

EAC Coastal and Water Issues Committee

September 2011 newsletter



Joining CWIC

The Coastal and Water Issues Committee's monthly meeting is the place to be if you care about Nova Scotia's rivers, lakes, wetlands, coasts and groundwater. Getting involved with CWIC is a fantastic opportunity to meet people who share your interests in water and coastal issues. You can gain excellent work experience, find out what's happening in the environmental movement; and make valuable contacts. All while helping the EAC, the community and the environment! Join us for snacks, conversation, awareness and action.

CWIC meets on the last Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane in Halifax.

The Ecology Action Centre

The Ecology Action Centre has acted as a voice for Nova Scotia's environment for over 38 years. The EAC was voted #1 Activist Organization by readers of The Coast magazine for six years running. Since 1971, the EAC has been working to build a healthier, more sustainable Nova Scotia. Today we have over 1000 members, 250 volunteers and staff.

Last Month's Meeting

Our August meeting featured a presentation from the Friends of the Bedford Reef. This group is trying to establish a Coastal Park to protect the last remaining natural shoreline at the Head of the Bedford Basin. The tidal pool and intertidal zone provide habitat for fish and birds, including sandpipers and blue herons. The area is currently threatened by infilling for condominium development. Help save the reef by signing the petition at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/bedfordbasinreef/> You can also join 'Save the Bedford Reef' on facebook.

Our Mission

The Coastal and Water Issues Committee (CWIC) works towards helping communities be more sustainable through the protection and management of Nova Scotia's coastal and freshwater ecosystems.

Learn more
about us at:

[www.ecologyaction.ca/
content/coastal](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content/coastal)

Facebook:

"act for our coast now"
"nofrac"



Recent Highlights of our Work



Our next meeting is **Thursday, September 29th at 5:30 pm**. We will be talking about fracking in Nova Scotia, and also asking your help for some EAC-wide strategic planning.

Coastal

CWIC is pleased to welcome Veronika Brezski and Scott Aucoin to our team. Veronika and Scott are working on a climate change adaptation project in Cheticamp, Cape Breton. They will be working with the fishing and tourism sectors to develop adaptation plans, and adaptation tools, which will be shared with other communities. We are very pleased to be working in French in a bilingual community. You can learn more about their work by joining Perspectives Cheticamp on Facebook. You can also follow Scott on his weekly French language radio show: Le Temps ce Gache. Listen Wednesdays between 8 and 9 pm at CKJM Cooperative Radio in Cheticamp. www.ckjm.ca

Stormwater

We recently received funding to begin a stormwater management demonstration site project Halifax. The first phase of this project will be to select a demonstration site and identify appropriate tools that can help retain water in order to reduce infrastructure damage caused by stormwater runoff. The end goal is to retrofit an existing site with a range of tools to create a demonstration site where homeowners, contractors and others can learn about stormwater management techniques and see them being applied. Stay tuned for more on this exciting new project.

Freshwater and Groundwater

The goal of the Groundswell Project is to develop a community-based groundwater monitoring network across the province. By the end of this year I hope to have 10 monitoring wells collecting water level data, each one looked after by volunteers in local community groups. It's a project that is finding great success, and will provide these communities with a fantastic tool for long term water management! Contact groundwater @ ecologyaction.ca to get involved!

We have been working on getting the province's Water Strategy implemented, including suggesting changes to the Environment Act and a workshop scheduled next spring. We also are reviewing proposed fur industry regulations and involved in Halifax Water's proposed Integrated Resource Plan.

Upcoming Volunteer Tasks

We will be calling on CWIC members this Fall to help build public support for better coastal management in Nova Scotia. More information coming shortly on how you can get involved.



The CWIC team includes:

Coastal Coordinator, Jen Graham
coastal@ecologyaction.ca

Water Coordinator, Fred Wendt
water@ecologyaction.ca

Groundwater Coordinator, Jennifer West
groundwater@ecologyaction.ca

Restoration Coordinator, Ashley Sprague
coastaloutreach@ecologyaction.ca

Adaptation Research Coordinator, Veronika Brezski
veronika@ecologyaction.ca

Local Adaptation Researcher, Scott Aucoin
cheticamp@ecologyaction.ca

Please call or email to learn more about our work and how you can take action for our coast and water systems

