Club on the evening of June 21.



Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation is a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns throughout the South Shore region of Nova Scotia. Our goal is to promote the restoration, enhancement, and conservation of our ecosystem through research, education, and action. Our vision is a healthy environment for future generations.

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Coastal Action Hosts Swedish Delegation by Brooke Nodding



Brooke and visiting Swedish delegate Jennie Larsson.

Coastal Action hosted a delegation (ranging from one to six people at various times) from Sweden for a month between May and June of this year. The purpose of the visit was for the Swedish team to learn more about Coastal Action and how we operate as a successful non-partisan science-based community action organization. Communities in the south of Sweden are interested in adopting

a similar model to address the environmental concerns within their coastal areas. Delegates included representatives from the World Maritime University, Jennie Larsson and Larry Hildebrand; Sandra Persson with the newly formed Baltic Sea Coastal Action Program; and three representatives from the government of Malmö City, Monika Mansson, Trevor Graham, and Per-Arne Nilsson.

Atlantic Canada Microplastic Research Project by Ariel Smith



Microplastics and other marine debris found in the sieve.

Sampling for the Atlantic Canada Microplastic Research Project is underway! This 3-year project (2017-2020) led by Coastal Action will fill the gap in Atlantic Canadian-specific microplastic research, as well as add to existing research. Surface water and beach sediment samples are collected by Coastal Action in the LaHave River Estuary, Nova Scotia; ACAP Humber Arm in the Bay of Islands,

Newfoundland; and the Clean Annapolis River Project in the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia. The primary project goal is to quantify microplastics (< 5 mm) in the Atlantic Canada region. Before collecting samples, we completed field training with Dr. Max Liboiron from Memorial University's Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research. Stay tuned for updates!

Shoreham Village Rain Garden Installation by Samantha Battaglia



Staff, Shoreham residents, and volunteers pose after a productive day's work!

Coastal Action hosted its first rain garden community planting day of the season in June! Installation took place at Shoreham Village in Chester where we measured, dug, composted, and planted four rain gardens with the help of Shoreham residents and volunteers. These gardens feature a diverse array of herbaceous perennials and ferns that will help capture 700.43 m³

of roof runoff and filter 179.37 kg of contaminants from this water every year. Captured roof runoff will passively hydrate the 215 plants that we transplanted which will, in turn, provide beautiful greenspace for Shoreham residents and native forage for local pollinators. Contact samantha@coastalaction.org for more information.

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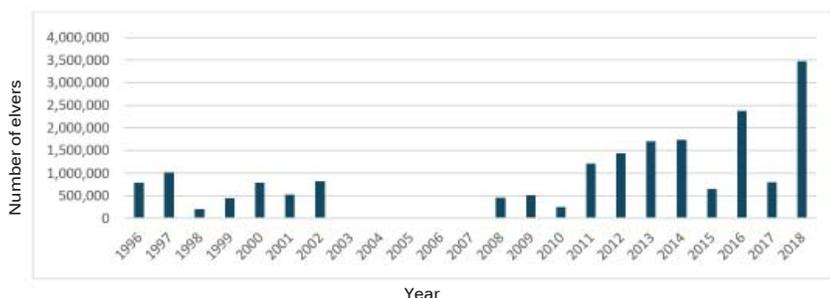
2018 Elver Season by Danielle Pernette

The 2018 annual elver abundance study at East River, Chester took place from April 15 to July 5. Traps were checked daily to record the presence and abundance of elvers, using weight-based estimates (juvenile eels migrating with elvers were separated, hand counted, and measured for length and width).

The elver run began slowly, then substantially increased by

May 8, before peaking on May 13 with a total of 121.19 kg (521,117 elvers). During the heaviest run, traps were emptied at least twice a day, and an additional experimental trap and scientific dipping were used to relieve pressure on the traps.

Annual Elver Catch at East River, Chester from 1996 - 2018



Elver count from 1996 - 2018. Note that these numbers exclude the commercial catch from the East River, Chester.

In addition to estimating the elver numbers on East River, biological sampling was conducted on a select sample of elvers three times per week to examine individual length, weight, and pigment. A total of 3,479,777 elvers (834.444 kg, plus hand counted elvers) were estimated throughout the season, along with 1,118 juveniles - the highest catch observed since the study began in 1996!

Lunenburg Harbour Water Quality Monitoring by Sarah MacLeod

Coastal Action has been contracted by the Town of Lunenburg to conduct water quality monitoring in Lunenburg Harbour. Due to concerns raised within the community about the possible contamination of the harbour by multiple sources of fecal bacteria and the associated health effects, Coastal Action's harbour monitoring program consists of: weekly, seasonal, and rainfall-dependent bacteria sampling. Weekly samples are collected at three locations along the Lunenburg waterfront to monitor fecal bacteria (*Enterococci*): the Broad Street Boat Launch, Zwicker's Wharf, and Fisherman's Wharf. Results are being compared to Health Canada

secondary contact guideline for water-based recreation, which includes activities such as fishing, rowing, or boating. Seasonal samples are collected at five different locations throughout the harbour; all data collected are shared with the public through the Town of Lunenburg's website (www.explorelunenburg.ca) and social media. Although sampling, both weekly and seasonally, has begun, interpretation of the health of the harbour will wait until all samples have been collected, to ensure a greater understanding of all sources and environmental factors within the harbour.



Sarah collects samples from Lunenburg Harbour in July 2018.

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Profile: 2018 Bursary and Volunteer Award Winners by Jennifer McKinnon

On June 21, Coastal Action held its Annual General Meeting at the Lunenburg Yacht Club. In addition to the usual order of business - including introducing our 2018-19 staff, highlighting our programs and projects, financial reporting, and appointing board members - we also handed out our annual bursary and volunteer awards.

This year's recipient of the Dan MacPhail Memorial Bursary is Claudia Cook, a recent graduate of Park View Education Centre in Bridgewater. Claudia will begin studying Biology at Dalhousie University this fall. Congratulations Claudia - and we wish you well as you begin university!

The Paul MacDonald Volunteer Award was presented to Martha and Peter Kinley (parents to Coastal Action staffer Emma Kinley!) for their enthusiastic support and assistance with a variety of Coastal Action projects and programs over the years.

Some of the Kinley's many contributions include lending Coastal Action staff various water transportation vehicles, use of their power and hand tools, volunteering with water quality projects, hosting staff gatherings, and supporting Coastal Action events. Thank you Martha and Peter for your generous support!



Top: Claudia receives her bursary award from Brooke and Danielle. Bottom: The Kinleys receive their volunteer award from Shanna and daughter Emma.

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 info@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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