

Summer 2003

# nsycc News



**The Official Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps.**

**Volume 25 Issue 1**

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**Youth, Community & Environment**



**People and Nature Working**

**Brought to you by: Kathryn Creaser & Eshley McClair**

**This summer started when a crew of superstars were discovered throughout the small nooks and crannies of Nova Scotia.**



**Over the summer this eager group of youth demonstrated their dedication towards the environment in their communities as well as developing skills and abilities useful for future endeavors. Recognizing all the hard work done this summer, we would like thank all the crews and their supervisors who made this summer a success.**



**The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps celebrated its 14<sup>th</sup> year by supporting the greatest number of community environmental projects ever! The 29 projects located around the province represented five categories: Climate Change, Environmental Education, Pollution Prevention, Waste Management and Watershed Management. These projects provided employment for 59 youth. Supporting more projects than ever provided more opportunity for larger project diversity. Crews worked on cleaning rivers, cleaning communities and even the sea of waste and debris. Others created maps of environmentally important areas, educated people about anti-idling and the importance of source separation outside the home.**



**The NSYCC does not only focus on projects in Nova Scotia they, have expanded their horizons by offering exchanges which provide youth with the opportunity to work on community projects outside Nova Scotia. For the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row youth from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Costa Rica have participated in the Environmental Leadership Program. The first two months of the program are spent in Costa Rica followed by two months in Nova Scotia. The youth design their projects with respect to the environment and community in which they live.**



New this year was the Environmental Youth Exchange where a partnership was formed with the University College of Cork in Ireland. Four youth from Ireland joined four youth from Nova Scotia for the first five weeks. The eight then returned to Ireland to complete the last five weeks of the exchange. This program encourages youth to assess the needs of their communities to determine where their energies should be focused.



This year the number of En-Vision Projects expanded to seven. Located at various locations around the province, the projects ranged from a Youth Corps video to water education for children. This program allows youth the opportunity to design their own project within their communities for the summer.

**Hey, what's your environmental vision?**



From the training camp on we knew that great things were going to be accomplished during the eight weeks. All of our crews worked extremely hard this summer to accomplish not only the goals of their projects but individual goals as well. Throughout the summer they gained valuable experience, transferable skills and made a few lifelong friends along the way.



**We are extremely proud of all of you and wish you all the best in the future.**



**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

**- Maragret Mead**



# Watershed Management



## LeMoine Development Association

Students working for Le Moine Development have had a busy summer. They spent many hours going from home to home in Le Moine area getting responses for surveys regarding their septic systems. Fortunately, after completing these surveys, close to 3/4 of the population was in favour of a

Waste Water Management

District for their region. We also had water testing done to give us an approximate idea of what kind of shape people's wells were in. Out of 20 homes tested, 12 were positive for coliform. One of the things we were trying to

determine is if bad septic systems have a link to malfunctioning wells. As of now, we have not gathered any solid evidence, as to whether or not there is a connection. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps for this employment opportunity.

**Crew:** Robert Chlason

Renee Lucas

Victoria Co.

Stewards of the

## River Denys Watershed Association

Over the past eight weeks, we had many interesting and fun experiences. We met lots of new people and made some important connections (DFO for example). Probably the most important part of the job was that we help to make improvements in our own community.

Our favorite experience was our two weeks in Big Brooks where we helped DFO install rock sills at the old mine site. We also had fun helping Sauna Barrinton with her research.

The training camp in Truro was a great experience where we gained a lot of useful skills and met some very cool people. All in all, working with the NSYCC was an awesome experience in so many ways and we recommend it to students.

**Crew:** Jackie Bird

Corrine Goyetche

Inverness Co.

River Restoration  
Interesting People  
Valley Mills  
Environment  
Rock Sills

Digger Logs  
Educational Presentations  
New Experiences  
Youth Corps  
Shoveling Rocks







## Valley Watershed Stewardship Association

**The chatter of frail wisdom instills fear into the backbone of displayed enlightenment**

**Vacant conversation mauled and overridden by technique, data and selfishness**

**We, the bones, nerves and muscles know not of past war, but only the one that infests and cries capitalist pity**

**Stronger symbolic stature as the time sheds light onto somber and picturesque silence; a realization flowing only with educated maturity**

**And finally the forgiving passage into a couple's creation that makes the future of conforming to a passion worth so much more**



**The summer has been a blast with lots of activity. Starting off with educating ourselves on the ecological aspects and projects associated with the Valley Watershed and then using our new found knowledge to enlighten the public, we attempted to inform people through a mall display. With little success, but now informed about**

**World War 2 via a senior citizen we decided to regroup and try a new approach. Since the children are our future we decided to try to catch their interest and get them enthusiastic about the environment through games and activities. This program is designed to educate the children on water issues and some of the wildlife that is at risk due to the state of our water systems.**

**Every week there were water quality tests to be done at set stations along the Cornwallis River Watershed. Through these tests we monitored pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and coliform concentrations.**

**The highlight of our summer was our great experience canoeing the Cornwallis River with a couple of DFO students. The picturesque beauty and silence of parts of the river opened our eyes to see what we are ultimately working to conserve. We took water samples at different points along the river and did riparian zone assessments. Although parts were easy going, it was definitely not a smooth ride down the river because of the debris, blockages and cows in the river, but now we know the areas that need future attention.**

**We have thoroughly enjoyed our summer and are impressed with the knowledge we have gained and the interest that has been stimulated in us. Thanks to NSYCC and VWSA for this great experience.**



**Crew: Craig Peters  
Sarah Sabean  
Kings Co.**



# Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation



**Ashley "Hot Stuff" Thimot**

There once was a girl from  
Bridgewater.  
Many a horsefly she did  
slaughter.  
She was the river's best guard,  
Because she worked very hard.  
You'd swear she was Mother  
Nature's daughter.



**James Saxby**

There once was a boy from  
Mahone Bay.  
He had the first initial of "J".  
He racked up the miles,  
Doing it in style.  
On river foes he did prey.

**Crew: James  
Saxby  
Ashley  
Thimot  
Lunenburg Co.**



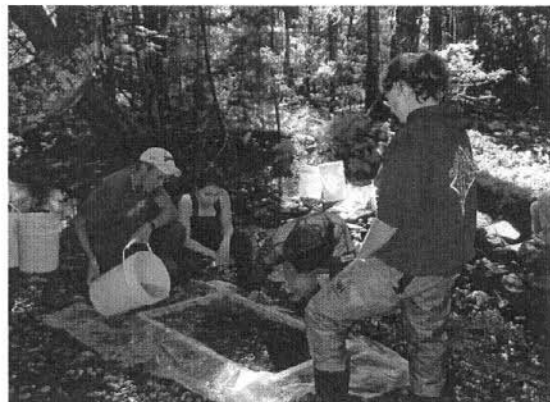
# Salmon River Salmon Association



Depuis 1998  
l'Association des  
saumons de la Rivière-  
aux-Saumons (ASRS) a  
un partenariat avec la  
Nova Scotia Youth  
Conservation Corps (NSYCC), ce qui  
permet, à chaque année, un emploi  
d'été pour 2 ou 3 jeunes.  
Bref, j'ai eu la chance à travailler avec  
la NSYCC comme une employée d'été  
avec l'Association des saumons de la  
Rivière-aux-Saumons dans Clare. Ce  
qui ma permit de m'approcher de la  
nature et me sensibiliser à la réalité de  
la santé pitoyable de nos rivières. En  
plus, j'ai vue que l'Association des  
saumons de la Rivière-aux-Saumons,  
joue un rôle vital  
dans la  
restauration et  
la préservation  
de nos rivières.  
Pour plus de  
renseignements  
sur l'Association  
des saumons de  
la Rivière-aux-



Saumons contactez Roland Leblanc a -  
[saumon@scolaire.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:saumon@scolaire.ednet.ns.ca)



**Crew: Ghislaine Comeau  
Jacques Comeau  
Digby Co.**



## Cobequid Salmon River

### Association



Around here, there used to be a lot of salmon, In the rivers, they be jammin' People polluted and fished, until there

was none. That made fishing, not as much fun.

This is the part where we come in. As restoration crew, we always had a grin. In the rivers we did slave, for it is the fish we wanted to save! Those pesky digger logs, we did maintain. But never did we really whine or complain. We did river assessments and caught bugs. But the best part was when Jeff ate slugs. We made a mall display, that did bore us. Whew, this is starting to get hard to rhyme. But its okay, this is our time. We trust you have enjoyed our summer as a poem. Those rivers, well, we really got to know 'em.

Crew: Scott Hubley  
Steven Hartling

Colchester Co.

## Sackville River

### Association

A group of summer students working for the Sackville River Association presented to association members gathered for a meeting last Thursday. Wendy McDonald and Stephen Caines are spending their summer with the SRA conducting digger log maintenance on the Little Sackville River. The eight week project is being funded by the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps.

"This has been a good hands-on experience" said Caines. "As the days go on, you get a better perspective of

the state of the Little Sackville River."

MacDonald said she has gained a better understanding of how development affects natural environments. - The Weekly News-



Crew: Steven Caines  
Wendy McDonald  
Halifax Co.

## Shubenacadie Canal

### Commission

We held an environmental presentation for the community explaining the environmental tasks taking place within our project. We discussed the importance of silt prevention and the installed silt curtains along the shore of Lake Charles; to prevent silt runoff. We also built a rock wall along the trail to prevent erosion and stabilize the banks of the trail.



Crew: Kristoffer Archibald  
Jacob Boyd

Halifax Co.





# Waste Resource Management

## Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour The Source Separation Song :

Twinkle, twinkle, compost bin  
How I wonder

How many apartment buildings you're in  
Up above the ground so high  
Or hiding in the basement, dry

Twinkle, twinkle, compost bin  
I'm going to find out

How many apartment buildings you're in

Twinkle, twinkle, re-cycling  
How I wonder

How many apartments are source separating

My project for this summer is  
To visit these buildings and document  
who is...

Recycling, composting, apartment buildings

How many of them  
Are source separating

Twinkle, twinkle, source separation  
Needs everyone's participation!



Crew: Sarah Flynn,  
Halifax Co.

## Joint Services Board

This project has been a very educational journey. Through researching the internet and finding out information from local fisherman we have become very aware of what is going on with fishing waste. This knowledge has made us interested in the problem. Being

interested in the situation caused us to do better work towards solving the problem because we've become concerned. This is a problem that will take longer than just eight weeks to solve completely. However, over the summer we created awareness that may cause fisherman to stop throwing their waste overboard and dispose of it in the proper way. One long term recommendation would be plastic fabrication plants to make plastic that decomposes quicker in the ocean. This has been tried before, however, it costs more to make than the current plastics. If the federal government could help out with these extra costs then that may be enough incentive for companies to continue to make more fisherman friendly plastic. Having dumpsters available for recyclables and garbage along with green-carts for compostable waste will give the fisherman a place to put their waste in the right place. Another possible solution could be to design a waste station for onboard the fishing boat. All in all we gathered a lot of information and it helped us develop a more complete picture of the situation of fisherman and their waste. This is definitely a project that needs to be continued.

Crew: Dennis DesChamps  
Trista Kirchner,  
Stelburne Co.



**! Catch Lots of Fish  
Here is the Key**



**Don't Fill the Sea  
With Waste & Debris**

### **Marine Litter Affects the Fishing Industry**

- \* Materials dumped into the ocean do not breakdown easily and can cause serious damage to the marine environment.
- \* Marine litter can cause injury and death to marine animals such as fish and lobster. This means that there are fewer for fishermen to catch.
- \* Litter in the ocean can cause damage to boats, resulting in costly repairs and lost fishing time.



# Waste Check



## Our Memories

From Cleaning... To Greening.

**CAR WASH**

Let's get cleaning!!

YouK, I spilled rotten food on my pants!!

Really? Thanks!!

Did you know that waxed paper such as that popcorn bag can be composted?

... From Teaching... ... To Reaching... ... From Planning...

OK, now we're going to play...

Stop, punching me!!

La deda

**CAR WASH**

This is so gross!!

Now, how are we supposed to do this in the rain?

Welcome To Dairy

NO IDEA

... To Canning... ... From Digging... ... To Plogging

Yuk, I have found the Bathroom Bag!!

Nachos, Juice and Doughnuts

hmm... nachos and Cheese

When Doughnuts

You guys eat so much at these parties

... From Bringing... ... To Ringing...

Hello, we were just here to drop off a new cart but it seems that your old cart just needs to be fixed, so we'll send...

I WANT A NEW CART!!

Hello, my name is Samantha... I'm from Waste Check and...

You need pick up my Trash Trash GRRR!!

Even with all of the not-so-fun things we did this summer we sure did make some memories.

Crew: Samantha Rideout & Denise Stone Yarmouth Co.



# Region 6 Solid Waste Management



When we started this job we were given a book of festivals to identify events to green. At the South Shore Exhibition we had nineteen waste stations. We also had a booth set up, it had a display and a game with prizes to draw in the crowds. We were given access to the entire grounds including the stage for a presentation with Moby the recycling Robot. Other festivals we greened included the New Ross Community Festival, Sam Slick Days and a blueberry supper at the Forties Community Centre. This supper was a huge success. There was absolutely no contamination. The single bag of garbage that was produced was made up completely of Styrofoam. Waste stations are imperative to diversion at events and festivals. Educating the public is an important component of greening an event. One must make the effort needed to create awareness about waste separation.

We also looked at the current status of Public waste in Region 6. In the province of Nova Scotia, people are regulated to source separate within their homes. Currently there are no permanent multi-stream waste stations on any public streets in Region 6. This is an issue that has come to light and municipalities are ready to address it. Other municipalities outside of this region have already put these waste stations in place. The target areas of study were business districts situated on the waterfronts of Lunenburg and Windsor. Upon visual inspection of the bins, it was apparent a large percentage of waste from each town come from the waterfront establishments. With the

possibility of over 75% diversion in both towns, it is obvious that the placement of multi-stream waste stations is justified. Having such a great amount of waste diversion along the busy waterfronts of each town would lift a great burden from the respective landfills.

People should have the same option of separating waste in the public as well as in their homes.

**Crew: Ryan Jameson  
Crystal Winters  
Queens Co.**

## Eskasoni Band Council



**Crew: Jill  
Googoo  
Cape Breton Co.**

**Eskasoni Recycling Program**

**ILIWE'WASIK**



**Curbside Recycling Pickup**

**Less waste=  
Cleaner environment,  
healthier community,  
stronger economy**

**What is going to happen?**

- Starting in the late fall of 2003, recyclable materials will now be picked up at your curbside in blue bags.
- These materials include: beverage containers, newspapers, flyers, office paper, corrugated cardboard, steel/tin food containers, select plastics.
- New by-laws will make these materials no longer acceptable as part of your garbage.

## Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority

Conducted a recycling audit and a garbage audit. Recorded temperatures, pH levels and moisture levels of compost piles. We also conducted curbside audits.



**Crew: Josh Furlong  
Emily Rector  
Cumberland Co.**



# Pollution Prevention



## Town of Oxford

This summer, the goal of the 2003 Oxford Crew was to increase awareness about composting, recycling, and waste reduction in general in the Town of Oxford and surrounding areas.

Some of the things we are doing to accomplish our goals this summer are: walking the town and doing door to door surveys about composting and recycling, and hosting "Fun Days" for kids which are fun, but also educational at the same time. We are also creating information pamphlets and packages to give out to the public, hosting information booths, and also washing and distributing compost pails for residents of the Town of Oxford. We are also hosting a Clean -Up Day to help decrease all the waste that accumulates in town.

Working with the NSYCC has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience so far. We have learned a lot about the environment, have gained people skills, gained more confidence in ourselves, made lots of new friends and contacts and had a fun time doing this job. We recommend a summer position with the NSYCC to anyone!

**Crew: Nick Rushton  
Shannon Simpson  
Cumberland Co.**



## Town of Lunenburg

Once upon a time there were two high school graduates.

They are two very different people. One was into science and partying, the other into computers and Star Trek. But there was one common interest that brought them together, the environment.

So here they are, they both nailed their interview for an environmental job with the NSYCC and off they go to work. First day with excitement in their eyes, their supervisor says, "Weed!" And so the plague of weeds begins. They go over and weed two gardens, come back and rake. One almost got heat stroke and the other was sweating like a pig. Disenchanted but still hopeful the two walk home dirty and sloppy.

Days pass and the weeding continues; the weeds never seem to stop. There were some breaks when they were working in the Medicinal Garden, 250th Garden, and the compost site. You see these two workers just wanted to make a difference. They want to make an impact for the environment.

Then one day a savior came in the form of team leaders. When they knew of the weeding plague they said, "May you never have the duty of weeding streets again, the plague has been lifted. Be happy and rejoice."

So the two NSYCC workers went back to work. They got to work with the public, they got to educate on environmental issues. Now they feel they are finally making the impact they longed to make.

**Crew: Julia Beresford  
Robert Wilneff  
Lunenburg Co.**





# K'Ardoise Economic Association for Development :

## **Tales from the Water Girls**

We've come to the end of the 8 weeks  
And over that time we've met lots of freaks  
We'd enter their houses to test their water  
But in the end it made our minds broader.

One man cursed and was very rude  
He kicked us out with a bad attitude.  
One woman asked Michelle, is that your girl?  
We laughed but inside we were ready to hurl.

A crazy man talked about bikes and wood  
Another creepy one was far from sainthood.  
Charlie's young renter had to be evicted  
The space on that floor was very restricted.

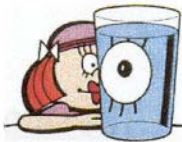
They weren't all bad; for example the mayor  
He said we were pretty, and doing the town a favor.  
The turkey-lady just wanted the birds gone  
And when they came after us, they weren't like swans.

It wasn't just the people that stuck in our minds  
The houses and animals were one of a kind.  
Big and small, clean and smelly  
Stinky water that had to be sampled by Kelly.

We weren't always having fun outside  
Sometimes we'd preferred to have died.  
Endless printing and an unreliable lab  
We worked in the C@P site and built up quite a tab.

At first we thought the bus was a good idea  
But he was so late that we thought he went to Korea.  
Despite fragile stickers, our coolers would break,  
They're there for a reason, for goodness sake!

In the end we found some scary results  
So before you take a drink, you may want to consult  
A testing facility because you can't tell  
If there's something lurking in your well!

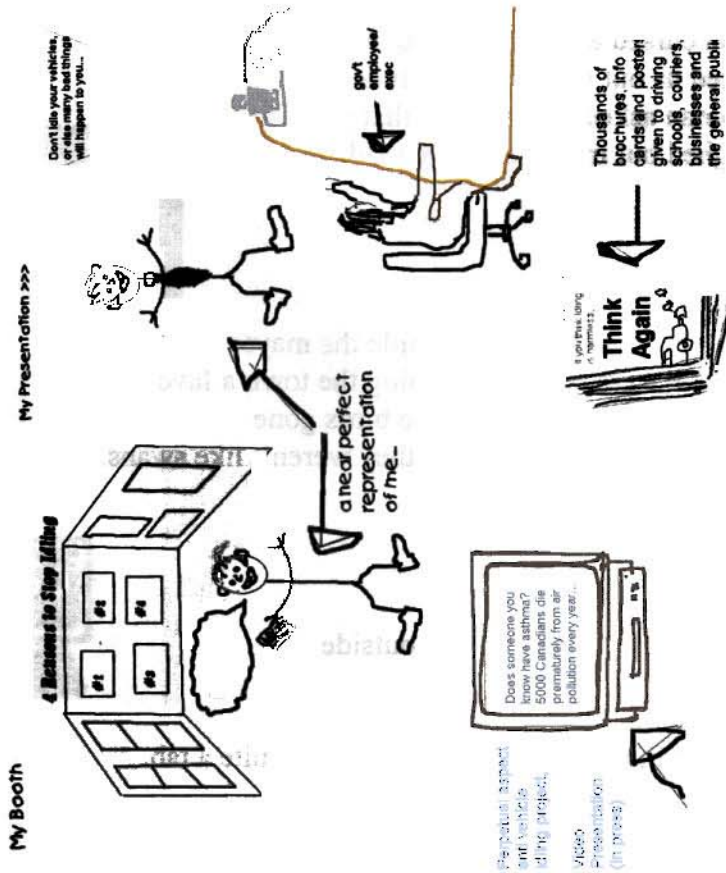


**Crew: Michelle Samson  
Kelly Mombourquette  
Richmond Co.**



# Climate Change

## Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour :Environmental Assessment Branch

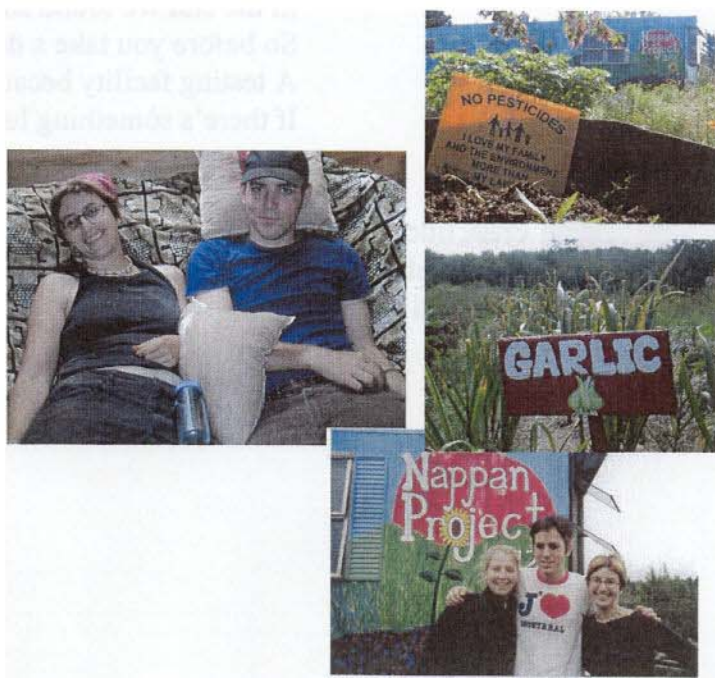


Crew : Martin Day  
Halifax Co.

### The Nappan Project

We learned a great deal about our workplace over the summer and have become both excited and inspired while working here. We are hoping to pass this on to others, and prompt them to think about their impact on the environment and make efforts to change their lifestyles for the better.

Crew : Derrick Dixon  
Fannah Tudiver  
Cumberland Co.





## Atlantic Coastal Action Program- Cape Breton **Yellow Fish Turn Up In The Municipality**

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP)-Cape Breton, and members of the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (NSYCC) have been working together to increase public awareness about the effects that storm drain pollution have on our streams and oceans.

There are four members from NSYCC who are working on this project, Alison Howie, Elizabeth MacCormick, and Carrie Robertson, who live in the CBRM, and Gabriela Elizondo Segura, who is on an exchange program from Costa Rica.

We have been re-painting the yellow fish along storm drains in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality as part of a public awareness project. The

yellow fish serve as a reminder that any chemical or hazardous substance that enters the storm drains directly ends up in our local waterways. " I think this project will help create public awareness about reducing the pollution in the water. Seeing the yellow fish sparks interest because people stop and ask questions. I think this project is a very good example for other cities and countries," says Gabriela.

This project has been important in many different ways. Not only does it bring awareness of environmental issues to different communities, it has been a great experience to the girls who have been working on it. For Alison and Elizabeth, meeting Gabriela has been quite the learning experience. Not only did we get to learn about the culture of Costa Rica, but we also picked up a little bit of Spanish. The four of us became instant friends, making it very sad to say goodbye to Gabriela and the other students from Costa Rica at the end of the summer.



Working with the Youth Corps has been nothing but a positive experience, and we have all made memories that will last us a lifetime.

Hey You!

Have you seen the yellow fish around,  
Painted by storm drains on the ground  
They are to let people know,  
What is happening down below.  
When people pour chemicals down storm  
drains,  
It puts us fish under great strains.  
So with these chemicals, dispose of them  
smart,

Because everyone has to do their part!!

Crew: Allison Howie  
Elizabeth MacCormick  
Gabriela Elizondo  
Carrie Robertson







Moved  
Brush → Richard  
Megan

Cleaned out  
pond →

Planned Kids  
day's Volleyball court

Kids day Activities!

Kids →

Presentations on pesticides  
Dog and drilled Wells.



computer  
(Research)



Mineville Community Servers  
Sure!

- Located Bird House.  
- Figured out weaver Trails.

That it is! → Bird House

Crew: Allison Dube  
Richard  
Sutcliffe  
Halifax Co.



## Clean Nova Scotia

Before Preston Clean up:



The Clean up:



Crew: David Provo  
IsaToya Saunders  
Matthew Thomas  
Micheal Williams

Halifax Co.







## Bear River

This summer I have learned more about the medicine trail than I knew before. I got the chance to meet a lot of great people and the chance to work with people in my own community. After having done this project I learned a few things about my self that I did not know before. I enjoyed doing this project even with the ups and downs. Whoever gets my job next year all I have to say is that it's a challenge some days but it is fun.



Crew: Amanda Pearle  
Louis Thompson  
Annapolis Co.

## Cumberland Regional Development Association



Cape Chignecto Provincial Park is a 10,000 acre natural environment park on a dramatic coastal peninsula on the Bay of Fundy. It is managed and operated by a volunteer board of community residents with the administration and organization assistance of CRDA.

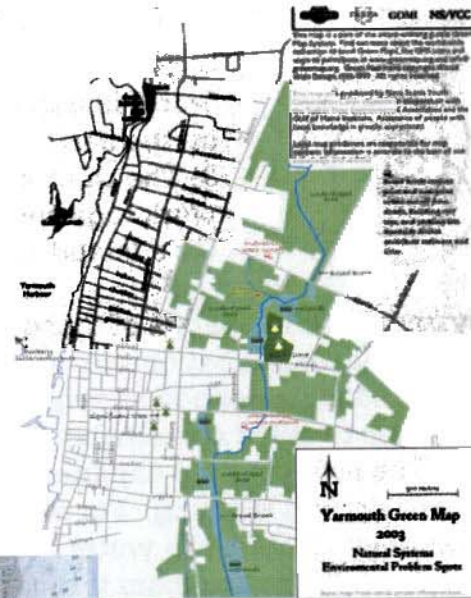


Crew: Dave Shepherd  
Cumberland Co.

## Tusket River Environmental Protection Association

### Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Green Map Project

This project is in progress. It was started in the summer of 2003. The work on the project was supported by the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps who supported our student workers (David Gorman and Melissa DeViller). Financial assistance was provided by the Tusket River Environmental Protection Association and the Gulf of Maine Institute. The Gulf of Maine Expedition Association provided guidance and material support. The project is being done in association with the Green Map System.



Crew: Melissa DeViller  
David Gorman  
Yarmouth Co.



# **Gaia Island** AQUAMORPHS ARE SAVED!

**Local kids crack the code.**

We are Aquamorphs from Gaia Island! Have you heard of us before? Probably not since we are a lost civilization. An Aquamorph is a creature that is made up of many different water depended creatures. Gaia Island is having a water crisis and we spent this summer asking many different groups of kids to help us find solutions to our crisis. Our Queen Lavonda has had a vision that she is convinced will help us solve this crisis. In her vision she saw 3 symbols

but she does not know what they mean.

In order to help find the meanings of these symbols, we hired 4 humans Ebb(Rosie), Flow (Miley), Tide (Emma), and Swell(Molly) to be our secret decoding agents. Emma and Miley came to us through the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP), Molly was hired through the Youth Corps and Rosie is their fearless supervisor. We have also asked the kids to come out to a secret decoding center at Bayswater Beach to help the decoding agents with their mission.

The kids have discovered that the meanings of these symbols are

- 1) The middle symbol means that water is necessary for all life
- 2) The bottom symbol means that our water travels around the world in a giant cycle, but there is only a finite supply of water on the earth.
- 3) The third symbol means that all of us here on earth have to work together to come up with solutions to the water crisis on Gaia Island and in our own communities

They found the meanings of these symbols by participating in activities which were based on Earth Education principles. The Earth Education approach promotes deeper understandings, feelings and appreciation for the earth, while encouraging individuals to make sustainable lifestyle changes.

The activities are experiential because they invite the kids to take an active role in their own learning. For example, the kids act out a movie, which takes them on a journey through the water cycle on a hydromobile. On this journey they ride on rain drops which take them through evaporation, condensation, precipitation, freezing and the flow of water towards the ocean.

At the end of the program each kid is asked to take one small step in their homes to help save clean water for the Aquamorphs, the Haligonians and all the other creatures on earth. A big thank you to everyone from us the Aquamorphs!  
**LONG LIVE GAIA ISLAND!**

Crew: Rosie Kerr, Emma Larson-Ure, Miley Ecuna Salazar, Molly Pope

HE&IFAX, Co.







## Ross Creek Centre for the Arts

It's hard to believe the summer has gone by so fast! We (Zach Richardson and Krista O'Connell) were hired as NSYCC members to work at the Ross Creek Centre of the Arts, which is located in the Canning area, outside of Wolfville. This picturesque property is currently under construction. Eventually, the restored farm building will be available to the general public and will serve as an area used largely for artistic creation. The gardens on the site are completely organic, and there is also a trail system that extends through much of the forest that is also part of the expansive property

Our job with the NSYCC involved completing a wide variety of tasks throughout the summer, most of which focused on the aesthetic enhancement of the area. We were very involved with the on-site gardens, and worked at making topsoil, weeding, planting, watering, trans-planting and general maintenance. Working with volunteers gave us valuable community experience and also allowed us to meet others in the area. We peeled several logs which were used to make an archway in the garden area.

The other major portion of the project involved working on the trail system. After we had determined what had to be done to improve the system, we designed and painted signs. After these had been put up, the rest was mainly clearing and cutting. And lots and lots of ANTS!!

Another exciting part of the summer was the opportunity to be involved with the annual Ross Creek Summer Festival. We helped with the setup for the festival and also attended the weekend events. There were artisan booths, a performance by Zuppa and a concert by Ian Janes- The weather put a bit of a damper on things, but overall, it was a success.

We also did MANY other tasks but will not mention them all here. Just a few included: carrying hay, building tables, painting tables, tearing apart fencing, building a fence, clearing out a wood shed, putting up tents; we could go on... Overall, we had a great summer. Thanks to Murray Lynk, who was a great boss and friend. And thanks to everybody else at Ross Creek who made our summer so rewarding

That's it! We hope everybody enjoyed their projects, had some fun, and learned at least one new thing they will take away when the summer ends. Good luck!

Crew: Krista O'Connell  
Zack Richardson  
Kings Co.

## Town Of Port Hawkesbury



Waterfront and trail beautification and education to reduce the footprint of public.



Crew: Scott Harvey  
Patrick McCann  
Richmond Co.



# E.Y.E. 2003

## Environmental Youth Exchange

### Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps



**“During the time I spent working in Spryfield, I not only helped the community, but in doing so, found that I already played an important role in the community, just by being in it, like every other member of it. It is up to us how we use our roles, and this far, the EYE Program has shown me a positive way of living in my community that I will not leave behind with this experience.”**

**-EYE 2003 Participant**

**“I have definitely become more environmentally aware since the program began. Even without the program though, just being in Nova Scotia and seeing how people recycle and things like that, just showed me that people really can work to make the environment better.”**

**-EYE 2003 Participant**

**“This program showed me that it is not difficult to live a normal life and be environmentally aware at the same time. It has also given me the initiative to try and make a difference myself by changing the way I do every day things and hopefully through my college course on a larger scale.”**

**-EYE 2003 Participant**

**“...I have learned so much and grown so much as a person, and this will shine through in Canada and for the rest of my life. Thank you to everyone who has made this experience possible for me.”**

**-EYE 2003 Participant**

**Erin Dempsey  
Ryan MacLeod  
Shane Kaiser  
Jessica Drohan  
Supervisor: Katie Abriel**

**Kiara Burke  
Alan O'Connor  
Fionn Rodgers  
Aileen Cudmore**







# Leades House

by Katie Abriel

Look at what you've done to me.  
I'm starlight  
in the sunshine,  
Picking stones from the secret garden.  
A stream diversion  
Wheelbarrow fingers  
The path of stinging nettles  
softening into rows  
of potatoes, rhubarb and sweet peas.  
Whimpering puppies at my feet  
Playful kittens kiss my cheek  
Cups of tea  
and a recipe  
for today's lunch.  
Community  
here at the hearth  
after a swim at the waterfall  
Laughter fills this old house  
and the sound of the great grand piano  
in the sleepy afternoon,  
The warm summer air  
breezes against the bamboo trees  
A good book  
and my rubber boots  
is all I need,  
This is paradise  
This moment,  
which cannot be stretched,  
could be heaven.  
The road before me is rich  
with the smell of wild flowers  
and endless possibilities,  
The stone folly  
our meditation seat  
reconnecting to the earth  
with my hands  
and my feet  
digging deep into the dirt.  
My mind is wide awake  
Hoping to remember  
all the many things I'm learning here.  
Thank you.





# Environmental Leadership Program

# 2003



*"I would recommend this program to everyone and anyone because, by far, this has been the best experience of my life! I learned a lot about environmental and social issues and have made life long friends!"*

2003 ELP Participant

The Environmental Leadership Program has successfully completed another year! I would like to thank all the important people that have made it happen. It is an amazing program and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this experience. It enabled me to watch 12 participants grow and develop as individuals, global citizens and as a family.

Thanks Gabriela Elizondo, Carrie Robertson, Gabriela Perez, Jen Davis, Miley Salazar, Emma Larson-Ure, Donald Varela, Curtis Young, Danny Jimenez, Mark McDonald, Danny Duarte, and Patrick McMahon, the 2003 Environmental Leadership Program participants.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*Margaret Mead, Anthropologist*



# En-Vision: HEY! What's your Environmental Vision?



**En-vision** is a new program of the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps. The NSYCC recognizes 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 be providing 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.

## Here are the 2003 En-Vision Projects!!!!

**Christine McDonald      Solid Waste Management Assessment Project at Ski Ben Eoin**



Ski Ben Eoin now has a membership in excess of 4000 and traffic through the facility can easily exceed 10 000 persons on busy weekends. Solid waste management is an issue they deal with everyday. I conducted an independent audit of the entire process respecting solid waste management.

**Lindsay Welsford**

**NSYCC Educational and Promotional Video**

I produced a video documenting the NSYCC, the projects and participants. I captured the great people, events and projects on video giving others an opportunity to gain insight into the inner workings of the NSYCC.



**Stacie Carroll      Youth Environmental Stewardship and Outdoor Education Program**

I created a youth led environmental awareness program that gave younger people the skills to understand the relationships between ecosystems and consumption of natural resources.





My goal was to co-ordinate a solid waste resource education program for the residents of Eskasoni.

### Elison Parsons "Pesticide-free lawn and garden care" Public Education Program

My goal was to educate and assist people within the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to practice pesticide-free lawn and garden care with an ultimate goal of reducing pesticide use within the community.



Laura MacInnis

Video Production - illegal dumping and Sydney harbour as a resource

My goal was to educate people through the development and production of two quality 10- 15 minute videos concerning such environmental issues as: illegal dumping and a second video that will focus on the ecological and environmental importance of Sydney Harbour as a resource.

### Myriam Hammami Environmental Leadership Program in Applied Sustainability Project

My goal was to compose an intense 2-4 week summer environmental leadership course geared towards university students at the Morton Centre, Acadia University in all fields of study.



#### Criteria for funding:

- youth must be between 17 and 27 years of age
- the project must not extend past 4 months in length, and can be as short as one day
- the project must occur within Nova Scotia
- youth must develop a budget and be able to show that 50% of the total project (can be in-kind) does not come from the NSYCC
- the project must involve environmental education
- the youth must submit a final report at the end of the project period

#### Application Process:

Youth are asked to write a brief (max 3 page) proposal outlining his/her project. This will include a description of the project, as well as a time line and a budget. Please explain why this project is important, and who will benefit from the project. As well, please identify which Nova Scotian community the project will take place in. If there are any other groups or individuals providing resources to the project, please attach a letter of support if possible.