

September 2015



# E C O *connections*

NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

## Welcome Back to Eco Connections!!

### NSEN Updates:

Welcome to the September issue of the Eco Connections newsletter. Our work is progressing well and we welcome aboard new and returning members. A very sincere welcome to our new board members; Joanne Light, Shirley McNamara and Chris Morrissey. With the upcoming national election in October 2015, we urge members to challenge their local candidates on vital environmental issues.

unsustainable energy practices all pose serious risks to our future. Policy makers can also be encouraged to restore the Canadian Environmental Network to previous funding levels, so that it can support the important work of provincial environment networks like our own. On October 19th, hold your elected representatives responsible on environmental issues, issues

*"...without intelligent decision making on the environment, the economy cannot be sustained."*

With the focus on a shifting economy, those on the campaign trail may forget that without intelligent decision making on the environment, the economy cannot be sustained. Climate change, increasing freshwater and marine contamination, and

that matter most for future generations and to those who live closest to the impacts of poor political decision making.

### NSEN Changes!

• • •

We've also made a few changes at NSEN. Please note our new phone number 1 902 800 2591.

Messages left at this number will go directly to the email address of the Executive Director where they can be heard, so we can respond in a timelier manner. Stay tuned for upcoming events from our own NSEN.

*NSEN is working on an important project on water governance. We want to include your community experiences in our research. To share your story, please write to us at [nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nseenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com), and be sure to put Water Story in the subject line!*

### *A Message from Board Member Linda Davis...*

Wednesday, June 17th, Sacred Heart High hosted the 15th annual Pledge Ceremony to recognize the graduating members of the Environment Committee and their impact at SHHS. One noteworthy project is the completion of two hand-made solar photovoltaic panels after two years of working with If You Build It! Along with inspiring words from Lil MacPherson, graduates made a pledge committing to environmental stewardship in their future decisions, lifestyles and careers. The ceremony concluded with the planting of wildflower seeds outside the school.

Congratulations to this year's graduating members of SHHS Environment Committee!

### *Member News*

On Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> over 10,000 people marched the streets of Toronto to demonstrate the need for a justice-based economy that not only works for the people but for the planet as well. [350.org](http://350.org) is building a global climate movement. You can connect with them on Facebook, follow them on Twitter, and become a sustaining donor to keep this movement strong and growing.

---

Did you know that there might be a link between fracking and heart disease? Check out the study "Fracking well nearby? You're more likely to suffer from heart disease." at <http://www.rt.com/usa/310611-fracking-hospitalizations-increase-study/>

---

Help protect our oceans. Large companies want to mine the ocean floor in search for precious metals. Visit [https://secure.avaaz.org/en/deep\\_sea\\_mining\\_en\\_dn4/?klvdnab](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/deep_sea_mining_en_dn4/?klvdnab) to sign the petition that urges ISA to agree to a moratorium on deep sea mining until scientists agree that this practice is safe.

---

**Nature Nova Scotia, the Young Naturalists Club and Wildland Writers** are holding a Nova Scotia Nature Writing and Art Contest. The Nature Writing and Art Contest is inviting youth

ages 8-15 years who live in Nova Scotia to submit a **written piece** (short story, non-fiction, poetry, etc.) **OR** an **original artwork** (painting, drawing, collage, etc.) that is inspired by:

- Native plants or animals of Nova Scotia (*native means a species that occurs naturally in a region*),
- An adventure, personal moment, or happy experience in Nova Scotia's wild places (lake, river, ocean, forest, trail)
- An injustice that impacts nature in Nova Scotia<sup>2</sup>

**Deadline for Submission: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.**

For more information and how to enter please visit <http://nature1st.net/ync/events/youth-nova-scotia-nature-writing-and-art-contest/>

---

Introducing #RealSecurityIs on behalf of Sustainable Maritimes...

Let's open up the conversation about security. #RealSecurityIs is a non-partisan, grassroots campaign launched by concerned Canadians. We want to deepen the election conversation about what really makes us secure, using #RealSecurityIs. Our goal is to encourage thoughtful discussion about what really makes us secure, and what we can do to contribute to Real Security.

We believe Canadians can do better than a shallow, short-term vision of security, which does not address the social conditions on which a secure society is built. We don't have to accept a story about security that is based on fear and hatred, and encourages us to distrust our neighbors and those with whom we share the planet.

Strong climate action, ending poverty and violence, vibrant communities, racial justice, truth and reconciliation, clean air, soil and water, strong local economies, fracking bans, strengthening democracy — aren't these all aspects of what #RealSecurityIs.

Please follow us #RealSecurityIs, give us a shout out, add your voice to the discussion, and invite your friends and followers to join in.

Our FB page is <http://on.fb.me/1NrrFnO> .

---

We would like to highlight Mi'kmaq cousins and grandmothers, Dorene Bernard and Judy Googoo who participated in the Sacred Water Walk 2015. They are planning a Water Walk in Mi'kmaki in the spring of 2016 to walk throughout Mi'kmaki to raise awareness for protection of the water for our future generations.

## *Upcoming Member Events*

### **Field Leader – Hiking Course**

A Field Leader - Hiking Course will be offered in Wolfville on October 17 and 18 in Rotary Park. It will provide participants with Outdoor Council of Canada (OCC) national certification in Field Leader - Hiking. This includes skills to organize and lead others in a one-day, educational or activity based experience in a natural environment. The course is two days in length and will provide successful candidates with the necessary skills to be a confident hiking leader. The program is suitable for hiking club leaders, trail group volunteers, recreation department staff, teachers, 4H leaders, Scout and Guide leaders, parents or individuals interested in leading hikes. Courses are taught by OCC certified instructors. The cost is \$100 (\$90 for current paid Hike NS members). The course is offered through Hike Nova Scotia in partnership with the Nova Scotia Chapter of the OCC and supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. Hike NS thanks its local partner the Town of Wolfville for its support.

For more information, go to <http://www.hikenovascotia.ca/projects/leadership-hiking-course/>.

**When:** October 17-18

**Where:** Rotary Park, Wolfville

---

### **The Natural Step Framework for Sustainability - Level 1 training**

The Natural Step Canada's Level 1 Sustainability Course: Foundations in Sustainability-Inspired Strategy is an opportunity to apply the core concepts of sustainability. In this compelling 1-day workshop you will work through a hands-on case study using The Natural Step Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development, giving you the knowledge and tools to better understand strategy and take a systemic approach to planning and managing sustainability initiatives. See more at: <http://www.naturalstep.ca/level-1-sustainability-course-moncton-nb#sthash.TnA7AUft.dpuf>

**When:** October 15

**Where:** Moncton

## *Job Postings*

Remember to check out more jobs in the environmental sector at Goodwork Greenjobs at <http://www.goodwork.ca/>



*The Nova Scotia Environmental Network connects environmental organizations across the province – together we are stronger!*

---

Laurie Sutor, Executive Director

NSEN Eco Connections Newsletter

T: 902 800 2591 F: 902 453 3633

[nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com)