



TAKE ACTION!

INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the first issue of Take Action. This newsletter is a place to share more about what the ambitious Nova Action Cohort is up to. The cohort consists of nine Nova Scotian youth leading independent environmental research projects in their communities. They began their projects in January of 2020 and now many of them are either starting to share or soon will be sharing their results.

In this issue, the cohort will introduce themselves, what they have been working on, and where you can find more information about their projects. There will also be a highlight on an important project funder, the Lawson Foundation.

NOVA ACTION
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #1
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INSIDE:
MEET THE
COHORTS



NOVA
ACTION
YOUTH-LED ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



WILLA JENSEN

Hello, my name is Willa. I am 15, and currently in grade 10. I live in Middle LaHave, Nova Scotia. For my Nova Action project, I am focusing on the Wildcat Wetland, just outside of Bridgewater. I am taking past data and comparing it to observations from recent visits with my mentor, Molly LeBlanc, to show how plants and animals have benefited from the restoration of the habitat. I have recently made an Instagram page where I'll be sharing updates, images, and news on the project!

For more information follow [@wetland_research](#) (Wetland Research) on Instagram.



ABIGAIL MAGUIRE

My name is Abigail, and I am a 16-year-old student at Park View Education Centre in Bridgewater. My project with Nova Action is focused on the water quality of Goose Creek in Western Shore. Goose Creek is a small river that is a part of Vaughans River and empties into Rafuse Cove near Oak Island. Residents along the creek reported algae blooms and found elevated fecal bacteria at the mouth of Goose Creek. The purpose of my project is to identify the source of the bacteria in the creek. For project updates follow along on Instagram (Goose Creek Water): [@goose_creek_water](#)



OLIVER BAKER

My name is Oliver and I am a 16-year-old from Kentville, Nova Scotia. My project is surveying Blue Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) in Nova Scotia to see if they are filtering microplastics and quantify how many microplastics there are. Blue Mussels are able to filter microplastics because they are filter feeders and have limited sorting abilities to control the materials in the water that enter their system. If their tissue contains plastic, it would suggest that the waterway they live in is polluted with microplastics and has risks of causing harm to the invertebrate and other species living in the water. To keep updated with the results, follow [@musselmicroplastics](#) (Mussel Microplastics) on Instagram and Facebook and musselmicroplastics.org



NOVA ACTION

YOUTH-LED ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



LÉA KIRCHHOFF

My name is Léa. I'm 15 years old and I live in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. This past year I have been conducting a research project on micro and macro plastics. I chose two beaches in Nova Scotia; one in a rural area and the other in an urban area. I sampled microplastics in the sand and water, and macroplastics on the beach. If you want more info about my project and how to reduce your waste, follow me on Instagram (NS Land and Water Plastics): [@ns.landandwaterplastics](https://www.instagram.com/ns.landandwaterplastics)



SOPHIE KENT-PURCELL

Hello! My name is Sophie, I am 17 years old, and I live on the Halifax Peninsula. My Project is studying wildlife in the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Wilderness Area, which is located about 20 minutes from Downtown Halifax. I use trail cameras that detect motion to take photos and videos of wildlife. When I go hiking, I never see any animals larger than squirrels or birds and I was curious about what other kinds of wildlife calls the BMBCWA home. Check out my website for updates: bmbclwildlife.com/index.html



MARISSA COX

My name is Marissa and I am from Cape Breton! I am 17 years old and enjoy reading, the great outdoors, and board games with friends. My project consists of using an organic charcoal (called *biochar*) made from crab shell waste as a soil amendment. The hope is that the biochar, with its supplementary nutrients from the crab shells, will reduce soil acidity and improve pumpkin plant growth. To find out more about my project, you can check out my Instagram page (Go For CB Biochar): [@goforcbbiochar](https://www.instagram.com/goforcbbiochar)



NOVA ACTION

YOUTH-LED ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



NORAH ADAMS

My name is Norah, I'm a grade 10 student at Park View Education Centre, and currently living in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. My Nova Action project is focused on simple methods of determining the origins of salmon (wild, aquaculture, or hatchery). I am doing this by microscopically analyzing various salmon scales, looking for different growth patterns. I hope to apply these ideas to become adaptable for citizen science and be used more commonly in the field. You can learn more about this project at [@scotiasalmonid](https://www.instagram.com/scotiasalmonid) (Scotia Salmon ID) on Instagram and Facebook, or at scotiasalmonid.com



EDIE WHITTINGTON

My name is Edie and I live in Halifax. I'm interested in many different things including health, music, and community growth. Environmental education is an important aspect of my life and my goal for this project is to reach a lot of people and create real change. For my project, I decided to focus on the forestry issues in Nova Scotia. Specifically, why there is only 1% of old growth forests left in our province. I've learnt so much and I look forward to sharing it with you all. Follow my progress on Instagram and Facebook (Edie's Forestry Project) at: [@novaactionforestry](https://www.instagram.com/novaactionforestry)



EMMA CROSSAN

My name is Emma and I am from Truro, Nova Scotia. I'm currently enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at Cobequid Education Centre. Since joining Nova Action I've had the wonderful experience of exploring environmental science in a field that interests me. My project focuses on the impact of agriculture on the environment; specifically, studying the effects of copper (II) sulfate on the germination rate and radicle growth of lupins. After having done some prior research, I thought it would be interesting to study the influence of copper (II) sulfate on a wildflower common to Nova Scotia, because of the lupins importance to our bee populations. My website: sites.google.com/view/nac-project-lupins-and-cuso4/home



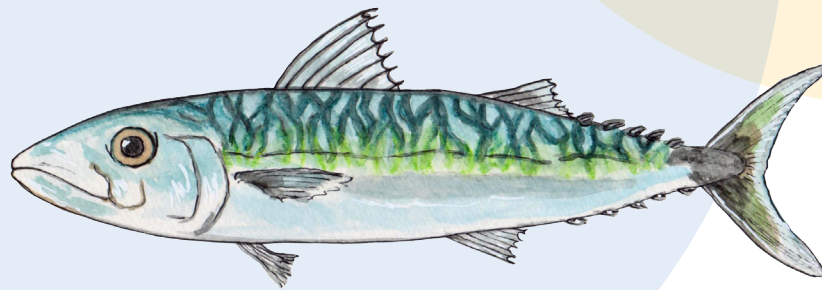
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LAWSON FOUNDATION

The Nova Action Cohort project is generously supported by the Lawson Foundation. The Lawson Foundation is a Canadian family foundation that invests in and engages with ideas, people, and organizations that contribute to the healthy development of children and youth. The foundation has four focus areas, including Early Child Development, Outdoor Play, Child & Youth Diabetes, and Youth & The Environment. Nova Action is supported through the Youth & The Environment focus area and is one of ten funded initiatives across Canada that strive to strengthen youth leadership and civic engagement; and to encourage connection to nature and enable environmental action. We thank the Lawson Foundation for their support on this exciting initiative.



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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 projects and programs!

