

Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 13 / Winter 2019

Celebrating 25 Years of Conservation

Happy winter to our Coastal Action supporters! If you're anything like me, you might be feeling tired of this unpredictable winter weather and overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the environmental crises threatening our little province and the planet at large. Why not take a break from the doom and gloom to read some positive conservation news? In this issue, you'll learn about an unprecedented collaboration of conservation professionals banding together to protect southwest Nova Scotia's biodiversity, kids helping to sustain our native fish populations, and a youth initiative led by our youngest staff member, Stella Bowles, to support young environmental leaders across the province.

As the field season approaches, we're reminded that we're never really 'off' in the off-season, just busy with other things like reporting, planning, and hiring our summer field staff. Our greatest undertaking this winter had to be our work with Skysail Brand to refresh the organization's brand and launch a new website. The timing is no coincidence, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary this year with a new look, a reflection on our successes, and a big party to thank our partners and supporters. Read on to learn more about our year-long celebration and where the future will take us.

Shanna Fredericks, Guest Editor

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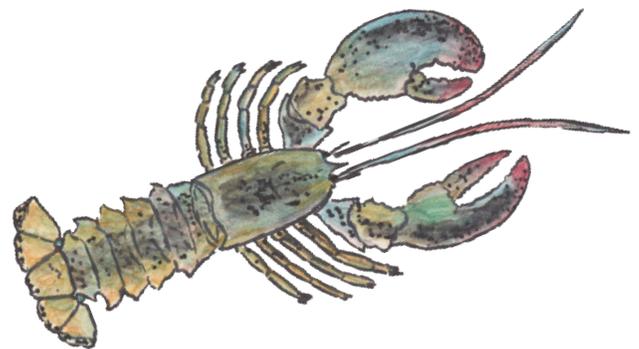
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Staff receiving certificates for a Project Management Course.



Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation is a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns along 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.

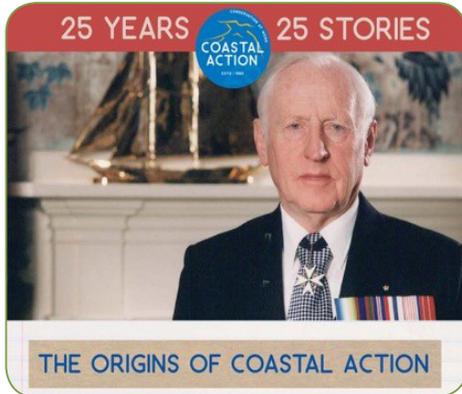
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Coastal Action Turns 25! by Shanna Fredericks



The first of our 25 stories highlighted the inception of Coastal Action.

Here at Coastal Action, we're celebrating 25 years of conservation work throughout the south shore region of Nova Scotia. Formed in 1993 with the initial goal of addressing the lack of sewage treatment in the Town of Lunenburg, we've come a long way, now tackling a variety of environmental projects under four main themes: Water Quality and Watersheds, Coastal and Marine, Climate Change and Education, and Species at Risk and Biodiversity.

Over the coming months, we'll be looking back on some of our greatest achievements with '25 Stories for 25 Years'. We'll be sharing these brief highlights on our website and social media and we hope you'll enjoy exploring our past with us.

As our staff numbers have grown over the years, so too have the number of acronyms and variations of the organization's name! In hopes of simplifying

things, we've decided to officially shorten our title to 'Coastal Action'. With a name change, comes a branding refresh. We've enlisted the help of Meg Craig and her team at Skysail Brand in Mahone Bay to update our communication materials and website. They've provided us with a fresh, modern look while maintaining our classic colors and the iconic Roseate tern.

Thanks to Skysail, and the hard work of our staff, the new website is something we're proud to share with the public and we hope you'll take some time to explore its many features. Register for environmental education summer camps, catch up on our latest projects, or check out our new blog – the Coastal Chronicles! The new blog will feature stories from the field, the latest conservation news in our area, and much more.



One of the new Coastal Action logo designs.

On February 23rd, we celebrated our anniversary with a Birthday Bash at the Best Western Plus Bridgewater Hotel & Convention Centre. Over 75 of our closest friends and supporters danced the night away thanks to the great tunes from 3 Way Radio. A special thanks to Amos Pewter for their generous financial contribution, generated through the sale of pewter sand dollar ornaments, as well as ABLE Engineering as our featured sponsor.



Coastal Action staff at the 25th birthday bash.

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Fostering Young Environmental Leaders in Nova Scotia

by Clare Kellock

Coastal Action is excited to announce a new multi-year project called 'Empowering the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders in Nova Scotia' (ENGELNS). Coastal Action was awarded a grant from the Lawson Foundation that will provide core funding for this new project. The main objective of the project is to create a movement of 8-10 young environmental leaders across NS by providing them with the skills and resources to identify and research an environmental issue in their community, generate awareness and propose solutions for said issues and engage all levels of government and other stakeholders in creating meaningful change. Coastal Action will strive to build upon Stella Bowles'

successful model for environmental activism – finding youth who are passionate about an issue in their community, linking them to community mentors who can help them research the issue, and helping them share their findings with the public and all levels of government. We understand that youth have a unique and proven ability to draw attention to environmental issues where adults have fallen short. This project will provide innovative inquiry-based learning opportunities and peer-to-peer mentorship for youth in science. Stay tuned as this project develops throughout 2019! For more information, contact clare@coastalaction.org.



Building leadership skills with our local high school students.

Students Supporting Brook Trout Populations in NS

by Melissa Risto



Students from the Petite Rivière Elementary School release brook trout fry into a stream near their school in May 2018.

Fish Friends has started up again for the 2019 season. This year seven schools are participating in raising brook trout from eggs in aquariums set up in their classrooms. Participating classrooms range from grade primary to grade 8 at New Germany Elementary School, Bridgewater Elementary School, Chester District Elementary School, Bluenose Academy, Petite Rivière Elementary School, Centre Scolaire de la Rive-Sud, and the Chester Area Middle School. These schools are eagerly awaiting their 300 eggs so they can start to closely observe the life cycle of brook trout as they grow from egg to alevin to fry. In May, the students will release nearly 2,000 fish into local streams inhabited by wild brook trout.

Eggs are provided by the McGowan Lake Provincial Hatchery. The program is supported by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Funding is provided by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

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Profile: Kespukwitk Conservation Collaborative

by Shanna Fredericks

Big things are happening in southwest Nova Scotia, as it was recently identified as a 'Priority Place' by the Federal government's 'Pan-Canadian approach to transforming Species at Risk conservation in Canada'. This area, which covers the Mi'kmaq region of Kespukwitk, boasts a significant number of species at risk and is considered a biodiversity hotspot. Over the past year the conservation community has joined forces, forming the Kespukwitk Conservation Collaborative, to work together under an adaptive management framework, identifying synergies and gaps, and sharing information. This innovative collaboration is guided by both western science and Two-Eyed Seeing indigenous conservation perspectives. Areas of focus for this group include species at risk, coastal islands, and forested wetlands.

Coastal Action is honored to be involved in this initiative, working alongside several other conservation organizations and government agencies including Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, NS Nature Trust, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Bear River First Nation, Mi'kmaq Conservation Group, Clean Annapolis River Project, and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, among others.



One of many workshops held throughout southwest NS with the Kespukwitk Conservation Collaborative.

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.



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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!