

ACAP

*Atlantic Coastal
Action Program*

Keeping up with communities ...



Autumn 1998



Canada

In Memory

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Pat and Clem Egolf who were founding members of the Southeast Environmental Association (SEA), an ACAP organization on Prince Edward Island. Over the years, the Egolfs contributed a great deal to SEA and its many projects and were instrumental in SEAs development into a capable organization and a valued community asset. The Egolfs are greatly missed and will be long remembered.

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ACAP: *Keeping up with communities*

Atlantic Canadians have long been recognized as pioneers and innovators in community development. Initiating and championing community driven approaches are part of our culture. First Nation and other people of our region believe that community is more than a place: it includes relationships and the “common unity” which enables ordinary people to achieve extraordinary results. Regardless of the scale of the ecosystem, Atlantic Canadians favour and support community-driven approaches to restoring and sustaining ecosystems.

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) was established in 1991 to assist Atlantic Canadians in restoring and sustaining watersheds and adjacent coastal areas. Rather than

define an end result and how best to achieve it, ACAP works with community members including citizens, non-government organizations and various levels of government to

develop and pursue their own vision of sustainability. ACAP brings people and resources together in new ways to generate creativity and fresh solutions to old problems. Equally important, it generates the willingness, ability and the spirit necessary to achieve common social, economic and environmental goals.

There are 13 commu-

nity-driven ecosystem initiatives participating in ACAP. The program encompasses the unique and the common characteristics of sites ranging from urban-industrial to rural-agricul-

tural. Sites are located in each of the Atlantic Provinces with one site reaching into Quebec and another situated on the US-Canada border. Collectively, sites address the full spectrum of sustainability challenges. Through collaborative multi-stakeholder processes, sites have completed more

than 600 projects toward

the development and implementation of Comprehensive Environmental Management Plans. These detailed frameworks for action outline the specific and sequential steps necessary to

address issues and achieve goals.

Participating communities have made many social, economic and environmental improvements and have developed measures to prevent problems and avoid the need for expensive solutions. These community-driven ecosystem initiatives adapt as circumstances change,

lessons are learned and ideas and practices are shared throughout the region, across the country and around the world. Keeping up with communities requires constant learning and adaptation. Our “common-unity” will move us toward these goals.

Acknowledgements

Environment Canada acknowledges all those who contribute to the success of ACAP and the accomplishments of participating ecosystems/communities. Contributors include citizens from all walks of life, a diversity of non-government organizations, municipalities, First Nations, businesses, universities and a wide range of departments in the federal and provincial governments. All have given generously, bringing resources, enthusiasm and great ideas to the table. They have all shown that sustainability is everyone's responsibility.

“We believe ecosystem initiatives are a positive way of bringing people together to work cooperatively and constructively toward a common goal and will make a positive difference in the next millenium.”

**Honourable Christine S. Stewart
Minister of the Environment**



The Community Approach: *Recognizing ecosystems as communities ...*

The community approach is a growing and evolving phenomenon around the world. From Newfoundland to New Zealand, citizens are collaborating with government and non-government organizations on an ecosystem basis to identify and pursue sustainability goals.

Whether they are called *ecosystem initiatives*, *integrated coastal zone management initiatives*, *sustainability initiatives* or *Local Agenda 21 initiatives*, all provide participants with essentially the same thing: a higher sense of purpose that demands change and positive growth.

All generate a multi-value, multi-use perspective and encourage participants to use their diverse interests to develop programs that are socially

acceptable, economically feasible and environmentally sound. Together, they

generation, capacity building and *direct action*. This helps those involved make

how they organize and conduct themselves. Citizens, governments and non-government organizations represent environmental, social and economic interests. Local, regional, national and international

perspectives combined produce an approach that is neither top down nor bottom up. This constitutes what are internationally recognized as the qualities of good governance.

“Because each participant (governments, non-government organizations and civil society) has specific interests, strengths and weaknesses, good governance must facilitate collaboration among all three.”
**United Nations
 Development Program**

demonstrate that communities are not limited in size, they are only limited by the willingness of people and organizations to share in a sense of place and purpose.

By looking at the body of knowledge and experience brought to these initiatives, it is possible to identify the secrets of their success. ACAP supports each initiative in three broad areas: *knowledge*

informed decisions, reconcile diverse interests, and address complex issues. While direct action is taken whenever and wherever possible, some issues require knowledge generation and capacity building before effective solutions can be found and implemented.

The multi-stakeholder organizations behind the initiatives earn a license to lead by virtue of

ACAP supports ... *Knowledge Generation*

Community Results

A **science linkage** program brings scientists and communities together to conduct research and generate the information necessary for decision-making.



Eco-action centres serve as access points for social, economic and environmental information and form the basis for education and project development.



The application of community based education ensures its suitability and use at the community level and allows for the input of outside expertise if and when requested.

Using local knowledge and investing in local knowledge generation encourages the application of new knowledge.

Local Geographic Information Systems enable communities to integrate, store and present information and aid in decision-making.

Knowledge generation produces a common perspective and informed decision-making. Activities under this umbrella include: the integration and dissemination of scientific, local and traditional knowledge; the provision of a common, accessible information base; scientific research to fill information gaps; monitoring to identify trends and evaluate progress; and the sharing of information through education, communication and participation.

Community-based **monitoring** helps communities track trends, identify relationships between human activity and the state of the environment, and evaluate their actions.



Alternative forums provide a venue for community members to exchange information and views on contentious issues.

Action research and **social marketing** help communities identify where best to apply their energies and resources to generate change.

Virtual Learning Centres

When added together, knowledge generation activities and products constitute local knowledge systems. Component linkages ensure that the information required for informed decision making is available, organized and easily understood. Shared ownership of information enhances confidence in its quality and increases its application. A common information base is a useful tool in resolving disputes and avoiding the potential conflicts that erupt when different parties approach the same issue with different information, which they both believe to be complete and accurate.

ACAP supports ... *Capacity Building*

To build a community, citizens, governments and non-government organizations must develop a common identity, identify common goals and share in a sense of place. This “capacity building” relies on recognizing interdependencies, developing networks and learning to trust the community or common process. Capacity building also involves developing group determination and the skills necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, including consensus decision-making and collaborative problem solving.

Communities working together

Experienced ACAP organizations assist other communities and community groups in capacity building, networking, accessing information and resources, and recruiting citizens to develop and implement projects.

Visioning enables community members to identify common values, develop common goals, recognize similarities and overcome barriers.



Workshops and multi-site/multi-party projects generate partnerships and joint ventures.

Community tools such as economic instruments and resource evaluation guides help communities address their particular challenges.



Electronic networks and supporting equipment ensure communities are able to share information, successes and lessons learned on a real time basis.

Community mapping enables communities to identify and inventory their resources, capacities, challenges and opportunities.



Hands-on involvement and equality among participants develops rapport, trust and new relationships.

Emergency response training and support ensures communities have the capacity to respond to such emergencies as oil spills.

Training and support in facilitating multi-stakeholder processes enables communities to reconcile diverse interests.

ACAP supports ... *Direct Action*

Direct action refers to the resolution of social, economic, and environmental issues and the prevention of new issues and conflicts. Direct actions include interventions to address problems and measures to prevent conflicts from developing. Direct action is taken as soon as the community identifies solutions that are socially acceptable, economically feasible and environmentally sound.

Community Results

Projects result in employment, **sustainable livelihoods** and marketable skills. ACAP assists communities in developing **knowledge-based economic sectors**.



Parks and trails have resulted in **new recreational and eco-tourism opportunities** and enhanced appreciation of natural heritage



Community gardens, farmers markets and well watch programs are contributing to improvements in **human health and social well being**.



River watch and guardian programs **prevent environmental crimes** and prompt quick responses to incidents.



The identification and adoption of **the best farming and forestry practices** are reducing the amount of silt, nutrients and pesticides entering streams and coastal waters.

Waste clean ups and the ongoing **clean up of contaminated sites** are reducing environmental and human health risks and increasing the value and utility of properties.



Restored streams, wetlands and hedgerows and the creation of artificial wetlands are contributing to **enhanced biodiversity, species recovery and improvements in water quality**.

Soil conservation and bank stabilization projects conserve heritage resources and protect livelihoods.



Improvements and upgrades in waste water treatment have resulted in **improved water quality**, restored beneficial uses and reduced health risk and contribute to the **restoration of the shellfish and recreational fishing industries**.

Environmental farm plans, stewardship agreements with industries and municipalities, easements, and land trusts **conserve and protect** the environment.

Eco-efficiency projects in collaboration with municipalities, industries and businesses, have resulted in **water conservation, energy savings and waste reduction**.

Pollution prevention is reduces waste and prevents it from entering the environment.

An ounce of prevention

While the success of communities in addressing existing issues is recognized and valued, their preventative actions will serve use equally well in the long term. Pollution prevention, health promotion, conservation and other preventative actions reduce the need for costly solutions down the road and are excellent indicators of progressive communities.

Our Communities:

The driving force behind ACAP

New Brunswick

Saint John Harbour ACAP

Fostering an environmentally healthy estuary, in balance with the aesthetic, cultural, social, industrial and ecological realities of the area

Saint John is home to many of New Brunswick's major industries as well as some of its most extensive and impressive natural and cultural attractions. Elevated faecal concentrations along some shorelines in the estuary and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination of harbour sediments present some of the biggest challenges of the area.

ACAP Saint John has conducted scientific projects such as the Saint John Harbour Food Web Study and the chemical and biological characterization of Marsh Creek. A volunteer water quality monitoring program,

web-based Materials Exchange Network and pollution prevention programs with local industries and residents help to raise awareness and focus on solutions.

Annual public events hosted by ACAP Saint John include paint swaps, beach sweeps, creek sweeps and Earth Day celebrations. ACAP Saint John plays a key role in communication and education on environmental issues. Their Ecosystem Resource Centre houses an extensive public library and "alternative forums" are organized to foster open exchange of ideas on controversial issues.

ACAP Saint John
acapsj@fundy.net
<http://user.fundy.net/acapsj>
506-652-2227

Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee

Restoring and protecting the environmental integrity of the Miramichi Watershed

The Miramichi River is world renowned for recreational fishing. This international reputation and interest in the sport make many people of the Miramichi passionate about their river.

The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) is active in 12 well-defined programs. River Watch allows concerned citizens to report on environmental occurrences in the watershed. MREAC is also the lead agency in two planning initiatives: a Miramichi airshed management plan, and a management plan for the Little

Southwest Miramichi as a candidate for the Canadian Heritage River System.

Other core programs include waste-water initiatives for industrial, municipal and rural settings. With the help of a hard working technical advisory group, MREAC is heavily involved with the science community, hosting various workshops and an annual Science Day.

Vital to these initiatives are the dedicated volunteers that direct and participate in MREAC activities. MREAC has its finger on the pulse of the Miramichi ecosystem and

continues to take an interest in addressing and improving the environment.

MREAC
mreac@nbnet.nb.ca
506-778-8591

St. Croix Estuary Project

Promoting wise management of the St. Croix Estuary area and its resources

The St. Croix Estuary Project (SCEP) has contributed to Canadian/American partnerships and taken part in collaborative efforts to manage the St. Croix Estuary Watershed. SCEP focuses on habitat assessment, water quality monitoring and developing economic instruments to encourage positive environmental change. Its activities have mobilized the

energy and enthusiasm of surrounding communities. One of the SCEP projects is the study of the flow patterns of discharge from the St. Stephen Wastewater Treatment Plant and a water efficiency audit for that community. SCEP is also working to acquire Todd's Point, a 330-acre property at the heart of the estuary, and preserve it as a public access point and nature refuge.

Projects scheduled for completion this year include a study of non-point source pollution in two sub-watersheds, the erection of several interpretive signs at key points throughout the estuary area, an estuary sediment study and education programs for children.

SCEP
scepnet@nbnet.nb.ca
506-529-4868

Eastern Charlotte Waterways

Fostering and protecting resources through awareness and participation; promoting the safe, accountable management and development of the environment

The main activities of this primarily rural watershed include forestry, pulp and paper, aquaculture, traditional fisheries, fish processing and an ever-growing eco-tourism industry. This site faces many challenges including the maintenance of fresh and marine water quality, preservation of natural resource habitat, and management of land and aquatic-based activity.

Eastern Charlotte Waterways has developed and implemented various activities to address these concerns, including beach sweeps, coastal bacterial monitoring, river and intertidal habitat assessments and remediations, point source pollution assessments, contingency planning, and school yard naturalization projects.

Their on-site mapping initiative has accumulated a wealth of thematic data for the watershed, accessible from a geographic information system (GIS) database. This useful

and practical decision-making tool is used by businesses, fishermen and various government departments.

Eastern Charlotte Waterways • ecwinc@nbnet.nb.ca
http://www.cardsaqua.com/ecwinc/home.htm
506-755-6001

The Société d'aménagement de la rivière Madawaska et du lac Témiscouata

Protecting and enhancing the Madawaska River and the Témiscouata Lake Watershed

The Madawaska River Watershed extends from Quebec to New Brunswick and the Société d'aménagement de la rivière Madawaska et du lac Témiscouata (SARLMT) includes members from both provinces. Their primary goal is to promote the sustainable development of the watershed through ecological, social and recreation/tourism projects.

SARLMT's many initiatives include water quality monitoring, fish habitat enhancement, bank stabilization and community-based wildlife management. Two of this year's projects are a sediment study of the Madawaska River bed and a feasibility study on the use of a wetland as a wastewater treatment plant.

Among its many achievements, SARLMT has developed a 60km interprovincial linear park, The Petit Témis. Constructed on an abandoned railroad right of way, the park stretches along the Madawaska River and Témiscouata Lake, and offers an exceptional outdoor experience for young and old alike. This project has fostered a sense of community pride and responsibility to protect their watershed.

SARLMT
sarmlt@nbnet.nb.ca
506-739-1992

Nova Scotia

Clean Annapolis River Project

Fostering the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the freshwater and marine ecosystems of the Annapolis Watershed

Past exploitation of resources, combined with continued overuse and abuse have degraded the natural resources of the Annapolis Watershed. The Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) is calling on all stakeholders to help meet these challenges. Their goal of sustainability is supported through voluntary water quality monitoring, environmental quality assessment, coastal zone management, fish habitat restoration, climate change, sustainable agriculture, environmental education, private stewardship and conservation planning.

A community-based air quality monitoring program currently focuses on ground level ozone, with expansion to include other pollutants such as nitrogen and sulphur compounds.

This initiative is part of a larger climate change outreach program that will focus on tidal surges and greenhouse gas emissions.

The progress speaks for itself. Through its stewardship initiatives, CARP has protected several hectares of one of the last salt marshes in the Annapolis Watershed.

And, thanks to fish habitat restoration work, Atlantic salmon are again spawning in certain tributaries of the Annapolis River.

CARP
carp@fox.nstn.ca
<http://fox.nstn.ca/~carp>
902-532-7533

ACAP-Cape Breton

Restoring and protecting harbours and watersheds; ensuring that all stakeholders enjoy a healthy environment and a prosperous economy and are empowered to make responsible choices

Years of heavy industrialization and resource extraction from mining, steel making, fishing and forestry have scarred an otherwise beautiful landscape. ACAP-Cape Breton is working in partnership with others to secure a sustainable future for what is traditionally known as industrial Cape Breton.

Coastal resource inventories, habitat assessment and restoration, water conservation, pollution prevention, waste reduction, monitoring, cost-benefit analysis and environmental education are examples of the many projects and activities undertaken by ACAP-Cape Breton.

The organization further contributes to the sustainability goals and objectives of the community by participating in initiatives to introduce sewage treatment and clean up Canada's worst hazardous waste site, the Sydney Tar Ponds.

ACAP-Cape Breton's Environmental Activities Centre provides public access to a wide range of resources and opportunities. School programs, events and outreach initiatives are launched from the Centre to build awareness and lead to adoption of sustainable practices.

ACAP-Cape Breton
acapcb@fox.nstn.ca
<http://ccen.uccb.ns.ca/acapcb>
902-567-6282

Bluenose ACAP

Protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of the watershed and coastal areas, in collaboration with and in support of a healthy and prosperous community

In a region with a long history of fishing, forestry, and farming, there are new interests emerging in Lunenburg county in the areas of tourism, aquaculture, and land development. This brings new challenges as the community strives to remain healthy and prosperous.

Bluenose ACAP (BACAP) focuses on information gathering, public education and action projects to improve the local environment. Salmon habitat improvement, water quality monitoring, acid-shale pit restoration and a community-based oil spill response

program are examples of BACAP's many projects and activities.

The success of BACAP's initiatives relies on community resources, input from all stakeholders and strong public support. For example, the Lunenburg Healthy Harbour Project

held a series of public meetings and individual consultations to identify and reduce the levels of hazardous waste entering Lunenburg Harbour. Community involvement like this will go a long way in ensuring that BACAP projects make a difference.

Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project

Providing a foundation for understanding and implementing community sustainability in the Pictou Harbour Watershed

The Pictou Harbour watershed has endured a century-long history of industrial pollution with contributions from industries such as steel and pulp mills and thermal power generators. Forestry and agriculture are also important components of this predominantly resource-based economy.

A wide range of industries, businesses and organizations have joined the Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project's Environmental Stewardship Partners Program. They are committed to identifying negative impacts, develop solutions and set specific targets for environmental improvement.

The ability to measure and demonstrate progress in reaching sustainability goals is key to public and industry support. A Community Sustainability Indicators project will work with the community to develop ways to measure sustainability, specifically in the forestry and agricultural sectors.

PHEPP acts as the catalyst for many projects and activities in the Pictou Harbour Watershed such as a scientific study of effluent using bivalves in the harbour, water quality monitoring, artificial wetland construction and public awareness and education initiatives.

BACAP
bacap@auracom.com
902-624-9888

PHEPP
phepp@fox.nstn.ca
902-928-0305

Prince Edward Island

Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association

Conserving and enhancing the local environment through planning, education, projects and partnerships

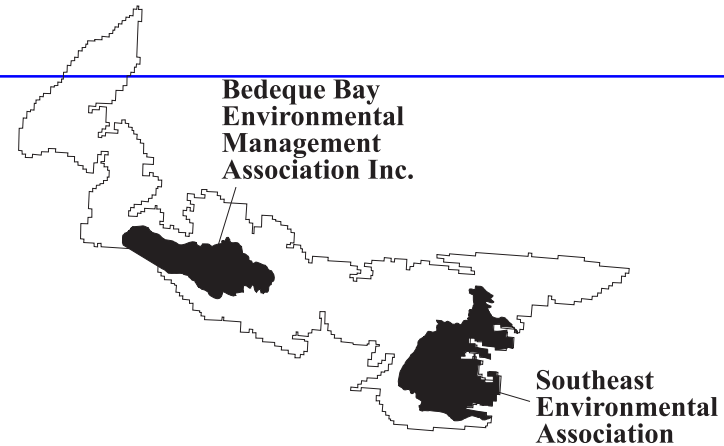
Challenges in this primarily rural watershed include reducing soil erosion and sedimentation, maintaining good groundwater and surface water quality, conserving and enhancing natural habitats and preserving a viable agricultural and fisheries industry.

The Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA) is involved in a number of initiatives. They include: monitoring of nitrates in groundwater; assessment and remediation of non-point sources of pollution; educa-

tional and habitat improvement such as heritage tree trail development; naturalization in school yards; development of an environmentally friendly community garden; beach sweeps; presentations to schools and community groups; hedgerow planting and an environmental stewardship award program.

By engaging the people who live and work in the Bedeque Bay watershed, BBEMA contributes to improved environmental quality and to what one farmer has called “community harmony”.

BBEMA
bbema@pei.sympatico.ca
<http://www.peisland.com/bbema>
(902) 436-7090



Southeast Environmental Association

Working with the communities in the Cardigan Bay Region to make all aware of their environment and empower them to sustain the environment for occupations, recreation and mutual enjoyment of the land and the sea thereby improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

The predominantly rural population of the Cardigan Bay Region depends primarily on fishing and agriculture for its livelihood and is directly affected by changes in environmental quality. The Southeast Environmental Association (SEA) focuses on assessing environmental quality, educating the community and undertaking local action projects.

Working in partnership with the four main

Island industries — fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture and tourism — SEA is conducting bacteria and water quality work, developing forestry codes of practice, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, developing the promotion of bird-based tourism and supporting trail development.

In addition, SEA is promoting community pride

activities and a composting/recycling program; and assisting with community forums to help raise understanding and build a common identity and goals. SEA brings together the community to focus social, economic and environmental elements for sustainability, always remembering that it is the people who will make the lasting difference.

SEA
seaacap@pei.sympatico.ca
<http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/seaacap>
902-838-0635

St. John's Harbour ACAP

Facilitating the cleanup of St. John's Harbour through scientific research, public awareness and action

St. John's Harbour is one of North America's oldest seaports. The harbour's sewer-shed contributes a daily input of 120 million litres of combined raw sewage and stormwater runoff to the harbour. The harbour sediments are also contaminated with an array of industrial and domestic pollutants, including heavy metals, hydrocarbons, PCBs, oils and organic compounds. St. John's Harbour ACAP successfully raised the profile of the state of the harbour and the need for sewage treatment through a number of scientific initiatives and public awareness and education campaigns.

Federal, provincial and municipal governments are committed to work together to clean up St. John's Harbour and, to date, have contributed \$7.5 million to the initiative.

Challenges that lie ahead for St. John's Harbour ACAP include emphasis on a remedial action plan for rivers entering the harbour, pollution prevention initiatives, and water quality monitoring.

St. John's Harbour ACAP
sjjacap@lsss.ns.ec.gc.ca
<http://www.thezone.net/stjacap>
(709) 747-4973

Humber Arm Environmental Association

Re-establishing a healthy ecosystem; improving the potential for recreational uses and maintaining Humber Arm's essential economic function

Fishing is a cornerstone industry of Humber Arm. More recently the pulp and paper industry, as well as shipping and tourism have contributed to the local economy. The biggest challenge facing the Humber Arm Environmental Association is to attain full sewage treatment for the City of Corner Brook.

Humber Arm Environmental Association and their partners are involved in a wide range of projects and initiatives including water quality monitoring, environ-

mental quality assessments, water conservation programs and environmental outreach and education. Baywatch '97 and similar projects have provided a forum for educating residents on the effects of coastal pollution and pollution prevention measures.

Approximately 25 per cent of the remedial options listed in the comprehensive environmental management plan are complete and the organization is committed to implementing those that remain.

Humber Arm Environmental Association
acapha@thezone.net
(709) 637-7309/7305

The Face of Communities

Dedicated Volunteers: *Leading by example*

Thousands of people and hundreds of organizations volunteer their time to support community initiatives. They come from all walks of life and give generously towards a better future.

Although they work hard every day and cope with life's ups and downs, they continue to work together and donate their energy, ideas, knowledge and skills, turning good intentions into meaningful and lasting change.



Skilled Coordinators: *Providing dedicated professional service*

While ACAP organizations are run by volunteers, they require dedicated coordinators to ensure that the business of the organization is administered, the needs of volunteers are met and projects are properly managed.

Coordinator qualifications are simple: applicants must possess the knowledge of Einstein; the wisdom of Gandhi; the humanity of

Mother Theresa; the financial savvy of Donald Trump; the entrepreneurial spirit of Bill Gates; and the persistence of Attila the Hun. While this sounds like an impossible combination of skills, all sites have found experienced and dedicated people to serve their organizations by fulfilling this key role.



Power Windows: *Providing linkages & access to governments*

George Lindsay is the New Brunswick District Manager for the Environmental Protection Branch of Environment Canada. To the ACAP group working in the Miramichi watershed, he is simply referred to as "George the ACAP Window".

George has worked with the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) since its creation in 1988. In addition to the time and technical expertise he contributes to MREAC, George serves as a window through which MREAC accesses programs, information and expertise offered by Environment Canada.

Like other Environment Canada windows, George represents Environment Canada as part of the community. He approves ACAP funding for community projects and volunteers his time and energy to advance the

mission of MREAC. George is a highly regarded member of the MREAC organization.

Windows are backed by more than the resources of the ACAP program. All branches and programs of Environment Canada contribute to ACAP sites and support windows in representing the department. Scientific research, lab analysis, communications, GIS, socio-economics, information access, expertise in shellfish & wildlife, pollution prevention, water and air quality, environmental education, and community animation are some of the resources accessed through windows. Windows also assist sites in accessing the Eco-Action 2000 program and linking with the highly acclaimed Eastern Habitat Joint Venture.



Enthusiastic Youth: *Renewing the energy & the drive*

Allison Lowe joined ACAP as a summer student while attending the University of New Brunswick. ACAP complimented her masters studies and through a collaborative effort she produced a valuable community guide used to identify and evaluate remedial options. Subsequently, ACAP Saint John hired Allison as a coordinator.



Allison has since received her Masters Degree in Engineering, Environmental Studies and now works for the Auditor General of Canada.



Youth are the custodians of tomorrow and a source of creative energy that can be accessed today. Not surprisingly, reaching youth has long been a priority of stewardship initiatives. Youth have gained valuable experience and have made contributions to both the development of the ACAP program and to the accomplishments of ACAP sites. All ACAP sites have made a concerted effort to involve youth and to accommodate their needs and interests through school outreach programs, science fairs, community events, activity centres, employment and the full and equal participation in ACAP organizations. The result has been a positive one for both ACAP and the youth of Atlantic Canada.

ACAP sites have employed more than 700 youth, helping them to develop marketable skills that will serve them and their communities in the future.

More than 100,000 youth have been involved with ACAP projects as organizers and participants.

Many youth who got involved in ACAP as students and/or volunteers are coming back to the sites in project management roles.

ACAP sites are particularly proud of their contribution to the advancement of women in science and resource management.

The ACAP program and sites have long served as a resource for school and university students developing projects and conducting research.

ACAP itself has been the focus of attention of many students from around the world pursuing masters and doctoral degrees.

Progressive Municipalities: *Addressing the issue of sewage treatment*



Sewage treatment in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia has opened the door to numerous socio-economic and environmental opportunities.

Municipalities within ACAP sites are taking responsibility for sewage treatment and finding creative ways of making it happen. Sewage treatment is the key to achieving many social, economic and environmental sustainability goals including tourism development and the restoration of the shellfish industry. ACAP organizations have helped municipalities conduct scientific studies and social marketing to build support for sewage treatment; research and pilot economic instruments to enhance the feasibility of sewage treatment; and implement water conservation and waste reduction projects to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing and proposed sewage treatment facilities.

Municipalities such as Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia; Summerside, Prince Edward Island; and Miramichi, New Brunswick, have sewage treatment facilities in place. Murray River, PEI recently installed on-site septic systems. Still other communities are introducing sewage treatment through projects such as the construction of collector lines, and artificial wetlands for tertiary treatment. More than \$7 million has been pledged to fund the first phase of a sewage treatment plant in St. John's, NF. Meanwhile Saint John, NB has announced a major sewage treatment project to begin this year.

Making Waves ...

Recognition for vision, capacity & accomplishments



Coastal Zone Canada '98 International Conference

In keeping with the conference theme of "Coastal Communities in the 21st Century - Sharing Our Experience, Building Our Knowledge," ACAP will be represented at the conference by participants of three community initiatives.

Asta Antoft of ACAP-Cape Breton, Sean Brilliant of ACAP Saint John, and Brenda Penak of the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association will travel to Victoria in September to represent the communities participating in ACAP.

They will present a paper and a poster and, on their return to Atlantic Canada, share what they've learned with the rest of the ACAP family.

ACAP is pleased and proud that Carole Donaldson, one of the pioneering forces behind ACAP, has been chosen as the conference's keynote speaker on community.

ACAP will likely figure prominently at the 4th CZC conference to be held in Saint John, New Brunswick in September 2000.

Sharing the challenge

Over the years, ACAP has produced a series of guides in collaboration with communities, and other programs and government departments. These guides were developed in response to community needs as identified by the communities themselves. A guide to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is about to be added to the "Sharing the Challenge" series.



This guide takes the mystery out of GIS, explaining GIS in easy to understand terms and takes the reader

through a step by step approach with practical examples. This guide was developed and tested by ACAP Saint John in collaboration with the Integration and Interpretation section of Environment Canada.

Community guides available through Environment Canada

- Community-Based Environmental Planning
- Conducting a Community Environmental Profile
- Project Planning
- Developing Project Proposals
- Working in Multi-Stakeholder Processes
- Identifying and Evaluating Remedial Options
- Resource Valuation
- Geographic Information Systems

The Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre: *A work in progress*

Conservation data centres are an essential tool in tracking the health of ecosystems and their components. While Atlantic Canada is not currently represented on the international network of Conservation Data Centres, federal and provincial governments, non-government organizations, and universities are working to remedy that situation. Work is underway to establish an Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre for timely, accurate and comprehensive biological data, information and expertise on species and habitats at risk.

The information accessible through an Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre will enable users to answer many questions and assist in making informed decisions regarding conservation and development planning, environmental impact assessment and the identification and prioritization of critical natural heritage.

For more information on the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre and how to contribute to its development contact:
Rob Rainer
Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville NB E4L 1G6
Tel. (506) 364-5092
e-mail Rob.Rainer@ec.gc.ca



The Piping Plover - one of Atlantic Canada's endangered species.

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Our coastal zone knowledge base in Atlantic Canada is rich and varied, but in the past has been poorly organized.

Since 1992, seven federal departments, the four Atlantic provinces, the Council of Maritime Premiers, First Nations, the private sector and academic organizations, have been working to provide a focus for information collection and dissemination of work related to the Atlantic coastal zone.

This regional organization, known as the *Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC)*, exchanges ideas and identifies opportunities for collaborative work. The group has developed several products that are being used by the ACAP family and others involved in coastal and marine issues.

Check out the ACZ Database Directory at <http://www.ndi.nf.ca/ndi/aczisc/index.html> and ACZISC's home page <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/aczisc>

Community success

Integrating environmental improvement & social/economic development to restore an industry & sustain livelihoods

Do shellfish beds represent an environmental issue, a health risk or an economic opportunity?

To those concerned with pollution caused by inadequate sewage treatment, they represent an environmental issue.

To those responsible for protecting the public from contaminated shellfish, they are a health risk.

For the shellfish industry and those working in community development, they are an economic opportunity.

To the community, shellfish beds represent all of these plus an opportunity to develop and apply community capacity.

Throughout Atlantic Canada, citizens, governments, and non-government organizations are contributing to the knowledge generation, capacity building and direct action necessary to safely open shellfish beds.

Science and monitoring identified levels and sources of pollution. Resource valuation and remedial option tools were used to compare remediation costs with socio-economic benefits.

Pollution prevention, education, rural waste water improvements, municipal sewage treatment upgrades and tight quality control are leading to the restoration and sustainability of a multi-million dollar industry.

The safe opening of shellfish beds is an accomplishment that can be accredited to the efforts of a diversity of community members and a success in which they all can share.



A focus on results: Comprehensive Environmental Management Plans

What are we trying to sustain, what does success look like, how do we get there, and how will we know when we've arrived?

What are we trying to sustain, what does success look like, how do we get there and how will we know when we've arrived?

These are some of the questions communities have had to ask themselves in developing their Comprehensive Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). The result is a hierarchy of goals: three distinct yet integrated levels of results that communities strive for and are building their capacity to measure their progress towards.

Level 1 Results - The desired condition of the ecosystem derived from the community vision and expressed in social, economic and environmental terms.

Level 2 Results - The elimination and/or mitigation of stressors that the community has identified as standing between them and their vision of sustainability.

Level 3 Results - The implementation of projects and activities that the community has identified as being necessary to address stressors and which ultimately contribute to their vision of sustainability.

The contributions of the ACAP program to community sustainability are making a difference. However, they alone are not enough to enable communities to realize their visions of sustainability. Many other programs and networks contribute to the development and realization of these visions and the maintenance of a healthy environment, a healthy society and a healthy economy. While there are many international, national, regional, provincial and local programs and networks we could list, we hesitate to do so in fear leaving someone out.

We have much to learn from one another and much to gain by working together.

We recognize their contribution to the advancement of community-based initiatives and their accomplishments. We trust that ACAP efforts contribute equally to their broad goals and objectives. Together with communities we are developing a body of knowledge and experience that will serve us all in our quest for sustainability. We have much to learn from one another and much to gain by working together.

ACAP ... *Living up to our logo*

The ACAP logo, illustrating an urban environment supporting wetlands and providing habitat for a great blue heron, symbolizes many of ACAP's goals and values:

- ◆ going beyond balancing by integrating environmental conservation and human well being;
- ◆ people do not have to choose between environmental protection and economic opportunity: we can create alternatives rather than tradeoffs;
- ◆ there is much that can be done, even in urban environments, to contribute to biodiversity and the conservation of natural heritage;
- ◆ we have a responsibility to consider the interests and needs of both people and wildlife when making decisions;
- ◆ the state of the environment and human well being are interrelated in ways and to degrees that we need to recognize and accommodate; and
- ◆ the great blue heron indicates environmental quality in the Atlantic Region, as well as ACAP success.



Working across boundaries

As communities gather knowledge, build capacity, gain confidence and discover relationships, they grow and work across former boundaries of space and time. They begin thinking in terms of short, medium and long-term results and they recognize issues which require larger scale action.

To ACAP sites, larger ecosystems represent larger communities with enormous capacity and potential. Therefore, it is not surprising that we find ACAP sites collaborating with others in larger scale ecosystem initiatives.

The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Initiative, the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Initiative and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Ecosystem Initiative are three larger scale initiatives where ACAP sites find themselves as active participants.

ACAP: Building on success

Environment Canada sees ACAP as a wise investment and is renewing and increasing its investment in the program. ACAP will continue to help Atlantic Canadians sustain their communities and the environmental, social and economic systems on which they depend. Program priorities reflect the actions necessary to keep up with communities as they continuously increase their capacity and take on greater challenges. ACAP priorities include:

- working with ACAP sites to achieve the goals outlined in their Comprehensive Environmental Management Plans;
- enabling additional sites to join ACAP and helping them develop and implement strategies to achieve sustainability goals;
- increasing First Nation's access to and participation in ACAP;
- ensuring ACAP continues to involve youth and contribute to their development; and
- assisting ACAP sites to participate in and contribute to the goals of larger scale ecosystem initiatives.

For more information on ACAP, contact:

Jim Ellsworth
Environment Canada
5th Floor Queen Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth NS B2Y 2N6
Tel: (902) 426-2131 Fax: (902) 426-4457
e-mail jim.ellsworth@ec.gc.ca
web site: <http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/acap/>



Thank you to our partners ...

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Respecting Water Resource Management♦Canada/NF Water Quality Agreement ♦Canada/NS Sustainable Economic Development Agreement♦CBC♦Canadian Federation of Municipalities♦Canadian Heritage River System♦Canadian Hydrographic Service♦Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy & Petroleum♦Canadian Waste Exchange♦Cape Breton Development Corporation♦Cape Breton Regional Municipality♦Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc.♦Cape Breton Regional School Board♦Careers Cape Breton♦Cavendish Farms♦Centennial Auto Body♦Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development♦CFAN Radio♦Challenge 93 & 94 (Human Resources Canada)♦CHER Radio♦Cities of Corner Brook, Edmundston, Miramichi, Saint John, St. John's, Summerside♦CJCB Radio♦Clam Diggers Assoc.♦Clam Assoc.♦Clark's Auto Rental♦Clean Annapolis River Project♦Clean Nova Scotia Foundation♦Clean the Bay Campaign♦Coca Cola♦Collaboration of Community Foundations♦Color Your World♦Community Foundation♦Community Planning Fund♦Compagnie Guerette♦Connors Bros.♦Cook's Aquaculture♦Cooks Oil♦Co-op Atlantic♦Coopers & Lybrand♦Corner Brook Pulp & Paper Limited♦Corner Brook Stream Development Corporation♦Country Market♦Dalhousie School for Resource & Environmental Studies♦Dalhousie University♦Deep Sea Trawlers♦Delta Hotels♦Department of Fisheries & Oceans♦Dominion Refuse♦Down East Mall♦Ducks Unlimited♦East Prince Community Development Centre♦East Prince Waste Management♦East Prince Watershed Program♦East Prince Wildlife♦Eastern Charlotte Waterways Inc.♦Eastern Habitat Joint Venture♦Eastern Soil & Water Conservation Centre♦EDM Consultants♦Eldridge Fisheries♦ELJB Foundation♦Energy Pathways Inc.♦Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation♦EnviroCounsel Inc.♦Environment Canada♦Environmental Plastics Institute of Canada♦Environmental Services Lab♦Environmental Theatre♦Eskasoni School Board♦Family Pastimes Game Company♦Focal Technologies♦Quebec Wildlife Foundation♦Community Investment Fund♦Food Technology Centre♦Forest Capital of Canada♦Fosgren & Associates♦Fraser Pulp & Paper Company♦Friends & Lobbyists of the Waterford River♦Friends of the Earth♦Fundy Cable Ltd.♦Fundy High Co-op Student♦Fundy Solid Waste Action Team♦Gem Photo♦Georgia Pacific Corporation♦Girl Guides/Boy Scouts♦Global Relief♦Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Centre♦Green Lee Shoes♦Grooms Insurance♦Gulf of Maine♦Health Canada♦Heath Steele Mine♦Heritage Canada/Parks Canada♦Hibbard House♦Hibernia Management & Development Company♦Holland College♦HRDC♦Humber Arm Environmental Assoc. Inc.♦Humber River Watershed Management Assoc.♦Hydro Quebec♦Indian Point Marine Farms♦Indian Point Mussel Farms♦Inn on the Cove♦Institute for Biological Research Studies♦Institute of Island Studies♦International Marine Biodiversity Development Corporation♦Irving Environmental Services♦Irving Ltd.♦Island Nature Trust-PEI♦Jacques Whitford Engineering Ltd.♦John Labatt Foundation-Labatt's People in Action♦Joint Action Group♦Journal Pioneer Newspaper♦Kensington Agriculture♦Kensington Grain Elevators♦Kent Building Supplies♦Kimberly Clarke♦La Société d'aménagement régionale♦Labatt Breweries♦Lake Utopia Pulp & Paper Ltd.♦Lefurgy Cultural Centre♦Lower St. Lawrence Model Forest♦Lunenburg District Planning Commission♦Lunenburg Foundry♦Ma rue, mes arbres♦Magag♦adavic River Salmon Association♦Magaguadavic Watershed Management Assoc.♦Maine Shore Stewards Partnership♦Maine State Planning Office♦Manpower Development Corp./Société de développement de la main d'oeuvre♦Marine Atlantic♦Maritime Internet♦Market Square Corporation♦Massachusetts Bay Project♦McAllister Mall♦McGill University♦McLean Foundation♦Memorial University Newfoundland♦Michelin Tires Canada♦Mike's Courier Service♦Miramichi Leader Newspaper♦Miramichi Planning District Commission♦Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee♦Montague High School♦Montague Museum♦Montague Partners for Living♦Montague Watershed Enhancement Coop♦Municipalité de Notre-Dame-du-Lac♦Municipality of Annapolis County♦Murray River Recreational Fisheries Assoc.♦Nabisco Brands Ltd.♦NRC♦National Sea Products♦Natural Resources Canada♦Natural River Cruises♦Nelsons Consulting♦NB Community College♦NB Conservation Council♦NB Department of Health & Community Services♦NB Department of Higher Education & Labour♦NB Department of Labour♦NB Department of Municipalities, Culture & Housing♦NB Department of Natural Resources♦NB Department of the Environment♦NB Environmental Trust Fund♦NB Nature Trust♦NB Power♦NB Salmon Growers Assoc.♦NB Waste Reduction Fund♦NB Wildlife Federation♦NB Tel♦New River Beach Provincial Park♦New River Smokers♦NF & Labrador Conservation Corp.♦NF Department of Environment & Lands♦Newspaper Advertising♦NF Dept. of Development & Rural Renewal♦North Mountain Woodlands Ltd.♦NS Youth Conservation Corps♦NS Economic Renewal Agency♦NS Agricultural College♦NS College of Geographic Sciences♦NS Community College♦NS Department of Agriculture & Marketing♦NS Department of Economic Renewal & Tourism/ERA♦NS Department of Education♦NS Department of Fisheries♦NS Department of Health♦NS Department of Justice♦NS Department of Municipal Affairs♦NS Department of Natural Resources♦NS Department of the Environment♦NS Forestry Association♦NS Geomatics Centre♦NS Links Program♦NS Power Inc.♦NS Sport & Recreation Commission♦NS Works Program♦ON Federation of Agriculture♦Orlando & Hicks, Law Firm♦Ovenhead Salmon Smokers♦Paint Supplies Limited♦Parlee Accounting Services♦PEI Watershed Improvement/Recreational Fisheries Development Program♦PEI Bag Company♦PEI Department of Economic Development & Tourism♦PEI Department of Environmental Resources♦PEI Department of Transportation♦PEI Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry♦PEI Department of Treasury♦PEI Farm Equipment♦PEI Federation of Agriculture♦PEI Job Creation Program♦PEI Reproductive Care Program♦PEI Waste Reduction Program♦PEI Wastewatch Program♦Pictou County Planning Commission♦Pictou County Rivers Association♦Pictou County Wildlife Assoc.♦Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project♦Pictou School of Fisheries♦Piskahegan River Company♦Pizza Shack♦Private Businesses & Industries♦PRW Mechanical & Fabricating Ltd.♦Puppet Theatre♦Quebec Ministry of Environment & Wildlife♦Quebec Ministry of Manpower, Social Security♦Quebec Ministry of Transport♦R.W.B. 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