



WATERSTRIDER



Clean Annapolis River Project

Fostering the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of Nova Scotia's Annapolis River and its watershed

Citizens taking action

Residents of Aylesford and Loon Lake (Western Kings County) are actively monitoring and protecting the environmental health of their home.

In 2007, concerned residents of Aylesford Lake got together to suggest amendments to a new waterfront development process proposed by Kings County. This new process could shorten approval time for lakeshore developments which residents felt could cause inadvertent environmental damages.

This led to the formation of ALLPOA (Aylesford and Loon Lake Property Owners Association) which was tasked with guardianship and control of water quality on the lakes. They were successful in convincing the County to reassess the new process.

Andy Bryski, the current chair of ALLPOA would like to see a more proactive approach when it comes to lakeshore developments. Although, when he built his cottage in the 1980's he observed government regulations, knowing what he knows now, he would have done things a little differently.

"People don't want to pollute. They just do it out of ignorance," Bryski said. He is particularly concerned about many small actions during the construction process that cumulatively create a greater environment problem and the accumulative impacts of many cottages.

ALLPOA is also working to have Fancy Cove designated as a wilderness

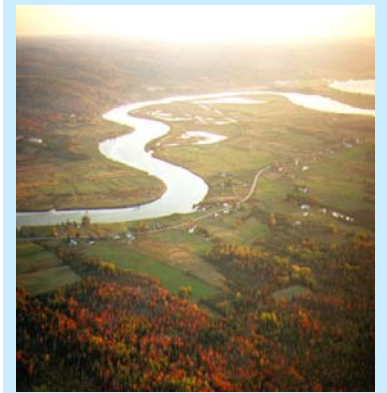
area. Fancy Cove is a pristine, undeveloped area on the Aylesford Lake. It contains excellent examples of Acadian Forest structure, with many trees between 70-80 years old. As well, osprey and bald eagles are known to nest in the immediate area.

Wagner Forest Management Limited currently owns the land. ALLPOA have approached the government about protecting the land under the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. Purchasing the land has been put on the back burner because of the current economic downturn and changes in government positions due to the election.

However, ALLPOA is actively working to protect Fancy Cove. In the spring of 2008, lake residents voted to designate the area as a no wake zone which they currently observe. As well, they have an excellent relationship with Camp Brigadoon, which is a year-round camp designed for children and youth living with chronic illness. This camp will be located on the property adjacent to Fancy Cove. Both organizations are working together to support and promote each other.

In 2010 CARP will be writing the Kings County Water Quality Monitoring Program (which includes ALLPOA) annual report. It will follow the River Guardians report and report card formats. It will hopefully be a useful tool for ALLPOA and other concerned groups in Kings County.

Clean Annapolis River Project is a charitable, community-based, organization dedicated to restoring and protecting the ecological health of the Annapolis River watershed through science, leadership, and community engagement.



The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Nelson Henderson

Environment week and beyond

As part of the celebration of the International Day of Biological Diversity and Environment Week, CARP hosted two Great Plant Pull events in Annapolis Royal. These events provided volunteers with the opportunity to remove glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) from the French Basin Trail. Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and since many enjoy the trail, it was a great opportunity to give back.

Much determination and newly acquired plant identification skills allowed volunteers and CARP staff to clear an 80m² area and replace the glossy buckthorn with a variety of native species. However, the work is far from complete. The glossy buckthorn population is well established and the field crew will be working hard to clear more space throughout the summer.

During Environment Week a CARP volunteer, Susan Jost organized a Litter Pick up. Although June 2nd began as a bleak day dedicated volunteers

braved the potential rain to clean the streets of Annapolis Royal.

Volunteers covered St George Street, Victoria Street, the French Basin Trail and Prince Albert Road where it intersects with Victoria Street to the tidal power station. With a total of nine full bags, the volunteers collected some interesting items (see table below).

There are volunteer opportunities coming up with CARP. A new project is being launched in Annapolis Royal. It is a water management project that looks for opportunities to use rain-water and storm run-off. We will be looking for volunteers to participate by using rain barrels and construct rain gardens.

If you would like to volunteer with CARP in any capacity, please contact the office.

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Above: a volunteer, Ken Eyre and staff member Julianne Butt planting native species in an area where glossy buckthorn has been removed.

Below: volunteers from a junior high in the watershed. They are working together to remove some particularly stubborn glossy buckthorn.

Table 1. The items and quantities collected during the Environment Week Litter Pick-up.

Item	Quantity
Cigarette butts	3000
Socks	1
Coffee cup	4
Plastic tips	3
Wrappers	18
Diapers	1
Sneakers	1
Drinking bottles	51
Sandwich wrapper	1
Paper stuff	10
Milk containers	1
Bottle caps	10
Oil can	1
Cloth	1
Metal pieces	5



Refining our focus

In late 2008, CARP board and staff began the strategic planning process. It was an opportunity for staff and board to take a step back to assess the organization and refine the focus.

With the help of Joel Stoddart and Chris Pelham of the Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship (ASCBE), the organization moved through a variety of exercises to identify strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

Through these exercises, the staff and board decided that the work we do is to improve the health of the river. Additional benefits such as healthy



Live willow staking on the Annapolis River near Middleton.

citizens, a thriving economy and better agriculture are seen as positive by-products.

As well, it was felt that both the mission statement and vision were long and not easily remembered. Through strategic planning the board and staff were able to rework the vision and mission to create more concise versions.

The previous vision *'The Annapolis River Watershed will provide habitat capable of supporting a healthy ecosystem, recreational opportunities and a working landscape that supports*

and is enhanced by the sustainable use of the Watershed's resources' was refined to *'an ecologically healthy Annapolis River watershed'*.

The phrase *'ecologically healthy'* was selected because words like *'clean'* or *'pristine'* are somewhat subjective. As well, bringing the river back to its *'original state'* is essentially impossible since we do not have a clear idea of what the original state was.

The new mission is *'to restore and protect the ecological health of the Annapolis River watershed through science, leadership, and community engagement'*. This is a shortened version of the previous mission: *'The Clean Annapolis River Project is a charitable, community-owned corporation created to work with the community and interested organizations to foster the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the freshwater and marine ecosystems of Southwestern Nova Scotia's Annapolis River and its watershed'*.

The work that CARP does is firmly

founded in science. Although our organization focuses more on hard science (biology, chemistry, physics, etc) there is definitely a role for the softer sciences (sociology, psychology, etc) in the work that we do.

The board and staff view community engagement as more than CARP sharing information with the public. It is a two-way exchange of information, as well as action and involvement from various groups and individuals.

We seek to provide leadership on environmental issues to our communities, other organizations and government representatives. A large part of this is to facilitate collaboration on common environmental challenges, as well as provide all stakeholders with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions when it comes to environmental issues.

Undergoing strategic planning has allowed the organizational focus of CARP to be reaffirmed. The process was highly rewarding and will aid in guiding CARP in future endeavours.



A shot of the Annapolis Royal Marsh.

Attention farmers!

We are currently looking for farmers interested in improving local water courses. This summer we have received funding from public and private partners to help cover the cost of riparian zone restoration work. The goal is to improve water quality and riparian habitat through controlling stream bank erosion, and reducing the effects of livestock grazing along waterways.

If you are interested in participating, contact us: (902) 532-7533
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A river guardian, Chelsea Fougere, collecting a water sample in Wilmot.

Planning for our future

At the annual general meeting on June 16th, the Clean Annapolis River Project unveiled a new way for concerned citizens to protect the Annapolis River watershed. Two new funds dedicated to environmental work in the Annapolis River watershed were announced.

The first is Annapolis River Watershed Ecological Legacy Fund. This fund is appropriate for making memorial gifts. It is set up so only the interest on investments is spent. Therefore, any gifts that are made will continue to give for many years to come.

The second is called the Annapolis

River Watershed Environmental Enhancement Fund. In this fund, both the principal and the capital can be spent. This fund is geared more towards donations made for specific projects.

These funds will allow for greater flexibility in projects, reduce the amount of time spent writing grants and give the organization more financial stability.

If you are concerned about the health of the environment in the watershed, consider making a donation to either fund. Please contact the office for more information.



This wonderful group of people are volunteers on the CARP board of directors. Back (L-R): Richard Bridge (President), Murray Freeman (Treasurer), Graham Dalton, Donna Conyers, Tami Parks, Claire Diggins (Secretary) and Mark Hebert. Front (L-R) Doug Parker, Susan Jost, Audrey Haig– Stewart and Ed Symons.

Citizen science

A citizen scientist is a volunteer who collects data for scientific research projects, often with no formalized scientific training. For an organization like CARP, citizen scientists are essential. Our longest running program, River Guardians, is based around volunteers. There are many benefits for volunteers too. It allows citizens to contribute to important research and scientific endeavours that influence their lives. As well it encourages a collaborative spirit in solving problems.

Participating in environmental monitoring and data collection often allows citizen scientists to create greater connections to the natural world. This fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility in the volunteer. Stewardship of the natural world becomes a value in the community. This is especially important because many of our environmental resources are shared (lakes, air, forests) and it is often necessary to have community wide involvement in protecting or conserving those resources.

Our volunteers range from River Guardians to board members to librarians to weed pullers to litter picker-uppers. Without their hard work and dedication we would not be where we are today as an organization.

To all our volunteers and supporters: Thank you!

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Clean Annapolis River Project

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Contribution deadlines:

Spring: 1 March
Summer: 1 June
Autumn: 1 September
Winter: 1 December

Membership:

Adult \$7 Family \$10
Student \$5 Other \$25