

BECOME A WATER STEWARD IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Nova Scotia's most valuable resource – water – needs your help to remain available for future generations. By integrating the following suggestions into your daily life style, you can help protect precious water resources and make your community a safer and healthier place to live:

GET INVOLVED!

What are the true environmental issues in your community that affect you or your family? Find out by reading community newspapers, contacting local environmental organizations and government. Discover how you can help with these issues. Check telephone books for names or ask your local librarian for help in locating groups and discovering the issues. Your community welcomes volunteers.

GET ORGANIZED!

If your community does not have a local organization, make one. Ask your neighbours and community members to help create an environmental group. Help is available.

With limited resources being a major issue facing communities today, the spotlight is clearly on volunteers. The health of our ecosystems ultimately rests with those willing to get involved and donate their spare time to the issues.

Judy McMullen
Project Manager

Atlantic Coastal Action Program Cape Breton

One program lending a helping hand to communities is the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (Youth Corps). This special program of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL) is now entering its 14th year of operation. The Youth Corps partners with community organizations on environmental projects that promote awareness, conservation, and stewardship of Nova Scotia's environment. These projects encourage greater community involvement in areas such as stream restoration, water conservation, proper septic tank maintenance and environmental education.

Some past community water partners include: Sackville Rivers Association, Bluenose ACAP, River Denys Watershed Association, Cobequid Salmon Association, ACAP Cape Breton, Town of Oxford, Salmon River Salmon Association, Village of Joggins, Sutherland Lake Clean Water Community Improvement Society, Clean Annapolis River Project and the Valley Watershed Stewardship Association.

For more information visit:
<www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ess/ycc/>

The project done through the Salmon River Salmon Association (SRSA) in partnership with the NSYCC has raised public awareness on environmental aquatic problems in the area. It provided a hands-on approach in helping the local environment, the community and its youth.

Roland LeBlanc, Project Coordinator
Salmon River Salmon Association

CHECK IT OUT!

Consult the water stewardship checklist below to see how well you are protecting water. Adopt items on the list and encourage others to take action.

For more information, visit the NSDEL Website:
<www.gov.ns.ca/enla/water/>

- *Taking Care of Your Water Supply*
- *Save Water in Your Home*
- Environmentally friendly alternatives to household cleaners
- Preventing pest damage in home lawns
- *A Homeowners Guide To Oil Tank Safety*
<www.gov.ns.ca/enla/rmep/p2/oiltank.htm>

The Youth Corps is a great program that allows the students to learn about the watershed and protecting the river while working on instream restoration, clean ups and educating the general public.

Walter Regan, Project Coordinator
Sackville River Association



WATER STEWARDSHIP CHECK-LIST

Becoming a Water Steward is simple.

By adopting a few of these actions into your daily life-style you are helping to conserve and protect water.



	I do this now	I plan to do this
Test the bacteriology quality of well water every spring and fall.		
Test the chemical quality of well water every one or two years, earlier if I notice a change in clarity, colour, taste or odour.		
Pump out my septic tanks every 2–3 years, check septic disposal field for problems.		
Install water saving devices (low-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads, tap aerators).		
Wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine or use low load settings.		
Promptly repair leaking faucets or pipes.		
Clean debris from around well; examine well for tight fitting cap, erosion, other problems.		
Seal old, abandoned wells on my property.		
Avoid putting fats, paints, anti-bacterial products, etc. into the septic system.		
Dispose of oil, gasoline and antifreeze at local Service Stations.		
Dispose of paints at Enviro-Depots.		
Plant trees and/or shoreline shrubs on my property.		
Capture rain water for non-drinking purposes such as watering the garden.		
Use alternatives to cosmetic pesticides and fertilizers.		
Naturalize lawns and gardens using native plants that use little water.		
Participate in community tree planting.		
Talk to my neighbours about water protection.		
Support local watershed projects and environmental organizations.		

Adapted from the Green Communities Association's Rural Water Stewardship Program.
Visit <www.gca.ca>


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