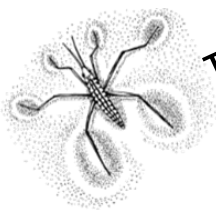


Lauren and Ginny from AWEC Oceans 11 dissecting a haddock in order to investigate its stomach contents



The

Waterstrider

News from CARP's frontline

Local students hoping to rally community support for beach clean ups

Contributed by Alex Hancock, Youth Volunteer

What better way to spend a warm Nova Scotia afternoon than enjoying the seaside? The salty air, the sun-warmed rocks, the crashing of the waves. Take a walk along the shore, clear your mind, stretch your legs. There is, however, one thing marring your lovely afternoon of quiet contemplation: the luridly coloured and misshaped pieces of plastic that litter our beaches. It's no surprise that the ocean's in trouble; from overfishing, from global warming, from pollution. But perhaps the most easily visible factor is marine plastics. They are dangerous for a number of reasons. Many kinds of animals mistake them for food, while still others need the valuable habitat they destroy. When they eventually break down into smaller pieces of plastics (known as microplastics), they are associated with another set of risks and environmental consequences. We don't yet understand the complete implications of microplastics, as they are just beginning to be created by the first plastics that we made. All of this is simply to say that marine plastics are a problem. Here in Nova Scotia, the ocean seems like an ever-present entity. It provides for us, it supports our economies. I feel very comfortable saying that everybody reading this relies on the ocean in one way or another- whether it's directly or in a more roundabout way, we all need it. Likewise, marine plastics are bad for everyone. When the ocean suffers, so do all of us.

Continued on page 2...

What can you do about this? Well, at least on a local scale, the answer to marine plastics is simple. Pick it up.

Beach cleanups are a great way to reduce the impacts of marine plastics on our shorelines, in addition to being good exercise and a pretty fun way to spend an afternoon. There's nothing like the sun on your back and a newly cleaned beach in front of you. In fact, studies show that beach cleanups are among the most meaningful actions you can take compared to other shoreline activities. So, the next time you have an urge to ramble along the seaside on a beautiful sunny day, bring a trash bag and collect any garbage that you find. If you want to make a bigger impact, get involved with local group beach cleanups (hint hint, like the ones being hosted by CARP this spring and summer). Or, better yet, organise one. They don't have to be fancy. They don't have to be massive. Just you and a few friends with garbage bags can make a difference. The ocean will thank you, and you'll thank yourself.

Alex Hancock and Maddy Conyers have been working together to plan a series of beach clean ups for spring and summer 2018 (visit annapolisriver.ca/cleanup). These amazing young women are also part of the Youth Leading Environmental Change team and have taken on additional volunteer roles like supporting our donor campaign.



Alex at the fall Young's Cove beach clean up



An illegal dump site discovered on an Envirothon field trip



Youth leading Environmental Change team after their presentation to Annapolis County Council

Let's create the worlds ugliest map with the "World Cleanup" App

CARP is excited to be partnering with the Let's Do It! campaign to clean up illegal dump sites in our watershed and we need as much help from community members as possible.

Let's Do It! World is a civic-led mass movement that began in Estonia in 2008 when 50,000 people united together to conduct a country wide clean up event. "On September 15, 2018, World Cleanup Day, people in 150 countries will stand up against the global trash problem and clean up waste, making it the biggest positive civic action the world has seen".

We want you to download the "World Cleanup" App so that you can map sites for future clean up events. The App is available on Android and iPhone. During mapping, you don't even need reception. Once the location of the garbage is mapped, it will be possible for us to see the locations, type, and size of dumping areas. We will use this map data to plan volunteer clean up events throughout the summer and fall.



Learn more about the World Cleanup app : <https://www.letsdoitworld.org/worldwasteplatform/>

Soaking Up Stormwater update

Samantha Hudson, Project Leader

Summer 2018 is fast approaching and that means lots of field season prep! The stormwater management project will take on a number of exciting activities, and opportunities will become available for the public to come out and contribute their efforts towards implementing stormwater management actions this summer and fall.

The spread of urban development and decrease of permeable surfaces available to soak up surface runoff on our landscape means and increase in the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff into our waterways. Some ways that CARP hopes to help mitigate these concerns in the Annapolis River watershed include: construction of rain gardens and bioswales, French drain installation(s), depaving of impermeable surfaces, educating schools and the general public on stormwater management and water conservation, rain barrel installation(s) and educational programs.

Some of our project activities to date include site suitability visits, a home water audit program for students, general advice on property maintenance and management, etc. Our project is part of a partnership with the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF), allowing our two not-for-profit organizations to bring awareness to issues related to stormwater management in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Stormwater management resources for homeowners

RAIN Community Solutions, property owner resources:

<http://www.raincommunitysolutions.ca/en/for-property-owners/>

Building a rain barrel video tutorial:

<https://youtu.be/K2qoLvTYN0>

"Rain gardens, a how-to manual for homeowners"

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/shorelandzoning/documents/rmanual.pdf>

Over 86 students and counting have participated in the home assessment program with CARP and BCAF, calculating how much water usage is occurring in their households along with how well they are managing stormwater on their properties. Coastal Action was successful in hosting 3 rain barrel workshops, educating over 45 participants the importance of conserving water and managing stormwater on their properties. Over the next few weeks, O2 students from the Middleton Regional High school will assist CARP in the installation of fittings for 14 rain barrels to help conserve water in the future.

Let us know if you have any ideas for stormwater remediation or potential sites within the Annapolis River watershed!

Looking for ways you can become involved, or learn more about stormwater management? *Contact us at Clean Annapolis River Project for more details.*

Look for us this summer at:

Digby Rain Garden

Action: rain gardens, bioswales, possible French drain, planting

Middleton Rain Garden/ Low Impact Development (LID) Site

Action: rain gardens, educational materials (signage), planting



Left: Project Leader Samantha Hudson; Right: Digby O2 girls working hard to dig out a new rain garden site

Get ready for a MindShift!

On Earth Day 2018 a team of youth from across the Annapolis River watershed are coming together to share an important message about environmental sustainability.

CARP has teamed up with local youth theatre group, Young Company Productions, to stage a tour of "MindShift".

This program was originally developed by Cate Trueman, Alan Warner and George Taylor from the Adventure Earth Centre and Acadia University. "MindShift is all about **SHIFTING** the culture in our communities toward environmental sustainability! It is designed **by youth**, for youth, to make a difference in schools and communities. MindShift is a powerful teaching and learning process that inspires action."

After experiencing MindShift at the 2017 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication Conference, Katie McLean, CARP's Outreach Coordinator, knew it was the perfect program to bring to the watershed.

Thanks to the willingness of Young Company Productions to partner on this endeavor, the talents of director Gillian Ormerod, The Town of Annapolis Royal who provided rehearsal space and the financial support of Awesome Annapolis, on the weekend of Earth Day (April 20-22) local youth will deliver 5 performances of MindShift.



Over 20 bold young actors joined us for the open casting call

The tour includes two in school performances as well as free public performances in Middleton and Granville Ferry. We hope community members will join us at one of these performances, which are suitable for the whole family.

Public performance schedule:

Saturday April 21, 2:30 PM, MacDonald Museum (21) School Street, Middleton

Sunday April 22, 2 PM, Granville Ferry Hall (5352 Granville Rd.), Granville Ferry*

Sunday April 22, 3:30 PM, Granville Ferry Hall (5352 Granville Rd.), Granville Ferry*

*Limited seats available, advanced registration required. Contact Flora Hall, youngcompanyproductions@gmail.com, (902)-526-0654



Make a Splash!

SATURDAY JULY 14 2018

Jubilee Park / Bridgetown, NS
9AM-5:30 PM / Free Admission

A fun-filled all day event open to anyone, celebrating the environmental, historical, cultural, and recreational values of the Annapolis River.

AT THE 4TH ANNUAL
ANNAPOLIS RIVER FESTIVAL

RACES / MUSIC
BOAT TOURS
KIDS ACTIVITIES
FOOD & DRINK TENT

 CARP's Annapolis River Festival
www.annapolisriver.ca/annapolis-river-festival

Upcoming Events

We must have Spring Fever; we have calendar of events loaded with opportunities to get you excited to spend this spring and summer exploring and taking action to help our watershed...

Thursday
April
12

The sniffer dog as a (re)search assistant?

Berwick Branch Library, 236 Commercial, Berwick
7-8:30 PM, free public talk, no registration required
Guest presenter Dr. Simon Gadbois (Dalhousie University)

Sunday
April
15

Wood turtle volunteer training

Wilmot Community Hall, 13972 Highway 1, Wilmot
1:30-3 PM free volunteer training, no experience required, pre-registration required
Project leader Katie McLean

Sat/Sun
April
21-22

MindShift! Public performances

April 21, 2:30 PM Macdonald Museum, Middleton, no reservations required
April 22, 2 PM or 3:30 PM, Granville Ferry Hall, reservation required, see article on page 4
Young Company Productions, Director Gillian Ormerod

Tuesday
April
24

Sea Level rise, geomatics and climate change

St Luke's Church Hall, Annapolis Royal
7-9 PM, free public talk, no registration required
Guest presenter Dr. Tim Webster (Applied geomatics Research Group)

Thursday
April
26

Riparian areas: natural filters and critical habitat in agricultural landscapes

Melvorn Square Community Center, 165 Bridge St., Melvorn Square
7-8:30 PM, free public talk, no registration required
Guest presenter Dr. Soren Bondrup-Nielsen (Acadia University)

Saturday
May
5

Citizen Science Expo

Kentville Town Hall, 354 Main St., Kentville
1-5 PM, free displays, presentations, activities about citizen science opportunities across the region
Hosted by the Blomidon Field Naturalists

Saturday
May
5

"Come play with us" exploring the fiber arts

Annapolis Royal Fire Hall, 5 St. Anthony St, Annapolis Royal
10 AM-4 PM, free hand on activities; CARP display on natural vs synthetic fibers & microplastics
Hosted by the Society of Fiber Artists of the Annapolis River



**CITIZEN
SCIENCE
EXPO
2018**

MAY 5 2018 KENTVILLE NS



Co-op Experience

Contributed by Ginny Everett

My name is Ginny Everett and I am a grade 12 student at Annapolis West Education Centre. I am enrolled in the cooperative education course in my school in which we find a placement to complete 100 work hours. The idea of the co-op program is to provide students with the opportunity to test drive a career in hopes of finding something that they love. I've found just that while working as a co-op student for Clean Annapolis River Project.

I have completed 70 of my 100 hours and can not believe the amount of projects I have been a part of in such short amount of time. I have assisted in tree planting, rain garden construction, surveying, riparian fencing, as well as many other restoration projects that have provided me with knowledge, experience and community involvement. As an aspiring wildlife technician, CARP was the perfect placement for me and it has truly enhanced my passion for this field of work.



Left: examining haddock stomach contents during a guest activities with CARP during Oceans class; Right: tree planting to restore canopy cover and slow down surface water run off

Upcoming Conferences:

CARP is looking forward to presenting at the following....

12th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop

"A Changing Fundy Environment: Emerging Issues, Challenges and Priorities"

9-12 May 2018, Agricultural Campus, Dalhousie University, Truro, NS.

Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods

International Conference

28-30 May, 2018, Halifax, NS



www.annapolisriver.ca



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Thank you to our current project funders and partners

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a stream



Eastern Charlotte
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Coastal Action
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