

Ebb & Flow

A Newsletter of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP)

Winter 2007

Welcome to ACAP, Labrador!

News from the Environment Canada ACAP Office

We are pleased to welcome two new Labrador sites to the ACAP family. One is located in central Labrador in the upper Lake Melville area, and the other centered on the South Coast.

For the past few years, we've been gathering public input and examining the environmental issues throughout Labrador in an attempt to determine the best location to establish an ACAP site. Considerations included the diverse culture of Inuit, Métis, Innu, and European descendants, the number of species-at-risk, and the increased industrial development in the coming years which may cause stress on local ecosystems. Some of the socio-economic challenges such as a large land mass with a small human population and geographical isolation also needed to be factored in when looking at developing the ACAP model in Labrador.

In talking with people throughout Labrador (through over 100 interviews and a series of workshops), it was found that there was certainly a need for a community-based program, and that ACAP would be welcomed in many communities. All of these factors, along with the fact that Labrador represents more than half of the entire land area of Atlantic Canada, led Environ-

ment Canada to determine that two sites were more appropriate than one. The analysis pointed to the central, upper Lake Melville area, and the South Coast area.

Since the location of the new sites was announced last spring, there has been a flurry of activity to get the groups up and running in both locations. Community meetings were held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Cartwright in June to mobilize interested stakeholders and community members. Additional meetings were held in September which resulted in the formation of an interim board of directors in both locations. Currently, both groups are working on gathering momentum and completing the necessary visioning and required procedures to incorporate as non-profit organizations. Once this process is complete, both groups will enter into funding agreements with Environment Canada, which will allow them to hire a staff person and set up an office. With the necessary staff in place, guided by a volunteer board of directors, the community-based process of identifying priority sustainability issues can begin. We look forward to learning what the communities decide will be the key issues of focus. Stay tuned!

For more information, contact Colleen McNeil, ACAP Coordinator (902) 426-5777.



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Produced bi-annually, this newsletter serves as a communications tool for those involved with ACAP and any others interested. This edition provides a snapshot of some exciting programs from selected ACAP groups. Other groups will be featured in the fall 2007 edition.



Participants in the Labrador Southeast Coastal Action Program.



Linking Science and Communities in Recovery: A Species at Risk Conference

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF), Nova Scotia

In the fall of 2006, The Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF) hosted a very successful Species at Risk conference entitled “Linking Science and Communities in Recovery” at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. One hundred participants attended, representing community groups, First Nations, government, academia, scientists, environmental managers, industry and other interested individuals.

Participants were provided with an opportunity to enhance learning and share their knowledge about working with species at risk (SAR). Within

the BCAF watershed, there are a number of SAR, including the Roseate Tern, Piping Plover, and Atlantic Whitefish. For the past three years, BCAF has worked diligently towards establishing a secure nesting site for Roseate Terns who face significant pressures from habitat loss due to development pressures and depredation by gulls. Another ongoing BCAF project has involved public education regarding the Atlantic Whitefish in the Petite Riviere watershed, the only place left in the world where this species is found.

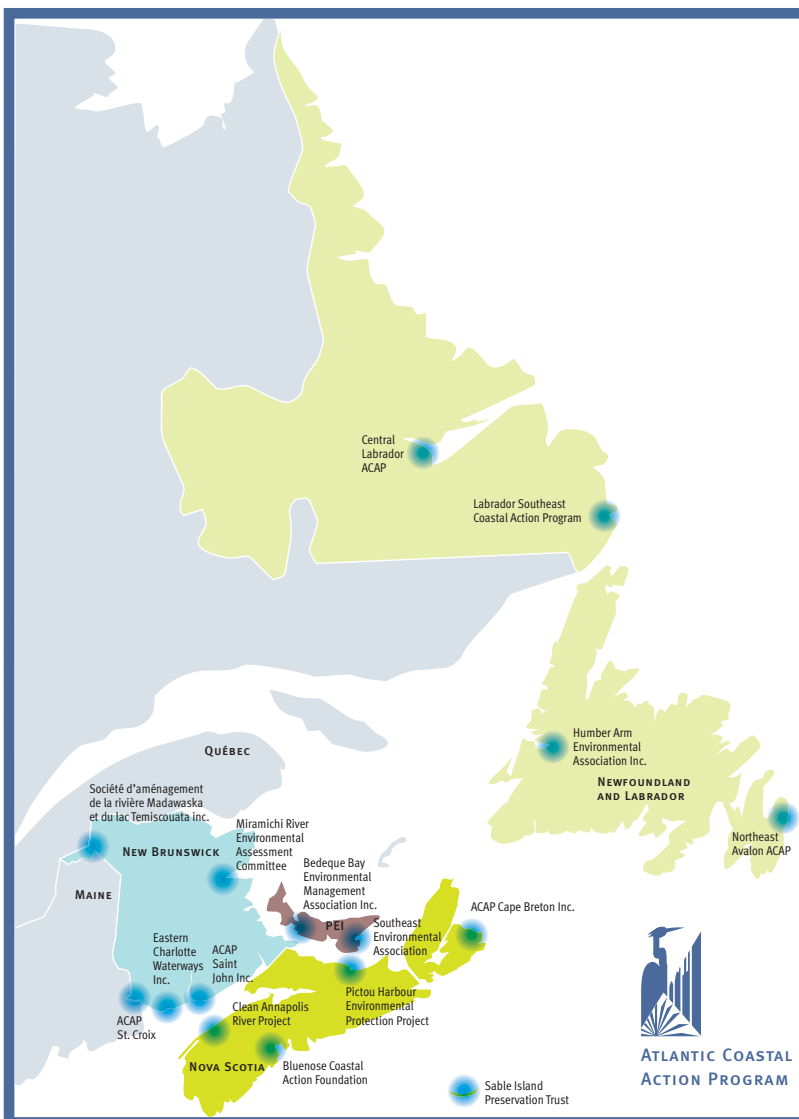
The conference included a combination of oral and poster presentations, plenary sessions, and a panel discussion focusing on: habitat loss and disturbance; education and outreach; and critical habitat for species at risk. Dr. Jeff Hutchings, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), gave a very interesting key note address.

The need to secure the future of Species at Risk has never been more important. Their recovery depends on our ability to share expertise, examine successes and challenges, and discover new ways to collaborate. This conference was an important step on the road to recovery.

For more information on BCAF’s recent Species at Risk Conference, or to learn more about the organization’s activities, contact Heather Olivella at heather@coastalaction.org or visit www.coastalaction.org.



Amy Weston, BCAF Co-Chair, thanks Dr. Jeff Hutchings, COSEWIC Chair, following his key note address.



Working Together for a Cleaner, Greener, Saint John

ACAP Saint John (ACAP SJ), New Brunswick

The 2006 Saint John Green Network was a roaring success! Capitalizing on the community's desire to clean litter from areas of the city, ACAP Saint John became the "one-stop shopping" centre for conducting cleanups. With help from the City of Saint John, the Fundy Regional Solid Waste Commission, UNB Saint John, Dominion Refuse, Atlantic Metal Recycling, Gulf Operators, Irving Pulp and Paper, and Irving Oil, 17 cleanups were conducted between June 25 and November 4.

Over 350 volunteers removed 2.4 tonnes of normal garbage, 24 tonnes of construction and demolition waste, 7

tonnes of metal, 85 tires, 23 bulky items, and 45 household hazardous waste items from four illegal dumpsites, nine neighbourhood cleanups, two shoreline cleanups, and two beach sweeps. Some of the more interesting items collected in the 2006 season included a bathtub, appliances, car parts, and old election campaign signs (from all parties).

In total, it was estimated that all 17 Green Network cleanups cost \$ 24,072 with an average

cost of \$1,416 per cleanup. Estimated costs for each cleanup was calculated based on volunteer time, equipment cost, landfill tipping fees, and vehicle costs.

Citizens of Saint John really bought into the idea of conducting cleanups, resulting in a city-wide feeling of pride in person and community. Although participants were shocked to realize how rampant littering and illegal dumping were in their community, numerous positive comments were received indicating that the Green Network resulted in a cleaner city and increased awareness of the issue among residents, resulting in residents examining their own behaviour. In addition, the awareness and education aspects associated with the cleanups increased knowledge and community participation in other solid waste management initiatives in Saint John. Overall, the Green Network helped bolster the environmental movement in Saint John by providing residents and organizations a way to directly and positively impact the natural capital within the community.

For more information on the Green Network, contact Roshini Kassie, Green Network Coordinator, at acapsj@rogers.com, phone (506) 652-2227 or visit www.acapsj.com and click on The Green Network.



Team from Unilever Canada shows off their gloves after cleaning a dirty and wet section of McDonald St.

Heavy equipment, provided by Gulf Operators and the City of Saint John, helped remove tonnes of construction and demolition waste.



One of Canaport LNG cleanup teams along Redhead Road.





Water Monitoring in Nut Brook

Northeast Avalon ACAP (NAACAP), Newfoundland and Labrador

In the summer of 2005, Northeast Avalon ACAP (NAACAP) initiated a new monitoring project on the heavily polluted Nut Brook stream system in the outskirts of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The first phase of the project included the collection and analysis of water and sediment samples for the purposes of compiling baseline information, allowing NAACAP to determine the extent of environmental damage coming from contaminant loadings and extensive sedimentation. This phase also included the distribution of information to the public and to decision makers in various sectors.

Nut Brook is heavily impacted by industrial activity midway along its length. The main concern is that Nut Brook and some of its tributaries pass under Incinerator Road, home to a variety of industrial developments including two large quarries, a hazardous waste storage facility, and a car wreck burial site. The results are a visual "brown zone" of pollution and destruction of the river and its associated environments. Greater concern arises from the fact that Nut Brook drains into the Kelligrews River downstream, which flows through a densely populated region.

A thorough analysis of the samples collected revealed many indicators of poor water quality and environmental degradation, such as sewage loadings, high levels of trace elements and heavy metals, and the extensive choking of habitat and vegetation. A complete statistical analysis and comparison with a pristine reference site, located in the untouched headwaters of the drainage basin, helped to verify that the results were accurate and that much environmental damage had occurred due to the activity on Incinerator Road. Through the public release of these findings, much interest has been generated.

Phase-two of the project wrapped-up in 2006 and included the continued monitoring of the system during the summer with more sites selected further downstream. Electrofishing and toxicity testing of fish in the river was also carried out. More significant oil and sewage spills were uncovered during 2006, but it proved difficult for NGOs and governmental departments to properly handle the problem. However, further monitoring is planned for the near future in hopes of aiding in the prevention of more pollution events.

For more information, contact NAACAP at info@naacap.ca, phone (709) 726-9673 or visit www.naacap.ca/index.htm.



Nut Brook



Nut Brook

Revitalizing a Community Landmark

ACAP St. Croix, New Brunswick

In December 2005, ACAP St. Croix proudly accepted responsibility for an important community asset: Camp Waweig. Located on 40 acres of forested land bordering the Waweig River in western Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Camp Waweig has been one of the “foundations” of the community for more than 80 years where an estimated 10,000 individuals have passed through its gates. But times and values changed, and so a new approach was necessary to continue the important Camp Waweig tradition of imparting environmental, social, and economic sustainability values.

ACAP St. Croix’s has been working hard to rejuvenate this community institution. Through the continued local management of critical issues and lands, residents will be provided with additional stewardship, recreation and learning opportunities.

The acquisition of Camp Waweig is also very timely. In late 2006, ACAP St. Croix received funding to expand the Ganong Nature and Marine Park over a two-year period. During this time, Camp Waweig is being used to host the many outreach programs previously held at the Ganong Park, breathing new life into the Camp.

One such program is a series of workshops called “Reconnecting the Community.” “Reconnecting” was designed to bring seniors and youth together in an engaging environment to draw on their knowledge of nature and their ability to perceive and connect with the world around them. Key elements of the program were enhancing participants’

sensory awareness of nature, developing their observation skills and creating a solid knowledge base about their local natural community.

Thanks to the repairs and renovations by ACAP St. Croix’s

dedicated staff and volunteers, Camp Waweig has also played host to a number of community groups and programs, including the St. Stephen High School Outdoor Pursuits class, Women’s Healing and Relaxation participants, and the local Katimavik group.

Under the management of ACAP St. Croix, Waweig Community Camp will become a center that will benefit the local community, the international region, and visitors. It will become a focal point for sustainable development programs as well as an important learning centre regarding natural resources and traditional use.

To learn more visit

www.campwaweig.com/waweig.html

or contact Kim Reeder at

kim@scep.org,

by phone at (506) 467-9905

or visit ACAP St. Croix’s main website at www.scep.org.



Kids have fun as part of the “Reconnecting the Community With the Land” program.



Participants in the “Elderaction” program.



Taking the ACAP Message to South Korea

Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC), New Brunswick

Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) executive director, Harry Collins, was on the road in 2006 visiting South Korea where he profiled MREAC as a member of ACAP.

This international opportunity came about following a visit to New Brunswick by Dr. Yung Chul Lee and Dr. Dae In Lee of Jeonnam National University, Yeosu, South Korea in February 2006.

Drs. Lee and Lee were in New Brunswick specifically to research and explore the strength of ACAP as a community-based economic model. Their

studies to date find that ACAP is the strongest of the community-based economic models when compared to other examples studied in China and Australia. As such, Dr. Yung Lee saw opportunity to share a first-hand site experience by inviting Mr. Collins to speak directly to a number of his colleagues including representatives from the university, government, and local non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Collins traveled to the South Sea coastal city of Yeosu to address Dr. Yung Lee and his colleagues. (Yeosu is small by South Korean standards with approximately 300,000 residents.) The models of community-based initiatives be-

ing explored by Drs. Lee and Lee are a new concept for the people of Korea. The academic work being conducted, it is hoped, may translate into a new initiative that involves more community action. It has yet to be determined whether or not the partnership between MREAC and the university in Yeosu will continue. Whether it does or not, the international exposure and opportunity for education for MREAC – and ACAP as whole – is invaluable.

This is the second international experience that MREAC has been associated with. From 2001-2003 MREAC was twinned with the Ishma River group IZVATAS in the Komi Republic in northern Russia. Other ACAP sites have partnered with Indonesia, Germany and Uruguay. MREAC has now had opportunity to share valuable watershed management experience with partners in two other continents.

To learn more about MREAC, visit

www.mreac.org

or contact Harry Collins at

mreac@nbnet.nb.ca

or phone (506) 778-8591.



Dr. Yung Lee – Jeonnam University



Fishing Vessels – Yeosu Harbour

Campaign Against Illegal Dumping

Eastern Charlotte Waterways Inc. (ECW), New Brunswick



Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste items in areas other than a sanitary landfill. Most illegal dumpsites in Charlotte County, New Brunswick are found in forested areas where they impact wildlife habitat, health, safety, water quality, tourism and property values. To address the growing number of illegal dumpsites, Eastern Charlotte Waterways (ECW) and its partners – the South West Solid Waste Commission and the New Brunswick Departments of Environment, Local Government and Natural Resources – started the Campaign Against Illegal Dumping in the spring of 2005.

In the first year of the campaign, ECW documented and mapped 50 illegal forest dumpsites; the majority of which were reported following a public appeal for information. The first year also saw the creation of Sid (Stop Illegal Dumping). The mascot, created to give illegal dumping a face, was named by a local child following a

public contest.

The 2006 campaign continued to spread the environmental, social and economic message. ECW staff visited local schools;

posted signs asking people to stop illegal dumping; and audited major dumpsites before and after key “dumping” weekends.

One of the main achievements of the 2006 campaign was the creation of a telephone book insert listing the proper disposal sites. The insert is on ECW’s website and can be picked up from select businesses in the County.

ECW also completed the remediation/clean-up of an illegal dumpsite along the Fraiser Beach Road in Mascarene. The clean-up was conducted to create an economic benchmark, allowing ECW to estimate the cost of cleaning up future sites. ECW staff assessed a number of other reported dumpsites throughout the fall to assign a clean-up cost based on the Fraiser benchmark. ECW estimates that the combined clean-up costs for reported dumpsites in Charlotte County will be in the six-figure range, public funds that could undoubtedly be better spent on health care or roads.

To learn more about the Campaign Against Illegal Dumping, visit Sid’s site at www.ecwinc.org/sidsplace.htm, contact Laura Barrett at (506) 456-6001 or visit ECW’s main website at www.ecwincnbnet.nb.ca.



Posted sign to discourage illegal dumping.



Stop Illegal Dumping mascot, SID.

Ebb & Flow is a newsletter published by the Strategic Integration and Integrated Ecosystems Branch of Environment Canada. It was initiated by the ACAP Advisory Council. Thanks to all the ACAP groups that submitted articles. It aims to serve as a communications tool for those involved in ACAP, as well the general public.

Comments or Questions?
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