



Coastal Chronicle

Coastal Action Quarterly Newsletter  Issue 18 / Spring 2020

A Novel Welcome to Spring

Greetings, dear *Chronicle* readers - we are living in strange times indeed. On behalf of myself and my peers, I hope you are all staying safe at home, virtually strengthening connections with loved ones near and far, and finding creative ways to keep yourselves healthy - both inside and out - as the world tackles Covid-19 "together, apart".

Coastal Action continues to closely monitor updates and changes with regards to the situation here in Nova Scotia. Our office is closed for the time being and staff are working from home. Covid-19 arrived during an important time for us as an environmental organization: spring is when we ramp up our field season! Though we've heavily modified our protocols to accommodate Covid-19 regulations, we are still able to

continue with some field work and a variety of other projects. We all love our chosen professions here at Coastal Action; we're taking every precaution necessary to keep our staff safe, healthy, and employed during Covid-19, so we can all continue doing what we do best: caring for our environment.

And now, to the issue at hand! Clare gives us updates on both Nova Action and The Netukulimk Way; Ariel has the deets on the AquaHacking Challenge (newly-arrived in Atlantic Canada!); Molly shares the ways Coastal Action is getting creative during lock-down, and Shanna gives us a profile of the Mahone Bay Centre.

Enjoy this issue - take good care, continue to be safe, and stay connected to one other!

Jennifer McKinnon, Editor

Chronicle Highlights:



The AquaHacking Challenge Comes to Atlantic Canada
Page 2



Nova Action
Page 2



Creative Content in Times of Social Distancing
Page 3



The Netukulimk Way
Page 3



Profile: Mahone Bay Centre
Page 4



Coastal Action staff are now meeting virtually!



Coastal Action is a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns throughout 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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The AquaHacking Challenge Comes to Atlantic Canada

by Ariel Smith

AquaHacking is a tech start-up competition for youth to collaborate and tackle urgent water issues through innovation and entrepreneurship.

After focusing on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin for five years, AquaHacking has now expanded to Atlantic Canada! This eastern cohort is hosted by the Atlantic Water Network and St. Mary's University.

The AquaHacking 2020 challenge has welcomed Coastal Action's Ariel Smith as one of the four Water Issue Leaders to address the issue of **microplastics from fishing gear**. Hackers will address the following question: How can microplastics from fishing gear be prevented from entering aquatic

environments and how can fishing gear be retrieved before furthering the problem of microplastic accumulation?

Important AquaHacking Dates:

- Participant's Registration Deadline - May 15, 2020
- Virtual Semi-Final - June 17 & 18, 2020

For more on this exciting challenge, visit www.aquahacking.com or find AquaHacking on social media [[@aquahacking](https://twitter.com/aquahacking)].



AquaHacking 2020 - participate with us!

Nova Action

by Clare Kellock

Introducing...our Nova Action Cohort of 2020-21! A determined group of ten youth from across Nova Scotia have joined the Nova Action Cohort with the goal of making change in their own communities. These youth, representing communities in Cape Breton, the Fundy Shore, Halifax, the Annapolis Valley, and the South Shore, will each be researching an environmental issue in their community and sharing what they find along the way.

We are so excited to be working and learning alongside this team of young Nova Scotians. Stay tuned as we introduce these individuals on our socials!

Our Nova Action Cohort 2020-21 members:



Our determined group of Nova Action youths of 2020-21!

- Abigail Maguire
- Edie Whittington
- Emma Crossan
- Léa Kirchhoff
- Marissa Cox
- Norah Adams
- Oliver Baker
- Rose Star
- Sophie Kent-Purcell
- Willa Jensen



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Creative Content in Times of Social Distancing by Molly LeBlanc

As Coastal Action adapts to the many changes resulting from Covid-19, we are working hard to find creative ways to continue sharing our research and passion with the public!

In April, Coastal Action teamed up with the Nova Scotia Young Naturalist Club to create family-friendly trivia sessions on local species. Over 100 people of all ages tuned in and participated!

We've also partnered with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's Recreation Department to share virtual presentations on local biodiversity. These include local plant identification and a look

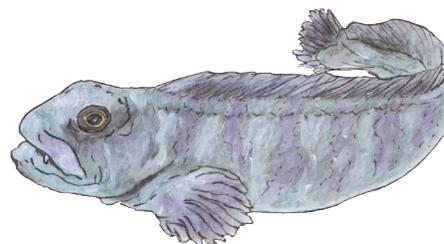
into the lives of freshwater invertebrates!

In early May, our Coastal & Marine Team Lead, Ariel Smith, will be hosting a webinar titled; Microplastics in Atlantic Canada. She'll discuss Coastal Action's ongoing work to determine the quantities and types of microplastics in marine environments of 3 near-shore communities in Atlantic Canada.

If you haven't already, be sure to check out Coastal Action's social media for links to our presentations!



Nova Scotia Species at Risk trivia event advertisement.



The Netukulimk Way by Clare Kellock

We are excited to announce a new program we are developing in partnership with Ross Farm Museum, NSHA Public Health, New Ross Family Resource Centre, South Shore Regional Centre for Education, and Municipality of Chester!

'The Netukulimk Way' is a new earth education program for grade 7/8 students designed to meet outcomes from the new grade 7/8 curriculum currently being piloted at three schools in Nova Scotia. 'The



Students on location at Ross Farm.

Netukulimk Way' provides an engaging learning opportunity for students to strengthen their connection to the land, encouraging critical thought as well as the use of Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing) in the context of sustainable food systems and climate change. This day-long program will take place at Ross Farm Museum, an excellent outdoor setting for learning about food systems. Students will take home guidebooks afterward to support them in sharing what they learned during the program with their school community.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to pilot the program this spring as planned, but we look forward to seeing the program in action in the future.

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Profile: Mahone Bay Centre by Shanna Fredericks

After outgrowing our office space in Lunenburg's beautiful Captain Angus Walters House, we find ourselves excited to be returning to Mahone Bay, where Coastal Action got its start 25 years ago.

Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, Coastal Action will be relocating to the Mahone Bay Centre.

Built in 1914, the Centre operated as the Mahone Bay School for 86 years. Upon closing, it was taken over by the Mahone Bay Centre Society. With lots of funding, community input, and countless volunteer hours, the Centre was transformed into a vibrant community hub. This non-profit, volunteer-run community

centre is now home to local artists, businesses, practitioners, and community programs. With a gymnasium and fitness studio, community gatherings and events, lectures, workshops, and studio sessions, the Centre is always buzzing with activity.

Visit their website to learn more about the endless opportunities this place has to offer the community (www.mahonebaycentre.org).



Once a school house, Mahone Bay Centre is now a busy community hub for multiple groups - and is our new home (Photo: Ikabana Shop).

Want to hear more about topics covered in this issue?

If you'd like to read more 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.



Our new home at Mahone Bay Centre (Image: mapio.net).

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!



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