



# Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 12 / Autumn 2018

## "Wondering at times, especially in the autumn, about the wild lands." ~J.R.R. Tolkien

Happy fall, *Chronicle* readers! I hope you've all had the chance to wander about and experience autumn in your own special patches of outdoor space, soaking up the crisp, vibrant beauty.

And speaking of vibrant: the usual winding down of our summer field season is no indication of changing activity levels here at Coastal Action. On the contrary, with ongoing field work, conferences, education events, and collaborative projects still in full swing, we have plenty to keep us on our toes! Our staff are now outfitting themselves in warmer field gear, as well as donning bright orange vests and hats - you may even spot us in the streams, woods, and

fields of Southwest Nova Scotia, performing tasks and collecting data for CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) sampling, fish rescues at construction sites, and monitoring the American eel as this species makes their way back to the Sargasso Sea.

Included in this issue: Emma highlights the benefits of measuring wetland functions; Sam recaps his visit to Newfoundland to work with our partners there; Melissa details our rescue of larval Atlantic whitefish; and Samantha shares the results of our recent 'rainscaping' workshop. Enjoy!

*Jennifer McKinnon, Editor*

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HAPPY HALLOWE'EN!



*Coastal Action Staff Day on October 30 at our office in Lunenburg.*

**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 supporting thriving South Shore communities.

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## Measuring Wetland Importance by Emma Kinley

Every wetland is important, but not all wetlands are equal. This past summer, Coastal Action applied the Wetland Ecosystem Service Protocol for Atlantic Canada (WESP-AC) to assess the various functions of local wetlands. This type of assessment provides a standardized, science-based view of the various ecological services of any given wetland. Assessment scores are generated for twenty-one wetland functions (and their

effectiveness) such as flood prevention, water purification, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat. WESP-AC assessments are used as a decision support tool for multiple levels of government; furthermore, these assessments are useful in determining factors such as compensation requirements, evaluating the success of restoration, or whether a wetland should be considered high priority.

Coastal Action collects this data in order to build a comprehensive wetland database, which will help us identify and prioritize local wetlands in need of restoration or protection.



Coastal Action staffers, Shanna and Jenny, conducting the WESP-AC at a local wetland.

## Coastal Action Rescues Larval Atlantic Whitefish by Melissa Risto

The Atlantic whitefish (*Coregonus huntsmani*) is a globally endangered species that lives only in three interconnected lakes within Lunenburg County's Petite Rivière watershed.

Threats facing the whitefish include predation by invasive species - including chain pickerel (*Esox niger*) - and barriers to fish passage (such as dams). It is currently unknown how many Atlantic whitefish remain in Nova Scotia, as an adult whitefish has not been observed in the wild since 2014.

Coastal Action has been dedicated to the recovery of the Atlantic whitefish since 2004. In the spring

of 2018, Coastal Action's Atlantic Whitefish Team deployed four fish traps at locations in the Petite Rivière watershed, which were determined to be places most likely to yield larval Atlantic whitefish. The goal was to capture as many as possible, then move them safely to the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility. Coastal Action were able to capture 29 live Atlantic whitefish; three were found dead in traps, and seven in the stomachs of chain pickerel.

Currently, 25 Atlantic whitefish remain at the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility.



A captured chain pickerel that contained three larval Atlantic whitefish. 2018 was the first year that larval Atlantic whitefish were documented as part of chain pickerel stomach contents.

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## ACAP Humber Arm Collaborates with Coastal Action by Sam Reeves

Sam Reeves, Watershed and Agricultural Projects Coordinator for Coastal Action, recently travelled to Newfoundland to spend a week collaborating with ACAP Humber Arm (our sister organization based in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland). ACAP Humber Arm's focus includes mainly marine-related projects; however, they are considering piloting an agricultural stewardship project.

Sam shared information on how Coastal Action runs our agricultural projects here in Nova Scotia. He met with several representatives from Newfoundland's agricultural industry, local MLAs, senior staff with provincial Environment and Wildlife departments, local farmers, and the

assistant executive director for Fisheries and Land Resources. Sam was also interviewed for both live radio and a provincial newspaper. Sam was excited to see such a high priority placed on sustainable agriculture in Newfoundland and he hopes ACAP Humber Arm can work with farmers in the future to improve biodiversity on their land and reduce impacts to nearby waterways.



Sam presents to our sister organization, ACAP Humber Arm, in Newfoundland.

## Coastal Action Hosts 'Rainscaping' Workshop by Samantha Battaglia

**RAINSCAPING WORKSHOP**  
Learn about the tools to effectively manage stormwater runoff on your own property!

**WHAT :** Get an introduction to DIY stormwater management solutions to use on your own property. Learn about best practices, materials and maintenance for rainscaping and get started on a rainscaping plan for your own home!

**WHERE :** Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation  
37 Tannery Rd, Lunenburg NS, B0J 2C0

**WHEN :** September 15, 12- 2 PM

**For registration please contact Sam at :**  
samantha@coastalaction.org or (902) 634-9977

**[intact]** The largest non-profit in the Maritimes  
Environment Canada  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Environment of the Government of Canada

*Rainscaping workshop advertisement. Thanks to Keiran Brakenbury for getting this project off the ground, as well as delivering a comprehensive demonstration to workshop attendees.*

At the beginning of autumn, Coastal Action hosted a free, two-hour rainscaping workshop to help local homeowners learn techniques for managing stormwater runoff on their own property.

The workshop took place at Coastal Action's office in Lunenburg and featured a presentation on DIY stormwater management solutions, a materials demonstration, and a mapping exercise. Participants learned about rainscaping best practices, the various materials and maintenance needed to create rainscaping elements of their own, how to develop a plan for their own properties to help address flooding issues, and how to make the most

of rainwater that falls on their landscape.

Special thanks to our summer student, Keiran Brakenbury, for spearheading this workshop and delivering a thorough presentation. In 2019, Coastal Action will continue to explore rainscaping principles, including the design and installation of vegetated bioswales and rain gardens throughout southwest Nova Scotia. Stay tuned for details on how you can be involved! If you have any questions, or are interested in learning more about our ongoing stormwater management projects, please contact Sam B. at [samantha@coastalaction.org](mailto:samantha@coastalaction.org).

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## Profile: Kevin Veinotte by Sam Reeves

Kevin Veinotte is a local farmer, woodlot owner, and winner of Nova Scotia's 2018 Woodlot Owner of the Year award. A presentation event was held on September 29, 2018 at Kevin's property in Northfield. The event was open to the public and featured various organizations related to natural resources in Nova Scotia.

In the past, Coastal Action has worked with Kevin to improve the health of Silver Mill Brook, a tributary of the LaHave River, which partially flows through his 500 acres of land. Various restoration projects such as cattle fencing, digger logs, and the creation of a wetland have been completed on Kevin's

property. Kevin is always open to collaborating on new projects with Coastal Action, as he is very environmentally-minded and does his best to enhance and protect biodiversity on his property.

Coastal Action staffers, along with Amy Weston (Program Manager for the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's NSLC Adopt-A-Stream Program) attended the event. Guests were provided with information on stream health and restoration techniques, as well as a demonstration digger log (installed by Coastal Action prior to the event) to provide a visual representation of this common instream fish habitat restoration technique. 



Coastal Action staffer, Sam R., explains the use of digger logs on Kevin's land.

## 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 [info@coastalaction.org](mailto: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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