



Nova Scotia  
Environmental Network  
Connecting for a Sustainable Future

## Eco Connections Newsletter December 2017

# Happy Holidays

Wishing you the best of the season!  
From NSEN



### 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: [nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com).

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: [www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork)

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

Email: [nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nseenvironmentalnetwork@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](mailto:jonilight3@yahoo.ca).

**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: [nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com).

### NSEN CAUCUSES

**Water Caucus:** The next NSEN Water Caucus meeting is TBA. Be in touch for more info: Amy Buckland-Nicks: [amy.buckland-nicks@merseytobeat.ca](mailto:amy.buckland-nicks@merseytobeat.ca).

**Environmental and Sustainability Education Caucus:** Next caucus meeting is Friday, January 12th, 10 am - 12 pm, hosted at the Heartwood office: 5516 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. That's in the Sport NS building on the second floor. In mid or late February our meeting is planned at Ducks Unlimited Wetland Centre in the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. Snowshoeing available, weather permitting! Be in touch with Karen for further details: [karenmckendry@eastlink.ca](mailto:karenmckendry@eastlink.ca). See info and the members of the ESE Caucus here: <https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/about/caucuses/ese>.

## Upcoming Member Events & Events of Interest

### December

**What Trees Talk About.** The film features several Canadian scientists devoted to uncovering the secret life of boreal trees - how they communicate, wage war, and work together to transform our world. In addition to the TV broadcast on November 26th, the full documentary will be available to stream online starting Friday, November 24th at 3 pm on CBC's website: <http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/what-trees-talk-about>.

Feel free to check out our preview clip here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fLeJ1OEItpYErBm4AD6WQmUc9jDtEFzW>.

I've also attached a press release, and we have promotional stills available at the following link: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1N\\_AqLkXbZprqOiC5wtx8\\_I9wXsybyGLn](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1N_AqLkXbZprqOiC5wtx8_I9wXsybyGLn).

You can also find us on social media at the following links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/meritmotionpictures/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/MMP\\_Inc](https://twitter.com/MMP_Inc)

**The Wildlife Park is looking for some volunteers** for our winter events and it would be awesome if you or somebody you know wanted to help out. Have a look at the descriptions below and of course you can always send us questions. Hope to see you at all of these events even if you don't volunteer!

**Dec 16, 17 and 23** we will have our reindeer and Santa events from 1-3 pm. We need hot drink servers, craft helpers, game leader and we will have the antler and lichen display to interpret. You also get to see the kids with Santa!

**Starting Jan 6** FREE SNOWSHOEING AT THE PARK ON WEEK-ENDS Have you ever wanted to try snowshoeing? We have the snowshoes if winter gives us the snow. This will be offered periodically on week-ends starting January 6, 2018, from 10 am to 1 pm. This will be an opportunity for volunteers to snowshoe with the visitors and interpret our wetland trail.

**Feb 2**-our big day with Shubenacadie Sam and World Wetlands Day starting at 7 am but over by 1 pm. We need hot drink helpers, groundhog costume wearers or someone to guide the costumed people, greeter by the door, craft helper and face painter.

Please let me know if you would like to participate on any of the above upcoming special events.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Rebecca Parker

Education Specialist

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Office: (Shubenacadie Wildlife Park) 902-758-4541

**Nova Scotia Outdoor Network Collaboratory Series** find all the listings for upcoming events here:

<http://nsoutdoornetwork.ca/WanderstreamUI/pages/events-search-results.xhtml>

### January and onward...

**Join us on the adventure of a lifetime!**

The Nature Trust is seeking adventurers to join us and for the third Expedition for the Earth to Ecuador from September 22-29, 2018!

This incredible adventure will take you to one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. You will visit the cloud forests, upper Amazon basin, volcanoes and Andean peaks of northern Ecuador on this fully-guided 8 day trek.

The goal of the Expedition for the Earth is to raise critical funds and awareness to support the conservation of special places in Nova Scotia while exploring incredible protected places around the world.

Internationally renowned mountaineer Wally Berg of Berg Adventures International will expertly guide the trek. Wally has extensive experience guiding international adventures and has led countless expeditions around the world including to the

seven summits. In addition, Berg has partnered with the Nature Trust on the previous two Expedition for the Earth treks to Patagonia in 2013 and Iceland in 2016, which raised over \$100,000 for conservation in Nova Scotia.

### **The Adventure**

The adventure will begin in Quito. From there you will travel to the Upper Amazon basin and spend the next several days exploring the cloud forests and lush Amazon basin of the Cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve. After that you will travel north to Otavalo where you will hike the spectacular Guinea Pig Lake in the Cotacachi-Cyapas Ecological Reserve, and climb to the summit of Fuya Fuya. For every part of your journey you will be joined by local naturalists who will provide fascinating insights into the local protected areas, and the incredible flora and fauna of the region.

[Read more about the trek.](#)

### **New! Galapagos Extension**

Berg Adventures will be offering an optional add-on trip to the Galapagos that is separate from the Expedition for the Earth and can be booked through Berg directly. For a detailed overview of this incredible trip [view the itinerary here.](#)

Please contact Berg Adventures as soon as possible if you are interested to reserve your spot on the boat.

For more information contact Berg (Phone: [1-403-609-4148](tel:1-403-609-4148) Toll free: [1-866-609-4148](tel:1-866-609-4148))

Sign up Today!

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2018

### **Contact:**

[expedition@nsnt.ca](mailto:expedition@nsnt.ca)

Phone: [902-425-5263](tel:902-425-5263)

[expeditionfortheearth.ca](http://expeditionfortheearth.ca)

### **Job Postings**

**Organic Farming Internship** More info here: <http://FoodWork.ca/966134>

Type: paid full-time internships; housing optional, more (see below)

Organization: Four Seasons Farm

Location: Maitland, near Truro, Nova Scotia

Four Seasons Farm is a place where many opportunities await both the aspiring farmer and the curious person looking to understand food. While the farm is a commercial business, the resources to learn about farming are many; there is a library of periodicals and books, a small plot of land to play with, experienced farmers to answer questions, and a successful, well established farm to experience. Owners Sina and Owen strive to accommodate and challenge interns so that when they finish the season feel fulfilled and ready to continue their journeys. Those who bring questions, motivation and a sense of humor find the best fit here. Also, previous experience is valued but passion and hard work trump all else. A commitment to a whole season is expected, benefiting the farm and the intern most. Interns who have these qualities enable the farm to move forward in producing healthy organic food, sharing ideas of permaculture and sustainable agriculture, and enriching the farm and the community that surrounds it (Maitland!).

### **VOLUNTEER POSITION**

**Communications Coordinator** More info here: <http://FoodWork.ca/959134>

Organization: Found Forgotten Food

Location: Halifax, or anywhere in Nova Scotia

FOUND strives to reduce food waste by gathering and sharing forgotten fruits and vegetables in Halifax and Wolfville, NS. We source our food from local producers, gardeners, and even the trees around us that otherwise wouldn't end up on our plates.

**Program Leader (2018)** Click for more here: <https://GoodWork.ca/980334>

Organization: Rustic Pathways

Location: ability to work in one of our 16 country destinations for at least 6-10 consecutive weeks at a time

Rustic Pathways is a student travel organization which offers the world's finest experiential education, community service, foreign language, and adventure programs. Our destinations stretch from the white-sand beaches of Fiji to the rainforest canopies of Costa Rica, the high Atlas mountains to the Great Barrier Reef, and many places in between. We provide superior quality travel and service in some of the most welcoming countries for students around the world. Rustic Pathways demands professionalism and integrity across all of our operations, insists on quality in all aspects of our programs, and places strong emphasis on the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We empower students through innovative and responsible travel experiences to positively impact lives and communities around the world.

**WRITERS NEEDED** <https://GoodWork.ca/931693>

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: <http://positiveplanet.ca>

Contact: <http://positiveplanet.ca/contact>

**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, focussing 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](mailto: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](mailto:property@artscentre.ca)

Environmental Farm and Landscape Manager

Ross Creek Centre for the Arts

[902 582 3842](tel:9025823842)

**Seeking: Entrepreneurs/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: [virtuouscycleinvestment@gmail.com](mailto:virtuouscycleinvestment@gmail.com) if you're interested.

**Travel Guides** <https://GoodWork.ca/935824>

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

### Environmental Opportunities

**Stress-free, Nature-Saving Gift Ideas from the Nature Trust** This holiday season, consider a different way of giving — give the Gift of Nature! <http://www.nsnt.ca/joy/?bblinkid=70409800&bbemailid=5816735&bbejrid=443193351>

All across the country we are seeing tremendous energy and enthusiasm around the growing sophistication of **community-based water monitoring (CBWM)**, its significant contributions to freshwater assessment, and its potential to realize collaborative models of watershed governance. We are learning from regional dialogues within the water community and across sectors that there is a need to help direct the momentum building around CBWM at the national level.

The question is, given the geographical diversity of our country and the context-specific nature of CBWM initiatives, how will this be possible? Your perspective will be helpful in answering this question.

The Gordon Foundation, Living Lakes Canada and WWF have collaborated on an online Priority Setting Survey, part of a broader initiative to understand how to best support CBWM and the use of community-generated data at multiple scales of decision-making. The overall aim is to identify gaps and strategic opportunities to support CBWM at the federal level.

This seven-minute survey involves open- and closed-ended questions. It will be available from November 25th – December 15th, 2017 and results will be shared with you via email in January 2018.

**SURVEY LINK:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/community-basedwatermonitoring>

**Smart Drive Challenge** ([www.smartdrivechallenge.ca](http://www.smartdrivechallenge.ca)) is engaging Canadians in a national education-centered, points-based program to reduce their personal vehicle fuel use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. *Smart Drive Challenge* educates and empowers Canadians by:

- Making their current vehicle use more efficient through improved driving techniques and vehicle maintenance;
- Increasing their awareness and use of low and zero emission vehicles; and
- Supporting and increasing their use of sustainable transportation options

Participants will be given their own learning dashboard where they can complete online courses and access learning resources. The responsive training tools work on any device and can be used anytime, anywhere. When the learning is done, we **challenge** participants to apply their newfound knowledge in their daily lives by becoming *smarter* drivers.

Participants will be rewarded with points along the way, and points can be used to win cash prizes – the more they learn, the more they can earn!

Registration is now open at [SmartDriveChallenge.ca](http://SmartDriveChallenge.ca)! We have also included a link to a free communications toolkit [here](#). For more information feel free to contact Mike Driedger, Program Director at [mdriedger@scoutenvironmental.com](mailto:mdriedger@scoutenvironmental.com) or [416-922-2449 x250](tel:416-922-2449).

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has recently shared a consultation document entitled *Proposed Approach for Coal Mining Effluent Regulations*. The purpose of this document is to inform interested parties and solicit feedback.

Written feedback on the document would be greatly appreciated before January 31, 2018.

In addition, for parties interested in discussing the document in person, ECCC is planning the following full-day face-to-face multi-stakeholder information sessions:

Vancouver, British Columbia

Thursday, January 11, 2018

**Truro, Nova Scotia**

**Tuesday, January 16, 2018**

Regina, Saskatchewan

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Edmonton, Alberta

Thursday, January 25, 2018

If you are a non-government organization delegate representing an Indigenous Community or organization, or an environmental organization, ECCC would, depending on the level of interest, be able to reimburse your participation, as described in the attached document. At this time, participant reimbursement will be limited to one delegate per organization. Please find attached a sample confirmation letter that provides details on the reimbursements available. Should you request a reimbursement, ECCC will follow-up with additional details.

Please let us know if you wish to participate by emailing [ec.ermc-cmrd.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.ermc-cmrd.ec@canada.ca). If at all possible, a response by Friday, December 22, 2017 would be appreciated. Please use the following template to indicate your name and the location of the session you are interested in attending:

NAME	REPRESENTATIVE OF ORGANIZATION/COMPANY	CONTACT INFORMATION		SESSION (LOCATION)	WILL YOU BE REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENT
		E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER		

We will contact participants with more information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

James Arnott

Manager, Regulatory Development and Analysis, Mining and Processing Division

Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada

[james.arnott@canada.ca](mailto:james.arnott@canada.ca) / Tel: [819-420-7725](tel:819-420-7725)

Here's a wonderful opportunity for those of you who work with grades 7, 8 & 9 or know educators who do. Please consider or share this chance for students to win Canada's Coolest School Trip contest. This year's grand prize is a 5-day, all-expenses paid school trip to Parks Canada places in Ontario, including visits to Thousand Islands National Park, Fort Wellington National Historic Site, the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and Laurier House National Historic Site.

To get a quick understanding of the contest, check out the [promotional video](#) or the video from [Honorary Guide](#), Sophie Grégoire Trudeau.

Contest Details

- Who can participate: New this year, the contest is open to grade 7, 8, 9 / secondary 1, 2, 3 classes.
  - How to enter: Also new this year, to enter, classes must create a photo essay about a cultural, historical or environmental stewardship project that they took part in, explaining how it relates to Parks Canada. Classes can enter at [www.myparkspass.ca](http://www.myparkspass.ca) until February 26, 2018.
  - Public Voting: The public will vote for their favourite entry from March 5-21, 2018.
  - Announcement of Winners: The 15 short-listed entries, made up of the top 10 entries that receive the most votes and the 5 staff picks will be judged by a panel of partner executives to select all winners. Winners will be announced in April 2018.
  - Prizes:
    - o Grand Prize: Class trip to Ontario from June 4-8, 2018 valued at approximately \$50,000
    - o Three Runner-up prizes: Local class field trip valued at approximately \$1000
    - o Six Honourable mentions: Prize package valued at approximately \$500
- For full details, you can visit [www.myparkspass.ca](http://www.myparkspass.ca).

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation is delighted to share that Global Affairs has just launched a call for proposals - **2017 Call for Preliminary Proposals - Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations (SMO) for Impact and Innovation**. This is part of the \$100M SMO Fund that Minister Bibeau announced on May 9, 2017. This is the first and largest component of the fund. There will also be an Innovation Fund and a Capacity Building component with details to be announced at a later date.

Through this call, the Government of Canada acknowledges the important role Small and Medium Sized Organizations play in the achievement of Canada's Feminist International Development Aid Policy. This call is, in part, a result of a multi-year advocacy campaign by the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils, to ensure the Government of Canada values the strength and diversity of SMOs rooted in communities across Canada from coast to coast to coast.

2017 Call for Preliminary Proposals - Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation

Deadline for submitting a preliminary proposal for this call: **December 21, 2017 before 12 p.m.** (noon) Eastern Standard Time.

Global Affairs requires an [attestation](#) signed by your organization's financial director or president indicating that your organization is a Canadian small or medium organization according to the following definition for this call for preliminary proposals: the **consolidated revenue in your organization's financial statements is equal to or less than \$10 million** (this limitation does not apply to educational institutions) and your organization does not have **annual overseas expenditures exceeding \$2 million in development assistance** (i.e. projects administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective (regardless of the funding source)).

If your organization is submitting a proposal on behalf of a group of organizations, each organization must be a Canadian SMO as per the definition above for this call and must provide the requisite Canadian Small or Medium Organization Attestation. You must scan the attestations together into one single document and submit it as part of the application package.

Here is a [link](#) to the call for preliminary proposals.

We will send another email once we have had a chance to review this information and as we receive more information from Global Affairs Canada.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Slood**

Executive Director

**Atlantic Council for International Cooperation | Conseil atlantique pour la coopération internationale**

210-2099 Gottingen St., Halifax, NS B3K 3B2

(t) [902.431.2311](tel:902.431.2311) (f) [431.3216](tel:431.3216)

(w) [www.acic-caci.org](http://www.acic-caci.org)

Join us on [Facebook](#) or

Follow us on [Twitter](#)!

**Apprentices - Organic & Sustainable Farming** <http://FoodWork.ca/growfood>

Type: learning positions / various dates, accommodation, terms (see below)

Organization: Stewards of Irreplaceable Land (SOIL)

Locations: many locations across Canada

SOIL links Canadian farmers willing to take on and train apprentices with people who want to work and learn on an organic farm using sustainable practices. The 2017/18 'apprentice seeking season' is gathering steam and it's a good time to put your applications in. We have farmer hosts all across Canada and have been providing this service since 1989.

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over 18 years old who is healthy, self motivated and eager to learn. A time commitment of eight weeks is usually required. A full-season commitment is usually preferred. Typically, apprenticeships take place between May and September, although many farms need help all year round. Most apprenticeships involve labor in exchange for room, board and the opportunity to learn, although some farms provide a wage or small allowance.

For more information and to apply our website address is: [www.soilapprenticeships.com](http://www.soilapprenticeships.com)

Seeking: **New growers** <http://FoodWork.ca/growfood>

Type: training/mentorship for gardening self-employment

Organization: St Martha's Garden

Location: Antigonish, Nova Scotia (if you are from out of the area, we will do our best to help you find a place to live nearby)

The St Martha's New Grower Program is seeking applicants who want to pursue gardening as a career. The garden is set up with raised beds, irrigation, deer fence, and greenhouses. It is mostly managed with plastic tarps and landscape fabric on raised beds for weed control. Beginning this year, we plan to have an additional acre in mechanically cultivated row crops. Total area in production is two acres.

A unique aspect of this program is it is mostly self-driven, with mentorship support.

A barn near the garden houses many tools, including a BCS walking tractor and implements. There is also a walk in cooler and a vegetable processing area. High quality compost, cover crop seed, electricity and water are included. Mentorship from two experienced market gardeners is a key component of this educational program.

Each participant pays a fee of \$4,000 or 50% of gross sales, whichever is less. Participants also purchase seeds, fuel and other consumables. In 2017 two people working full time had total gross sales of \$40,000 on one acre. Knowledge, hard work and weather in the growing season are factors that determine what income can be made. Applicants should be able to support themselves financially until harvests from the garden exceed startup expenses. It is also helpful to have access to

a vehicle for transporting produce to market.

If you are in transition between apprenticing on farms and starting your own market garden, or if you have some experience growing vegetables and need to learn all aspects of market gardening this is a perfect learning opportunity for you. If you are from out of the area, we will do our best to help you find a place to live nearby. The Bethany Garden is located right in the dynamic town of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, home of St Francis Xavier University.

Please apply ASAP! This position will be open until filled.

To apply, send a cover letter, and resumé to Jen Greenberg: [jenredfox@gmail.com](mailto:jenredfox@gmail.com)

We cannot accept applications from outside of Canada.

For more information, photos, and a video, see <https://bethanygarden.wordpress.com/>

### **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 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMMKNG3> 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](mailto: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 [HNWTA.communications@gmail.com](mailto:HNWTA.communications@gmail.com) or [902-401-2282](tel:902-401-2282)

### **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: <https://greenteacher.com/send-us-your-videos/>

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](tel:416-960-1244), Fax: [416-340-2429](tel:416-340-2429), [tim@greenteacher.com](mailto: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](mailto:guppy@ns.sympatico.ca)

Phone: [902-425-5121](tel:902-425-5121)

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](http://www.watchforwildlife.ca)

And follow or like us if you do at: Facebook [www.facebook.com/watchforwildlifens/](https://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 HOUSEHOLD INCOME (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
- Your home has not previously received upgrades through HomeWarming or the Low Income Homeowner Service.

Applications can be filled online at [www.homewarmingapply.ca](http://www.homewarmingapply.ca) or downloaded at [www.homewarming.ca](http://www.homewarming.ca)

Have questions? Call toll free at [1-877-434-2136](tel:1-877-434-2136) or visit [homewarming.ca](http://homewarming.ca)

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. <http://afterwear.ca/wp/donate/>

**Environmental News**

**The Mill: Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest**

From today's Examiner

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/the-hanging-of-daniel-sampson-morning-file-tuesday-december-5-2017/>

Northern Pulp Mill. Photo: Halifax Examiner

“Northern Pulp wants author Joan Baxter and her latest book placed squarely on the Christmas naughty list,” reports Francis Campbell for the Chronicle Herald <<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1526447-author-upset-northern-pulp-book-signing-cancelled>>:

Baxter was looking forward to signing copies of The Mill: Fifty Years of Pulp and Protest at Coles in New Glasgow on Saturday afternoon.

But the event was cancelled after an apparent attempt by the company that runs the Abercrombie Point Mill in Pictou County to scuttle the book-signing.

“In my opinion, this book is a non-factual rhetoric-filled account of the mill and its history and, quite frankly, something that is offensive to anyone who has an association to the mill,” company communications director Kathy Cloutier wrote in an email that was dispersed to Northern Pulp employees and forwarded to retired mill workers.

Remarkably, Coles cancelled a scheduled the signing for The Mill.

You can purchase Baxter’s book online here <<https://www.nimbus.ca/store/mill.html>>. I believe — I’m not certain — that it’s also at Bookmark on Spring Garden Road.

**What’s happening at bookstores in Pictou County? Interview with Joan Baxter**

<http://www.springtide.ngo/joan-baxter-mill-book>

**A 'cautious approach' in Nova Scotia, says Iain Rankin** <<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2017/11/27/news/trudeau-government-introduce-new-law-2018-make-polluters-pay>>

Hailing from Nova Scotia, Iain Rankin is another newly-minted environment minister who recently took over his portfolio and discussed the possibility of bringing his province into the carbon market. Nova Scotia has already introduced its own cap and trade legislation, and is now deciding whether to link it with the larger market.

"We made our legislation specifically to be flexible in case we do want to link... so we're taking that cautious approach as we develop our regulations, so indeed that would be an option," Rankin told National Observer.

"Nova Scotia has been a leader in reducing greenhouse gases. We've already reduced by the target, which is 30 per cent from 2005 levels and that's primarily due to a hard cap that we have in our electricity sector. But our cap and trade system will complement that policy and we'll be able to drive emissions down further."

Nova Scotia remains one of four provinces in Canada still seeking to phase out its coal-fired power plants. It plans to do this, Rankin explained, by shifting its electric power mix to more renewable sources of energy.

**Scott Leslie's clearcut photos**

At the end of his Dec 7th presentation to Halifax Field Naturalists, Scott Leslie <<http://scottlesliephoto.com/>>, renowned Nova Scotia author and nature/wildlife photographer, asked if the audience would be interested in seeing his aerial views of NS clearcuts. This is what they saw..

[http://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca/hfnWP/?page\\_id=4028](http://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca/hfnWP/?page_id=4028) <[http://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca/hfnWP/?page\\_id=4028](http://halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca/hfnWP/?page_id=4028)>

**Don't reinvent the wheel** <http://thechronicleherald.ca/letters/1529320-voice-of-the-people-dec.-14-2017>

Joanne Light, NSEN Board Member

**Emera seeks permit to run transmission cable to Massachusetts** <http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/1527069-emera-seeks-permit-to-run-transmission-cable-to-massachusetts>

AARON BESWICK THE CHRONICLE HERALD

Published December 6, 2017 - 5:20pm

Last Updated December 7, 2017 - 8:51am

A map of proposed routes for the Atlantic Link from 2016. (CONTRIBUTED)

An Emera subsidiary has applied for a presidential permit to run an undersea cable from New Brunswick to Massachusetts. Clean Power Northeast Development's proposed 604-kilometre, 1,000 megawatt undersea cable, dubbed the Atlantic Link, would carry energy from Muskrat Falls in Labrador and seven windfarms in Atlantic Canada down to a decommissioned nuclear station in Plymouth, Mass.

The presidential permit application, filed on Monday through the U.S. Department of Energy, kicks off reviews from a variety of federal agencies on the project's environmental impact and the effect it will have on the reliability of power delivery to target markets.

"Atlantic Link is a reliable, cost-effective solution to help Massachusetts meet its energy diversity and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals," said Dan Muldoon, Emera's executive vice-president for major renewables and alternative energy, in a news release announcing the permit application.

"This transmission line's direct connection to Massachusetts will ensure benefits such as energy, taxes, construction activity and low income programs all stay with Massachusetts residents and electricity customers."

**Densify and diversify** <http://thechronicleherald.ca/letters/1528532-voice-of-the-people-dec.-12-2017>

Re: "HRM takes a step on mobility plan" (Dec. 6 story). Fantastic news that HRM council is moving a step closer to a commuter rail. Now let's hope they instruct HRM Centre Plan staff to develop growth scenarios that include this passenger rail corridor. Understanding how the convenience of a new commuter route connecting stations at downtown Halifax, Halifax West End, Rockingham, Mill Cove, Sunnyside, Bedford Common, Cobequid and further will influence development patterns is essential.

Repeated requests by citizens for growth scenarios based on a commuter rail and, as well, a growth scenario using infill and vacant lands on the Halifax Peninsula and inside Dartmouth's Circumferential Highway, have been ignored. Instead, the draft Centre Plan remains fixated on targeted growth scenarios where certain developers own land and want to build high-rises.

Yes, we want to densify the Centre Plan area, but growth can be distributed and need not rely on demolishing the historic character buildings and beautiful treed streetscapes of the city. Let's see what a redeveloped West End Mall or other rail corridor station locations could accommodate. And the redevelopment of the Peninsula's automotive dealership locations.

And just why is Cogswell not included as part of the Centre Plan growth scenarios?

Peggy Cameron, Halifax

**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 ChangeClimate 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 [here](#). Be sure to have a look at the Green Network Plan and the HRM Volunteer Conference links!

**Coastal Update November 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 <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/climate-network-climate-outlook/>.

I am writing to let you know that a listing order for 11 migratory birds was registered under the *Species at Risk Act* on November 2, 2017 and that it was published in *Canada Gazette*, part II on November 15, 2017. You can find the order and the accompanying *Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement* at:

[http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default\\_e.cfm?documentID=3135](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=3135). The following species are included in the order:

Legal Population Name	Scientific Name	Previous Status	New Status	Range
Species being added to Schedule 1 of SARA				
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia	None	Threatened	Canada-wide
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	None	Threatened	Canada-wide

Legal Population Name	Scientific Name	Previous Status	New Status	Range
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	None	Threatened	All provinces
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna	None	Threatened	Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
Grasshopper Sparrow pratensis subspecies	Ammodramus savannarum pratensis	None	Special concern	Ontario, Quebec
Western Grebe	Aechmophorus occidentalis	None	Special concern	British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	None	Threatened	Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
Species being reclassified in Schedule 1 of SARA				
Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea	Special concern	Endangered	Ontario, Quebec
Yellow-breasted Chat virens subspecies	Icteria virens virens	Special concern	Endangered	Ontario
Species being removed from Schedule 1 of SARA				
Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina	Threatened	Not at risk	Ontario

Thank you for your interest in the protection of species at risk in Canada.

*Interested in receiving the Eco Connections directly? Email me with your request! [nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com)*

*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](mailto:nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/NovaScotiaEnvironmentalNetwork)

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

NSEN Events webpage: <http://nseenvironmentalnetwork.com/events>

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