



Nova Scotia
Environmental Network
Connecting for a Sustainable Future

EcoConnections Newsletter January 2016

Welcome!

NSEN would like to thank Laurie Sutor for her years of work with NSEN and Members! Laurie has moved on to other opportunities. We wish her the best of luck.

Janelle Frail is working on communications in a part time basis- posting to the NSEN Facebook page, posting events to the NSEN Events webpage and sending out the EcoConnections on a monthly basis around the middle of the month.

Get in touch!

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork

Website: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events/>

Email: nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

Membership: Please take time to secure your membership with NSEN today. It is important for our member groups, and their individual members, just stand up and be counted. There is strength in numbers, and we need all hands on deck to do the valuable work at the community level to ensure that we as Nova Scotians have the pure air food water and healthy soil that our birthright, and that are the cornerstones of a healthy environment and healthy citizens.

There are many opportunities for open dialogue and working in partnership across the province. Help us build our numbers and expertise. JOIN TODAY! See details of benefits and how to join here:

<http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/how-to-join/>

Looking for board members: Would you like to be a board member of NSEN? Contact us via email and send us your resume! We have a couple of vacancies left and would welcome your energy, talent and enthusiasm as part of our team.

Upcoming NSEN Events:

NSEN CAUCUSES

Water: Next meeting: Thurs. February 25th from 9am to noon. Mark it in your calendars! Please RSVP if you can attend (by February 12th- location TBA) to Amy: amy@coastalaction.org

Environmental Education: Next meeting: Early February. Contact Kelly to get on the listserv and find out when and where the next meeting will be: kellborkowski@gmail.com

Other caucuses: Find out how you can get involved: <http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/>

Upcoming Member Events & Events of Interest

JANUARY

Find the January Newsletter of the **Community Sector Council- NS** listing jobs, events, opportunities here: <http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=27761776b16e99ec25bce65ba&id=354ec1a68a&e=defb362cc1>

Solar Nova Scotia's Solar Shelter Courses Winter 2016

Designing Solar Homes and Additions (6 classes): Halifax: Thursdays, 7:00-10:00 PM: January 21 - February 25; Bridgewater or Chester (location to be decided in response to interest): Tuesdays, 6:45 – 9:45 PM, January 26 – March 6. \$80 students, \$90 single, \$150 couples
Passive Solar Construction: Kentville, Saturday February 20th 9:00 -5:00 PM. \$80 students, \$90 single, \$150 couples. For details see SOLARNS.CA

“Moving Beyond GDP in Canada and the European Union: Progress, Challenges, and Next Steps?”

The EAC is partnering with Dalhousie University, GPI Atlantic, the Network of European Union Centres of Excellence and the European Union (!) to host a challenging and critical conversation about the implications of status quo measures of national "progress" (i.e. Gross Domestic Product) and options for alternative models.

When: Thursday, January 21st from 12:30-2pm

Where: University Hall of the Macdonald Building at Dalhousie University.

Speakers:

Enrico Giovannini (by video link), University of Rome, former Director of Statistics and Chief Statistician for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Italian Minister of Labour and Social Policies

Ron Colman and Gwen Colman, Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Atlantic

Anders Hayden, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University

This is bound to be an inspiring exchange. Please share widely with your networks and email me with any questions.

Cat- acsec@ecologyaction.ca

Hike NS Winter Guided Snowshoe Hike Series 2016

Hike Nova Scotia and 28 host organizations across the province have partnered up to offer the 2016 Winter Guided Snowshoe Hike Series in January, February and March. There are over 50 hikes led by local folks and participants qualify to win “trail prizes.” Most hikes are free unless otherwise indicated in the schedule. Hike NS thanks NS Trails, Doctors Nova Scotia and the NS Department of Health and Wellness for their support. Hike NS also thanks its local partners for organizing the hikes on the ground. Check out the list of events here: www.hikenovascotia.ca.

Join the Nature Trust & the Town of Wolfville for a Full Moon Snowshoe Hike!

We invite you to join us for a full moon snowshoe hike at the [Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve](#)! This guided hike is a great opportunity to be active, get outside and experience this spectacular protected area by the beauty of moonlit. All are welcome.

Please bring your own snowshoes. If you do not have snowshoes you can check out [this list](#) of places to borrow, rent or buy snowshoes in Nova Scotia.

Where: Wolfville Watershed Nature Preserve

When: Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 7:30pm

What: 2km guided snowshoe hike

This has been a very popular event in the past. If you plan to attend please RSVP with your name and contact info to nature@nsnt.ca or [\(902\) 425-5263](tel:9024255263). Check out our [Facebook Event Page](#) for more information, to arrange carpooling and to see event photos from last year. **Please note:** We will meet in the Wolfville Watershed Nature

Preserve parking lot. Please make sure you are there and ready to go at 7:30pm. Please bring flashlights and headlamps.

Naomi Klein to speak at Mount Allison University

[www.mta.ca/Community/News/2016/January/Naomi Klein to speak at Mount Allison University, Jan 26/](http://www.mta.ca/Community/News/2016/January/Naomi_Klein_to_speak_at_Mount_Allison_University,_Jan_26/)

Where: Mount Allison in Convocation Hall (37 York Street, Sackville)

When: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Klein will deliver a public lecture based on her latest book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*.

“Gentle Dragons” and Farmworks Information Session

When: January 28 @ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm,

Where: Tantallon Public Library

Food Producers – if you’re looking to start, grow or promote your food related business, *the Dragons would like to hear from you!* Gentle Dragons is a popular event and venue to pitch your plan, get great feedback, and enjoy local food and conversation. Transition Bay is proud to co-sponsor this event with Farmworks (www.farmworks.ca), an investment co-operative helping to drive the food innovation sector – with over \$1 million invested in NS businesses to date.

All types of food-related businesses are welcome to submit an application, including those involved in: Farm/Producer, Caterer/Prepared Foods, Specialty Food Items, Winery/Beverages, Food Processing/Packaging, Restaurant/Bar, Distributors/Marketers

Applications to pitch to the Dragons can be found at: <http://farmworks.ca/about/lending/farmworks-application-form/>

All public are welcome – see your local entrepreneurs pitch their businesses. Local refreshments will be served. There is no charge to attend. For more information, contact: info@transitionbay.ca lbest@ns.sympatico.ca

FEBRUARY and onward...

Phase 2 of the Halifax Green Network planning process is now underway and we would like your organization to participate in the next phase of consultation to help shape the Core Planning Directions for the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN). A *State of the Landscape Report: Issues and Opportunities* has been completed using information and input from stakeholders and people across the HRM region. The results of this Phase 1 work has provided a comprehensive understanding of *where* open space resources are located and *why* they should be protected. This next phase of work will help to better understand and determine *what* open space needs to be protected so that the most sensitive and valuable areas are conserved in the context of anticipated population growth and development. This will be followed by a planning framework and implementation tools for *how* to protect it, later in the spring. The next step is the development and modelling of GEO-Design “learning” scenarios to understand different open space network configurations and impacts which will lead us ultimately to a preliminary preferred green network.

WORKSHOP: GEO-Design Learning Scenarios for Defining the Halifax Green Network

WHO: Halifax Regional Municipality with O2 Planning + Design in association with Anne Muecke, CBCL, and TransActive Solutions

WHEN: February 2nd 2016 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

WHERE: Halifax Central Library 5440 Spring Garden Road, Paul O’Regan Hall

TIDBITS:

1. Light lunch will be provided
2. Workshop will be organized for about 30-40 people so register early (should a second workshop be needed, we will organize)
3. Key Objective: a diverse cross-section of interests representing the 5 open space themes (see attached), providing both focussed and integrated discussion around “learning” scenarios

The Approach: a balanced representation of groups at the workshop ie. send one or a couple of people (for the larger umbrella groups) who can best represent your interests. Please contact Holly Richardson with any questions on this.

4. Web-site has good background info: www.halifax.ca/halifaxgreennetwork

5. Please RSVP to Holly Richardson via e-mail at richarh@halifax.ca (or alternatively at [902.490.6889](tel:902.490.6889)) by January 20th with your group/organization name, participant(s) name, contact information

HOLLY RICHARDSON

COORDINATOR PARKS & OPEN SPACE POLICY PARKS PLANNING | PARKS & RECREATION

Crafting a Communications Strategy...with a side-trip into Social Media

Where: Veith House, 3115 Veith Street Halifax

When: Friday, February 12/2016 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Cost: \$125 per participant. Fee includes handouts, tea, coffee and juice (lunch is not provided, but there are some restaurants nearby, or you can bring your own lunch). *Spaces are limited.* Please call 902.880.5390 for more information. For more information and to reserve your spot in this workshop, please sign up on our EventBrite page: [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Details: [Skism Communications](#) presents an affordable one-day workshop for non-profit staff, board members and volunteers...with a focus on low-budget, big impact solutions.

Interested in a faith-based active discussion about Climate Change?

Want to help make a difference for the sake of our planet?

Join Anne Marie Conn, RSCJ, for a four week series:

Thursday, February 11, 7-9 pm: "The Science of Climate Change"

Thursday, March 31, 7-9 pm: "Ecological Conversion"

Thursday, May 5, 7-9 pm: "Eco-Imagining our Emerging Future"

\$7.00 per session/\$25 for all 4

All sessions will take place at: Barat Spirituality Center

1455 Summer Street Halifax, NS B3H4L6

Call 902-456-6112 to register

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust is excited to announce the launch of the second Expedition for the Earth: Iceland 2016. The Nature Trust has once again teamed up with world renowned adventurer and mountaineer Wally Berg of Berg Adventures International to put together an exciting itinerary which will lead an intrepid group of travellers through the beautifully remote Fjallabak Nature Reserve in Iceland. The goal of the expedition is to raise funds and awareness to help to preserve land and wild spaces in Nova Scotia, while challenging participants to explore special protected areas in another part of the world on a guided adventure expedition. Our Iceland 2016 Destination: Fjallabak Nature Reserve Experience spectacular volcanic landscapes, inviting hot springs and the wonder of one of earth's most geologically active landscapes on this 7 day journey through Iceland's Fjallabak Nature Reserve. Isolated from all other landmasses, Iceland is a unique and interesting place to explore. Challenge yourself and awaken your sense of discovery in this unique, rugged landscape, all while helping to create new protected areas in your own backyard by raising funds to protect wild spaces here in Nova Scotia. Why? For the adventure. The environment. And the experience of a lifetime! You've done the charity walks, marathons and relays. Take it to the next level, with an unforgettable adventure expedition for charity. Experience this spectacular protected area and raise funds to protect your own natural legacy in Nova Scotia. Full details are available on the Expedition website at <http://www.expeditionfortheearth.ca> Registration for this exciting adventure is now open! Application is available online at <http://www.expeditionfortheearth.ca/trekkers#registration> For more information about the Expedition for the Earth, visit www.expeditionfortheearth.ca or contact Allison Dubé or Magali Gregoire at the Nova Scotia Nature Trust by email at expedition@nsnt.ca or by phone at [902 425 5263](tel:902.425.5263)

Environment and Climate Change Canada is inviting you to comment on the proposed Recovery Strategy for Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, and Tri-colored Bat in Canada.

These three bat species were listed as endangered by the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in November 2014. White-nose Syndrome, a disease specific to bats, has caused population declines that may be the most rapid of any species of mammal ever documented in North America.

On December 30, 2015, the proposed *Recovery Strategy for Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, and Tri-colored Bat in Canada* was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

A recovery strategy is a planning document that identifies what needs to be done to stop or reverse the decline of a species. It sets population and distribution objectives and identifies the broad strategies and general approaches to meet them.

You can read the proposed Recovery Strategy and comment:

www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2475.

This document will remain on the registry for a 60-day comment period ending March 4, 2016.

After the public comment period of 60 days, Environment and Climate Change Canada will then review comments and integrate them as appropriate, after which the final version of the recovery strategy will be posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

Job Postings:

Director of Conservation with NSNT

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust, one of Canada's leading land conservation charities, is making exciting strides forward in protecting Nova Scotia's unique natural legacy, through private land conservation. To guide and manage our increasingly complex and extensive conservation programs, we have created an exciting new leadership position.

The Director of Conservation provides strategic conservation direction, leadership and guidance for the organization, directs the conservation planning, land securement, stewardship, education and field volunteer programs, and leads key external relations and partnerships.

We seek an outgoing, bright, ambitious, and inspiring leader, with an exceptional track record in achievement, program and team management. The ideal candidate has a strong conservation background, and is highly organized, strategic and results-driven. A highly personable individual, with exceptional relationship-building and communications skills, the candidate we seek is deeply passionate about the cause and the charitable sector. Join an enthusiastic team dedicated to protecting Nova Scotia's most special places for future generations.

Please visit www.nsntr.ca for a complete job description, and application details.

Executive Director with GreenLearning Canada

Location: anywhere in Canada

See details here: <http://GoodWork.ca/950723>

The GreenLearning Canada Foundation (GLCF) provides teachers with free, online education programs about energy and sustainability that empower students to create positive change for our evolving world. All programs meet provincial core curriculum for multiple grades and subjects.

GLCF is seeking an Executive Director for a one year maternity leave to significantly increase and diversify its funding base enabling the organization to develop more educational programs and engage more teachers across Canada with the goal of empowering a critical mass of young people who can ultimately lead and shift society to a secure, prosperous and sustainable energy future.

The Position

The Executive Director, located anywhere in Canada, will be a social entrepreneur and an organization builder with personal energy and skills to raise funds and to engage and lead both staff and volunteer team members. He/she will have experience and credentials in the fund development sector along with a solid grounding in the environmental and energy NGO sector.

Submit, by email, no later than Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016 at 5:00pm to: Hiring Committee, c/o Beckie

Granatstein, Executive Director beckie@greenlearning.ca (514) 475-7832

Office Administrator with Atlantic Certified Organic

Location: Atlantic Canada preferred / from home. See details here: <http://FoodWork.ca/956523>

Atlantic Certified Organic is looking for a qualified, self-motivated, and efficient office administrator to manage our office from their home or workplace ideally situated in Atlantic Canada.

Pay: This job is contract based at an estimated hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour. Hourly rate could be more or less based on the efficiency and competency of the applicant but this gives an expected range. We estimate 20 hours per week will be required to complete the job with more time required in busy seasons and less in others.

Membership is the primary source of funds so more members will mean more hours and more income. As the primary person of contact, you will have the ability to influence your hours and total contract price through your performance and customer care.

As an Atlantic Canadian organization our ideal candidate would be based in one of the 4 provinces but consideration will be given to exceptional candidates.

Application: Please send a resumé (with 3 references) and cover letter to: info@atlanticcertifiedorganic.ca or fax to [506-325-2882](tel:506-325-2882)

Application deadline is Friday, January 25th. Details here: <http://FoodWork.ca/956523>

Environmental News:

Cat Abreau, Energy Coordinator with the **Ecology Action Centre** was interviewed for an educational video crafted to explore the Pope's Encyclical on climate change. Local director Kevin Moynihan made the film. It features reflections from the likes of David Suzuki, Maude Barlow, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, and Indigenous community leader and activist Ben Powless. You can watch it here: https://youtu.be/Bti86O_Tw5A

CASLE (**Canadians for A Safe Learning Environment**) is a Registered Charity with over two decades of experience and resources to help solve problems, and to show how healthy school environments benefit students and staff.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to toxins and hazards in their environments. Our schools, their condition and the products and practices used in them, can influence children's health, well-being and educational outcomes. CASLE provides a newsletter. To sign up, send an email to info@casle.ca. CASLE's website: www.casle.ca. CASLE coordinates Healthy Schools Day in Canada. This year it will be celebrated on April 7th, 2016. Groups and individuals are invited to participate and to add their project to the Project Registry.

EHANS (**Environmental Health Association of NS**) arose from the fact that people were becoming sick from their work environments or from exposures to such things as cosmetic pesticides or chemicals in every-day products. This was long before the link between environmental pollution and health was recognized by governments or the general public. EHANS' work is divided mainly between finding treatment and healing resources for children and adults with Environmentally Induced Illnesses (EI/MCS) and the prevention of harm through avoidance of pollution in many forms. Education has been a primary activity. EHANS hosted talks by researchers and medical professionals in the field, provided informative newsletters, and produced three consumer guides since 1986. Our most recent consumer product guide is www.lesstoxicguide.ca.

EHANS was central to the creation of Nova Scotia's first pilot clinic for diagnosis and treatment of environmentally induced illnesses, ran a scholarship program to send NS physicians to the USA for specialized training, spearheaded the Scent-Free programs across NS, partnered with other groups to create policies to stop uncontrolled pesticide use, is currently active in Health Canada and Environment Canada's joint Chemicals

Management Program <http://mobilecnhhe.nblung.ca/> and works with Nofrac to prevent harm to the environment and humans.

Sacred Heart School completes their solar building project thanks to Andrew Quigley and Willow Sereda-Meichel of If You Build it. <http://sacredhearthfx.blogspot.ca/2015/12/our-two-solar-panels-are-up-and-working.html>

Beothuk unveils plan for \$4b wind farm plan for Yarmouth: A St. John's, N.L., company wants to build a giant wind farm off the coast of Yarmouth to supply power to New England. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Record Year Ends on High Note for Nova Scotia's Natural Areas Halifax, Nova Scotia (Dec 29, 2015)–This year will be remembered as one of the most significant and prolific in Nova Scotia's history of protecting our unique natural legacy. Both the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Province made spectacular conservation gains in 2015, capped off by an announcement today of 100 more new protected areas. With recent achievements on both private and Crown-owned lands the goal of protecting at least 12% of Nova Scotia by the end of 2015 has been reached. See full details here: <http://nsnt.ca/newsevents>

Nova Scotia misses waste diversion target: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/waste-diversion-target-missed-1.3309123>

We would like to hear your news! Please send updates of environmental concerns/activities in your community and we will post them in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.



nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork

Find past EcoConnections here: <http://nseenvironmentalnetwork.com/resources/>

Coming soon- NSEN Events webpage

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network connects environmental organizations across the province – together we are stronger!