



# Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter  Issue 3 / Summer 2016

## Swim into summer!

Welcome back readers, to our first summer edition of the Coastal Chronicle! Summer is traditionally the best and busiest of times for non-profit conservation organizations such as ours, and 2016 is no exception. At Coastal Action we're presently in full swing with various species at risk and habitat / watershed research projects, engaging in our summer programs at the Morton Centre, working with community members and the general public, and welcoming this year's crop of summer students into our fold.

Coastal Action held its Annual General Meeting in June at The Hub in Mahone Bay. The AGM is always a great opportunity for staff, board members, summer students, and invited guests to meet and mingle in a relaxed atmosphere. This year we invited Heather Kelday of the Nova

Scotia Sea School as our keynote speaker. Congratulations to Dr. David Maxwell (Volunteer Award recipient) and Bailey Silver (bursary winner)!

Coastal Action is making recent headline news with our ongoing Atlantic whitefish project - a very exciting development for this at-risk, endemic species, who can use all the help they can get! Check out our website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts for links to news articles and videos.

So dive right in to this latest issue - whether from your office desk or beach chair - and catch up on a few highlights, including: the recent elver season, making rain barrels, a potential Marine Protected area, the upcoming Growing Green Festival, and more! 

*Jennifer McKinnon, Editor*

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*Coastal Action staff, board members, summer staff, and award recipients at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, held at The Hub in Mahone Bay in June.*

**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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## Upcoming Growing Green Festival by Bernice Theriault

Celebrating the 8th anniversary of the Growing Green Festival in 2016, there are some old favorites and some new additions this year. The festival will be located at the South Shore Exhibition grounds on September 16 and 17.

**Crave Local – A Taste of Home** will again be hosted by Wile's Lake Farm Market on Friday evening from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. You will have an opportunity to sample some local craft beer, wine and juices, as well as enjoy snacks and treats made from locally grown produce. **Earth Savers of Tomorrow** is a daylong workshop for students in Grades 3 – 6. Students will have an opportunity to learn more about sustainability, energy efficiency, soil, habitats, safety, and more. **Watershed Tour – Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation** is leading the charge with a tour of the local watersheds. Water is a key component to a healthy ecosystem. Take this tour and learn more about what is being done to protect our watersheds.



And don't forget, the Sustainability Fair on Saturday, TD Tree planting at the outdoor classroom, as well as Fresh Air Films presenting *The Lorax*. For more information, visit the Growing Green Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Growing-Green-Festival>

## Morton Centre Summer Camps by Clare Kellock

The Morton Centre Environmental Education Programs are in full swing (our fourth year running!), offering several environmentally-themed day camps for local children and youth each spring and summer. Our programs are built on the foundation of earth education, with the goals of getting children exploring in nature, understanding simple ecological systems, and having an action to complete in their home, school, or community that can benefit the health of the environment in which the children live.

Our programs are also fun! We've delivered four programs so far this year: **Trailblazers**, an after-school program where junior high school students develop their outdoor skills; **Junior Leadership Training Program**, a two-day training for youth to build their leadership skills and prepare them to be leaders during our day camps; **Cycle Savers**, a mystery-themed day program for grade four students, in which they are led by high school students through challenges that teach them about the air, water and soil cycles; and **Pirates' Cove**, a pirate-themed day camp for 6-8 year olds that focuses on the four ARRRR's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink). We look forward to capping off the summer with our day camp for 9-12 year olds, **Wild Adventurers**, and our **Family Nature Events!**



*Pirates' Cove campers celebrate learning the four "ARRRRs"!*

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## Elver Season Activities by Danielle Pernette



*Elvers ready to be counted and released.*

American eel babies, known as elvers, start making their way up our rivers beginning in the Spring, until early Summer. These elvers come all the way from the Sargasso Sea where they are born, and are looking for homes in freshwater rivers and lakes.

Coastal Action has been working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Scotia-Fundy

Commercial Elver License Holders to monitor annual elver recruitment to the East River, Chester since 2008. This includes setting up traps to catch and count elvers daily, as well as monitoring biological characteristics such as length, weight, and pigment stage throughout the season. The 2016 season was one of the busiest yet, catching nearly 500 kg of elvers – that's a lot of baby eels! 🐟

## Marine Protected Area Consideration in Mahone Bay by Ariel Smith



*Marine Protected Area potential boundary.*

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Coastal Management Division has identified Mahone Bay as an Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) for inclusion in the federal strategy for Marine Protected Area (MPA) network planning. DFO presented the MPA process to Coastal Action's staff and board, describing the need for

community involvement and feedback. During the preliminary stages of the project, Coastal Action has gathered GIS research data, created maps of the bay's ecological components, and recorded tourism and fishing activity. We're currently reaching out to community members for the first of several public sessions. Updates to come! 🐟

## Rain Barrel Workshop by Amy Buckland-Nicks



*Rain barrel makers and their creations.*

Coastal Action and the Town of Bridgewater hosted a free two-hour rain barrel building workshop for South Shore residents on Sunday, July 17.

Workshop facilitators provided 15 clean 55-gallon plastic barrels, tools, equipment, and training while participants got to make their own rain barrel.

Rain barrels attach to rooftop downspouts and can be used to store water for watering gardens and washing cars while also helping to reduce stormwater runoff that contributes pollutants to rivers and lakes downstream. The workshop was funded by the Small Change Fund and space for the workshop was donated by Michelin Social and Athletic Club. 🐟

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## Profile: Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps by Emma Kinley

The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (NSYCC) was established in 1989 to encourage youth to stay in the province and provide experience in the environmental field, with NSYCC offering training and employment opportunities at a tangible level. Young adults between the ages of 15 to 30 receive valuable work experience, life-long skills, an appreciation for the environment, and increased knowledge of future employment and/or education opportunities.

Clean Foundation (a non-profit, non-governmental environmental organization) has been responsible for delivering NSYCC on behalf

of Nova Scotia Environment since September 2011. NSYCC is delivered through a partnership between environmental groups like Coastal Action and Clean Foundation.

Coastal Action has benefitted significantly from the NSYCC for over 15 years, as the program provides us with capable summer staff at low cost. We're lucky to have three NSYCC members with us for the 2016 season: Nicholas Wentzel, Philicity Byers (both working on our various watershed projects) and Emma Beaton, who is assisting us at the Morton Centre. Youth are encouraged to apply to NSYCC for excellent work experience and

opportunities within the environmental field - and we look forward to working with you in the future!

**Website:** [www.clean.ns.ca/programs/youth-engagement/nova-scotia-youth-conservation-corps-2/](http://www.clean.ns.ca/programs/youth-engagement/nova-scotia-youth-conservation-corps-2/)



From top left: Nicholas Wentzel, Philicity Byers, Emma Beaton with young camper.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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!



Captain Angus Walters House  
37 Tannery Road  
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia  
(902) 634-9977  
[info@coastalaction.org](mailto:info@coastalaction.org)

**Website:**  
[www.coastalaction.org](http://www.coastalaction.org)

 **Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/bluenose.coastal](http://www.facebook.com/bluenose.coastal)

 **Twitter:**  
[twitter.com/coastalaction](http://twitter.com/coastalaction)