



For Immediate Release

27 November 2012

### **Halifax Fire Station Becomes Demonstration Site for Stormwater Management**

**HALIFAX** – Today marks the launch of Halifax’s first stormwater retrofit demonstration site. Five organizations that share an interest in, and a concern for, stormwater have teamed up to create an innovative stormwater management demonstration site at a Fire Station in Halifax. The demonstration site boasts a rain garden with native plants, an infiltration strip along the edge of the parking lot, rain barrels and permeable pavers. The purpose of the demonstration site is to show homeowners, businesses and municipalities the range of possible options for improved stormwater management. These features are all easy-to implement and affordable methods to reduce stormwater flowing off the property and to encourage it to sink into the ground. They can be easily applied to existing and new buildings.

“We are extremely pleased with the collaboration between the provincial and municipal government, Halifax Water, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the Ecology Action Centre” says Jocelyne Rankin, Water Coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre. “We all saw a need for a stormwater management demonstration site in HRM and we were able to collaborate to make it happen” says Rankin.

The project is also incredibly timely. “There has been a sharp rise in water-related insurance claims over the past several years in our region” says Amanda Dean, Director External and Government Relations with the Insurance Bureau of Canada. “Severe weather is trending toward becoming a norm, and it’s something that collaborative action can help us all adapt to. IBC is working on projects across the region to continue the discussion about stormwater management, and this stormwater demonstration site is a good example of the results that can come from collaborating with like-minded and enthusiastic partners” adds Dean.

“The benefits of managing stormwater on-site extend beyond the limits of individual properties” says Halifax Water General Manager, Carl Yates. Managing stormwater on-site benefits private property owners, ratepayers and Halifax Water’s infrastructure. “Reducing stormwater flows to wastewater treatment facilities reduces costs for chemicals, and energy, and increases system capacity which in turn can help reduce wastewater overflows to the environment” says Mr. Yates.

A press conference and public launch are happening today at 10:30 am at the Fire Station located at 5988 University Avenue to mark the opening of the site. “We invite you to come visit the site, ask questions and learn about how you can incorporate these stormwater management features on your property” says Rankin.

**Press Conference:**

Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

10:30am – 11:30am

Coffee will be available.

-30-

*For more information contact:*

Jocelyne Rankin (*\*entrevues disponibles en français*)

Water Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre

Phone: 902-442-5046

Cell: 902-266-5401

Amanda Dean

Insurance Bureau of Canada

Phone: 902-429-2730 ext. 225

James Campbell

Communications & Public Relations Coordinator-Halifax Water

Phone: 902-490-4604