

# Coastal Chronicle

Coastal Action Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 14 / Spring 2019

## Spring is here!

It's time to grow our own food, watch out for wildlife on the roads, and take down those bird feeders to protect our native birds from infection caused by the avian parasite, *Trichomonas gallinae*. With summer staff on board, we're busting at the seams as our staff of 26 gears up for the busiest field season yet.

In this issue, you'll learn about our development of carbon sequestration demonstration sites on local farms; how invasive fish are impacting endangered Atlantic salmon in the LaHave River; and how our partners, Plastic Free Lunenburg, plan to eliminate single-use plastics in Lunenburg. Finally, you'll discover what makes our Earth Adventure Camps so special and unique.

join us for a garbage cleanup along the shoreline and throughout the Town of Lunenburg from 10 am-12 pm, followed by activities on the waterfront from 1 pm-4 pm at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

Our staff recently collected 33 bags of garbage from our 5 km stretch of Route 3, between Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, as part of the Adopt-a-Highway Program. Over 170 groups have adopted secondary highways and interchanges; together collecting an average of 6,000 bags of garbage across the province each year. Visit our blog on the website to learn more about the Adopt-a-Highway Program and how you can get involved!

Shanna Fredericks, Guest Editor

Mark your calendars for World Oceans Day on June 8, 2019. We hope you'll



Staff and the garbage collected from Route 3.

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Coastal Action 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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## Impacts of Invasive Species on Endangered Atlantic Salmon

by Shawn Feener

The COSEWIC endangered Southern Upland Atlantic salmon population has been rapidly declining in Nova Scotia as a result of many factors including aquatic connectivity barriers, habitat loss, at-sea mortality, and invasive species. Coastal Action has been working for over 10 years to address many of these issues in the LaHave River watershed. Now in its third and final year, the LaHave River Invasive Species Project seeks to evaluate the predation pressure that smallmouth bass and chain pickerel have on Atlantic salmon smolt during their seaward migration. Last year, project staff were busy tagging these invasive species and analyzing stomach contents. This work confirmed that these invasive fish are, in fact, preying on Atlantic salmon smolt. This field season will focus on collecting stomach contents through non-lethal gastric lavage methods as well as tracking the distribution of these invasive species throughout the watershed.

If you catch a smallmouth bass or chain pickerel in the LaHave River watershed, please contact Shawn Feener ([shawn@coastalaction.org](mailto:shawn@coastalaction.org)) and provide him with the location of your catch.



A chain pickerel collected for analysis by Coastal Action staff.

## Carbon Sequestration on Agricultural Land

by Samantha Battaglia

This year, Coastal Action launched the Carbon Sequestration on Agricultural Lands Project. This project will support two small agricultural businesses in southern NS, Wayward Farm and Sweet Fern Farm, in developing demonstration sites that implement and showcase agricultural practices that help sequester carbon. We decided to focus on agricultural practices that sequester carbon due to the significant contribution agriculture has made to climate change by releasing soil organic carbon into the atmosphere through practices that erode and degrade soils (plowing, tilling, clearing land). For the Carbon Sequestration on Agricultural Lands Project our farmers will be exploring two alternative farming practices: perennial cropping systems and silvopasture. Throughout the upcoming growing season, we'll be planting trees, grazing animals, measuring soil organic carbon levels, and collaborating with the farmers to host tours of these demonstration sites. Stay tuned to see these systems

in action this fall at one of our tours! For more information on our carbon sequestration projects contact Sam at [samantha@coastalaction.org](mailto:samantha@coastalaction.org).



Wayward Farm, pictured here, will be practicing and installing a silvopasture system this growing season.

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## Earth Adventure Camps at the Morton Centre

by Clare Kellock

**What Are Earth Adventure Camps?** Our day camps aren't quite like any others on the South Shore of Nova Scotia! When we started in 2013, we adopted the Earth Education (EE) method shared by our partners at the Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) in Halifax. The EE method is designed to connect youth to nature through the head, the heart, and the hands. We started by borrowing from the AEC's programs, but soon started creating our own!

**Where Do I Learn More?** This year, you can register online on our website! Find the registration page by going to [What We Do>>Climate Change & Education>>Education>>Earth Adventure Camps](#). We hope you will join us for one or more of our programs to experience the magic of EE! If you're interested in learning more about the 2019 summer lineup, please contact [clare@coastalaction.org](mailto:clare@coastalaction.org).

### What Makes Our Camps Special?

- Unique & Magical Storylines:** Whether the camp is about an eco-pirate captain in need of new crew mates or a secretive Council that leaves a box of ancient runestones to be deciphered, these captivating stories keep the campers on their toes and excited about learning.
- Small Groups:** Our leader-camper ratio is 1:4, with a maximum of 12 campers. This allows our leaders to lead safe and engaging programming; build relationships with the campers; and manage group behaviours effectively.
- High-Quality Programming:** Program leaders have backgrounds in education, science, and recreation and are passionate about connecting youth to the natural world through adventurous learning.
- Structured & Balanced:** Each day is planned down to every detail to manage the energy levels of participants. All programs include nature-immersion activities, high-energy games, reflective down-time, outdoor skill building, science-based concept activities, art, theatre, and free play.
- Environmentally-Focused:** Our goal for each camp is to get youth outside appreciating the natural world, and to increase environmental stewardship and awareness within the community.
- Overnight Camping:** Camps for ages 9+ also include an overnight component, giving campers the unforgettable experience of sleeping in the woods under shelters they build with their friends.
- All Outdoors:** All programs take place entirely outdoors!



Earth Adventure Camp participants playing games, making crafts, and enjoying overnight camping!

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## Profile: Plastic Free Lunenburg

Plastic Free Lunenburg (PFL) is a group of community volunteers engaged in the issue of eliminating single-use plastics in the Town of Lunenburg. Single-use plastics (SUPs) are convenience items found to disproportionately contaminate Lunenburg's municipal waste streams, as well as litter the terrestrial and marine environment. During community consultations in early 2019, Lunenburg residents and stakeholders expressed overwhelming support to ban several categories of SUPs including straws, carry-out bags, produce/bulk bags, cutlery, take-out food containers, and take-out beverage cups and lids. PFL is working with the Town of Lunenburg and other stakeholders to bring forward to Council a proposed ban on these SUPs by 2020. Learn more about PFL's work at [www.plasticfreelunenburg.com](http://www.plasticfreelunenburg.com) and on their social media pages @plasticfreelunenburg.

by Ariel Smith

Coastal Action has worked with PFL since their inception in the Spring of 2018 as a community partner, working in tandem on the issue of plastic pollution. Coastal Action began the Ocean Friendly Nova Scotia business certification program, which will recognize businesses (retail, restaurants, cafés) for eliminating single-use plastics. This program will be launched in May 2019. For more, contact [ariel@coastalaction.org](mailto:ariel@coastalaction.org).



Volunteers speaking with local residents about single-use plastics.

## 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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