Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps



People and Nature. Working.

NSYCC — **M**AKING A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps is a division of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. We fund environmental projects throughout the province that strive to get youth involved in community-based projects. We have four main branches of projects: Environmental Education, Air Quality, Waste Resource Management, and Watershed Management. If you have a project that falls within these categories, why not check out our website for more information on how to apply.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

A fast food survey is uncovering the issue of improper waste sorting in local restaurants. This summer, Region 6 Solid Waste Management and the NSYCC hired two students to conduct research on quick service (fast food) restaurants for Solid Waste Management. Throughout the months of July and August, Dana Hazeldine and Matthew Randall visited various locations in Region 6 to discuss the issue of proper solid waste sorting with the owners and managers of quick serve restaurants. The information gathered is placed into a databank which will serve as a reference for Region 6 Solid Waste. The data will be used to design a more efficient system to sort the waste produced by restaurants. Over 40 restaurants in Region 6 were visited and both a bin survey and a questionnaire were completed. Of the restaurants visited, 58% sorted recyclables, 41% sorted organics and only 39% sorted refundables. "Hopefully this survey will help more restaurants put proper sorting bins in place" says Matt Randall. Monitoring the new Region 6 sorting bins in the Liverpool and Bridgewater areas was a side project which will determine if the sorting bins are being used correctly. "You wouldn't believe how misused the public sorting stations are" says Dana Hazeldine. Quick Service Restaurants Proper Sorting Techniques Crew: Matt Randall & Dana Hazeldine (Liverpool)

SORTING OUT CONFUSION

This summer we've been working for the Municipality of West Hants and as of April 1st, their residents are supposed to be using clear bags for garbage and to sort recyclables into two blue or clear bags. When we started, it was our job to go door-to-door warning people that their garbage would be left behind if they didn't start using clear bags. After one garbage rotation (2 weeks) the garbage haulers did start to leave the bags that weren't clear behind. Then our job was to follow the garbage truck

and speak with the people who had rejected garbage and help them with sorting out their garbage, recyclables, and backyard

composting. We've found that most people are

willing to change, since sorting out their garbage properly diverts a lot of waste from the landfill, and although there are still some people who

aren't willing to go to "all that trouble," we're slowly trying to change everyone's mind. Hopefully by the end of the summer, every resident of West Hants will be keeping as much waste as possible out of the landfill! Curbside Collection Crew: Laura Boates & Megan Trimper (West Hants)

GREENING OUR SCHOOLS

Many schools in Canada to not have access to naturalized areas, depriving their students of an important part of their education. Tree Canada is working to provide a solution to this problem by supporting school grounds greening projects across the country. Some of the benefits of increased green space at schools include educational opportunities, the provision of shade and shelter and a wildlife habitat. It also instills an environmental ethic in the students, is an inspiration for creative expression and fosters community involvement. So far, we have been visited 18 schools around HRM, helping with the creation and maintenance of green space. For example, at Shatford Memorial Elementary School in Hubbards we constructed a trail leading to an outdoor classroom space. In addition we have consulted with school caretakers, teachers, and parents to come up with a plan for each particular school to develop a work plan for the summer. We are now looking forward to entering the next phase of our project, which is a series of interviews with city councilors aimed at creating awareness about school grounds greening. Through these interviews we hope to prepare them for a fall presentation to the HRM Council by Tree Canada/Evergreen in which will be proposed the creation of a school grounds greening task force through which

all effected parties (HRSB, HRM Real Property and Asset Management, administrators, parents, neighbors, students) can work to sustain greening projects. Our project has been running smoothly

and we expect it to yield interesting and thought-provoking results that will add to its success over the coming years.



Alex: The dam inventory is going well, I have catalogued well over 40 sites around Halifax County. This experience has given me a more thorough understanding of how we control water. Did you know that we manipulate water flowage for many purposes including providing safe drinking water, providing irrigation for agriculture, to reduce flood damage and for power generation? These are just a few of the types of facilities that I have visited this summer. Over the last few weeks I will be getting out to the last few dams, finalizing the database and preparing a formal report on what I have done for the summer. Courtney: My work continues on the Northern Region Wastewater Treatment Facility Inventory (Pictou, Cumberland, Colchester, and Antigonish counties). I have visited many wastewater treatment facilities, from small package plants to large industrial treatment facilities. The reporting program for extended aeration plants is nearing completion, and there is discussion that a whole new approach to the reporting program may soon be undertaken. The program is

designed to ensure that site operators can input their data into a format that automatically calculates results and informs them if the plant is operating efficiently. It will also help with required reporting and ensuring compliance to regulations. Water and Wastewater Crew: Courtney MacMullin and Alex MacKay (Eastern, Central & Northern NS)

MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED

Community members along with Councillor Jim Smith and Greening the School Grounds Crew at John MacNeil School in Dartmouth. *Photo By: Kelly Code-MacNeil*

Come in, NSYCC Central Command. Do you read? Phases I and II have successfully been completed. Audits were executed punctually with no casualties. Environmental awareness in the corporate complex is at an all-time high. Rebel uprisings were swiftly squelched through educational encounters. We have finished gathering intelligence from allied forces and have begun analysis of data. Response to the mission has been overwhelmingly positive. We are ready to embark on Phase III of our mission. Feedback for allied camps is ready for distribution. We have documented progress throughout this mission and all information has been catalogued for future reference. General Forward has approved of our progress and will be returning for a second site visit shortly. Supplies and provisions are well stocked. Troop morale continues to soar. 1657 Barrington Street will soon be considered earth-friendly territory. We have entered the home stretch. Transmission complete. Over and out. Sierra Club Environmental Audit: Maxx Hartt & Colleen Connolly (HRM).

FACT: West Hants is one of the few

Kaitlin and Trevor are Working hard at Clean Nova Scotia with the Tox-Free Campaign!

CATCHING UP WITH TOX-FREE

"Have you gone TOX-FREE yet?"

TRENTON PARK

Since we last heard from our TOX-FREE Avengers, they've made their way to over 60 homes to spread the word about toxic household products and to save the day. Follow-up surveys have revealed that people are changing their environmentally damaging habits and switching to alternatives that are more harbour friendly. The word on the street is that Captain Planet is looking to recruit our TOX-FREE friends for his next cartoon. Making a positive environmental impact has never been easier than trying out alternative cleaning products, skipping the pesticides, and making sure to dispose of household hazardous waste properly. For more tips, you could check out the TOX-FREE brochure, recently completed and set to go online @ www.clean.ns.ca very soon. The avengers are trying not to let their sudden fame get to their heads, but it's hard not to when TOX-FREE is quickly becoming the next big thing. Have you gone TOX-FREE yet? Captain Planet says that all the cool kids are doing it! Tox-Free Crew: Kaitlin Ryan & Trevor Marchand (HRM)

RETURN TO AIR MONITORING

In the 80's, Nova Scotia had many more air monitoring stations that it has now. However, in the 90's the air quality program was greatly reduced; many air monitoring stations were shut down. Only in the past few years has the air quality branch of the Dept. of Environment and Labour begun to expand again. The DEL needed a fast way to gauge air quality throughout Nova Scotia and lichen monitoring plots were an ideal choice. The numbers and types of lichens vary according to the quality of the air. Lichen Air Monitoring Crew: Heather Andrachuck, Andrew Norman & Christopher Taylor

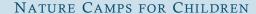
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

The month of July has been an active one for us at the Ecology Action Centre. We have been promoting sustainable transportation throughout HRM through gas station site visits, MetroLink promotions, an emissions clinic, and the Steer Clean program. We have made several visits to gas stations within HRM. While there, we have been promoting sustainable transportation options and fuel efficiency to the customers. Our electric bike has proven to be popular among the public at these visits. Many people have approached us asking for more information. On nine different days throughout August we will be driving with the MetroLink bus to various locations along the route promoting the new service. We also planned a tailpipe emission testing clinic which were held on August 11th, 12th and 13th at the Canadian Tire in Clayton Park. A bike-powered generator provided some of the electricity for this event. The participants in this clinic learned about the levels of air pollutants in their tailpipe emissions as well as had their tire pressure checked and received information about how to maintain an efficient vehicle. Sustainable Transportation Crew: Janice Ashworth & Alex Longmire (Halifax)

WANTED IN WOLFVILLE

The Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) has been very busy, what with so many invasive alien plants running amok in the town of Wolfville. Our tool belts are equipped with trowels, play scripts, bicycles, and walking shoes. The nefarious multiflora rose may have gotten the better of us in the potting shed, but rest assured that our western style "WANTED" posters and invasive plant walking and cycling tours will cause her eventual defeat. If you want to watch the IPP in action, drop by the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens on Wed, August 17th, at 7pm to watch the one time only showing of the original production A

Tale of Two Roses: Adventures with Invasive Plants. The stars of the show are local children between the ages of 6 to 12. Word from the IPP headquarters is that the evening will be both educational and entertaining. Invasive Plant Crew: Suman Gupta, Thea Whitman and Jordan MacDonald (Wolfville)



This summer, the Cape Sable Important Bird Area had Nature Camps which were a great opportunity for enthusiastic children to come out and learn about the environment. Each week was packed with activities which were educational and fun. Every day was centered towards a specific theme such as Endangered Species Day, Wetlands Day, and Hiking Day. The campers spent the day outside where they learned by doing things hands on. On Wetlands Day, the campers visited a pond where they learned that a pond is the home for many forms of wildlife. A local biologist helped the children identify various specimens found deep within the mud. A greater appreciation was obtained for the animals and the habitat. As NSYCC crew members, we were able to help organize, supervise, and take part in these activities. What a great way to spread information to the community. through the local children. CSIBAC Crew: Tiffany Comely & Robin Sears (Clark's Harbour)

NINE MILE RIVER

The ambitious crew members of the Nine Mile River Project could not be happier with their progress. The crew has, and continues to collect, baseline stream data on the river, as well as on a few of the river's tributaries. They have classified a kilometer section of shoreline along the river, as well as identified some possible problem areas (areas with degraded buffer zones, etc.) by studying maps, air photos, and identifying land uses in the watershed. The crew has also been collaborating with various community businesses and members on a nature walk along the Nine Mile River. The educational hike will invite the community out onto the river for an hour of explanation as to what has been studied on the river, and the results of the study. The hope is that through this educational nature hike, the crew will be able to inspire citizens to get involved with issues facing the river, namely by becoming a part of the Nine Mile River Association. Nine Mile River Crew: Tyson Daoust and Stephanie Rogers (Nine Mile River)

DIVERTING WASTE IN YARMOUTH

The Quick-Service industry sometimes seems like a structure that is impossible to change. We wanted to prove with our project that with dedication and education, change is in fact possible. We visited approximately fifty quick-service establishments within our region. The vast majority of these establishments were not following the waste legislation correctly; however the adjustments that were required to reach 100% compliance with the legislation were usually quite simple. A common attitude was that

they did not want to bother changing anything because it seemed difficult and inconvenient. We worked around this attitude by informing restaurant owners/managers that it is the law, and by offering our help to establish a system that would help them avoid fines. This strategy seems to have worked and some have al-

ready begun to adjust. We believe that we have accomplished what we had set out to doeducate and help divert waste! Waste Check Crew: Kelly Meuse & Sheena Purdy (Yarmouth)



Trenton Park and Recreation is the community partner we, Deiber and Ashlie, have been doing our NSYCC -ELP environmental project with in Pictou County. Throughout the summer, we have been involved in numerous activities. These activities include gardening, maintaining park grounds and collecting garbage. However, our biggest contribution has been to the summer recreation program where we work with approximately 60-75 children ages 5-12 in a daily, summer program. In this program, we have incorporated various environmental and cultural education components. These activities include a daily recycling program and education regarding composting and the proper ways to recycle materials. We also take the children on nature hikes throughout the trails in the Trenton Park and teach them about ways to protect and appreciate our environment. We gave the children a presentation on Costa Rica and its culture, including some Spanish and dance lessons. We are also organizing for some guest speakers to come and give the children some presentations one environmental issues that are of our concern. Overall, this has proven to be a great experience for all of the individuals involved and has benefited our

THE TRAIL CONTINUES TO GROW

community greatly. Trenton Park Crew:

Ashlie MacNeil & Deiber Salazar

Since the last newsletter, great progress has been made on the Northumberland Trail. A brochure has been developed to assist in self-guided tours of the trail. The brochure includes a map of the trail system, information corresponding to featured places along the trail, and an animal track identification key. The trail has been further extended through a woodland area completing a loop of the route. The Department of Natural Resources has assisted in clearing the trail of larger debris, providing lumber for bridges, and delivering wood chips to

cover the trail surface. The rest of the plans for this summer include finishing the trail extension, building bridges, finishing signage, and leading environmental fun days for kids. Northumberland Trail Education Initiative Crew: Christie McClelland and Julian Merlin (Oxford)



"There are 10 times more jobs in recycling than in simple disposal"

— NS Dept of Environment and Labour



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A RECYCLING FAIRYTALE

Once upon a time, there was a young prince from a far away tropical land and a princess from a medieval European country, that had to flee overseas to the American North, as they were sought after by unscrupulous rebels at their homes. Upon their arrival in the Canadian highlands, they were put to work in a recycling program with the county's municipality, sure hat no one would look for them among garbage piles. Together with their 2 native bodyguards, they went to schools, where they played educational games with children. Other days they were hiding in the office, where they worked with a modern machine, to design brochures and leaflets about conservation, climate change, idling, deforestation, the flora and fauna of Atlantic Canada, and recycling, of course. They learned that one has to be the change one wants to see. For instance, seeing the way recycling and waste management works in Nova Scotia makes it possible to try to implement this in communities in Costa Rica. However, their main intent was to change the mentality of the common people, especially that of the kids. Children should be aware, that they too have an impact on environmental issues. The team believed that educating children about the nature that surrounds them, and trying to teach them the values that come along with that, is very important, because knowing these issues influences their behaviour now and later. As we know, every single person has an impact on nature. Even just recycling 1 aluminum can, saves as much energy as watching television for 3 hours. As for the 2 youngsters, they now definitively have "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Compost" engrained in their brain. Hopefully it is contagious. Municipality of the County of Antigonish Crew: Estelle Dessouroux and Cristian Ramirez (Antigonish)

RESTORING BEAUTY

As the second week of August rolls around, more and more people have been talking about the once forgotten Roods Head Park. Many changes have taken place, from rusted lobster traps pulled from the beach, to murals being painted on vandalized rocks and cliffs. This is the final month of the project and the main changes to the park have taken place. Our main focus now is to inform the public of the beautiful park they forgot and to give more attention to the small details that have to be done. Although many changes have taken place this summer, the Roods Head Restoration project, as a whole, is barley begun and will probably go on for several more years. But even with a little done, it is beginning to show it's full beauty once again. Roods Head Park Restoration Crew: Shea Balish and April Whiteway (Lockeport)

CALLING ALL COMPOSTERS (AND NON-COMPOSTERS)

It's been non-stop roller coaster ride the last couple of weeks for the Guysborough Crew! We've been calling people everyday with surveys on composting and tying up the phone lies all over the province. Since we last reported in, we have reached the residents of the District of St. Mary's, Colchester County, Port Hawkesbury, Cumberland County, Oxford and Richmond County. We also completed our second public presentation at the Street Parade. It was very successful in promoting backyard composting and we also were awarded with second place for our float. Next on the agenda is a highway litter clean-up and a few more phone surveys! (Backyard Composting Crew: Victoria Hines, Lindsey Hall, Matthew Avery, and Jeffrey Myers (Guysborough)



Estelle and Cristian of the Antigonish project pose with their composter and materials as they prepare to spread the word about composting to local children.

NEW BRAS D'OR BYLAW

It is well into the fifth week of work for the NSYCC crewmembers. In Eskasoni, Alyssia and Norman have been racing around to get the news out to the public about the new by-law ready to hit the Bras d'Or Lake, which will restrict boaters from dumping sewage to this beautiful body of water. They have been on the move doing research and creating a brochure with Absolute Design. It was recently published and distributed to all of the local marinas, wharfs, boating supply outlets and other related organizations and squadrons in Cape Breton. The next three weeks will consist of putting together the website, directing media, and creating signage to promote the new designation of the non-discharge zone. Recently Alyssia and Norman were able to speak with some boaters while visiting the marina's handing out their brochure. Alyssia and Norman look forward to the

upcoming projects and enjoy being able to make such an influential impact on their community and to the environment. Look to

at www.uinr.ca or call (902) 379-2163.UINR Crew: Alyssia Jeddore & Norman Syllboy (Eskasoni)



TESTING WELL WATER IN PORT HAWKESBURY

We have been very busy in and out of the office. We have a few different projects that we are working on with our Community Partner, such as the water bottle pickup, developed by Michelle Campbell. This program has gone over extremely well in the Richmond and Inverness Area. We have been putting together packages of water bottle testing samplers. The information on how to test and where and when to drop off your samples was done, printed and bagged as well. We then went out into the communities to drop off the 50 sample packages. Most drop-offs were done at the local co-ops, where our presentations were also being done. At this point in the summer we are collecting the samples and taking them to the lab in Antigonish to be tested. As the water results are coming in, we are finding that many people are concerned and have many questions in regards to their wells and septic systems. We have gone out to Port Hawkesbury, Louisdale, Margaree, Cheticamp and Arichat. All in all, we are really enjoying our jobs and we feel like we are learning a great deal! Between our presentations and water bottle pickups and drop-offs, we have not had too much time to spend in the office, and when we were, a lot of our time

is spent putting together packages and presentations. We have also been working with our Community Partner doing other activities such as beach testing. We have been very busy and very productive. The communities have responded very well to our programs and we are getting a lot of positive feedback as well as some not-sogreat results from the bacterial water testing. That shows that this program and the information we have to offer is so important! Water Quality Crew: Danielle Bouchie and Elisha Boudreau (Port Hawkesbury)

YELLOW FISH ALL OVER SYDNEY

It has been a busy summer at ACAP Cape Breton for the NSYCC. Crew workers Matt Bryden, Chris House, and Hannah Mac Donald can be seen around the CBRM painting fish, visiting boating events, sampling estuaries, and restoring a stream. Yellow fish has been turning up all over Sydney. The fish are being painted to have the public relate their toxic activities near storm drains to the fish in our harbour. A number of methods have been used to relate this message, including newspaper and television coverage. The Clean Boating campaign is nearing the end of the first phase. Approximately 200 bilge socks have been given away to encourage earth friendly boating. Only a couple more events are in the works. Then, a follow up survey will be underway. The ACAP staff ecologist invited the crew workers to be involved in estuary sampling. The crew sampled four different sites to compare the invertebrate health of pristine and contaminated waters. Much progress has been made on the Coxheath Stream Restoration. The crew has been helping put in a number of digger logs which narrow and deepen the stream. Over time, these logs will create a much friendlier fish habitat and bring the stream to its original condition. The crew workers are tying up loose ends on these projects and enjoying the last weeks of work at ACAP-CB. ACAP-CB Crew: Matt Bryden, Chris House, & Hannah Mac Donald (Sydney)

> "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our chil-

—Native American Proverb



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

Over 240 million beverage containers are collected in Nova Scotia each year for recycling. - NS Dept of Environment and Labour



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Interested in becoming a Community Partner FOR SUMMER 2006?

onstrate (in your proposal) that your project reflects one or more of the four core themes of the wo, three, or four crew workers. Proposals will be accepted starting October 2005 and the

MINDFUL OF SEPTIC ISSUES IN MINEVILLE

that we, the Mineville team, have been working on confident in their septic awareness and some other

work with the commu-

nity. We have found out that many people were unsure of what the Flushless Program, now they are signed up or have already received their septic system education sessions. With the recent help from Tina Kane at Clean Nova Scotia, we feel that our progress has bloomed and that our project will prove to be a success. Flushless Program Crew:

Michael Morang & Kelly Mazerolle

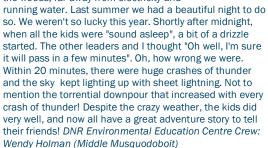
To improve the success of the Flushless Program

with Clean Nova Scotia, we created our own ninequestion environmental survey. This survey, which we are conducting door-to-door, takes about five minutes and asks community members if they feel general environmental concerns. The other concerns will be proposed to the Mineville Community Association as suggestions for future NSYCC projects and for their own

Mineville Crew and Premier Hamm at Bennett Park in Mineville.

ROUGHING IT IN MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT

The day camps are all over with now, and were a huge success. All of the kids had a great time, and so did the rest of us! There was however, one interesting night that took place during the older camp. Each year, on the Thursday night of the older camp, we spend the night in the woods, far away from electricity and



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"There are 3000 jobs in the waste-resource management sector in Nova Scotia."

-NS Dept of Environment and Labour

THE TRUTH ABOUT VASCULAR FLORA ON THE BLUFF TRAIL

Our goal this summer to create an index of the vascular flora found on the first two loops of the Bluff Trail system has been progressing smoothly, and most of our area of interest has been successfully surveyed. Species characteristic of particular environments within the trail system, as well as those common across all areas, have been



identified, and we have also found species uncommon to the region and those rare in Nova Scotia. In total, nearly 100 different species have been found. This kind of information is important, both in studies involving community dynamics, as well as in those gauging the impact of development on floral biota. We are now also in a position to begin work on a trail guide that will provide descriptions of some of the more important and interesting species we have found. This will hopefully encourage more awareness and use of the trail, both recreationally and educationally, and help demonstrate its importance, as well as the importance of other wilderness areas, to communities in the HRM. Five Bridge Heritage Trust Crew: Krystle Olson & Dave Mealiea (HRM)

MAKING IT WORK IN BLOMIDON

In Costa Rica we, Noylin (Costa Rica), Rebecca (NFLD) and Krista (NS), worked on two different projects. It was a challenge because we're three different people who had never shared anything before and we had to live together while sharing everything. In Canada the team was separated to NFLD and NS, Noylin going to NS. The project in NS was to work in Blomidon Provincial Park as staff. We have travelled around NS and visited the NFLD counterparts. The personal growth optioned from the perspective this program gave us was our most important lesson. Blomidon Provincial Park Crew: Noylin Araya & Krista Ogletree (Blomidon)

Conserving Habitat

We have been working with the Sackville River Association doing a number of things. The Sackville River Association works in the Sackville River watershed to



conserve and restore habitat that has been heavily impacted by urban development. Our main work has been with the digger logs and rock sills in the Little Sackville River and the Governors Run in Timberlea. Digger logs create important spawning areas for salmon and other fish and also help the river to regain its natural meander. Other work has included garbage cleanup, trail maintenance, and water quality monitoring. This has been a very nice compliment to the work we did in Costa Rica, where we built trails in the cloud forest. Sackville Rivers Crew: Jennie Graham & Guillermo Vargas (Lower Sackville)



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