



Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter  Issue 7 / Summer 2017

It's Another Coastal Action Summer!

The Coastal Action office is bustling with activity these days. Staff continue working on various year-round projects, like the LaHave River Watershed Project, while ramping up seasonal programs like the Morton Centre camps / activities, as well as undertaking brand-new projects for 2017, including the LaHave River Invasive Species Project. Throw in our recent 5th Annual Rum and Chowder Social, various Canada 150 celebrations, and our usual South Shore public outreach events...and we are off to an engaging, productive season.

Coastal Action staff and board members gathered together on June 15, for our Annual General Meeting at Petite Rivière Vineyards. Along with the usual appointment

of various board positions and review of finances, we were honoured to present Kristen Hopkins and Bob Zinck with our Bursary Award and Volunteer Award, respectively. You can read more about these award recipients in this issue's Profile article. You'll also catch a glimpse of the aforementioned LaHave River Invasive Species Project and what staff have found so far; Danielle reports back with a 2017 elver season summary; Ariel has a wrap-up of our 5th Annual Rum and Chowder Social (as well as some of our Canada 150 activities); and Bernice introduces us to Energize Nova Scotia. Also: check our new Instagram feed (@coastalaction), which we update regularly, for more news. Enjoy - and happy summer!

Jennifer McKinnon, Editor 

Chronicle Highlights:



Invasive Fish Species in the LaHave River
Page 2



NS Heritage & Marine Stewardship Canada 150 Project
Page 2



2017 Elver Season
Page 3



5th Annual Rum and Chowder Social
Page 3



Energize Nova Scotia Discovery Fair
Page 3



Profile: 2017 Bursary and Volunteer Award Winners
Page 4



Coastal Action staff and board members at Petite Rivière Vineyards for our Annual General Meeting on June 15.



Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, established in December 1993, is a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns along 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.

Invasive Fish Species in the LaHave River by Shawn Feener

Chain pickerel (*Esox niger*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) are two predatory invasive fish species located in the LaHave River. These aggressive fish feed on everything from small insects to large fish to ducklings. During the 2017 spring sampling period, the LaHave River Invasive Species Project (LRISP) team collected various pickerel and bass of all sizes from Wentzells Lake to analyze their stomach contents.

Multiple chain pickerel and one large bass had preyed upon Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) smolt during the smolt migration to saltwater. One large chain pickerel was found to have ingested four smolt at one time. Chain pickerel were introduced into the LaHave River watershed illegally and are greatly impacting the health of native fish - and *all* aquatic life located in the watershed. Introducing these fish to new watersheds is not only illegal, but extremely dangerous for native fish populations and may prove detrimental for the survival of our iconic Atlantic salmon. However, there are ways to help! Smallmouth bass and chain pickerel are easy to catch - and also good to eat! 



Capturing invasive smallmouth bass and chain pickerel on the LaHave River.

NS Heritage & Marine Stewardship Canada 150 Project by Ariel Smith

Our Canada 150 Project (funded by the Government of Canada, Nova Scotia Government, and the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia) engages Canadians in the importance of protecting our oceans from plastic pollution through education and activities while celebrating the rich history, heritage, and culture of Atlantic Canada.

The project includes four events occurring over the course of the 2017 summer season: family arts & crafts, information booths on ways to prevent plastic pollution, shoreline cleanups, and traditional boat tours. On Saturday, June 10, we conducted the first of our four

events on Lunenburg's waterfront, coordinating the event with World Oceans Week. Several community partners joined us, including the Canadian Dory Racing Association, the Blue Dream Project, the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Society, and Boomerang Bag Initiative, which provides an upcycled reusable cloth bag share program to encourage the reduction of plastic bag use.

Future events take place in Sydney, Cape Breton (August 4), Annapolis Royal (August 5), and Digby (August 12). Keep an eye on our social media accounts for more information on activities and event schedules! 



Plastic pollution prevention information booth in Lunenburg on June 10.

Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 7 / Summer 2017

2017 Elver Season by Danielle Pernette



Elvers collected from traps in East River, ready for data collection and release.

This year, the 10th annual Elver Abundance Study was conducted on the East River, Chester. Four Irish-style elver traps were installed between the Highway 3 bridge and the small falls.

The traps, which catch both elvers and juvenile eels migrating upstream, were operational from April 21 until June 30. Elvers captured were estimated using

a weight-based method, and biological data such as length, weight, and pigmentation was gathered consistently throughout the season from both the boxes and the commercial catch. In addition, data was collected on juvenile length and age class. The total catch from the boxes was an estimated **801,396 elvers** and **592 juveniles**. 🐟

5th Annual Rum and Chowder Social by Ariel Smith



Bridgewater Mayor, David Mitchell, serves up delicious chowder to hungry attendees.

On June 9, we celebrated our 5th annual Rum & Chowder Social, a fundraising event that allows us to socialize with our community and share our work. Lunenburg School of the Arts provided a beautiful venue, with local artwork sold during the event. MP Bernadette Jordan was our MC, and all levels of local government volunteered as 'celebrity servers', dishing out delicious chowder

from over 10 different South Shore establishments. Petite Rivière Vineyards provided wine and cider, alongside Ironworks rum and Terra Beata cranberry juice.

A big thank you to all contributors, as well as those who continue to support our projects and ongoing environmental work. We'll see you at the next social, June 8, 2018! 🐟

Energize Nova Scotia Discovery Fair by Bernice Theriault



Save the date: October 27-28, 2017 is the Energize Nova Scotia Discovery Fair!

Is your business taking action on reducing fossil fuels? The Energize Nova Scotia: Discovery Fair is the place for you! On October 27 and 28, come share your story with community members and other local businesses and help move Bridgewater into a more sustainable future – today! Families, youth, and seniors are welcome, along with community

and non-profit organizations, business owners / managers, tenants / landlords, home / condo owners, contractors, and service providers. There is something for everyone!

For more information contact: bernice@coastalaction.org or www.energizenovascotia.ca. 🐟

Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter  Issue 7 / Summer 2017

Profile: 2017 Bursary and Volunteer Award Winners by Bernice Theriault

At Coastal Action's Annual General Meeting at the Petite Rivière Vineyards, we were pleased to acknowledge Bob Zinck and Kristen Hopkins.

The Paul MacDonald Volunteer Award - recognizing time spent assisting Coastal Action staff - goes to Bob Zinck. Bob is a board member with the LaHave River Salmon Association and a member of the LaHave River Watershed Advisory Committee. Bob has always been an avid volunteer, keen to help out on many of our projects, including river restoration, riparian protection, and lately, assisting with the invasive species project on the LaHave.

The Dan MacPhail Memorial Bursary is awarded each year to a graduating high school student to support and encourage further study of science and the environment. This year's winner is Kristen Hopkins, a graduate of Park View Education Centre. Kristen will be studying Environment and Natural Resources at the University of New Brunswick this fall. Kristen has combined volunteer and work experience that includes the Chester Basin Animal Hospital, Junior Achievement, and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute to name just a few.

Thank you Bob and congratulations Kristen! 



Top: Andy and Emma present Bob with his Volunteer Award. Bottom: Shawn and Bernice present Kristen with her Bursary Award.

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 editor@coastalaction.org.



Our home: Captain Angus Walters House in Lunenburg.

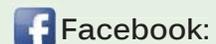
Coastal Action is a not-for-profit conservation organization. By donating financially to any of our projects we will provide charitable donation tax receipts. We also sell various articles of clothing, accessories, and maps; all proceeds go to Coastal Action!



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

Website:

www.coastalaction.org



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/bluenose.coastal



Twitter:

twitter.com/coastalaction



Instagram:
[@coastalaction](https://www.instagram.com/coastalaction)