

NSYCC NEWS

2004



The official newsletter of the
Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps

Volume 26 Issue I

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I. NSYCC INTRODUCTION 2004



Training Camp - June 2004, Agritech Park, Truro

BRINGING YOUTH, COMMUNITIES & THE ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (NSYCC), a program of Nova Scotia Environment and Labour, provides an opportunity for young Nova Scotians to gain environmental work experience and training by working on community projects. The NSYCC receives program funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, and the Solid Waste-Resource Management Section of Nova Scotia Environment and Labour. Additional program funding and support is received through partnerships with Clean Nova Scotia, Atlantic Coastal Action Program - Cape Breton, corporate sponsors and community partners.

Environmental projects fall within five categories, including Climate Change, Environmental Education, Pollution Prevention, Waste Management and Watershed Management. In 2004, forty four youth from across Nova Scotia were employed by the Regular Summer Program. There were eight ELP participants, three EYE participants and three En-Vision participants. For these outstanding youth, such participation facilitates youth leadership and development, as well as environmental education and many employable skills.

The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps has three components:

1. **Youth:** Nova Scotia students, equity groups, and the unemployed, ages 17 - 24.

2. **Community:** communities or organizations throughout Nova Scotia who are interested in submitting a summer environmental project proposal to the NSYCC; that will provide work opportunities for local youth.

3. **Environment:** work relates to the conservation and enhancement of Nova Scotia's environment, community environmental education and awareness, and public participation.



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Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps

Regular Summer Program

Purpose:

The program was established in 1989 to provide summer employment for young Nova Scotians between the ages of 17 and 24, and to assist Nova Scotia community organizations in undertaking local environmental projects.

How the Regular Summer Program works:

The program is a partnership between the NSYCC, Nova Scotia communities, and youth. Communities are interested in providing environmental-related employment to Nova Scotian youth, can develop a project proposal for submission to the NSYCC. Proponents of such projects can include community groups, businesses, government agencies, industries, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. Each project must employ a team of two, three, or four youth between the ages of 17 and 24. A selection committee approves the projects and the NSYCC works with the successful community partners to hire local youth for summer employment.

Employing Youth Leaders:

Support staff are hired to assist with the administrative duties associated with the program. These positions generally run from late April to early September. Regular crew workers from host communities are hired for each community project, from late June until late August.



Support Staff 2004

Emma Larson-Ure, Jason Rae, Amy Hunt and Chris Petrie

II. Regular Summer Program: Cape Breton Region

NSYCC Community Partner: LeMoine Development Association
Partner Community: St. Joseph du Moine, Cape Breton
Project Title: Wastewater Management District Study
Crew Workers: Jean Michel Aucoin & Dale Cormier



“For the second year in a row, Nova Scotia Youth Corps were hired by the LeMoine Development Association to continue working on the Wastewater Management District study.

Currently, wastewater education in St. Joseph du Moine is of utmost importance since community acceptance and knowledge of the project is critical. During the first week, we read and became informed of different types of systems that could service the Wastewater Management District in the community. The knowledge that was gained from the reading was applied to sketching 3D pictures of how the systems are constructed and laid out. These sketches were valuable in that it provided homeowners an idea of what sewer technology could service the area. A sketch of a developed harbor was also provided to give an insight of how this project could improve the economics of your community. The pictures were accompanied by a page of information that was in both English and French, briefly explaining what the systems were constructed of and how they operated. After printing out final copies of all drawings, we started handing them out to all the homeowners within the Wastewater Management District boundaries. After visiting several homes, it is clear the most people in St. Joseph du Moine have a positive attitude toward the system’s plans and hope to see it come to fruition. We could like to take this opportunity to thank the Nova Scotia Youth Corp for this employment opportunity.

NSYCC Community Partner: L'Ardoise Economic Dev. Association
Partner Community: L'Ardoise, Cape Breton
Project Title: Water Quality Task Team
Crew Workers: Mark Martell and Richard Martell



★ L'Ardoise L'Ardoise Water Quality Project

“During this 8 week project the crew from the L'Ardoise area were very busy with this summer's extension of last years water quality project. Most of the time we (commonly known as “The Waterboys”) were on the road delivering information on safe drinking water throughout the L'Ardoise community and answering any questions which the general public had about safe drinking water. In addition, the

students arranged for water testing (having samples shipped to the lab) for the those wishing to have it tested. We also held an information session/bottle pick up at a local festival and it was a great success.

We'd like to take this opportunity to let everyone know what a great summer we had working for the NSYCC and would, without hesitation, recommend it to other students. Peace.”



NSYCC Community Partner: Eskasoni Band Council
Partner Community: Eskasoni, Cape Breton
Project Title: Recycle Initiative
Crew Workers: Aaron Paul & Patrick Jeddore

Regarding the youth corps program in Eskasoni, there were two youth corps workers in our community Aaron Paul and myself, Patrick Jeddore. Our project was to educate the community of Eskasoni about waste management. Our goals were to set up display and pass out brochures throughout the community along with going house to house. There are about 800 houses in Eskasoni and we visited about 200. We also did a display at the annual Powwow. So we had a few hundred visitors there which was a better success than going house to house. We were also conducting a composting action plan. Some residents were already participating and some residents were interested in composting. In the 8 weeks of participating in the youth corps program Aaron and I learned a great deal about team work and working with an outside organization besides our own community of Eskasoni. We wish that the youth corps will continue to participate with Eskasoni in this good cause for the future to come.



*Thank you,
Wela'like*





**NSYCC Community Partner:
Atlantic Coastal Action Program(ACAP)
Partner Community: Sydney
ACAP Crew Workers: Tara George and
Brian Burns**

“Where do we begin? For the past 8 weeks both of us have participated in numerous projects taking place within our own community in Sydney, Nova Scotia. We both agreed that this summer job working for the NSYCC, as well as the Atlantic

Coastal Action Program (ACAP), has made a positive impact on both of our lives. We both gained a better appreciation for the environment and utmost respect for those individuals who may be out there trying to help make improvements to this special place in which we live. Some of the project work we carried out this summer includes litter clean-ups; maintenance of ATV fording sites; installation of digger logs (30+) at the Baille Ard Trail; plant/insect species collections @ the Baille Ard Trail; sediment mapping throughout the Cape Breton Regional Municipality; salinity testing in various lakes, streams, inlets and estuaries within the municipality; lab analysis, performed at the University College of Cape Breton, pertaining to various sediment types (sand, gravel and mud); and public presentations throughout the municipality, including a display about composting and recycling at the Seaside Dayz Event in Dominion, and an open house and environmental day camp program held at ACAP during Sydney’s “Action Week”. We both feel that working with the NSYCC has been a very rewarding and positive experience. Having the opportunity to learn about so many of these projects that are taking place was amazing. Meeting and working with a great group of very knowledgeable individuals was awesome. We both appreciate what ACAP has been doing to try and promote awareness to the people within our own community and thank the NSYCC for allowing us to have the opportunity to work for such a great place.”



NSYCC Community Partner: NSEL - EMC
Partner Community: Sydney
Project Title: NSEL Office
Crew Workers: Jill Gardiner and Heather Pertus

“Here at the Department of Environment and Labor we have been responsible for various duties. In our first two weeks most of our time was devoted to the front desk; this job included public interactions including submitting applications, payments, and directing the person to the proper inspector if needed. We were also responsible for operating the switchboard.

Leading into our third week we established the responsibility of responding to phone calls and letters related to a potential industrial worksite in the Cape Breton area, which was enraging members of the community. We have responded to 98 phone calls and completed 86 written responses. This issue is ongoing at the NSDEL.

Over the past 8 weeks we have typed 67 approved applications, including cover letters, for various inspectors in the office. In total, four databases were created. The concerns outlined of the residents related to the industrial worksite were incorporated into a database. The concerns from each phone call and written response were documented. The data was then used to generate a pie chart, which illustrated which issues were most concerning to the community. A database was created for the file tracking system; this will allow management to follow files more accurately, making sure that cases are review and updated regularly. Beach testing conducted in the past 4 years was recorded in database format. File catalogues were also recorded in database format.

We made two public presentations. A water conservation display was set up at the Mayflower Mall in July and at the Charlotte Street fair in August. This presentation included information for the public including water conservation onsite sewage disposal, well maintenance and water testing.”

III. Regular Summer Program : Halifax & Central Mainland Region

NSYCC Community Partner: NSEL - Solid Waste Resource
Partner Community: Halifax
Project Title: Province-wide Litter Study
Crew Workers: Anne Vigneau, Sarah Allen,
Laurelle Saccary, Jessica Wishort

Under the supervision of Kathy Palko, the crew were busy traveling around the province conducting a province-wide litter study. The study characterized litter in Nova Scotia (by item and brand) and was used as a resource in constructing a final report. Anne, Sarah, Laurelle and Jessica had a great summer exploring the province while investigating problem source for litter.





**NSYCC Community Partner: Halifax Regional Municipality -
Solid Waste Management**

Partner Community: Halifax Regional Municipality

Project Title: Greening Special Events

**Crew Workers: Heather Reed and Crysta Cumming
Kim D'Ambrogi and Huberth Leon
Bejarano (ELP participants)**

“Two students, Heather Reed and Crysta Cumming, were outraged to see recyclable, organic, and garbage materials simply piled together. The two took an oath to never let this happen again. “We’re never gonna let this happen again!” The two NSYCC participants, working with Halifax Regional Municipality Solid Waste Management, attended multiple special events in HRM during the summer of 2004. Cumming says “Our aim is to help events organize source separation and make sure they follow Municipal and Provincial laws.” “We want to showcase the province’s world class waste diversion system.” Reed comments.” More details in the attached flyer made by the crew

From the ELP Participants,

This summer Huberth and Kim of the Environmental Leadership Program volunteered to help improve matters in the Land of Composting and the World of Recycling. They accomplished this through much preparation and perseverance along with the two other NSYCCers, Crysta and Heather.

So, what does it really take to better these worlds you may wonder? Well, first they needed to find a place to enter the Land of Composting and the World of Recycling. The source of entry became events and festivals that occurred throughout the summer in Halifax Regional Municipality. But before they made their appearance they had to gather a lot of information and do some research on these events. They determined which events would qualify to get support and help in terms of 3 source separation, composting, recycling, and regular refuse. Basically any event that

would be using and providing compostable or recyclable material qualified. Some of these events included Tall Ships, Buskers, JazzFest, NBA's Hoop it Up along with many more. After all information was gathered the event organizers were contacted and were asked various questions about their efforts and preparation for a 3-source separation system. Most events already had haulers/companies hired to provide bins and collection. This completes the preparation phase. Next was the On-Site visit: This is when the group went to the events and spoke with vendors and organizers to ensure that they knew "what went where". The group also labeled unlabeled bins, ensured that they were in appropriate places, and helped to reduce contamination by using their retrieval skills. They took notes and spoke with haulers after the events so that they could determine how much organic material and recyclable material were diverted away from the Landfill. By doing this they could also go on to write Thank you letters to the organizers so that the organizers would know and appreciate that their efforts made a difference. Sometimes while on the scene the four would also directly speak with the public and increase their recycling and composting knowledge by asking them trivia on the matter. They were then given a little somethin' somethin' for their participation, and their name was entered into a Prize Draw. Other things went on behind the scenes when they were not on-site. They also created a brochure to hand out to tourists and visitors of Halifax, to inform them of "What Goes Where" so that they too could participate in helping out the World of Recycling and Land of Composting. An Event Greening Guide was also assembled and sent out to various recreational centers, churches and event organizers who could benefit from the knowledge, information and helpful hints that the Greening Guide contains. By doing these things Huberth and Kim hoped that they made a difference by strengthening and increasing the cycle within the World of Recycling and the Land of Composting. They also learned a lot so that they can continue to improve matters wherever they are and whatever they are doing.

NSYCC Community Partner: Oxford Regional High School

Partner Community: Oxford

Project Title: Northumberland Trail Education Initiative

Crew Workers: Mark Crossan and Christie McClelland

“The objective of the Northumberland Trail Education Initiative was to develop an interpretive nature trail to increase awareness of forest ecological processes with youth and community members.

The initial stage of trail development included the planning and marking of the exact route. The area along this route was assessed for ground conditions and plans were made to overcome wet areas. In the next stage, several culverts were put in place to allow movement of water at various points in the trail including intermediate parts across a swamp. Eventually, a boardwalk will be built with a lookout point and rest area. A bridge was constructed to pass over a brook and geo-textile material was laid over the swamp for the surface base. All along the trail, wood chips were placed for complete coverage of the ground.

Seventeen study plots were established at various sites where interpretive signage will be placed to capture the essence of the surrounding habitats and inhabitants. These features will be well utilized by the neighboring high school and elementary school as a part of science curriculum. Brochures will be available and will be a great asset and resource for education sessions.”





NSYCC

Community

Partner: St. Francis Xavier University

Partner Community: Antigonish

Project Title: Biodiversity Surveys

Crew Workers: Andrew Hanley and Kayla Layes

“Over the past couple of weeks Andrew and I have gotten to help out with a number of different projects. We've done crabbing, worked with turtles, mounting, nutrient analysis, plant & insect inventory, research involving estuaries (eel grass, sea level rise, dominant plant species, salt water plants vs. fresh water plants, erosion, etc.), work with the



Department of Fisheries (C.A.M.P.), phosphate & nitrate levels, and hybrid identification. We've definitely learned a lot and have kept busy.



When we were crabbing we measured carapace widths, determined their sex, and tagged them so that we could get an approximation on the population to see where it was headed.



While working with the turtles we measured their plastron and carapace's minimum and maximum lengths, their width at bridge, height, weight, and included other information relating to their behavior and habitat. The reason for working with the turtles (wood turtles) was that they have been classified as a species at risk and it was important to know different statistics about them to ensure their longevity.

Mounting was just basically taking pressed plant specimens and mounting them onto herbarium paper, creating a label, freezing them and preparing them for storage in the University's herbarium. We briefly worked on the plant & insect inventory. All in all it's been an educational summer for both Andrew and I.”

NSYCC Community Partner: Sackville River's Association

Partner Community: Sackville

Project Title: River Restoration

**Crew Workers: Nicole Saulnier, Emily
Gregus and Jorge Soto**



The Sackville River's Association and its members are dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enhancement of the Sackville River watershed. Our job was to work along side of the SRA and assist in repairing digger logs and rock sills in the Little Sackville River (all 132 of them!). There were three of us from the Youth Corps and two were part of the ELP exchange program. Working with the Youth Corps and the SRA was an amazing experience and many memories were made. We hope this program can continue for many years to come.



NSYCC Community Partner: NSEL - Protected Areas
Partner Community: Halifax
Project Title: Science Support for Protected Areas Planning
Crew Workers: Cathy Caldwell

“What do you get when you take a 31 file folders of field data and cross it with one Youth Corps worker?

A fabulous, wonderful, organized, concise, informative database!! And a gal who will never forget how to spell *Kalmia angustifolia* (Lambkill; an abundant woody shrubs found in NS forests).

My summer with the youth crops was spent working with the ecologists at the Protected Areas section of Department of Environment. I was given the project of computerizing old field reports from the 31 wilderness areas in Nova Scotia. These folders had information on physical characteristics like drainage and topography as well as biological information on forest types, canopy layers and dominant vegetation (like my friend *Kalmia angustifolia*). I inputted thousands of pieces of paper into a database with the intention of creating a more accessible means of utilizing the information. However, my summer was not entirely spent in front of the computer.

I was lucky to visit seven sites of ecological significance in the province to see first hand the forest types and plants I was typing everyday in the office. I got to canoe on serene lakes, hike through old growth hemlock forest, trudge over flood plains stroll on a beach. The best part was seeing the wildlife and the worst part were the horseflies. On a trip into the Shelburne River I even saw a black bear in the wild.”



NSYCC Community Partner: NSEL - Environmental Assessment Branch

Partner Community: Halifax

Project Title: Anti-idling Campaign

Crew Workers: Beth Sampson and Melissa Fleming

Melissa and Beth's Idling Song

-to the tune of 'Big Yellow Taxi' by Joni Mitchell

*We walked the streets
To find the idling spots
Cars, trucks, and vans
Idling in parking lots
All the people seem to say
They don't realize they idle each day
It wastes lots of gas
And hurts our planet a lot
We went to the malls
With our five thousand dollar booth
And we gave presentations
To a whole bunch of government groups
All the people seem to say
They don't realize they idle each day
It wastes lots of gas
And hurts our planet a lot*



“We had a great time this summer. We got to educate the public about how idling vehicles waste money and are hurtful to the environment and our health. We gave presentations, handed out lots of flyers and posters, and had a snazzy (and expensive) information booth at three malls in the HRM. We have also become published authors - we will have an anti-idling article in a TRAX publication in the fall! We met fantastic people, learned a whole lot, and gained awesome experience that will help to further shape our careers and lifestyles to be more thoughtful and ecocentric.”

**NSYCC Community Partner: Department of Natural Resources
Education Center**

Partner Community: Middle Musquodoboit

Project Title: Environment Education

Crew Workers: Wendy Holman



“This summer I worked at the Natural Resources Education Centre (NREC) in Middle Musquodoboit. The primary objective of my time working here was to complete a promotional presentation about this facility and the countless educational programs it offers. This involved researching the various aspects of the Centre as well as the programs it offers, compiling the resulting information, taking pictures to match the information, and piecing it together into a short, comprehensive presentation to be used by the permanent staff here at exhibitions, meetings, etc as well as put onto a CD to send out to people looking for more information on the NREC.

Each summer, the Centre puts on two one week long camps for children ages 7-9 and 10-12 which are run by the summer students. This year I had the pleasure, along with two other summer students, to run these camps. I loved everything we did in those two weeks, which included presentations from an entomologist, walks with a wildlife biologist, fantastic reptile shows, various unique crafts, and an overnight camping trip among other things. I really enjoyed working with the 42 kids who registered in these camps and feel that they, along with myself, acquired a vast amount of information about our native forests, the animals that live in them, as well as animals from a far.



I also completed a brochure on a pond located in the woodlot adjacent to the Centre. It consisted of information on how the pond was constructed, facts on the most common reptile, amphibian, insect, and plant species around the pond, in addition to a few tips to help onlookers be environmentally friendly and

effectively use what this pond has to offer. The brochure will be given to people who wish to explore the wonders of the pond in an attempt to make their experience more fulfilling by handing them information that will make their trip both more interesting and informative.

I loved working with the NSYCC, and feel that I gained invaluable experience with regards to the environment and educating children about the endless entertainment it offers. I hope that next year I will be just as lucky and get another job as fulfilling as this has been for me.”

NSYCC Community Partner:	St. Mary’s University/Nine Mile River Association
Partner Community:	Halifax/Nine Mile River
Project Name:	Nine Mile River
Crew Members:	Erin Edmunson & Penny Slight

“The summer started out with a lot of research into water quality indicators and the maintenance of our water quality probes. After about two weeks we were able to get our Hydrolab DataSonde 4 Water Quality Multiprobe into the water channel of the Nine Mile River and begin our hourly monitoring of the water’s temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. Once a week we collected the data from the hydrolab and took suspended sediment samples at our nine sample sites up and down the Nine Mile River. We analysed the data in the physical lab at Saint Mary's University, where the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Network was very helpful in teaching us the ins and outs of the lab procedures. We also spent a large amount of time in the river surveying a portion of the shoreline banks and found probable causes of environmental concern along the river.



Erin and the laptop, ready to transfer data

We were very happy to see that the river was in relatively good health and we wanted to make sure it stayed that way. We spent the rest of the summer making educational materials for the public, concerning the Nine Mile River, as one method to ensure the river's sustainability. We provided suggestions to community members on how to keep the river beautiful and healthy for future generations to enjoy. We produced a brochure which was passed out to the public in the Elmsdale area, a PowerPoint presentation for community meetings, and a final written report filled with our data and conclusions."



Penny and the Hydrolab in the Nine Mile River

**IV. Regular Summer Program:
Halifax & Western Mainland Region**

Clean Nova Scotia
inspiring environmental change

NSYCC Community Partner:	Clean Nova Scotia
Partner Community:	Dartmouth
Project Title:	Tox-Free Campaign
Crew Workers:	Matthew Thomas and Trevor Marchand

“We were involved in the Tox-Free campaign at Clean Nova Scotia. The intention of the project was to reduce the toxins that people use in and around households. In addition, we sought to educate homeowners about proper waste disposal. We accomplished these goals by administering a comprehensible and educational survey at 200 households in the Dartmouth Cove area. Those individuals that completed the survey received a Tox-Free package, which included an information sheet that was created and edited by our supervisor and ourselves. The sheet contained suggestions about less toxic and non-toxic alternatives; in addition, the sheet included avenues of proper disposal and supplies purchasing. The people who completed the survey also received free samples of either Down East (All Purpose Cleaner, Laundry Detergent), Nature Clean (Fruit & Veggie Wash) or Allen’s (Pure White Vinegar Spray).

After two-weeks, we conducted a short follow-up telephone survey with the individual to determine if any behavioural changes were made in that period of time. Our supervisor will contact these same individuals 9 weeks later to determine if any additional behavioural changes have been made in that time period. The goal of the whole project is to reduce the amount of toxins that enter the Halifax Harbour by stopping pollution at the source, thereby creating a healthy and clean environment.”





NSYCC Community Partner: Tree Canada Foundation
Partner Community: Halifax Regional Municipality
Project Title: Greening School Grounds
Crew Workers: Nicole Pettipas, Emily Gregus & Jorge Soto



U

Under The Sun

**We're the school grounds greening crew
 We watered, pruned and made sure things grew.**

**We worked as a team
 To keep the schools green.**

**We went to 20 schools
 Where we brought lots of tools.**

**Trees got more water
 On days that were hotter.**

**We worked rain or shine
 Except for lunch time.**

**We talked to parents, teachers, principals, and asked
 About projects past and if they will last.**

**It makes the community happy
 To see their school not crappy.**

**And we had lots of fun
 Working under the sun.**

NSYCC Community Partner: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Partner Community: Mahone Bay
Project Title: Mushamush River Watershed
 Management & Restoration Project
Crew Workers: Alicia Fancey & Christopher Whynot



LEFT: Support Staff Chris, Amy, Emma & Jason enjoy a site visit in the Mushamush River, Mahone Bay, with Alicia & Chris.

Working with the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps has provided both of us with the opportunity to work outdoors, and learn a lot more about the environment. Working with the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation and the Mushamush River Restoration project has been an awesome experience. We repaired some previously installed digger logs and also had the opportunity to install logs that will block off braided sections of the river. We spent a lot of our time out on the river working, collecting bugs to identify and we also got to work at the Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Festival and the Lunenburg Tall Ships! “These were great experiences as well. We would like to thank NSYCC for an awesome summer!”



NSYCC Community Partner: **Salmon River Salmon Association**
Partner Community: **Meteghan**
Project Title: **Salmon River Restoration Project**
Crew Workers: **Alain Belliveau & Danielle Comeau**

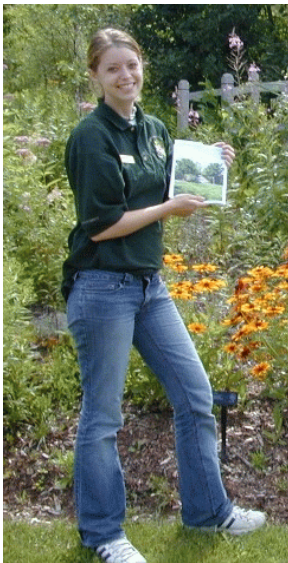
“Summer 2004 was truly the best summer of all time. We spent a fair amount of time outdoors, got the opportunity to learn lab techniques, and at the same time helped our municipal community as well as our provincial community. We didn't meet a single person who wasn't kind-hearted, outgoing and who loved the environment; like Amy Hunt and Roland Leblanc just to name a few. We've learned so much and had so much fun this summer and will never forget this memorable experience.”





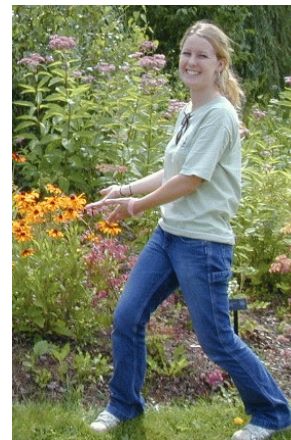
**NSYCC Community Partner: K.C. Irving Environmental Science
Center and Harriet Irving Botanical
Gardens**

Partner Community: Acadia University, Wolfville
Project Title: Native Nova Scotia Gardens Project
Crew Workers: Holly Stewart and Michelle Simpson



“We spent our summer working at the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens. Our main objectives at the centre were to provide group tours of the building and the gardens, and create display signs and brochures for the centre. We also worked hands-on with the Medicinal and Food garden, helping with planting and weeding, and watered the indoor conservatory daily to keep its moss and trees looking lush and prosperous. Our main priority was to educate our visitors about endangered flora of the Acadian Forest Region, and how it is entirely possible to have a gorgeous garden using only native plants.

We developed the tours to our own style, and came up with a children’s tour which is environmentally oriented and geared more towards fun activities and realizing the importance of nature in our lives. This included a meaningful story under the giant weeping willow. For our visitors with a green thumb, we would make endangered species and native flora our primary theme. The whole experience this summer was amazing for both of us. We learned so much and had many laughs and good times. We couldn’t have asked for a better summer. We would like to thank the NSYCC for this opportunity.”

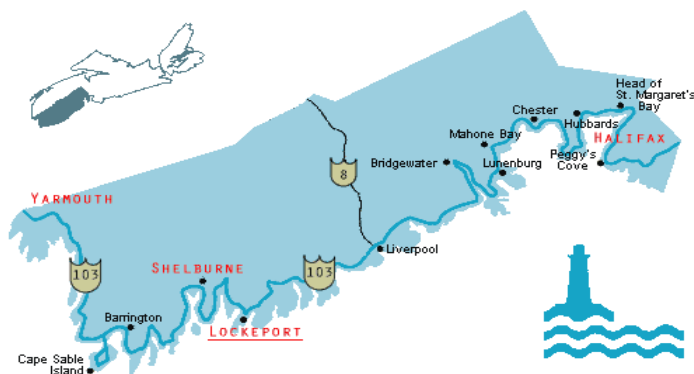




NSYCC Community Partner: Recreation Department, Lockeport
Partner Community: Lockeport, Shelburne County
Project Title: Rood's Head Park Restoration
Crew Workers: Melissa MacLeod & Sarah Whiteway

“Our main priority for Rood’s Head this summer has simply been to give it a head start and we are proud to say that our community’s park is now on its way to a brighter future! After being neglected for years, we have helped provide a new beginning for the park. With the work we’ve accomplished this summer, we have made a tremendous difference. Phase I projects such as litter pick-ups, clearing brush, trimming bushes, raking, painting and restoring vandalized buildings for an outdoor interpretive centre is all part of our summer’s hard but worthwhile work. This project, which we hope will be sustainable, has given us a new outlook on the environment. We now realize how precious it is and have learned to appreciate it much more than before. By making the community aware of our work, through the local media and a display at the tourist bureau, our hope is that the community will take pride in Rood’s Head and protect it as an outdoor community resource.

In addition to restoring the park, we also implemented a Nature Daycamp and Beach Daycamp during which we introduced local children to the environment through stories and outdoor exploration. Even when the weather was against us, we led sessions on topics such as recycling and pollution prevention. We have already witnessed a great improvement in the children’s ability to pick up garbage and separate it accordingly. A learning experience for all!”



NSYCC Community Partner: Town of Lunenburg
Partner Community: Lunenburg
Project Title: Lunenburg Municipal Pollution Prevention Program
Crew Workers: Chris Sutton and Jerylin Jardine

- **Gardening:** “throughout the summer, most of our time was spent beautifying the Town of Lunenburg. This included pruning, weeding, planting and replenishing.
- **Street Tree Program:**
 First, we researched ten trees that we found unique and attractive for the town. After researching, we actually visited the Springvale Nursery in Berwick and made sure the trees we decided upon were suitable for the town. The next couple weeks were spent creating brochures, information forms, advertisements, newspaper ads, order forms, etc.
- **Surveying:** Together, we visited over 300 houses and surveyed over 100 of those houses on water and energy conservation! We also provided residents with information on what they could do to improve our environment!
- **Farmers Market:** For two Thursday mornings, we set up a booth at the farmers market to educate the general public on issues such as water and energy conservation, low maintenance gardening and household hazardous waste products.”





NSYCC Community Partner: Yarmouth District Office - NSEL
Partner Community: Yarmouth/Digby/Clare
Project Title: Waste Management
Crew Workers: Nicole Oliver and Katherine Dugas

“Water, water every where,
 Boy that well sure stinks ;
 Water, water, every where,
 Boil it before you drink!



We spent our eight weeks in Yarmouth, which is a relatively short trip from home (Digby). Our community partner was the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. Through our job we were able to help prepare for the Congrès Mondial Acadien, which was special to us both since we both have Lack-a-dee (L’Acadie) relatives. This meant that we had to travel around Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties in a beat-up old truck to make sure that everyone registered as a *public drinking water supplier* (PDWS) was sampling their water and also to register any others along the way that met the requirements of a PDWS.

Despite the unpleasantness of issuing boil water advisories, getting kicked out of establishments for representing the government and being swamped with mounds of paperwork there were a lot of positive aspects to our job. We got to visit restaurants, hotels and campgrounds that we would never have otherwise had the opportunity to visit, we made a few really good friends and got to visit a few old ones, traveled around some of the prettiest places in the province and got paid to boot! Most importantly was what we learned about the environment.”



NSYCC Community Partner: Waste Check
Partner Community: Yarmouth
Project Title: Pollution Prevention, fiberglass boat-building Industry
Crew Workers: Joel Doucette and Ashley Deveau



“Our summer experience with the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps has been an amazing experience. The lessons and hard work we put into our project will last us a lifetime. The beautiful memories we have will help brighten every occupation we now encounter. We’ve experienced many interesting and helpful people, as well as the local communities involved. This wide variety of experience gave us knowledge of how the public and government operates. We visited different boat shops and explored their waste challenges and solutions. Many of the boat shops as well haulers, landfills, and municipalities were very helpful and interested in our research. Their interest made our project easier and more enjoyable. We got to do a lot of traveling and see some wonderful sights. We had an adventure everyday!”



V. En-Vision 2004

The NSYCC recognises that there are many young adults around the province who have developed or would like to develop ideas for projects that are aimed to improve the environment at the community level. The NSYCC will provide support (both financial and other) to individuals and groups of youth aged 17-27 who submit a proposal to the Youth Corps under the new program. Successful applicants will be provided up to \$5,000 to develop and or carry out a community-based environmental projects.

Project creator: Ciana Chiasson
Partner Community: Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Project Title: Monitoring Enterococci Levels at Three Popular Cape Breton Beaches

“Cape Breton has a history of beach advisories issued due to high bacterial counts. My goal was to try to develop a predictive model to determine when bacteria counts will exceed acceptable levels. For four weeks, I monitored bacteria counts, weather conditions, the location of sewage outflows, and the number of swimmers at three beaches in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.”

Project Creator: Ellen Field
Partner Community: Big Cove YMCA Camp Pictou Co.
Project Title: The Garden Project
Crew Workers: Kate McDonald and Deilyn Acuna Salazar (ELP Participants)

It's Big Cove Camp's Earth Rangers here, Flow, Aeolian, and Bald Eagle. We are here to tell you about our summer working on the Big Cove Garden Project and with the Earth Rangers. Although it hasn't been the best growing season our garden has broad beans climbing up the trellis, leafy spinach and greens, huge summer squash and pumpkin plants, beets, peas, carrots, broccoli, kale, and cauliflower. The kids have been helping us weed this garden as well as the kitchen herb canoe. This organic garden has been used this summer to show children first hand where their food comes from and what it looks like before it ends up on store shelves.

We have also created Breakfast Express which is a game where kids measure the distance their breakfast has traveled. In keeping with a sustainable design we created a water collection system which diverts rain running off the Arts and Crafts roof through hoses to the garden. The first day the system was used we collected 1000 litres of water which we have been using for our garden and canoe beds.

The earth education program has been a huge success this summer! Kids explore the natural world using their senses through experiential activities. These include earth walk games such as Coyote & Deer, Find-Your-Tree, human camera, and camouflage. We also run programs in bow-and-drill fire, shelter building, fishing, talking circles, beach exploring, night walks, and magic spots.

This summer has been an amazing experience all around for each of us!! We will now leave you with a song that was written by cabin Andromeda Session III, 2004 which they now sing for the entire camp.

BIG COVE GARDEN SONG:

It's the Garden
The Big Cove Garden
You take some water and some seeds
And you pull out all the weeds,
At the Garden
The Big Cove Garden

You take some veggies from the soil
And you put them on to boil
At the Garden
The Big Cove Garden.



Project Creator:

Tamara Moss

Partner Community:

**NSEL Environmental
Innovations - Halifax**

Project Title:

Pollution Prevention

This project was developed for the purpose of developing various initiatives aimed at pollution prevention. This included the development of a Lesson Plan Success Story for the Green Office Challenge; Web layout and organization of the IntraNET departmental P2 plan; Creation and delivery of a bicycle safety presentation; and the Development of a departmental vehicle LOG to track vehicle usage with government wide transferability / application. Additional research into Pollution Prevention options for the NSEL Pollution Prevention Plan and research of environmental awareness tools for Salvage Yards were also carried out.

VI. *Environmental Leadership Program (Costa Rica)* 2004

The Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) was established in 1993 as a partnership between the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps, the Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador and Taller Internacional de Servicios (TAIS), a non-profit environmental and community development organization in Costa Rica.

A cross-cultural exchange program between Atlantic Canada and Costa Rica, the ELP exposes youth aged 20-24 to community-based environmental education and activities in both Costa Rica and here at home. The ELP involves youth from Atlantic Canada (six from Nova Scotia, six from Newfoundland, and six youth from Costa Rica) in a four month experiential learning program between mid-April and late August.

Youth aged 20-24 from Nova Scotia and Costa Rica pair up to work on community environmental projects in both Nova Scotia and Costa Rica. The program also involves youth from Newfoundland, who work in Costa Rica on environmental projects but do not return to their home province with a Costa Rican counterpart. Only the Nova Scotians are paired up with a Costa Rican counterpart.

This year ELP participants worked on project with the NSYCC regular summer crews in the following area's:

Sackville River Association - pg 16

Tree Canada - pg23

HRM - Solid Waste Management - pg 12

Big Cove Garden Project - pg 31-32



VII. Environmental Youth Exchange (Ireland) 2004

Environmental Youth Exchange

Friendships
Fota Wildlife Park
Patience
A.C.A.P.
Weekly Reports
N.S.Y.C.C.

Host Families
Wood Turtles
Cobh
Road Trips
Community Projects
Jim Mustard's
Nova Scotia
Adventures
Canada
Leadership
Cultural Experience
Debriefing

Cape Breton
Baille-Ard Trail
CAMPING TIPS
Ring-Tailed Lemurs
Ireland Ireland
Cork
Community Partners
Character Building

Wood Turtles

A Once in a lifetime opportunity!

For more information on the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps and its

programs please contact:

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WORKING.**