

# **Eco Connections Newsletter November 2017**

#### Welcome!

Below you will find **events** (starting on page 2), various **jobs postings** (page 5), lots of **opportunities** to have your voice heard (page 7), and **news** (page 11). Eco Connections is published on a monthly basis around the middle of each month. To have your submissions included or to receive the Eco Connections directly, email: <a href="mailto:nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com">nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com</a>.

We'll be posting the final report from the Eco Connects NS fall gathering on the website and on the Facebook page at the end of the week so be sure to have a look to see what was accomplished!

#### Get in touch!

Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork">www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork</a>

Website: <a href="http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events">http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events</a>

Email: nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

#### Membership: Membership Matters!

We would like to thank all the new members who are helping to revitalize NSEN by connecting to the network recently. Your energy, input and dedication to the environment is why we exist. We would like to acknowledge individuals and academic departments who have joined as Associate Members.

We encourage anyone who has a particular interest in a certain area to join or start a caucus. Presently we have Environmental and Sustainability Education and Water caucuses which do very valuable work in their areas. We would also like to encourage those who prefer managerial and administrative tasks to apply to be considered for the administrative Board. We are looking for specific administrative skills that are not issue or advocacy specific. The later is for caucus consideration. Contact the board c/o jonilight3@yahoo.ca.

A big thanks to the new and newly renewed members:

# **Groups:**

Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society

#### Individuals:

Gary Burrill Serhai Bayrak Donna Spracklin Brian Gifford Jim Harpell Sheila Richardson

Looking for board members: We're looking for you! NSEN is looking to expand the board. Having a board is the cornerstone of a strong network and NSEN is obviously a province-wide organization and we would like this province-wide reach of the network to be reflected in the makeup of our board! It's easy to join in via teleconference. We encourage participation from members from all regions of the province. Be in touch with me and I'll send your email to the board: <a href="mailto:nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com">nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com</a>.

### **NSEN CAUCUSES**

**Water Caucus:** The next NSEN Water Caucus meeting is TBA. Be in touch for more info: Amy Buckland-Nicks: <a href="mailto:amy.buckland-nicks@merseytobeatic.ca">amy.buckland-nicks@merseytobeatic.ca</a>.

**Environmental and Sustainability Education Caucus:** Next caucus meeting is TBD. Be in touch with Karen for further details: <a href="mailto:karenmckendry@eastlink.ca">karenmckendry@eastlink.ca</a>. See info and the members of the ESE Caucus here: <a href="https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/esec/">https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/esec/</a>

#### **NSEN** in the news:

#### Halifax woman's life's work recognized:

http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1520139-former-eac-board-member-gets-environmental-lifetime-achievement-award Sheila Cole was awarded at the NSEN Eco Connects NS fall gathering!

# **Upcoming Member Events & Events of Interest**

#### November

Big Dams = Big Damage. Clean and Green Energy for whom? Labrador Land & Water Protectors Northeast Tour

We invite you to join us for an evening with Roberta Benefiel, the Grand Riverkeeper as she kicks off her NorthEast Tour. Roberta will lead a discussion of the real costs of Muskrat Falls mega-hydro electric project. The electricity of this project is destined for Nova Scotia and New England, so we all have a responsibility to stop in the damage it could create. Roberta will discuss why the project is not needed, how it threatens indigenous rights and culture, the damage it will create for the river itself and the people Labrador, methyl mercury it will release and consequences, and similarities with the Site C dam in BC. As Muskrat Falls is being built, the Nova Scotia government is actively working to keep us burning coal. So why have we bought into this damaging and dangerous project?

**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 7 – 9:00 PM

WHAT: Public Presentation & Discussion

WHERE: Room 204, Weldon Law Building, Dalhousie University, 6061 University Ave., Halifax

**WHO:** Sierra Club Canada Foundation, Grand Riverkeeper, and Labrador Land & Water Protectors

**FACEBOOK:** <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/125911318087518/">https://www.facebook.com/events/125911318087518/</a> For more information, please contact:

Gretchen Fitzgerald, National Program Director, Sierra Club Canada Foundation

902-444-7096 / gretchenf@sierraclub.ca

#### **ReNEW Energy Efficiency & Solar Innovations Day**

November 18th, 10:00-4:00pm

In partnership with the Ecology Action Centre, Mi'kmaw Alternative Energy, AppleSeed Energy and others we are hosting a day devoted to energy efficiency and renewable energy education at the Deanery. It will focus on: thermal mass storage, rocket stoves, our Walltherm woodstove, solar electricity (photo voltaic, solar water & incentive programs), CanSolair thermal air systems, energy efficiency, and what use of these mean moving into the future.

We hope to be celebrating installation of our new electric vehicle charging station, supported by Nova Scotia Power, on the 18th as well! Sign up on our FB Eventbrite page to register. Workshops are free. Bring a bag lunch, or tuck into a tasty Deanery lunch for just \$6.

The workshop is part of the EAC's series of four free Energy Efficiency workshops in November in <u>Musquodoboit Harbour</u>, <u>North Preston</u>, <u>Sheet Harbour</u>, and <u>Ship Harbour</u> (<u>ReNew Day</u>). You are invited to attend these workshops to find easy ways to reduce your energy consumption. Save energy, save money.

LEADING INNOVATIVE & ENGAGING YOUTH PROGRAMS Tatamagouche Centre

November 20-23, 2017

Monday 2 pm to Thursday 2 pm

Register NOW click here

Transform your youth program, your community and our collective potential.

Practice techniques, games, activities and explore initiatives in becoming a dynamic and effective facilitator of youth programs. This program is suited to anyone who is interested in high-level training in youth engagement and program planning/design to enhance their abilities as youth workers, mentors, social workers, employment counsellors, teachers, volunteers or recreation staff. Click here for more Program Details. This is a joint initiative of the HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development, Tatamagouche Centre & Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. Program Fee: \$525 includes meals & multiple occupancy lodging. Register NOW click here.

You are invited to join the Haase family for a Celebration of the Life of Rudy Haase

Friday, November 24, 2017, 1:45 - 3:00 pm

Reception to follow: St Andrew's United Church, 1390 Robie St, corner of Coburg, Halifax, NS

# Youth Forum - Roots of Diversity November 25th

Roots of Diversity is a Deanery youth program focused on fostering an appreciation of our rural cultural heritage. Over the summer it initiated garden and art installations along the Eastern Shore from Preston to Moose River.

A full day gathering at the Deanery on November 25th will bring together young people to explore how we might work together to help make the Shore a more exciting and supportive environment for youth.

Organizations and individuals interested in getting involved please contact Bianca Boudreau at the Deanery.

This program is made possible with assistance from Canada 150 and the Summer Student Employment Program.

### **Fundraising for Social Change with Kim Klein**

November 24-26, 2017 Friday 5:30 pm to Sunday 1:30 pm Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, NS REGISTER NOW

The premise of fundraising for social change is simple:

it is possible to raise the money you need to do the work you want.

#### It is not necessary to compromise your values or change your programs

and it doesn't matter if you work in a rural or urban community.

Fundraising is also part of community organizing and can be built into everything an organization does.

To learn more about Kim Klein click here

Program cost: \$680 includes tuition, book, meals & lodging

For more information on our program including the workshop agenda click here

#### Water Element: 6:30pm, November 28, Halifax Central Library www.facebook.com/events/291574411326387/

Catherine Martin's Talking Circle in the series "Four Circles of Life: Earth, Air, Water and Fire/ Learning Mi'kmaq Approaches to Protecting the Environment for Future Generations" was pretty amazing last night. I counted 38 people present and the representation across humanity was magical and so refreshing. Catherine pointed out that the four major races of peoples-red, yellow, white and black--as represented in the Mi'kmaq star below our feet, were all there. I noted that people mentioned they were from Ghana, Cuba, Yucatan, Mexico, Anishnabe (from Winnipeg), Cree (from Alberta) Inuit (from Northern Labrador), Beijing, British Columbia, India, Scotland, Ireland, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Texas and other regions they didn't mention. There were students, elders, male, female, PhDs., just to mention a few stats. There were visitors to Halifax, people who had moved here recently, people here studying, long time residents and native Haligonians and Nova Scotians.

Catherine was wonderful--animated, natural, informed, communicative, creative, giving, receptive, strong, loving. She sang spontaneous and traditional songs from her heart in Mi'kmaq and English, told stories about her family and her ancestors, how she was so proud when she saw her great-grandfather and two great uncles photos in what used to be a glass case at the circle area. She explained who she does the circle. She related the history before and after contact with Europeans using her mother's side (living free in Guysborough county) with her father's side (living under the Indian Act and Agent in Mill Brook), how the transCanada cut right throughout their territory (and so the nation built a business park there and erected the amazing Koluskap (Glooscap) statue. She referenced the current state of our air, how it has become less fresh with increased industrialization like new coal mine, biomass and how asthma rates have risen as a result.

We did one full circle go around and Catherine told us how, if we had had time to do three or four circle go rounds, we would have cleared a lot of layers and begun to build consensus privately and bonding publicly--either agreeing or agreeing to disagree. She talked about the need to have this public, safe, appropriate space to hold the 'air of speech' from a broad spectrum of citizens so that they can learn the true history of Canada (so the circle fulfilled my other mandate of bringing new Canadians together with First Nations to become informed of how Canada came to be and the cultures that were thriving before that time and what happened as a consequence of the Indian Act--residential schools, Indian agents, reserves, broken treaties. She explained what the treaties are and how Canadians are treaty people.

Everyone told anecdotes of how they related to air, some cried, shared deep pain for what Treaty People have done to Mother earth and to First Nations, expressed desire to learn more--how encountering First Nations' people and history has changed their lives, what it meant to be abel to share publicly from the heart. People related dreams and histories of their families, cultures and nations of origin. We heard about the Anishnabe laws' relevance to the shaping of Canada now. How we need to follow that law as well as English and French law. A lot of people expressed how much they had learned from Mi'kmaq people and/or their desire to learn or learn more. One elder is doing his master's thesis at a local university as a result of attending the circle and then discovering Elder Albert and Murdena Marshall's Two-Eyed Seeing work on the

internet. He is so excited about finding these teachings and related who it changes how he goes out into being in the world now as compared with before.

The next circles are November 28 with Dorene Bernard and January 11 with Joe Michael.

#### Listen, learn and mingle

Dalhousie Professor Jeffrey Hutchings is the 2017 recipient of the A.G. Huntsman Medal for Excellence in Marine Sciences. On Wednesday, Nov. 29, he will discuss "Recovering Canada's Marine Fish and Fisheries: the Roles of Science, Policy and Societal Will." The event will be held at the Scotiabank Auditorium, Marion McCain Arts & Social Sciences Building at Dalhousie University beginning at 7 pm. This is a free event, open to the general public. A reception will follow at approximately 8 pm and light refreshments will be served.

Abstract: The collapse of Canadian Atlantic cod in 1992 spawned global research of the factors that affect marine fish recovery. Foremost was the need to stop overfishing. While some fish populations responded positively and quickly to reduced fishing, others did not. We now know that recovery depends on other factors, such as the magnitude of population reduction. The greater the depletion, the more likely a population will pass a 'tipping-point', making it more difficult for recovery to occur; small populations are less able to deal with unpredictable environments than large populations. Not all species have the same intrinsic ability to bounce back; the slower a fish's pace of life, the slower and more uncertain the recovery. And the longer a population remains depleted, the greater the chance that the ecosystem will change in ways that are unfavourable for recovery. Compared to other developed countries, Canada's recovery initiatives have been remarkably slow to develop and meaningfully implement. Recovering fish and fisheries is fundamental to strengthening the ability of Canada's ocean ecosystems to adapt to future challenges posed by human activity.

#### Collection, Coppice & Construction: A Three Part Yurt Building Workshop

Our three part yurt building workshops occur every November & April and are geared towards folks who want to actively make a yurt over the winter months and complete a yurt frame in the spring.

If you are serious about building a yurt within one year please register for the November and April workshops.

#### 1. Collecting Yurt Materials - Day Workshop

In this workshop we will discuss the yurt's history and strengths. We will erect a yurt and take a woodland walk to learn about the best wood for yurt construction. We will build a green wood working break, shave poles and learn about tool sharpening. You will leave with the skills and knowledge to collect, carve and store your poles in readiness for construction. You will also leave with the number and approximate lengths for your custom yurt.

**Dates: Saturday November 18th, 2017 9am-6pm.** Arrival on Friday November 17th after 7pm is recommended if you are traveling from far.

Where: 6325 Hwy 201, Paradise, NS

Directions: Take exit 19 and follow the signs to Lawrencetown, Paradise. Take the right turn by the convenience store across the river then turn right onto the 201 towards Paradise. Go past the cranberry farm about 3 kms further and it will be on the right.

Cost: \$100 plus tax (\$115.00) Lunch and snacks are provided

Bring: Work gloves, spare socks, warm waterproof clothing and boots.

Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to reserve your spot. The deposit is due five days after you have completed the registration.

# 2. Coppice Woodland & Charcoal Making – Evening & Following Day

We will gather together, potluck style and then head into the woods to load and lite a charcoal retort kiln which will burn through out the night. On Sunday we will clear the coppice woodland using hand tools and prepare the freshly cut stumps to regrow, providing yurt poles for the future. This sustainable forest technique is over 3000 years old and can provide a constant supply of raw materials when cut on a cycle. Little Foot Yurts has been harvesting poles at this site for eight years and with the help of volunteers, preparing the healthy regrowth of red Maple coppice.

**Dates: Saturday November 18th, 2017 starting at 7pm & Sunday November 19 from 9am-6pm** (Yurt accommodation is available at no charge, please bring sleeping bag, pillow & roll matt.)

Where: 6325 Hwy 201, Paradise, NS

Directions: Take exit 19 and follow the signs to Lawrencetown, Paradise. Take the right turn by the convenience store across the river then turn right onto the 201 towards Paradise. Go past the cranberry farm about 3 kms further and it will be on the right.

Cost: Free

Bring: Please bring a potluck item for the evening and a snack to share for the next day. We will provide breakfast and a BBQ lunch! Please bring a flashlight, sleeping bag, matt and pillow if you can spending the night.

#### 3. Yurt Frame Construction Workshop – 2.5 Day Workshop

Our two and a half day workshops will provide a thorough introduction to yurts including: coppice as a timber crop, Acadian forest species, making a greenwood working station, using a drawknife, froe and other hand tools, planning and designing your walls, roof, and wheel, and erecting a yurt. Part of our workshops consists of practical issues unique to yurt living, such as heating and insulation. Open to all skill levels and families welcome. View our detailed outline.

Children 6 and under are free, children between 7-13 are half price, and 14 and up are normal price. We recommend those people coming with children to have two adults present so you can both get an opportunity to be involved in all activities and discussions.

#### Dates: Friday April 20th-Sunday April 22, 2018

Where: 1459 White Rock Rd, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Cost: \$360 plus tax, includes cozy yurt camping, gourmet local vegetarian food, and a yurt zine.

Accommodation: Sleep, eat, learn and share with others in comfortable yurts equipped with a log burner. Compost toilets and a warm yurt kitchen is available for dining.

Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$160 is required to reserve your spot. The deposit is due five days after you have completed the registration.

--

Selene & Alex Cole Little Foot Yurts Inc. 1459 White Rock Rd, RR#1 Wolfville, NS, B4P 2R1 902 670-4556 info@lfy.ca www.lfy.ca

#### December and onward...

Helping Nature Heal Holiday Open House Dec. 7, 6-9pm, 671 LaHave St. Bridgewater. Join Helping Nature Heal in celebrating another successful year! Stop by for refreshments and a night full of good cheer. Drop in any time between 6pm and 9pm to celebrate another wonderful year!

Our gifts for gardeners will also be available starting November 17th, including lavender epsom salts, sweet fern and peppermint tea, wooden crafts, miniature abundance bottles and more!

Looking for brush bundles and holly for making wreaths etc. this season? We have you covered! Just stop by our shop at 671 Lahave Street in Bridgewater! \$5 per bundle, and Red Osier Dogwood sticks for \$1!

## **Job Postings**

# WRITERS NEEDED <a href="https://GoodWork.ca/931693">https://GoodWork.ca/931693</a>

Sharing Success Stories about the Environment to Inspire Action

Position: Guest Writers

Type: volunteer

Publication: Positive Planet Location: virtual / anywhere Guest write for Positive Planet!

We are looking for guest writers to contribute a monthly post. We want contributors from all over, so we get a diverse

range of positive stories.

Contact me with a short explanation of why you want to write about positive environmental stories.

Positive Planet: <a href="http://positiveplanet.ca">http://positiveplanet.ca</a>
Contact: <a href="http://positiveplanet.ca/contact">http://positiveplanet.ca/contact</a>

#### Cook and Food Intern http://www.artscentre.ca/nowhiring.html

The Ross Creek Centre for the Arts is looking for a full time intern to fill its new position of Food Specialist, focusing on cooking/ food security and outreach starting as soon as possible. Our kitchen is an amazing place and you can help us with camp meal planning, organising, working with our local food bank to support communities, and preserving food and ensuring little wastage. National applications welcome, and accommodation onsite may be provided if necessary.

Due to the funding, ALL APPLICANTS must be 30 years or less, with postsecondary education in a related field (food security, gardening, cooking, etc), love cooking and working with people, able to work on your own, and able to work at Ross Creek.

To apply:

Email: chris@artscentre.ca Subject line: Food Intern

Include:

Cover letter detailing what you think you can offer

CV with specifics on any science or other related education and background

Two references who can discuss your qualifications if applicable.

Please ensure you fit the qualifications included above.

All attached documents should be in MS Word or PDF format.

**Emily LeGrand** 

property@artscentre.ca

Environmental Farm and Landscape Manager

Ross Creek Centre for the Arts

902 582 3842

#### VOLUNTEER POSITION: Communications Officer https://GoodWork.ca/958924

Organization: Canadian Environmental Network

Location: anywhere in Canada

The Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) facilitates cooperation and networking among non-profit, non-governmental environmental organizations across Canada and internationally. Since 1977, we have been enabling and enhancing our members' work of protecting, conserving, restoring and promoting a clean, healthy, sustainable environment.

RCEN is seeking motivated volunteers to assist with communications. Communications Officers draft member newsletters and action alerts, prepare media releases, assist with funding proposals, contribute to RCEN's social media presence and help develop RCEN's communication strategy.

Most work is done remotely and volunteers should be comfortable with digital communications. An ability to work in both English and French is an asset but not required.

To apply, please e-mail your resume and a brief covering letter to: <a href="mailto:chair@rcen.ca">chair@rcen.ca</a> subject: Communications Officer

#### Indigenous Program Manager https://GoodWork.ca/976924

Organization: Outward Bound Canada

Details: Full-time, year round

Location: location in Canada, to be discussed

Start date: January 15, 2018

# Production Manager <a href="https://GoodWork.ca/950924">https://GoodWork.ca/950924</a>

Organization: Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc.

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Career opportunity for the right candidate to become part of our fast growing business.

Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc. uses innovative controlled-environment farming and specialize in the production of exotic mushrooms.

We are seeking a full-time Production Manager to help with all aspects of the company's daily operations including the following:

- Grow room management
- Harvesting
- Packaging
- Customer service
- Deliveries
- Business development
- Farmer's market sales

We are seeking candidates who:

- Have a passion for agriculture and local food
- Have customer service experience
- Are responsible and reliable
- Have a desire to learn and grow with the company

Compensation - Competitive based on experience.

To apply, please send a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and your relevant experience, along with a

current CV and 2 personal references to <a href="mailto:maritimegourmet@gmail.com">maritimegourmet@gmail.com</a>. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Thank you for your interest in Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc.

# Seeking: Entrpreneurs/participants for rural rent-free work-trade incubator https://GoodWork.ca/936824

Organization: Virtuous Cycle Investing

Location: Rural Nova Scotia

We are in a time of transition. Our working hypothesis is that a major component of this transition will be a change from growth-dependent economics to zero-growth or cyclical economics. The goal of Virtuous Cycle Investment is to identify and invest in tools and strategies that will remain valuable after this transition runs its course.

By creating alternatives for smart capital and talent, we hope to provide a low-friction vehicle for preserving the gains made in the industrial age as the chaotic transition to the next one takes place. Our current approach is to provide mentorship, workspace, a legal framework and co-investment opportunities to partners who believe they have a project that would align with these goals. Our current areas of research are in land transformation, self-organization and machine learning, but we are interested in all proposals.

Our innovation is a 'rural incubator' model. By pairing entrepreneurial people with rural landowners who need help with upkeep and transformation, several synergies can be accomplished. The entrepreneurial partner gets a large, rent-free space to work, free of many of the distractions common in a more cramped urban environment. By doing a few hours of manual labour each day in exchange, regular light exercise is assured and the partner is able to 'reset' between long periods of deep work. This keeps up health and prevents the 'burnout' common among trailblazers.

Please contact us at: <u>virtuouscycleinvestment@gmail.com</u> if you're interested.

#### Farm caretakers <a href="http://FoodWork.ca/914824">http://FoodWork.ca/914824</a>

Type: farm/property caretaker / small-scale farming opportunity

Organization: Windy Mountain Road Farm

Location: River John, Nova Scotia (Pictou County, near Tatamagouche & New Glasgow)

Are you in a situation where you are wanting to live the rural farming life but are unable to afford to purchase or lease land?

We have an amazing opportunity for interested person(s), ideally suited to a couple or two single people. We are seeking caretakers for our farm while we volunteer overseas. We are offering folks the chance to do market gardening/small scale farming (using non-agribusiness methods, non-certified organic methods) for the 2018 season without having to rent or own land.

We are located between Pictou & Tatamagouche in Nova Scotia. We are offering a place to stay for free so no rent (an average savings of \$500/month in the area we live) while we are away in exchange for taking care of our chickens (20+ for eggs), 2 dogs, 5 cats and our place. We have a very modest 2 bedroom home, wood stove heat, solar power for most our electrical needs, several small greenhouses and other infrastructure. We have asparagus beds that would need to be maintained (hand weeding!!), in exchange for harvesting and selling so you can garner some income.

We have the land & equipment that would be needed. You will need your own vehicle. The only costs to be covered by you would be your food & utilities (phone & internet, some electricity, some propane for cooking, some wood for woodstove). We are looking for folks who are seeking to live a self-sufficient, environmentally sustainable lifestyle, who will practice organic and permaculture farming methods. Some experience with farm animals is ideal but a love of animals is required. Experience with woodstove heat is also necessary. References will be required. Unfortunately you can't have your own pets - this is non-negotiable.

Dates are January 1 - Aug 31 2018, but can negotiate longer on both ends, with a possibility of permanent caretaking with the right person(s).

Only serious inquiries please. Send an email to: wwolfvan at yahoo dot com.

# Travel Guides <a href="https://Good/Work.ca/935824">https://Good/Work.ca/935824</a>

Employer: Backroads

Locations: Canmore, Calgary, Toronto and across Canada

Backroads, the world's #1 active travel company, is seeking seasonal Trip Leaders (guides) to lead and support our award-winning biking, hiking and multisport vacations in the US, Europe, and throughout the world. Our leaders enrich each trip with their personality and passion for travel and the outdoors, while providing outstanding customer service and sharing their love and knowledge of the area. Those who speak French, Italian and German and well-traveled applicants who are also fluent in English are encouraged to apply. Leaders are paid a competitive daily wage and gratuities. Housing and travel are provided during a Trip Leader's season.

We are seeking candidates from all over Canada to lead our trips that take place mostly on the east and west coasts of

Canada, and the Banff/Jasper area, with opportunities to work in Europe in the fall. The position will be based at our Canmore office, but Trip Leaders spend a majority of their season in the region they are leading. You will start and end your season in Canmore for training and other duties. Once your season starts, Backroads will provide housing in the region you are working in when you are not on trip. We will pay for your non-personal travel to and from wherever you are sent to work in Canada or abroad!

Visit <a href="http://www.backroads.com/leaders">http://www.backroads.com/leaders</a> for more information about this exciting opportunity and lifestyle, meet a few of our leaders and to fill out the online application.

### **Environmental Opportunities**

**Do you have a solar electricity (photovoltaic) system** at your property in Atlantic Canada, that was installed between 2014 and 2017, or know someone who does? If you do, would you be willing to complete a survey about your solar energy system?

Solar Nova Scotia is conducting this survey to estimate the current cost of solar electricity in our region.

**SURVEY LINK:** https://goo.gl/forms/d3M8w5MEULdI4UqG2

The survey is open until November 30, 2017. It will take about 10 minutes to complete. **By completing the survey, you could win a solar-powered cell phone charger!** Draw to be held December 8, 2017.

Thank you for reading this message. Please feel free to pass this message along to someone you know who has a solar power system in New Brunsick, PEI, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, or Labrador.

This work is supported by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

#### Sign the Environmental Education Petition to Parliament

At a few recent meetings of EECOM, the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), and the World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC), a group of EECOM members and Canadian educators considered the need for a more organized national focus on environmental and sustainability education. Through a process involving many practitioners, scholars, and students, and through the offices of the Leader of the Green Party of Canada, Elizabeth May MP, a petition has been produced that can be presented to the House of Commons.

Click here to review and sign the petition

#### Call for Winter 2018 Guided Snowshoe Hikes Deadline: December 22, 2017

Once again, Hike NS invites groups across NS to partner with it on delivering winter guided snowshoe hikes in January, February and March of 2018. The purpose of the event series is to: 1) get more people in NS hiking and snowshoeing; 2) highlight local trails and increase their use; and 3) promote Hike NS and local trail groups. Hike NS will help promote events, provide a how-to guide and provide trail prizes to giveaway.

If you and your local municipality or organization can organize a snowshoe hike (or already plan to host a hike), please register your event here <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMMKNG3">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMMKNG3</a> by December 22, 2017 for events between January 13 and March 18, 2018. Note that one organization may register only up to five hikes.

This message includes an update on **Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) development of federal regulations for coal mining effluent under the Fisheries Act**. To that end, the attached consultation document entitled *Proposed Approach for Coal Mining Effluent Regulations* has been developed to inform interested parties and to solicit feedback. Please refer to the document for information on how to provide written feedback. Written feedback would be greatly appreciated before January 31, 2018.

In addition, we are planning face-to-face information sessions in January 2018. We will provide information about potential dates for these information sessions in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

James Arnott

Manager, Regulatory Development and Analysis, Mining and Processing Division Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada

james.arnott@canada.ca / Tel: 819-420-7725

#### Are you familiar with our trails and the Halifax North West Trails Facebook page?

Want to become more involved?

Now is your chance.

We need a main Admin for our Facebook page.

In conjunction with directors of the HNWTA Board, you would post events, communications, photos and share relevant

posts from our trails community.

Like to use Twitter, that would be great too.

If interested contact: Jessica Boyd <u>HNWTA.communications@gmail.com</u> or <u>902-401-2282</u>

# Dear Nova Scotia Environment Networks,

Hope all is well. Thank you, once again, for being a part of our Canada-wide Energy Leaders Panel. The panel brings together university experts and key decision-makers from industry, government, Indigenous communities, local communities and environmental organizations to determine how energy resources can be developed in a way that garners acceptance and benefits society at large.

The findings of the previous research suggest that energy and environmental thought leaders believe that misinformation, lack of knowledge and environmental concerns are the top challenges for energy projects, while greenhouse emissions and fossil fuel related pollution are the top challenges for environmental stewardship. Furthermore, engagement and equal participation are the top challenges in terms of Indigenous communities and the energy sector. Panel participants recommend increased transparency/clarification for the public as a strategy for increasing public confidence in energy projects.

In appreciation of your participation in this project, we invite you to download the summary report detailing these findings at the following link:

#### Download

The data in this report is based on the compiled views of 141 environmental and energy leaders between August 15th and October 4th, 2016.

We are now conducting research about how to balance local and Indigenous governments' interests with broader regional, provincial and federal interests in Canadian energy policy, regulation and projects. The outreach should only take about five minutes of your time. To share your views please click on this link

In recognition of the value of your time, all participants will receive a summary of the key findings of the research in order to advance energy and environmental dialogue. All the views you share with Nanos Research will be confidential and grouped in the report for analytical purposes. All the information you share will be protected in accordance with Canada's privacy laws.

If you have questions about the overall Positive Energy project, please feel free to contact Monica Gattinger, at mgatting@uottawa.ca. For questions about the Leaders Panel, please contact the senior researcher on the project, Nik Nanos, at nnanos@nanosresearch.com

Thank you, in advance, for sharing your time.

Regards,

Nik Nanos, FMRIA **President Nanos Research** Professor Monica Gattinger Chair, Positive Energy Director, Institute for Science, Society and Policy

# **Teaching Teens about Climate Change**

We're excited to announce that **Green Teacher's newest book** will be published later this month.

If you peruse the table of contents below, you will see that this 80 page book brings together 12 articles and activities to aid any educator working with high school-aged students. The activities have the capacity to take teens from despair to empowerment, help them appreciate the difference between cap and trade and carbon taxes, explore the environmental impacts of the tar sands, provide options for sustainable transportation, and much more. But don't take our word about it: see below what other educators think about the book. https://greenteacher.com/teaching-teens-about-climate-change/

We are looking for environmentally minded folks to share the 2nd lot on our property at Mill Lake, Hubbards. Our historic cabin sits on 500' of waterfront. We are prepared to subdivide to create a 2nd lot with 250' of waterfront. This is a great opportunity to build a cottage or just camp close to metro on a beautiful lake. Summer has arrived. The boat is in the water and we would love to connect to pursue this opportunity with like-minded people. Details can be found at: https://www.ecoproperty.ca/listings/waterfront-property-for-sale-near-halifax-nova-scotia-39811

Green Teacher has recently launched a YouTube Channel. To date, we've posted 8 videos on our website, with several more in various editing stages. In time, we hope this will grow into a valuable resource for educators. Among those currently posted, are those describing:

- + How Google Earth was used by high school students as part of an invasive species removal project
- + How an elementary school in a northern resource town created partnerships so that their students could explore the natural and cultural environment in their area.
- + How to build better bug houses and pack waste free lunches.

Check out the posted videos here: https://greenteacher.com/check-out-these-videos/

In essence, we're keen to both receive short (i.e. 2-6 minute), practical videos – edited or unedited – from teachers and other youth educators on a wide variety of topics. Like the articles and activities we seek for *Green Teacher* magazine, we're looking for innovative green learning strategies on a wide variety of topics. Your presentation should provide sufficient detail and enough guidance that will enable viewers to replicate the activity in their own communities. Your video should specify early on the age group for which your learning activity or strategy is most appropriate. For more details of what we're looking for, check out: <a href="https://greenteacher.com/send-us-your-videos/">https://greenteacher.com/send-us-your-videos/</a>

Finally, if you see a short enviro-ed video that deserves a wider audience, send us a quick note about it.

Happy spring! Tim Grant, Editor Green Teacher 401 Richmond St, S-410 Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

416-960-1244, Fax: 416-340-2429, tim@greenteacher.com,

Creative Industries Fund: Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage is now accepting applications for a new \$2 million Creative Industries Fund. This fund has been designed, in consultation with stakeholders, to invest in the growth of the creative industries. Businesses, not-for-profits, social enterprises and sector associations operating in the creative sectors are eligible for funding. For more information click HERE. Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

#### Hi Solar Friends,

Can you help to make Nova Scotia a place that relies 100% on renewable energy?

Are you an owner of a solar energy system? Do you want to inspire others by your example? We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in having their system and story featured on our website as a case study.

We need case studies for

Passive Solar Solar Thermal

Hot air

Hot water

Solar Electricity (PV)

Concentrated

Ideally, case study volunteers would have owned their solar energy systems for a minimum of two years and are willing to share information about their systems such as the details of its design, energy production and costs. We will do the rest. Why do we want to do this?

- Clearly show Nova Scotians the economic and environmental benefits of adopting solar energy.
- Make our website the recognized clearing house for solar energy information.

If you are interested please contact me before December 20, 2016:

Ian Guppy

Solar NS Communications Committee

guppy@ns.sympatico.ca Phone: 902-425-5121

# Solar Nova Scotia, thanks to a donation from SHINES Energy, has TWO copies of the Bob Ramlow book, \_Solar Water Heating .

We'll be giving two copies away to someone who shows up at the Lion's Head this Friday evening.

Tickets are free - we'll use business cards or scraps of paper for the tickets.

Solar NS members will be there at 5:00 sharp, the draw will be at about 5:45pm.

Here's the book, ISBN 978-0-86571-561-5 <a href="https://i.gyazo.com/24fb3b4330dd2b83d3fb89ef58160d16.jpg">https://i.gyazo.com/24fb3b4330dd2b83d3fb89ef58160d16.jpg</a> Hope to see you there!

Got some beef to air? Got some news to share? Got some questions? Got some ideas? Got some plans?

This Friday evening, every Friday evening, is the Solar Nova Scotia Sup'n'Share!

We're there at 5:00 sharp, have supper and catch up.

When: Every Friday evening, 5:00pm

Where: Lion's Head Tavern, 3081 Robie St. Ask the waiter to point out our table.

Seeya there!

**Watch for Wildlife** (W4W) NS is a wildlife vehicle collision prevention program that encourages and enables Nova Scotians and visitors to the province to drive with an awareness of wildlife on roads, and do what they can to prevent collisions with wildlife. It is also about providing drivers contact numbers and information about how to respond in case a collision does happen.

If you want a magnet or sticker to put on your car so you can be a reminder to others as you drive to Watch for Wildlife, please get in touch. Please see our website: www.watchforwildlife.ca

And follow or like us if you do at: Facebook www.facebook.com/watchforwildlifens/ Twitter @watch4wildlife

#### Everyone deserves a warm home.

We all deserve to be comfortable in our home. For homeowners who qualify, the HomeWarming team provides a free comprehensive energy audit and works with you to determine the energy efficiency upgrades that make the most sense for your home. Then the team takes care of managing sub-contractors to have the upgrades completed at no cost to you. Am I eligible? You can apply if:

| # OF PEOPLE LIVING IN YOUR HOME | MAXIMUM ANNUAL<br>HOUSEHOLD INCOME<br>(Line 236 from your Tax Notice of Assessment) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 person                        | \$21,186  |
| 2 to 4 people                   | \$39,367  |
| 5 or more people                | \$56,064  |

- · Your combined family income is under the levels shown in the chart to the right
- · You own a single-unit home/mobile home located in Nova Scotia and can provide proof of ownership
- · You live in your home year-round, it is your primary residence, and you do not plan to sell in the near future
- $\cdot \ \ Your\ home\ has\ not\ previously\ received\ upgrades\ through\ HomeWarming\ or\ the\ Low\ Income\ Homeowner\ Service.$

Applications can be filled online at <a href="https://www.homewarmingapply.ca">www.homewarmingapply.ca</a> or downloaded at <a href="https://www.homewarming.ca">www.homewarming.ca</a> Have questions? Call toll free at <a href="https://www.homewarming.ca">1-877-434-2136</a> or visit <a href="https://www.homewarming.ca">homewarming.ca</a>

Do you have shredded sneakers, torn trousers or holy socks ready for trashing? Since 2013, all worn or unusable textiles and fabrics of any material and in any condition (except chemically contaminated) can be reused/ recycled. Collection sites are all over HRM and Nova Scotia. AFTeR began in 2013 as a group of six organizations that collect used clothing to fund social causes such as helping children at risk, combatting disease, and supporting marginalized citizens and those facing crisis. This is accomplished with the added benefit of keeping the textile materials out of our landfills. AFTeR member charities are experts in the collection and repurposing of used textiles and footwear. <a href="http://afterwear.ca/wp/donate/">http://afterwear.ca/wp/donate/</a>

#### **Environmental News**

### 2017 Fall Reports of the Commissioner of the Environment

Dear colleague,

I am writing to advise you that my 2017 Fall Reports were tabled today in the House of Commons.

These reports specifically examines the following issues:

Progress on Reducing Greenhouse Gases—Environment and Climate Change Canada

Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change Climate Change

**Funding Clean Energy Technologies** 

Departmental Progress in Implementing Sustainable Development Strategies

**Environmental Petitions Annual Report and Retrospective** 

In addition, the Reports contains: The Commissioner's Perspective

My report is available on the Office of the Auditor General of Canada web site.

Sincerely,

Julie Gelfand

Commissioner of the Environment and of Sustainable Development

Dear/Bonjour NSEN,

I invite you to view the October 2017 edition of the Organic Friends' E-Zine, brought to you by the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC).

Among the offerings in this latest E-Zine edition, you will find:

- The latest updates from Organic Science Cluster II.
- Links to organic extension information, including resources focused on soils and fertility, organic horticulture, weed management, organic livestock, and the environmental impacts of organic production.
- Links to the latest organic research abstracts, which cover a number of diverse topics, such as: soils and fertility, organic horticultural and field crop production, organic livestock management, the ecological and environmental aspects of organic production, and more.
- The latest updates from Canada's organic community.

**November 2017 Newsletter of the Halifax North West Trail Association** is available <a href="here">here</a>. Be sure to have a look at the Green Network Plan and the HRM Volunteer Conference links!

**Coastal Update October 2017** edition is now available and ready for you to view—see attached! You can also find the latest issue online, or through our social media channels—Facebook and Twitter.

Check out the latest from **Nova Scotia Nature Trust** here: http://nsnt.ca/

Each quarter, Environment and Climate Change Canada and NOAA (in coordination with other partners) issues the *Gulf of Maine Region Climate Impacts and Outlook* bulletin, offering valuable information to those concerned with natural resources, transportation, infrastructure, energy, public health and other fields shaped by weather and climate. The *Gulf of Maine Outlook* highlights the past season's events and anomalies, cites weather impacts and offers seasonal forecasts for temperature and precipitation. To see the most recent issue and to sign up to receive the Gulf of Maine Outlook, visit <a href="http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/climate-network-climate-outlook/">http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/climate-network-climate-outlook/</a>.

# **ENERGY--More Clean Energy Coming to Cape Breton**

-----

More solar panels will be popping up in Cape Breton through the Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program announced today, Nov. 10, by Municipal Affairs Minister Derek Mombourquette on behalf of Energy Minister Geoff MacLellan.

"Nova Scotians have been clear, they want long-term, sustainable and affordable energy that addresses climate change," said Mr. Mombourquette. "This is a great opportunity for Sydney to get more involved in clean electricity generation, and build knowledge and skills in our community."

Through the solar program Cape Breton University and Tugliq Energy Co. have been approved to generate up to 150 kilowatts on various buildings at the university. They will collaborate to sell their solar generated electricity back to their utility through a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement.

"We are pleased to work with Cape Breton University," said Pierre Rivard, chairman of Tugliq Energy Co. "This project will provide learning and research opportunities as we transition towards less carbon-intensive sources."

In Inverness County, We'kogma'q First Nation Band Council's application to the program was also successful.

A total of 18 successful applications were chosen across the province. All applications were overseen by Clean Foundation, the independent procurement administrator. The impact to ratepayers is capped at 0.1 per cent, which is already built into the rate stability plan.

The program is for Mi'kmaw communities, registered non-profit or charitable organizations, municipalities or organizations owned by municipalities, universities or community colleges in Nova Scotia.

The program will be offered for two more years. To see a complete list of all successful applicants, and to learn more about the program, visit <a href="novascotia.ca/solar">novascotia.ca/solar</a>.

# Something Rotten in the State of Nova Scotia: An Environmental Update

"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" quoth Shakespeare's Prince Hamlet when he suspected there was more going on behind the scenes in Denmark than the evil King wanted his people to know. Well something is burning in Nova Scotia and it's not the wheels of government turning quickly.

In fact it is a question on more and more people's minds, especially after our recent fall sitting of the legislature. The question is this: "What is happening to our environment?"

We don't need to go far to find a community negatively impacted by poor environmental decision-making at the provincial level.

Just ask the folks in Pictou County fed up with the alarming level of emissions from the pulp mill, and the effects on their health. Ask our First Nations communities and also the owners of Ski Wentworth - both concerned about the impact of clearcutting and glyphosate spraying on our Acadian forests and wildlife. Ask the folks in Glenholme how they feel about the approval of a quarry expansion near the pristine Little Dyke Lake. Likewise ask the residents of Shortts Lake engaged in their second round of fighting to prevent the incineration of tires at the Lafarge cement factory.

The answer to the question might be found in Environment Minister Iain Rankin's recent responses to concerns I raised in the House of Assembly as NDP Environment spokesperson. Adept at deflecting criticism he refers to the rules and procedures in place, and claims the Environment Department's decisions are strictly science and evidence-based. However, I would argue that slacking off on environmental stewardship is a political choice. There are interests that stand to benefit from government turning a blind eye while ignoring the impact of industrial activity on our province's natural ecosystems.

We even know that the McNeil government has been lobbied by <u>Stephen McNeil's campaign manager</u> on behalf of Lafarge. So when the Environment Minister defends the right of a company to engage in a practice that interferes with our province's highly successful tire recycling program and has been opposed for decades by local communities—and which a <u>host of credible research</u> has shown is a bad idea—I'm sorry, but I don't buy the line that this is just the Department doing its job.

There was a time when Nova Scotia was an environmental leader. I was proud to be part of the NDP government that put North America's first hard caps on green house gas emissions for electricity, an initiative recognized by the David Suzuki Foundation as one of the top five best moves on climate change. It was under NDP leadership that our province's renewable energy goal for electricity was increased to 40% by 2020. And we received praise from CPAWS for increasing our protected wilderness areas.

Instead, we have a government that couldn't even be bothered to mention the environment or climate change in the Speech from the Throne.

Our caucus' response to this non-action has been to put forward legislation to get our province back on track with environmental stewardship. This fall, as NDP Environment spokesperson, I re-introduced our Environmental Bill of Rights which would empower citizens in the decision-making process for activities that would affect their communities. I was also proud to bring forward a bill to ban tire burning in Nova Scotia, and to re-introduce my own UN-recommended bill - An Act to Address Environmental Racism.

We can do better in Nova Scotia than a government for whom the environment is an afterthought. We can do better than a cap-and-trade plan that allows multibillion-dollar corporations to continue polluting with little change to our carbon footprint.

After all, the future of our province depends on making sound environmental decisions now. We need to respond quickly and succinctly to the challenge of climate change because without a healthy, protected environment, a strong economy won't matter. It is my sincere belief that both a strong economy and a healthy environment can co-exist. One just needs the political will - and backbone - to do so.

Please check out my radio interview - see the links below:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2c2ba73562ae9929b83df666e/files/7b26013e-4353-4c0e-84cf-

d6e41e369749/Lenore on ECFM Part 1.mp3

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2c2ba73562ae9929b83df666e/files/e272895c-4fc5-4b71-81bb-

ed1d82f4fe0b/Lenore on ECFM Part 2.mp3

Lenore Zann is the MLA for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River and the NDP Spokesperson for Environment.

Lenore Zann, MLA

Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River

557 Prince St.

Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 1G2

<u>1-902-897-9266</u> Fax: 902-897-1841

http://www.mlalenorezann.ca

# Nova Scotia 'failing' on environmental project monitoring, auditor general says

By Keith Doucette <safari-reader://www.nationalobserver.com/u/keith-doucette> in News <safari-reader://www.nationalobserver.com/news>, Politics <safari-reader://www.nationalobserver.com/sections/politics> | November 1st 2017

Nova Scotia does not monitor many industrial projects to see if they comply with their environmental terms, the province's auditor general says.

In a report released Wednesday, Michael Pickup said the Environment Department approved 53 of 54 project applications

between 2013 and 2016.

He said his office examined 22 of those projects and found almost half of the 53 different terms and conditions he examined weren't met. He said that "increases the risk that the environment is not protected as planned."

The Environment Department is "failing" in this aspect of its oversight, he said.

"For example, Nova Scotia Environment did not have evidence to confirm requirements such as groundwater well and wildlife surveys were completed by the project owner or work was completed outside of animal breeding seasons," the report states.

"The lack of monitoring of the terms and conditions of approved projects ... weakens the work done by Nova Scotia Environment in deciding to approve a project."

The report also notes that the conditions for some projects lacked important details such as deadlines for completion and reporting requirements.

It said the lack of clarity limited the department's ability to hold project owners accountable

"This increases risk to the environment," says the report.

"Inspectors told us they had concerns related to the enforceability of some terms and conditions. Inspectors believed their lack of involvement in the development of the terms and conditions contributed to this issue."

Pickup also found that neither the department nor project owners completed the required assessments for any of the projects that were examined. That left the department without the necessary information to ensure terms and conditions "were satisfied and environmental risks were properly managed."

The report pinpointed a lack of reporting to the department's electronic tracking system. An internal review in 2015 found that only 75 of the 276 environmental assessment approvals issued between 1989 and 2015 had been recorded in the system.

"Until the department identified this issue there was nearly no monitoring of the terms and conditions attached to approved projects," says the report.

In other areas covered in his report, Pickup says the province's last climate change risk plan was completed in 2005 and an update is needed because the risks may have changed.

As well, the report says the \$130 million liability for the Boat Harbour contamination cleanup in Pictou County has grown by more than 10 times the original estimate of \$12 million made in 2013.

Pickup notes costs to remediate contaminated sites may take years to finalize, leading to fiscal planning that can be "challenging."

The report also notes that the auditor general's office had conducted three environmental audits over the last 10 years and that nearly half of the recommendations — 20 of 43 — had not been completed despite being accepted by the provincial government.

**UNFRACTURED** is a sort-of-sequel to *Living Downstream*. Both films follow the work of Sandra Steingraber, and both films were made by Chanda Chevannes. See more here about the trailer:

http://mailchi.mp/aa4af706019e/unfracturedintro?e=1c62590dc1 . A triumphant documentary about resistance, UNFRACTURED follows introspective biologist and mother Sandra Steingraber as she reinvents herself as an outspoken activist to wage an environmental war that many believe is unwinnable.

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.



# nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork
Find past EcoConnections here: <a href="http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/resources">http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/resources</a>
NSEN Events webpage: <a href="http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events">http://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/events</a>

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

S

t

0

n

g

e