



The official Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps

Summer 2002

PEOPLE AND NATURE, WORKING,

Volume 24 Issue 1

Youth, Continuing to Improve Nova Scotia's Environment and Communities

By Heather Carmichael, Emily Harris, Amanda Cherpak, and Josh McLean 2002 Support Staff

Well it was another great summer for the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (NSYCC)! A special thanks to all of the youth who worked very hard on our projects. This year over 50 Nova Scotian youth participated in 21 community-based environmental projects in the province. This summer marked the 13th anniversary of the NSYCC, and our youth crews worked in July and August on at least one of our five different project categories: environmental education, solid waste management, watershed management, pollution prevention, and climate change.

This year also marked the 10th anniversary of the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP). ELP is a cross cultural exchange program where Nova Scotian youth travel to Costa Rica and work on community environmental projects for six weeks. These youth then return to Canada with a Costa Rican counterpart, where they join the rest of the Youth Corps crew members and work to better our communities. This year's ELP was a great success, and a wonderful opportunity and experience for all those who participated.

The 2002 Youth Corps crews started



their summer in Truro with the annual training camp. The crews were trained in first aid, occupational health and safety, WHMIS, media skills, communication skills, and more. After the three day camp, the youth were back home working on their projects for the remainder of the summer.



Throughout the summer, our crews had the wonderful opportunity to learn, teach, and gain valuable work experience. Just as important, they created environmental awareness within their communities and helped to improve the local environmental concerns. Bringing our communities together, and helping to create a healthy environment for us to live - what an amazing way to spend the summer!!! We greatly appreciated all their hard work and dedication, and wish all of our 2002 crew members the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Now let's see what the crews had to say about their summer:

Children are not the Future - They are the Present

Our children are the present of our communities, societies and planet. Investing in their development is investing in the development of our Earth. Our global community is in need of new leaders, the youth of today can be the change.

A major part of our 2002 summer experience was interacting with children, both learning from them and with them. Our trusty van, "Puppy" lead us through the woods of Antigonish and Guysborough County to visit different recreational day camps. The camps are setup to provide children with various activities in capacity building, artistic development and social interaction. The focus of our



environmental activities was through non-formal education which involves participation and interaction in groups. Our methodology involved interacting directly with the children to cultivate a seed that will grow, blossom and branch off to be multiplied through interaction with others. This is possible because children are not only great learners, but also great teachers.

Much of our time was also focused on local businesses in Antigonish and Guysborough County. They are seen as a symbol and are crucial to our community development and social welfare. As symbols they set examples within the community. When visiting businesses our main objective was to provide awareness on solid waste legislation and mandates. Businesses that comply to the regulations are viewed as positive role models in their communities. Their actions are witnessed by all, and if we don't assess and challenge the businesses then our children of today will be faced with the problems tomorrow.

Each obstacle in life is the material that builds bridges to cross towards our goals.

Together we can build bridges.....

Jerry Mora and Mark Stewart -Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee



River Denys Watershed Association

The River Denys crew has been very busy this summer sprucing up MacIntyre Brook, Big Brook, and Kennedy Brook. We removed blockages, analyzed



work done in previous years, and transported potential digger logs. Once we had the logs at the entrance of the brook, we started carrying them down to the farthest site , but soon found out that floating them down the river was a much easier system. We also had some excitement when an algae substance was found on the bottom of Kennedy Brook. Slides and samples were taken so local biologists could study this unknown substance. During August we worked on placing the digger logs and also got a demonstration in electro-fishing by John MacMillan, from the Fishing Association in Pictou. Overall, it has been a great summer with the NSYCC. Thanks for everything!

Jennifer MacLean, Natalie Matthews, Travis Ellis -River Denys Watershed Association

Life in Mineville



The enthusiastic chirping of the birds along the edge of the field plays a tune better than the massproduced

products on the radio. As the NSYCC members spread fresh soil and sprinkle grass seed upon the parched field, we eagerly await the arrival of midsummer rains. The energetic members of the NSYCC are Tabitha Taylor and Jacob Thompson. Our friends from HRM are Andrew Christianson and Julie Elderidge.

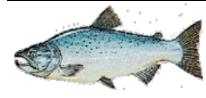
Every Tuesday, we held a children's Enviro - Education session. They learned about various plants and animals while enjoying the outdoors! We surveyed over 130 birdhouses, to make sure they were in proper working condition. We were also building a park with a playground and walking trails and also planned a summer fair, where we could share our progress with our neighbours.

Natural places are a wonderful way to get in touch with nature; this park has the potential to inspire a love of the natural world and bring hope to a whole new generation of people. When we help the community clean up garbage and waste, we're also encouraging respect for the environment. This work enables us to make a difference, and it's really fun to have that challenge.

Life is about many things, one thing for sure is, it's about overcoming challenges.

Tabitha Taylor and Jacob Thompson -Mineville Community Association





A Recovery Story: Clifford and the Cobequid Salmon Association (CSA)

Hi, my name is Clifford and I am a recovering brook. I remember only four short years ago I was a real mess. I was overgrown, my banks were eroding away and my bed was a mess. Then one day, when all my fish friends had departed for better waters and I was at my lowest point, the CSA came to my

rescue. They showed me structure and helped lead me down the right path.

Thanks to the CSA, I have been on the road to recovery since 1998. This has been an exceptional year. The 2002 CSA crew has always been there for me, keeping me on course through digger log maintenance, removing blockages and helping me restore my natural state. My fish friends have noticed too! Thanks to the CSA crew there are more fish, frogs and turtles frolicking in my waters than ever before.

I would like to send out my deepest thanks and waves of appreciation to the following people: Jon Westoll, Sarah Chapman, Tim Shreve, Evan William and Jay Crewe. These people, these five wonderful young adults, have done more for me than anyone has ever done before. I would like to wish them well and say that their hard work will ripple throughout Cobequid.



Jay Crewe, Sarah Chapman, Jon Westoll, Evan William and the disappearing/reappearing Tim Shreve -Cobequid Salmon Association, Truro

The Litter Abatement Bunch

Here's the story, of four young ladies, Who were informing most convenience stores, Of the regulations that they must follow, Including bins outside their doors.

It's the story, of a man named Mike, Who was busy supervising these four gals, Together they were Litter Abatement Coordinators, And they quickly all became great pals.

Some days on the road they had some troubles, Often they were met by a cranky bunch. They just smiled and kept on going, Cause they are the Litter Abatement Bunch.

The Litter Abatement Bunch, the Litter Abatement Bunch, That's the way we became the Litter Abatement Bunch.

Stephanie Cox, Sarah Flynn, Caitlin Goggin, and Sarah Jadot NSDEL Solid Waste Division, Halifax







"I feel that I've made a significant difference in the community. This project will have positive long term effects in our community."

- 2002 NSYCC crew member

Phil and Rory Strike Back

Going to the corner stores was so much fun For Phil and Rory in the summer sun They started each day in the office with style Only to hear the secretary yell, "Smile!"

Early every morning they hit the street Swarming their isle like the British fleet As they crossed the island they spread the line "A failure to recycle equals one big fine"

The corner store owners, the bad guys in this tale Responded to this message with fire and hail Some store owners repeatedly cursed us to hell Quoting the extra cigarette packages they'd have to sell

Other store owners put up no fuss They simply sat quietly in the corner and listened to us So there's our summer in all its fun form Now it's time to head off to our university dorm

> Philip Sampson and Rory Gillis NSDEL Cape Breton



The Meteghan Crew



What a gloriously wonderful summer we had: educational, transcendental, and pretty darn entertaining. Basically, our job consisted of fish habitat restoration at a local waterway, Germaine Brook. We spent countless days cutting branches and clearing debris, slinging mud at our fellow co-workers, while soaking in the somewhat foul-smelling river water. However, don't mistake our colourful sentences for complaints, we enjoyed all of it.

For every hour spent in the foul-smelling water, a similar amount of our existence was readily spent on the classification of aquatic invertebrates. The latter process included sorting samples of river debris, picking out the bugs, studying them with microscopes, and classifying them to order.

Also, we built a model stream bed to illustrate how digger logs and rock sills help to reshape streams and rivers so the fish populations can repopulate these areas. This model was displayed during a local festival to encourage the community's understanding of our work.

Hmmm, what else? We went seining! (Broodstock collection) By this autumn, we must catch 30 fish. The fish will be sent to the hatchery in Coldbrook, NS, where they will be spawned. The eggs produced will then be given to the Salmon River Salmon Association and will be raised and released locally.

Overall, this summer was worth it and we hope next years crew has as much fun. Thanks to the Youth Corps for giving us the chance to experience all this.



Christiane German, Jeff White and Yvette Gaudet - Salmon River Salmon Association, Meteghan



Pictou County Solid Waste - Watching Your Waste

We're here with our summer report Direct from our Mount William Fort To make some quick cash, we went digging through trash Reminding people what they should sort.



Our summer was filled with waste audits, parades and education sessions. We sifted through compost bins, recycling and garbage bags. We conducted our waste audits; not because we love the fresh aroma of garbage, but to make sure the people of Pictou were sorting their waste the right way. In July we posed as the Pictou County Solid Waste's mascot, Sensible Sam, riding on the "recycle your waste" float to help spread our good advice.

We learned the ins and outs of recycling, reducing and reusing. We were even shown how to reuse the returned green carts. People turn in their old bins for replacements, but they're still usable. The old carts just need some TLC, mostly some scrubbing. Thus proving the truth behind the words of the Great Homer Simpson *"Its just a little greasy! Its still good! Its still good!"*

Josiah Jordan and Beau Mackenzie - Pictou County Solid Waste

Food

As far as the eye can see, the deep green of contented potato plants. Whisps of wind seem to dance with this expanse of hearty growth rooted in dark maritime soil. A stubborn plant native to harsh and unforgiving lands, the potato has for ages been the best and often only friend of peoples who shared the edges of the world with rock, sea and will. These providers of life till their own soil and ask for little more than inches through which to send searching their roots. In exchange mans existence is made bearable, people have loved, sang, created and died fueled for countless seasons on this miner. Last summer, it rained, water carried the pesticides and fertilizers of these plants down hill and twenty five hundred fish died in the river below these fields.



Estimates declare that this top soil is being depleted eighteen to eighty times faster than its being replenished. A closer look shows the plants are lacking most of their usual companions, insects friend or foe and greenery to co-exist with. Less and less we seem to share with our mother, and now rob her. Some large companies solved this problem with a math equation, it costs them less money to spray their fields with pesticides and avoid farming sustainably by keeping this possessed land juiced up with imported fertilizers until finally all that is wanted is taken, and life raped is abandoned for another factory farm up the road.

The Nappan Project is a demonstration of sustainable farming and a co-existence amongst the plants and creatures of our area. The projects founder Jason Blanche strives to remind us how to share by living healthy and being conscious of both the needs of people and the environment.

Aaron Beswick and John Mckiel - The Nappan Project

"Thank you so much for this inspiring life adventure; I will always work in this line of work from now on." - 2002 NSYCC crew member

PORT, HOW-DID-YOU-DO-IT?

We have completed a great deal of stuff since our grant started. We cut clean



up time after Granville Greens on Sundays in half, and improved peoples knowledge about how important it is to recycle by speaking on three different occasions in front of thousands of people on how much we would appreciate everyone's help. Tammy was up on stage at the Granville Green talking about how there are now blue bags attached to the garbage cans, and that it would be greatly appreciated if everyone would help us by using them. We cleaned up the Crandal Stick river by breaking the three dormant beaver dams and removing all residue from the water.

Now the river is ready to have spawning logs put in it (to create pools), and later to be able to put fish in the water. Also down at the Creamery we made sure that the front is clean and looking Green and that the flowers were watered and looking beautiful (since there are many events held there). At this gathering our Supervisor thought that it would be a good idea for us to be there and realize how much people abuse the fact that the garbage cans and blue bags are provided for them. So, this was a turning point for us to realize that we wanted to make a difference in the way that the people used these. We had a great time this summer and believe that it has made a huge difference in the way that the town looks.

Tammy Dingwell and Nadine MacDougall - Port Hawkesbury Parks and Recreation



The Ballad of the Bushwackers

We read the job description We sifted through the jargon We finally understood it was a water conservation garden Then they gave us a rake, a pitch fork, garden shears They showed us the site, we said, "We won't finish for years!"

Refrain:

Now we're working, working, working our way Working our way to the graveyard Oh, the ants they attack our heads The work it is brutal, and hard (pause)

They saw what we had finished after the first day Then they said, "We'll get some raingear as soon as skies are grey," We thought that we'd do some research but it wasn't meant to be Turns out we cannot stop 'til we've chopped every single tree!

Refrain

Our bosses are great, and our arms they are sore But that's okay because they'll soon look just like Thor's We might bitch a lot, but it's really okay Now let's eat like there's no tomorrow!! Refrain (x2)

Natasha Duchene, Francine Smith, Alex Barboza and Kathryn Creaser Town of Lunenburg, BACAP, NSDEL









Two Ice Caps and a Coffee Please!

It was bright Monday morning and out on the street Were the three liveliest girls you ever did meet They went door to door with a big "Hi! Hello!" Hoping the residents would be pleased to tell all.

We talked about water and hazardous waste How recycling was going and how the water did taste We played with the kiddies on Enviro-Fun Days Had info sessions which were fun in many ways

We made friends that liked monkeys and quacking at ducks Handing out flyers and driving in Danielle's truck After doing the surveys and having info sessions We'll be at the Ex, showing the residents' confusions

We put up posters, setting our stage who would have known we'd make the front page? Cleaning up Oxford and making people aware "That water is precious, Treat it with care!!!"

Allison Moore, Danielle Dorn and Becky Casey - Town of Oxford

"I feel that our work helped better aquatic-life habitat and will benefit future projects."

- 2002 NSYCC crew member

Jessica and Michelle are Getting Down to Business!

Though we are not getting down and dirty like many Youth Corps crews, we are getting down to business. Stationed at Open for Business Halifax, we have been hard at work promoting green businesses to entrepreneurs. Our summer started with researching and planning, a stage that connected us with useful contacts such as RRFB, Clean Nova Scotia, and the Eco-Efficiency Center. With their help we developed a waste review process that OFB now offers to their clients. We also had an opportunity to promote ourselves at the Buskers Festival 2002.



To reach the younger, aspiring entrepreneurs, we have developed a program within the Break Into Business Camp for kids. This program consists of recycling games with prizes, a video, and some fun educational facts. Our goal is to reach out to the other OFB sites in hope that they will follow in our 'Greening Your Business' footsteps.

Jessica Gilbert and Michelle Manson -Open for Business, Halifax

" I would recommend this to others because it will educate you and it really makes you feel good knowing you took part in preserving the earth!" - 2002 NSYCC crew member



Checking Your Waste

<u>So you ask:What does Waste Check mean anyway?</u> Waste Check provides waste reduction awareness, education, and program support.

<u>What does Waste Check do?</u> We conduct curbside monitoring to see how our southwestern residents are separating their waste.

How do you monitor people's garbage?

Actually, the way we monitor the communities is by following the garbage trucks on their routes. They can tell us what is in the bags and compost bins.

Doesn't following garbage trucks all day get smelly?

It only smells really gross if the wind changes, or if you have to get out of your car for some reason.



Do you know Oscar the Grouch?

Yes, we do know Oscar. But he asked that we not comment about him in public

Jessica Robicheau and Crystal Langdale - Waste Check





News Flash: Youth Research Newest Workout Fad

Two young women worked at the Fales River as part of a fish habitat restoration project. While fixing the river for fish, however, they also experienced the newest trend in muscle building.



The Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) has been running a fish restoration project on the Fales River, in Greenwood, NS, for the past three years. This summer, the project was lucky enough to have two volunteers from the Environmental Leadership Program.

One of the young women, Cate Trueman, is from the nearby town of Berwick, while Nelly Rodriguez has come all the way from Costa Rica. The girls are working with three other youth, as a crew on the project.

Some work included the strenuous task of installing a digger log, the tedious work of transporting rock into deflecting structures, and moving an entire dumptruck load of basalt rock by hand and wheelbarrows. The crew continued to move load after load of rock, until the large rock structures were complete. Following that, they began work to secure large fallen logs to the river banks.

"It's nice to work outside, and at the same time we build strong muscles by moving the rocks into the river", says Nelly. "We are not only helping provide better habitat for fish, we are also discovering a great new way to get buff", adds Cate. Nelly comments, "By the end of the summer we should be able to get additional employment as female bodybuilders!".

Cate Trueman and Nelly Rodriguez - Valley Watershed Association

Working With Nothing But TRASH!!

Recycling, Garbage, Compost, Oh no! Please tell me, where does it go? If you're not sure what to put where; Just call CJSMA and the Youth Corps will be there!



Our summer was filled with nothing but trash talk and gabbing about garbage. We, the Youth Corps working for Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority, at the Cumberland Central Landfill worked with nothing but trash all summer. We were first taught the proper way to recycle and compost; then the fun began. We traveled around the community educating people about the proper way to source separate their waste. We set up booths at local events and visited some of the local childcare facilities to educate the children. We even had a *little* fun and made crafts with



them.

Our summer was filled with variety. Never bored, we tried to get the big picture of what goes on here and we did everything from working in the scale house, separating recyclables in the recycling facility, to educating the public. We even became local celebrities by getting plenty of newspaper coverage and writing and recording advertisements on the local radio.

We really enjoyed our summer, by learning lots of new skills and having **lots** of fun. We would like to thank Brenda Kellegrew, the Solid Waste Educator and Bev Cooke the Solid Waste Manager for making our summer rewarding. Thanks for always

smiling and for making us laugh every once in a while. You guys are great. **Stepanie Reid and Adam Wile** - Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority " Thank you NSYCC, for making the world a better place." - 2002 NSYCC crew member



Tale of the Trail - NPISUNEWAWTI'J (Medicine Trail)

We talked; we discussed; we looked; we arranged; we walked; we read; we filled in forms; we began!

We cleaned up the parking lot; we cleaned up the Gathering Area; we began to clean up the Trail; we guided tours of the Trail; we went to the Training Camp; we made a float for Bear River's Annual Cherry Carnival parade! Phew!



We cleared more of the Trail; we began to put wood chips on the Trail path; we did a Community Presentation for children and their parents; we cleaned more; we 'wood chipped' more; we stained the wooden bridges along the Trail; we cleaned up old branches; we clipped and carried away bushes; we removed garbage; we talked more; we discussed more! We guided another tour of the Trail; we continued to clean; we continued to wood chip....to clip and carry...to talk and to discuss...!

And all through this time, we worked on creating a brochure for the Trail; research, writing, listening, writing, describing, writing, more research, more writing...

And so it goes.....And we love what we do!

Melanie Meuse and Freddy Harlow - Bear River First Nation





Leaving A Trail...

Cape Breton's Sydney group set many goals for the summer. With a little-known walking trail in need of promotion, we first set out to blanket the city with brightly colored flyers. As word of mouth spread and curiosity peaked, we were busy walking the trail ourselves and becoming familiar with its many charms. Hours were spent bagging plant samples, examining the stream banks and tree species, listening to birdcalls, and taking plenty of pictures.

However, much time was logged at the offices of ACAP Cape Breton, our community partner. The Baille Ard Nature Trail website began its first stages of creation, and research was

performed in conjunction with more promotional ideas. It wasn't long before radio stations and newspapers heard of the trail, and a promotional brochure was soon spread throughout Sydney's hotels and tourist bureaus. A more extensive interpretive nature guide is in the works, as is an educational guide for local schools, and all should come to a head at our Grand Opening on August 24th.

Our group anticipated the opening date and were busy preparing for all that it will entail. We've had a wonderful summer with our nature trail, and will hopefully leave behind a new Sydney landmark that others can enjoy for years to come!



Randy Ward, Jennifer MacNeil, Neil Wilkie, and Genna Murphy - ACAP Cape Breton

"This is important because it's the first real time that someone has appreciated my work and I was taken seriously as being a smart, responsible, youth. I would like to thank NSYCC for a landmark in my life."





Mahone Crew

- 2002 NSYCC crew member

There once was a crew from the Bay Who worked harder for nature each day From morning to night They put up a fight Against polluters of nature - hooray!

Nosotros salvemos el mundo. The difference we make is profundo We work just like dogs When we lug large logs It's loco but ice cream's segundo

Soon the summer will come to an end We must say adieu to all our new friends Adios, good-bye Au revior - don't cry I will see you around the next bend

Tim Simon, Cliff Worden-Rogers, Yadriela Rodriguez and Lindsay Welsford -

Bluenose Atlantic

Coastal Action Program





Waste-Resource Education in Eskasoni

Thissummer, three young people from Eskasoni have been working with the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission. The crew has been spreading the word about the importance of practicing the 3 R's - Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. The crew has been busy developing and delivering educational materials to the community's 3500 residents. Currently, Eskasoni does not have access to a curb-side recycling or organic program. However, it is expected that a program will get underway this fall. The youth corps crew of Shane Simon, Carolyn Stevens, and Tuma Marshall have ensured that the community will be ready for it!

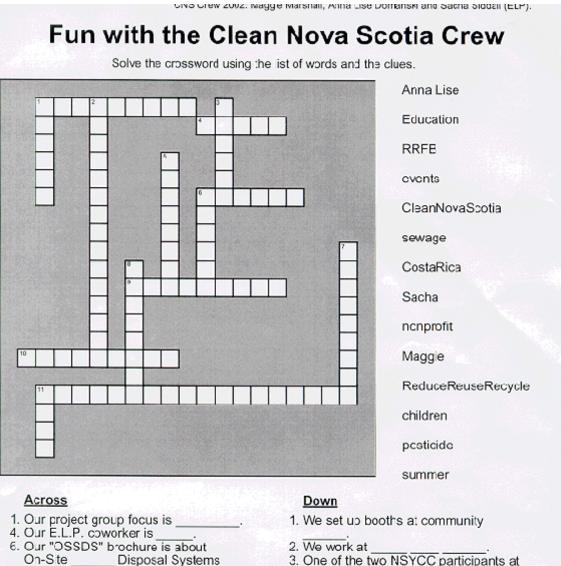


"People are more aware of water conservation, hazardous waste, and other ways to improve the quality of life by saving/preserving the environment."

"I feel great about what I did this summer. First you look at the river and the water is not flowing. Then after you're done it looks like a river. That's a great feeling!"

"I have accomplished the feeling that I've grown up and to be taken seriously, and that I will be alright to move on to other things in my life."

- 2002 NSYCC crew members



- S. Clean Nova Scotia is a _____
 organization.
- The E.L.P. program involves an exchange with ______.
- 11. We teach about these 3 Rs.

- One of the two NSYCC participants at Clear Nova Scotia.
- We talk to _____ at day-camp presentations.
- We hope everycne has had a great
- 7. We look for bugs and help give permits.
- One of the two NSYCC participants at C.N.S.
- 11. We are partnered with the _.____





2002 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP). This year six Nova Scotian participants traveled to Costa Rica with six youth from Newfoundland. Working with six participants from all over Costa Rica, these Canadian youth worked on various community environmental projects. The Costa Ricans and Canadians arrived in Canada at the end of June, and worked on fellow Youth Corps projects for the remaining two summer months.

This year's participants from Nova Scotia were: Sacha Siddal, Jay Crewe, Lindsay Welsford, Kat Creaser, Cate Trueman, and Mark Stewart. The four Costa Rican counterparts that came to Nova Scotia were: Yadriela Rodriguez, Nelly Rodriguez, Jerry Mora, and Alex Barboza. As a result of the ELP these youth will take away many life skills; including competency with another language, cross cultural understanding, leadership skills, and a developed environmental consciousness. Gracias amigos, Suerte.



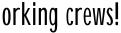




And Thanks from all of us (the NSYCC staff) to all of our hard











PEOPLE AND NATURE. WORKING.

Your communities and local environment have benefitted from your work, and this is something to be proud of. We wish you the Best of Luck in all that you do!

For information on the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps please visit our website: www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ess/ycc

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