



Coastal Chronicle

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Quarterly Newsletter  Issue 8 / Autumn 2017

Cool Changes of Autumn

As we relish the beauty of Nova Scotia's colourful fall foliage, we at Coastal Action are mindful that autumn heralds other kinds of brisk changes, as well: we bid farewell to our fantastic summer staff, important funding application deadlines loom large, and the increase in meetings and conferences begin to crowd our work schedules.

We also continue with various field projects, and - as you see in this issue's title photo - autumn is also a season of eels! Even as I write, Coastal Action's Silver Eel Study is in full swing, as we measure and tag sexually mature eels before they migrate from our fresh waters. The eels are heading to the Sargasso Sea, where they congregate to reproduce (what

exactly *happens* in the Sargasso is still a mystery, one of many in the lives of this fascinating species).

Now, let's explore this latest issue of the *Chronicle*! Highlights include: Andy brings great tidings regarding new possibilities for the Atlantic Whitefish Study; Emma gives us the low-down on our aquatic connectivity work; there is a summary of our water quality monitoring projects we took part in during 2017; and Clare offers this year's report on the summer programs held at the Morton Centre. Learn about the essential work of the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Network in our Profile section. Enjoy, and happy autumn!

Jennifer McKinnon, Editor 

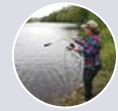
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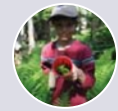
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Coastal Action Staff Day on October 30th at our office in Lunenburg.



Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation is a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns along the South Shore region of Nova Scotia. Our goal is to promote the restoration, enhancement, and conservation of our ecosystem through research, education, and action. Our vision is a healthy environment supporting thriving South Shore communities.

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Petite Lakes Fish Health Screening by Andy Breen




Coastal Action staffer, Andy, suited up for a morning of electrofishing.

Great news concerning the Atlantic Whitefish Project. On September 26, we conducted a fish collection for a Fish Health Screening for the Upper Petite Lakes and Wildcat Brook.

The fish health screening involves checking thirty fish for a variety of diseases. If the area receives the “all clear”, then any larval Atlantic whitefish captured in 2018 can,

theoretically, be transferred to the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility.

Being able to transfer larval Atlantic whitefish could mean the resumption of a captive breeding program for this endangered species, something that is desperately needed to save the Atlantic whitefish - found nowhere else on Earth - from extinction. 


Aquatic Connectivity vs Invasive Species by Emma Kinley



The invasive chain pickerel and its stomach contents: native gaspereau (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), caught in Wentzells Lake.

In light of Coastal Action's recent projects targeting the presence and range of the two known invasive species, chain pickerel (*Esox niger*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), in our local waterways, the organization prioritized our 2017 culvert remediation projects using this new information. It is imperative that any new Coastal Action fish passage remediation projects

be assessed for the potential to increase the spread of the invasive species into areas where they were not previously known to occur.


All of our culvert restoration projects completed in 2017 included a pre-restoration assessment of the upstream and downstream fish communities. 

2017 Water Quality Monitoring Projects by Shanna Fredericks



Emma collects data from the LaHave River as part of our bacteria monitoring program.

Coastal Action continues to monitor the LaHave River and Petite Rivière watersheds monthly; we also conducted another season of the Fox Point Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program in partnership with dedicated volunteers. We began monitoring Sherbrooke Lake this year, and will be working with the Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee to design

a long-term monitoring program for that lake. We conducted pond monitoring in Kingsburg, on behalf of the Kingsburg Community Association. Discussions continue with municipal partners over new monitoring programs, as healthy waterbodies have become an increasingly important issue in the South Shore and across the province. 

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Michelin Nature Discovery Park Grand Opening by Clare Kellock

The Bridgewater Development Association (BDA) initiated a project to improve bank stabilization along the LaHave River in 2007, and that project culminated this fall with the grand opening of the Michelin Nature Discovery Park on September 12. When the project began, the BDA drafted a plan to develop projects on both sides of the LaHave River - including a river restoration project, with a vision to stabilize the river bank and help filter

pollutants out of the water. Coastal Action was invited to manage the project, and has since worked with the River Restoration Committee to create a beautiful outdoor classroom, surrounded by native plant species. The grand opening of the park was attended by Michelin North America (Canada) Inc., MP Bernadette Jordan, Mayor David Mitchell, Bridgewater residents, and one of Bridgewater Elementary School's grade 3 classes. The students were the first to use the outdoor classroom, and they had a great time learning about the many creatures that live there. We look forward to more students benefiting from the new park, and using it to host future educational activities!



Children participating in a lesson at the 'outdoor classroom' of the nature discovery park.

Morton Centre 2017 Summer Programs by Clare Kellock

Summer 2017 was our fifth year running camps and events at the 99-acre Morton Centre property on Heckman's Island, and we're pleased to have another year of learning and growth under our belt. With three staff this summer, we were successful in updating some of our old programs and developing some new ones, while still using the same earth education principles that have been the foundation of our programs since the beginning.

Our camps aim to re-connect children and youth with the natural world through the heart, the head, and the hands. In other words, we aim to foster appreciation for the

environment, build understanding, and encourage action. We do this through magical and engaging storylines and themes, intriguing and exciting activities, and highly structured days spent outside.

This summer we held a three-day environmental leadership training for youth ages 14-17, two week-long day camps for ages ranging from 6-12, three "Family Nature Events", and our Annual Open House. We'll be back next summer, but in the meantime keep an eye out for our fall and winter programming: Cycle Savers, Trailblazers, Earth Adventure Days, and Learn-to-Grow!



Morton Centre program participants heading out for an overnight adventure!

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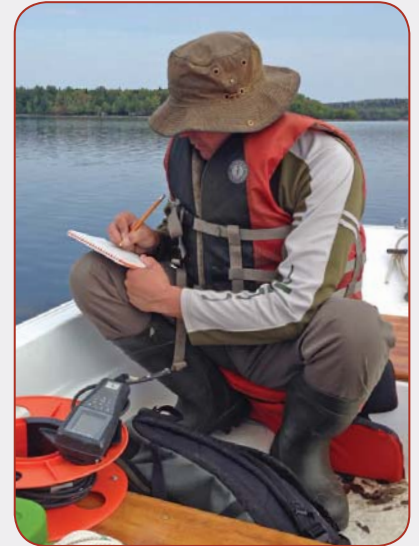
by Emma Kinley

The Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Network (CBEMN), based out of Saint Mary's University, supports environmental monitoring projects by providing free assistance and resources, like water quality monitoring equipment loans and implementing water quality monitoring training, to environmental organizations such as Coastal Action, volunteers, students, and other community partners across Atlantic Canada.

CBEMN allows those who may otherwise be unable to fund water quality monitoring projects to properly collect standardized data. The guidance which CBEMN

offers to volunteer stewardship groups helps ensure the integrity of scientific data and connects these groups to more than 500 other organizations involved in freshwater monitoring across Canada. CBEMN has also created an online database using data collected by volunteers and organizations, which is open to the public and allows the sharing of data and resources.

Coastal Action is incredibly thankful to the CBEMN team for allowing us to benefit from the use of their equipment bank - for without CBEMN, some of Coastal Action's monitoring projects would not be possible! You can learn more about CBEMN by visiting: www.cbemn.ca



Coastal Action staff, Andy Breen, collecting water quality depth profile data, using CBEMN's 30-meter YSI unit, in Sherbrooke Lake.

Want to hear more about topics covered in this issue?

If you'd like to read further, in-depth information regarding the stories highlighted in this issue, please visit our website (www.coastalaction.org) where we post more detailed updates on all of our projects. We have lots on the go here at Coastal Action: research, education and outreach, public engagement activities, and volunteer opportunities. If you'd like to see a report on one of our projects or events in the *Coastal Chronicle*, send us an email at info@coastalaction.org.



Our home: Captain Angus Walters House in Lunenburg.

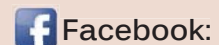
Coastal Action is a not-for-profit conservation organization. By donating financially to any of our projects we will provide charitable donation tax receipts. We also sell various articles of clothing, accessories, and maps; all proceeds go to Coastal Action!



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