



Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 9 / Winter 2018

Coastal Action Celebrates 25 Years in 2018

Welcome back from the holidays, dear readers. We here at Coastal Action are ringing in the new year with a very special occasion: 2018 marks our 25th anniversary as a leading environmental organization in Nova Scotia. We plan on celebrating this fact with you, our partners, neighbours, friends, colleagues, and supporters! In the coming months we'll announce a number of events, activities, and stories as we share in the celebrations of our 25th anniversary with all of you. And in the meantime, from all of us at Coastal Action, we offer our utmost thanks for welcoming us to work within your communities.

And now, on to the issues at hand (or rather, in this issue)! We start off with an update from Shanna

regarding the water quality of Lunenburg Harbour and the steps now in place to create a water quality monitoring program for long-lasting, positive results. Brooke recaps the highlights of our recent Coastal Action planning retreat at White Point Beach Resort, including the introduction of our new 3-Year Strategic Plan. Sam and Emma round up the fish habitat restoration activities of 2017, and Clare introduces you to our Cycle Savers high school leaders in our Profile Section.

Enjoy this issue and we look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary with you throughout 2018!

Jennifer McKinnon, Editor 

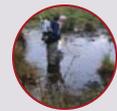
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Coastal Action staff, during January 2018 Staff Day, taking time for lunch after a morning at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in Halifax.



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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Lunenburg Harbour Water Quality by Shanna Fredericks

The water quality of Lunenburg Harbour, particularly fecal bacteria contamination, has been called into question and received a great deal of media attention as of late. The Town of Lunenburg has taken several positive steps to address this issue in hopes of improving both air and water quality, as well as engaging the local community in the protection of this historic harbour.

Coastal Action has been contracted by the Town to create a Stakeholder Engagement Committee. Business, industry, and citizen representatives with a vested interest in harbour health will be invited to join this group and work collaboratively towards a better understanding

of water quality impacts in the harbour and the identification of potential solutions. Coastal Action is currently designing a water quality monitoring program with a focus on nutrient and bacteria concentrations in both the harbour water and the bottom sediments. With the results of the monitoring program and the actions of the stakeholder committee, we hope to improve our understanding of nutrient and bacteria sources throughout the harbour and create opportunities for education and environmental stewardship in our local community. 🐟



Town of Lunenburg. Photo: Front Harbour Marine Services.

Coastal Action Develops New 3-Year Strategic Plan by Brooke Nodding

Coastal Action staff and board recently underwent a strategic planning exercise to develop a new three-year vision for the organization, 2018-2021. This off-site retreat was held November 24-25, 2017 at the beautiful and relaxing White Point Beach Resort and was facilitated by Coastal Action's longtime Business Development consultant, Jamie O'Neill with Uprise Consulting. Jamie

led us through the development of an updated vision, mission, and core values exercise as well as the creation of five new strategic goals.

VISION: A healthy environment for future generations.

MISSION: To restore and protect the environment through research, education, and action.

VALUES: Environment, Collaboration, Objectivity, Innovation, Awareness, Engagement.

Our new strategic goals all fall under one of three pillars: Growth, Marketing & Promotion, and Operational Excellence. Coastal Action staff had a follow-up session with Jamie in December to further develop our new plan by drafting priority actions and assigning responsibilities and timelines to achieve the new strategic goals. Although this new plan appears daunting, everyone is very excited about what the future holds for Coastal Action and is committed to do the work necessary to achieve our lofty goals! 🐟



Coastal Action staff, with Jamie O'Neill, during a strategic planning session at White Point Beach Resort.

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2017 Fish Habitat Restoration by Sam Reeves and Emma Kinley



Coastal Action staff performing a fish rescue.

DeLong Farm Cattle Crossing Project: During the fall of 2017, Coastal Action completed a fish habitat restoration project on DeLong Farm in Barss Corner. The project took place on a small stream flowing into Indian Brook, a tributary to the main branch of the LaHave River. Cattle had been walking through the stream to access pasture on the other side, which was causing streambank erosion, sedimentation, and fecal bacteria contamination in the stream. In consultation with the farmer,



Downstream side of newly installed culvert at DeLong Farm.

Coastal Action had a contractor install a 1.2 m x 6 m culvert into the streambed and cover the structure with rock and soil. This new crossing will allow cattle to cross the stream without damaging important riparian and in-stream habitats.

Prior to this restoration work, Coastal Action conducted electrofishing in the area to protect fish from construction activities. Surprisingly, over 500 native fish were collected from this muddy stretch of stream and no invasive fish species were found. These fish were released a safe distance downstream. This project highlights the importance of fencing livestock out of streams and providing alternate watering sources as a means of protecting water quality and fish habitat.

Rhodenizer Dam Fish Passage Project: Coastal Action, in partnership with East Coast Aquatics Inc. and the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's NSLC Adopt-a-Stream Program, worked to restore fish passage at the site of an old dam structure at the outflow of Rhodenizer Lake in the LaHave River watershed. This dam once had a functioning fish ladder but has since deteriorated to the point that fish passage is likely impossible. In order to restore passage, a 3 m x 30 m run-around channel with step-pool habitat was constructed adjacent to the old dam structure.



Construction at the Rhodenizer Dam run-around channel.

The channel was reinforced with granite boulders and planted with native grasses to stabilize the newly created streambanks. This project has restored fish passage to nearly 20 km of stream habitat and several lakes upstream of the dam. Barriers such as this project site, which block access to a significant amount of upstream habitat, are considered high priority in our aquatic connectivity restoration work.



Lake inflow at the completed run-around channel at the Rhodenizer Dam.

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Profile: Cycle Savers Student Leaders by Clare Kellock

We're highlighting the volunteers that have been intrinsic to the success of our Cycle Savers (CS) program. Each year, we recruit high school students to lead grade 4s through the program, during which they must decipher codes and learn about the air, water, and soil cycles. Leaders attend 2 days of training and 2-3 program days. In October, 8 students from Park View Education Centre led the program.

CS is equally fun and challenging. Leaders must memorize activities; understand and teach scientific concepts; play funny characters; be attentive to their crew's needs; manage conflicts and behaviours; work as a team; adapt to changes

on the fly; and maintain high energy. They also arrive early to set up, stay late to clean up, and participate in a daily debrief to share challenges and successes. They work hard and are the main reason why CS remains one of our most successful programs to date. Thank you to 2017's volunteers: Avery Oickle, Eliote Schuler, Genelle Morash, Heidi Hebb, Jazmin Wamboldt, Martin Fay, Nick Henschel, and Rebecca Ernst!



Cycle Savers student leaders during their training program at the Morton Centre.

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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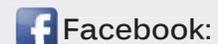


Our home: Captain Angus Walters House in Lunenburg.

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!

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