Ebb Flow

A Newsletter of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program

Spring 2005



ACAP is getting an RMAF

Another acronym. What is an RMAF? RMAF stands for Results-Based Management and Accountability Framework. What is it? An RMAF

is a tool being promoted by the federal government that will improve management, learning and accountability and benchmark the success of a policy, program or initiative.

An RMAF is comprised of a governance structure, a results-based logic model which shows outcomes expected from a variety of activities and outputs, a performance measurement strategy, an evaluation strategy and a reporting strategy. An RMAF aims to increase understanding between partners on roles, responsibilities and outcomes of a policy, program or initiative.

Why is ACAP developing an RMAF?

ACAP has hired Gardner Pinfold Consulting Economists (the same group that wrote our economic study) to create the Program Description and Logic Model components of ACAP's RMAF. This tool will be useful in articulating a common understanding of the outcomes (aka results) we are trying to achieve over time and documenting progress towards meeting these outcomes. Not only will the RMAF enable ACAP to more quantitatively express our intended achievements and report on all our accomplishments, but it can also help with the design of future initiatives under the program.

Many ACAP organizations are beginning to develop their own RMAFs. For example, in 2004, ACAP Humber Arm Environmental Association completed an RMAF entitled *Nurturing a Vision for our Coast: Integrated Management Plan for the Bay of Islands.* This year, Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project, Eastern Charlotte Waterways, and the Southeast Environmental Association will be committing resources for the development of an RMAF for their organizations. The ACAP RMAF will facilitate a standardized approach for all the ACAP organizations.

For more information about RMAFs, please read the *Guide for the Development of Resultsbased Management and Accountability Frameworks* through the Treasury Board of Canada website at http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/eval/pubs/ RMAF-CGRR/rmafcgrr_e.asp. For more information on ACAP's RMAF, contact Suzie Dech at (902) 426-8183 or suzie.dech@ec.gc.ca.



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Artificial Reef Project ACAP Cape Breton



Reef balls were poured on land, using molds. ACAP-CB manufactured 12 balls to form an artificial reef in New Campbellton. A concern that has been expressed to ACAP Cape Breton from the fishing community is the issue of damage to marine habitat decreasing species population, and impacting local / regional economies and community stability. Other than cleaning up pollutants such as oil, little has been done to restore damaged substrate. The capacity to restore degraded substrates exists, in the form of artificial reefs.

A concrete artificial reef (consisting of 12 reef balls) was installed at New Campbellton, offshore from an area previously used as a loading dock for a local limestone quarry. Apart from the pier and rocks placed as a berm to support the roadway, limited substrate is available for habitat development. This reef ball installation provides surface area for attachment of sessile marine organisms' equivalent to 62m2. The hollow reef ball structures also provide shelter for fish and invertebrates.

The New Campbellton site is ideal for monitoring colonization of the artificial reef, as the marine organisms that will inhabit the reef will be drawn to it by dispersion from adjoining substrate. The site colonization from non-existent to enhanced habitat by the addition of substrate will give a clear indication of how such artificial materials may be colonized following a catastrophic disturbance. Artificial substrate can increase attachment and colonization opportunities, subsequently increasing nutrients and habitat for species. The increase in species' numbers resulting from the creation of new habitat would provide a reserve of individuals able to rebuild populations following contamination (sewage, shellfish contaminants) or physical disturbances in other areas of the lake.

Contact Judy McMullen (902) 567-6282 or judymcmullen@acapcb.ns.ca.



Sable Island Preservation Trust

Sable Island Preservation Trust is delighted with the government decision to recognize the national significance of Sable Island by committing to the long-term management and funding of the Sable Island station. This decision is exactly what the Sable Island community has been working to achieve – government commitment and stable funding for a continuous protective human presence on Sable Island with a mechanism for stakeholder involvement. This is the first key step in the long-term conservation of the island. Many projects that before seemed

almost impossible now become exciting possibilities. With a stable core platform, the natural synergies between all of the Sable Island stakeholders can be fully harnessed through cooperative and coordinated planning. Using funds raised from the first annual Great Sable Island Expedition Trip Lottery, the Sable Trust will be completing a road repair/ restoration project at West Light.

We are also currently promoting this year's trip lottery. Last year s lottery saw two winners and their guests on an overnight trip to Sable Island that none of them will forget. This year one lucky winner and a guest will experience an exciting overnight trip to Sable Island during the Labour Day weekend. Chef Collin Stone from O'Carroll's restaurant is the trip's Gourmet Chef; we are awaiting confirmation of this year's Celebrity Host. Draw date for the lottery is August 25 at noon. An early bird prize of a weekend trip for two to the Barrens At Bay Coastal Cottages (www.barrensatbay.com) will be drawn in the spring. Tickets are \$100 each and are on sale now!

Contact Gisele LeBlanc (902) 425-7225 or gleblanc@sabletrust.ca.

BBEMA Launches the One-Tonne Challenge in Summerside



Climate change has the potential to impact all of PEI and the livelihoods of the citizens of the Bedeque Bay Watershed. When the Government of Canada introduced a national effort to encourage all Canadians to take individual action on, and share in the responsibility for, climate changes caused by excess greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association, (BBEMA), recognised the importance of being a part of this initiative.

BBEMA has developed a working partnership with the City of Summerside to take the One-Tonne Community Challenge. BBEMA's One-Tonne Challenge campaign is encouraging Summerside residents to adopt new energy-using habits and focus on the savings and benefits such changes will bring. BBEMA is anticipating a high level of participation in the challenge. Everyone wants to save money and the environment of which Islanders are so justifiably proud.

BBEMA will be taking every opportunity to deliver these messages to the residents of Summerside. The mayor of Summerside, Basil Stewart and his city council are supportive of the One-Tonne Challenge campaign, and will be participating at every level in the public challenge events. Each household in the community will be motivated to become involved in the One-Tonne Challenge through tip sheets to be included with power bills, newspaper ads, the weekly Summerside "hotline" and the City of Summerside monthly activity brochure, and when they attend the interactive One-Tonne Challenge events planned during the campaign. Changes will happen – and there will be a new awareness of each individual's impact on their own fragile environment.

For more information on the One-Tonne Community Challenge in PEI, contact the BBEMA project Co-ordinator Leslie Hartling at (902) 886 3288 or at **staff@bbema.ca**.

Neenah Paper Inc.

Since partnering with the Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project (PHEPP), its name has changed twice, but the company's substantial support, often critical and frequently influential, remains considerable and dependable, but for the most part unsung.

Neenah Paper (then Scott Paper and later Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia), was the first signatory to PHEPP's Environmental Stewardship Partners program a decade ago. This program was designed to identify common interests and develop common goals, leading toward environmentally responsible community decision-making and action. Through this lengthy association, Neenah Paper has partnered in 29 projects and programs, contributing over a half million dollars in cash, equipment and services to ongoing programs such as the annual water quality monitoring program, and are playing a major role in such ground-breaking projects as the community airshed management project and internationally-acclaimed immunological biomarker research.

Jack Kyte, Neenah Paper's Environment and Communications manager has served on PHEPP's board of director's since its beginning in the fall of 1991, serving as chair of the board for the past 11 years. Jack is a loyal adherent to PHEPP's philosophy of working together to achieve community sustainability and has been an adamant PHEPP promoter.

It has been only with the irreplaceable assistance of dedicated and responsible corporate citizens like Neenah Paper, encouraging and empowering employees like Jack, that the Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project has achieved the success that it has.

Contact Bob Christie (902) 928-0305 or phepp@ca.inter.net.



Profile of a valued and dedicated community corporate partner



Original article by Audrey Lapenna, Intern, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

CAMP - The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program

Launched officially this summer, the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP), has wrapped up the 2004 monitoring season. The guiding principle of CAMP is to involve community groups in monitoring the health of local estuaries within the southern Gulf of St Lawrence region.

CAMP crews journeyed into the field to sample once a month throughout the summer. Participants hailed from PEI, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and included many non-profit organizations including two ACAP organizations, Southeast Environmental Association and Miramichi River Environmental Action Committee.

There were also representatives from government and universities.

Using a beach seine, the groups caught and recorded the diversity and abundance of fish and crustaceans. The most commonly found species were mummichogs, sticklebacks, and sand shrimp, which reached numbers well above 300 per sampling site. The population and species diversity results are being studied by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to determine indicators for estuarine health. The sampling also helps to track the spread of aquatic invasive species. Within the Gulf over the past couple of years, invasive species such as green crab, clubbed tunicate and codium (a seaweed) have been of most concern.

In addition to fish and crustacean monitoring, aquatic vegetation monitoring is essential. A hand crafted underwater viewing bucket made it possible to see the vegetation without disrupting it. Through the viewer, species such as rockweed, eelgrass, and green hollow weed were identified at various sites.

The integrated approach of CAMP invites community groups to participate in efforts to understand what is happening within their surrounding environment.

For more information contact: David Boyce at 902-838-3351 or **sea@pei.aibn.com**.

Green crab (above).

Sampling on the Montague River, PEI (right).

Monitoring Successes at CARP in 2004

Last year was another success in ecological monitoring at the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP). Both new and continued monitoring activities were carried out throughout the Annapolis River watershed, including freshwater, marine and terrestrial environments.

The Annapolis River Guardians volunteer water quality monitoring program completed its 13th year of monitoring with 15 very dedicated volunteers collecting bi-weekly water samples from the Annapolis River and tributaries. All the data is currently being analyzed and will summarize information on fecal coliforms, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, nitrates, chloride, sulphate, pH, conductivity as well as weather conditions. The final report will be available on CARP's website, www.annapolisriver.ca.

The collection of benthic invertebrates was also completed in 2004. Several sites were sampled for invertebrates along the main Annapolis River and tributaries, following the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) protocols. Invertebrates were also collected at several sites along the Annapolis Basin. CARP is one of a number of sites around the Maritimes that have been assessing the feasibility of using intertidal benthic invertebrates as indicators of estuarine health.

Finally, a long-term terrestrial monitoring program was initiated in 2004. Following the



protocols set out by the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN),

Tagging a tree in a forest monitoring plot.

CARP established a number of permanent forest monitoring plots, which were surveyed for tree abundance, diversity and regeneration as well as soil decay rates. Over the next several years, the plots will continue to be resampled in order to assess changes in the health of forests in the watershed. The initial findings and baseline data are included in a final report, available at the CARP office. For more information, please contact (902) 532-7533, or carp@annapolisriver.ca.

*Ebb & Flow*lis a newsletter published by the Community and Departmental Relations Branch of Environment Canada. It aims to serve as a communications tool for those involved in ACAP, as well the general public. Comments or Questions? Melanie Corkum, Newsletter Editor and ACAP Coordinator (902) 426-2266 or Melanie.Corkum@ec.gc.ca

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