



[www.kccns.org](http://www.kccns.org)  
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To conserve and protect shoreline, wetlands, beaches, freshwater habitats, fields & forests, and to ensure that access to these places, both on Kingsburg Peninsula and in neighbouring areas, remains available to the public forever.

**The KCC Newsletter August 2009**

**KCC Meeting & Potluck Supper**  
Tuesday, August 25  
Riverport Community Centre.  
Doors open at 5:30 for food drop-off and mingling. We'll have a short business meeting at 6, followed by dinner & questions.



**Gillian & Hazen Trueman, thank you for our view!**  
This wonderful couple donated their waterfront lot on Kingsburg Pond to KCC, so that everyone coming into Kingsburg will continue to have this welcoming view. What can we say - WOW! The donation was made in 2008, so the Truemans were able to see the benefit on 2008 taxes. They were pleased with the result, and have offered to discuss the experience with anyone else who is considering a land donation. What a special legacy to give the community.

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Rugged island sheep on West Ironbound

### Government Contacts

NS Premier	Darrell Dexter	ddexter@ns.sympatico.ca 902- 462-5300
Minister Natural Resources P.O Box 698, Halifax, B3J 2T9.	John MacDonell	john.macdonell@ns.sympatico.ca 902-883-7308
Minister Environment & Fisheries	Sterling Belliveau	mlashelburne@eastlink.ca 902-637-3200
MLA for greater Kingsburg	Pam Birdsall Worthington	ndpcaucus@gov.ns.ca (902) 424-4134
Municipal Mayor	Don Downe	info@modl.ca 902-541-1326
Municipal Councillor - Riverport & District	Don Zwicker	zwickdick@eastlink.ca 902-766-4016

## Questions about The Beaches Act and Kingsburg Beach

In July an elevated boardwalk was constructed on Kingsburg Beach near the cemetery, on a lot that is partially in the protected zone. Because the boardwalk is elevated, and doesn't look like the boardwalks people are used to seeing, local residents were puzzled by it and became concerned that it may be in violation of the Beaches Act. As a result, several people contacted DNR, and were told that the structure was approved, but that confidentiality rules prevented them from revealing the plans. This lack of forthcoming information has made people fear that the Beaches Act is being reinterpreted in a way that is inconsistent with their expectations, and that the community might once again be torn apart by issues related to the Beaches Act.

When KCC asked the owners about the boardwalk, they explained that DNR provided them with strict specifications for the elevation, position, and design of the 16' boardwalk, which spans a primary dune. The owners also explained that the plans reflect DNR's current thinking regarding the best methodology for traversing a dune without damaging plants or the dune shape. The height is meant to allow air circulation and plant growth under the boardwalk, with the advantage that the roots help secure the dune.

Despite the advantages attributed to the DNR plan, many people in the community are doubtful that a boardwalk of any type is better than a sand path, when use is for one family.

Shortly after the elevated boardwalk was built, rumours began circulating that the owners of a different lot, farther down the beach, and entirely within the protected zone, were about to apply for permission to build a house. On July 31 KCC contacted DNR to confirm this and was told by the Regional Director that, as of that date, there were no Letters of Authority for Kingsburg Beach other than the aforementioned boardwalk. However, DNR is under no obligation to inform the community when new applications are being considered or even when best practices for beach protection are being modified, so the knowledge that there are currently no Letters of Authority provides little reassurance.

KCC is working to arrange a meeting of DNR, community members, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, and outside experts, so everyone can ask questions about boardwalks and the Beaches Act. We would also like to discuss the merits of DNR changing its approval system to that of a more transparent one in which criteria are formally stated and there is an opportunity for community input prior to permission being granted. We are inviting the municipality because they have the authority to create bylaws that designate the beaches as environmentally sensitive no-build zones. Previously they have said provincial protection is adequate, and they would not consider local bylaws unless provincial protection is removed or significantly changed. We hope this meeting will be scheduled by the time you read this newsletter – we are waiting for the availability of DNR staff.

Meanwhile, we urge everyone to prepare for the meeting by reading the Ecology Action Centre's report on the state of beaches in Nova Scotia and their recommendations for change. This report is reprinted as the last portion of the KCC newsletter. The Beaches Act can be found at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/Statutes/beaches.htm>, and is readable within a short time.

Letters to DNR and other departments and levels of government are an important way to convey concerns about the protection of our beaches and the transparency of the process. Please see the previous page for government contact information.

## Overview of KCC News

by Bob Buckley & Marion Homer

In the year since our last newsletter, KCC's biggest news is the anonymous donation of \$1.5 million dollars! That's about 150 times our highest total donations for any one year. Having so much money to work with is absolutely wonderful, and we are so grateful, but we have to note that it has demanded a whole new set of skills and a "wealth" of research. As usual, the number of projects we would like to address far exceeds our bank account and our volunteer time. We must evaluate each project to gauge its importance and the likelihood of benefit, in comparison to the time and money we would have to invest.

Over the last year, KCC Board members have been working to identify lands to purchase in the greater Kingsburg area. In keeping with the KCC's mission to preserve important pieces of land for their natural significance and their importance to the community, and spurred on particularly by matching funding available through Nova Scotia's Crown Share Land Legacy Trust, we've talked to a variety of experts and trekked over miles of ground.

### **West Ironbound Island**

In this context, the KCC Board is considering applying to the Land Legacy Trust to buy West Ironbound Island, which sits just off the end of Gaff Point. In recent weeks, members of the KCC Board and several area naturalists have visited the island several times to assess its potential to meet the Land Legacy requirements for ecological significance. The preliminary reports are encouraging, especially in regard to nesting sites for Blue Heron and cormorants. West Ironbound would make a wonderful extension to Gaff Point, increasing Gaff's 124 acres by West Ironbound's 150 acres of field, forest, wetland, beach, and rocky shore.

### **The Shaubac**

In addition to its interest in West Ironbound, the Board is also moving forward on purchases within the Shaubac (at the mouth of the LaHave). We hope to preserve part of this startlingly beautiful area in a natural state, and provide public access to the LaHave shore.

### **Land Purchases and Donations**

During the past year, KCC has been able to acquire land on Rose Head, Kingsburg Beach, and Kingsburg Pond. (further information in other articles in this newsletter)

### **Gaff Point Access**

KCC has been exploring the acquisition of additional lands abutting Gaff Point as a means of providing quick access to Gaff Point for medical emergencies, maintenance and general stewardship responsibilities. We are looking for any suggestions and ideas regarding a route or lands which would facilitate this.

### **Coastal Access and Trails Project**

KCC, through a committee chaired by Susan Pond, continues to explore the logistics of a riverside & seacoast trail from Bridgewater to Lunenburg. Such a project requires community consultation and extensive planning, and we welcome your ideas.

### **Donations**

Even though KCC has been unbelievably fortunate to receive its large, windfall donation, individual annual donations are KCC's mainstay, and we hope you can keep them coming in. Having money in the bank has made us go out and look for opportunities, and what we've found exceeds even our new-found resources. We ask that you consider making a donation to support the work of KCC.

## KCC'S RECENT LAND ACQUISITIONS

by Don Galbraith

Who hasn't, when coming over the hill into Lower Kingsburg, experienced the thrill of the panoramic view containing the old village, farm pond, and sparkling sea beyond. This magnificent view was threatened when the land extending from the intersection of Kingsburg and Hirtle Roads to King's Pond was purchased several years ago as a building lot. However, when the 0.7 acre lot was again placed on the market last summer, the KCC was quick to act, and now it is ours. This purchase became a catalyst for the very generous donation of the abutting property on the Kingsburg Road side of our lot by the Hazen and Gillian Trueman family. The Trueman property consists of 0.3 acres and, in combination with the corner lot, gives us about 430 feet of pond frontage. With the combination of this donation and purchase, the iconic Kingsburg view will be preserved for all future generations to experience.

Equally exciting was our acquisition of 1.2 acres of land stretching from Kingsburg Beach to the border of King's Pond. The beachside portion of this parcel lies immediately adjacent to a parcel of land owned by the Department of Natural Resources, giving a wide swath of beach and dune that will be protected forever. In addition, the KCC was successful at Municipal auction in obtaining a parcel of 0.7 acres near Kingsburg Beach, bordering on the old public road.

Yet another gem in our successful year was the purchase of a heavily wooded parcel of 8.9 acres stretching from shore to shore on Rose Head. A Forest Management Plan has been drawn up by Picea Forestry Consultants, reflecting the KCC's intent to preserve the wooded area in a conservation and rejuvenation program. Picea explained to us that much of the tree damage on the Atlantic side is due to storms blowing salt water onto the trees. In contrast, the trees on the Rose Bay side received less storm spray, and appear much healthier. Most of Rose Head has shallow soil that prevents trees from establishing strong roots, thus increasing the potential for trees to blow down in high winds. Picea recommended that when a tree dies and falls, it would be a good idea to cut the trunk sufficiently to bring it in contact with the ground. This contact accelerates rotting, which ultimately builds up the soil, and gives the future generations of trees more root support. The Rose Head lot also includes large areas of wetland that are extremely fragile.

The KCC is proud to have been able to obtain these noteworthy properties and looks forward to an equally successful upcoming year.

## Sand Dollar Beach Update

by Marion Homer

Those of you who have driven by the infill site know that construction has begun. We wish desperately that we could have included the infill lot in our list of lands purchased, but it was not to be. At one point, we thought we might reach an agreement with the landowner. KCC commissioned a professional appraisal, and also asked 3 different realtors to estimate the fair market value of the 2 lots. We offered the owners the highest of the 4 opinions, which was the appraisal value. The owners refused our offer, noting that they disagreed with the appraisal, and wanted a higher price. We concluded that KCC could spend its donation money more effectively elsewhere, and refocused our attention on a Land Legacy Fund application. (next page)

## Nova Scotia's Crown Share Land Legacy Trust Fund

by Marion Homer

When Nova Scotia received money from the Federal Government as part of the offshore gas settlement, the legislature set aside 23 million dollars for a trust fund that would provide land trusts with matching funding for the purchase and protection of some of the province's "most ecologically significant, threatened, and irreplaceable areas of private land." Even though the trust has been funded by the government, it is not run by, or a part of, the government. The Trustees and their science advisory committee evaluate applications submitted to them, and may make funds available to charitable, non-governmental land conservation groups, such as the KCC, to secure lands of provincial conservation significance. The lands are to be retained and stewarded by the individual conservation groups that submitted the applications, and are not to become government property. The stewardship plans must meet rigorous international standards. Depending on the value of the private lands to be purchased, the Land Legacy Trust will pay between 50 – 70% of the value of an eligible property.

Members of the KCC Board have spoken with scientists on the Trust and with Dept of Environment employees to try to get a better understanding of what the committee is looking for. One of the preferred elements is a large tract of land, either by itself, or adjacent to an existing protected space. Another preferred element is "biodiversity," which means a variety of land types, such as wetland, salt marsh, lake, and forest. Yet another factor is the presence of endangered or threatened plants, birds, or animals. Additionally, of course, the landowner must be interested in selling.

As we examined lands in the greater Kingsburg area, we learned that coastal lots tend not to have biodiversity, and will thus have a harder time qualifying for Land Legacy funding. Scientists told us that Conrad Island, off Sand Dollar Beach, would be an ideal candidate because the owner has maintained the pristine natural state, and because of the variety of habitats, ranging from salt marsh to forest. We contacted the owner to see if he might be interested in selling Conrad Island, but he loves it as much as we do, and is not ready to part with it. We therefore began looking for other properties that might qualify. (Further information on the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust may be found at [nscsllt@dal.ca](mailto:nscsllt@dal.ca).)

2009/20010 KCC Board		KCC Website
<a href="mailto:info@kccns.org">info@kccns.org</a>		
Bob Buckley	766-0136	In 2008 KCC hired LuckyDuck web design (Jodie Turner) to help move our website to a new home, and to update the information on the website. Noreen Channels, former KCC Board member, spent most of last summer and early fall collecting the background information and working with Jodie to create the web site now available at <a href="http://kccns.org">kccns.org</a> . We're always looking for photos (old or new), maps, and useful information to include on the site. If you have ideas or material for the site, or could serve as our "editor" to further develop and update the site, please call a Board member or e-mail us at <a href="mailto:info@kccns.org">info@kccns.org</a> .
John Campbell	423-9962	
Dave Cosh	766-0265	
Don Galbraith	766-4102	
Marion Homer	766-4355	
Stan Smith	766-0344	
Rick Welsford	624-8051	

## Meet Your Current KCC Board

**Stan Smith** is retired from fifty-plus years in the investment business, including directorships with publicly listed companies. He holds a Commerce degree from Concordia University and is a Veteran, Canadian infantry, Korea 1950-52, under UN Banner.

**Don Galbraith's** interest in the outdoors and the natural world can be traced to the many hours spent in the fields, woods, and meadows bordering his childhood home. These early experiences no doubt led him to major in biology in college and then to go on to earn MSc and Ph.D degrees in this area. He then became a member of the faculty in the Department of Biology at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut where he taught and conducted research for forty years. His wife, Noreen Channels, and he became summer residents of Kingsburg in 1989 and were active in the movement to protect Kingsburg Beach and later in the formation of KCC. Since then they have both served as volunteers and as KCC board members.

**Marion Homer** has been attracted to nature, and especially the ocean, since she was a young child, so working with KCC is the perfect opportunity to put her interests into action. Marion and her husband "discovered" Nova Scotia in 1978, and in 1986 moved to Feltzen South, where they've had two sons and five dogs grow up. The whole family feels that this area is the best possible place to live. Marion's past experiences that contribute to her ability to help KCC include a university degree in Biology, five years as a science and math teacher, seven years as a computer programmer, several terms on the board of a different non-profit, and twenty-three years as owner of a small retail business.

**Bob Buckley** and his wife Judy Nelson have owned their home in Kingsburg since 2003. Bob is currently principal of Saugatuck Elementary School in Westport, Connecticut, has been a New England school administrator for 21 years and, before that, an elementary and middle school classroom teacher for 19 years.

**Dave Cosh** is an educator with over 40 years experience at the secondary school and university levels. He also farmed for 30 years in Eastern Ontario. Dave has always felt a strong connection with the outdoors and in the past has expressed this passion through activities ranging from the creation of a high school environmental club to employing natural/organic methods on his farm, as well as being a strong and passionate advocate for the nurturing of our planet.

Dave & his partner Iris began visiting the Kingsburg area annually in the early 80's, purchased property in '92 and moved here in 2005. For Iris it was a return to her Maritime roots; for Dave it was the realization of a decades-long dream.

**Rick Welsford** is a graduate biologist from Dalhousie University and has considerable firsthand knowledge working in Nova Scotia coastal eco-systems, above and below the water. He currently works as the Executive Director of the Sable Island Preservation Trust and has sat on several conservation committees and Boards. He was the longtime Chair of the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF) and currently sits on the East Scotia Shelf Integrated Management Stakeholder Advisory Committee (ESSIM-SAC).

### **KCC's Newest Board Member, John Campbell**

John Campbell grew up in Ontario, went to school in British Columbia and has lived in the Maritimes for the past 30 years with his Irish born wife Annette and his three children. He has seen the beauty that Canada has to offer but he believes that no place compares to the Kingsburg peninsula when you consider its natural beauty, its history and its inhabitants. A part-time resident of Upper Kingsburg for the past ten years, John is a psychologist by training and Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services with one of Nova Scotia's health districts. He also knows the workings of government, having been with Nova Scotia's Department of Health for a number of years. He has held a series of Board memberships in this province including the Alzheimer's Society, the Disabled Persons Commission and the Regulatory Board for his profession and holds a faculty position in Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University. John is interested in preserving access to the beauty that surrounds us and ensuring that it will be available to succeeding generations.

### **Would you like to be a KCC Board Member?**

KCC is an all-volunteer group, so its board members are workers, as well as decision makers. We e-mail each other regularly, so we can all be aware of progress on projects. Decisions are by consensus. All Board members must support both the conservation & the access aspects of our mission statement, but other volunteers can choose which projects to support. Unless we already know a person, we ask prospective Board members to work with the Board as regular volunteers until both sides are confident that we can work well together.

### **Special Thanks**

In addition to our trail workers, who are listed elsewhere, we are thankful to have a variety of people who provide expertise when we need it. They all go the extra mile for KCC.

Lester Berrigan, for helping us understand local land history.

Andrew Kimball, for insightful handling of our legal matters.

Mark Stewart, our accountant at Lyle Tilley Davidson, for patiently crunching the numbers.

Ken Young, for helping with appraisals and tax auction know-how.

Jamie Ernst, for critiquing our draft Investment Policy.

Jen Graham of the Ecology Action Centre, for all the information & help you provide.

Jake Wentzell, Barb Carthew, & Milton Bush, for your help with West Ironbound Island.

James Hirtle, Frances Anderson, Catherine Pross, Anne Mills, and Carolyn Bird, for the many hours of cataloguing plants & birds on West Ironbound.

Paul Pross & Jeff Amos (members) & Patricia Amero (Picea Forestry Consultants) for help with our forestry plan for Rose Head.

Chris Miller & Leif Helmer, for helping us apply science to our work.

Susan Pond, for trails research.

Susan Hall, for environmental advice.

Barney McCabe, Tony Congdon, & Laura Barkhouse for GPS & map help.

Dee Hilburt, for pinch-hitting on everything!



Winter 2008 - To address liability concerns, the Gaff Point cabin is dismantled.

## Great Trails on Gaff Pt

### ~ Many Thanks to Helping Nature Heal!

by Dave Cosh

A little over a year ago the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) contracted with Helping Nature Heal to improve the trails on Gaff Pt. Over the Winter and Spring of 2008, Rosmarie, Greg and their crew spent many challenging days rerouting trails, cutting and laying corduroy and woodchips on the wet areas, and deconstructing the cabin out at the very end of Gaff.

If you have hiked Gaff Point, you know that there is no easy way to access the peninsula. Everything that Helping Nature Heal used had to be carried in, and everything that was not to remain had to come out the same way. Although the wood components of the cabin were used in the trail renovations, all non-compostable items were removed and recycled. As an example, it took Greg and Rosmarie an hour and a half just to lug the old iron woodstove through the woods and to their truck.

Woodchips for the corduroy surface are another example of how the only transportation available was low-tech physical labour. Rosmarie and her staff, and those who volunteered to work on the trail this June understand the intensity of the labour, as they were faced with bagging and carrying in several 'yards' of the stuff.

KCC greatly appreciates the generosity of Steven Shapiro and his family who kindly volunteered their pasture in Upper Kingsburg as a staging area for both phases of the work. Otherwise the travel distance would have been even more daunting.

We all underestimated the scale of the 2008 renovations, with the result that funds ran out before the work was completed. Despite this, Helping Nature Heal carried on with the work, donating their time and effort in order to see the project completed. It is this type of community partnership that really makes a difference in the world of Land Trusts and volunteers.



KCC Board member Dave Cosh lays logs along a muddy section of trail on Gaff Point.

## Trail Upgrades - 2009

by Marion Homer

A June 7th volunteer day marked the culmination of many months of planning for the latest trail upgrades on Gaff Point. The Nature Conservancy of Canada organized and funded the event, with volunteer assistance from The Nova Scotia Nature Trust, KCC, Katimavik students, and local volunteers.

The major focus of the project was to lay logs and wood chips over muddy areas of the trail, so walkers can have a safe, dry place to walk, and won't be tempted to create "walk-arounds" that put sensitive ecosystems and plants at risk. Over 140 ft of trail was upgraded.

Getting logs to work with wasn't too hard - Gaff produces windfall each year, and Greg Amos & Derek Driver (former KCC Board members) and NCC

workers visited the site in advance of the volunteer day to cut the fallen trees to a standard 3 foot length.

Getting the wood chips for filling in around the log trails wasn't so easy though. It required the cooperation and hard work of many people. Oceanview Garden Centre & Landscaping, of Chester Basin, donated a truckload of aged wood chips. The Shapiro family graciously invited us to store the chips on their land, which was the closest drop-off point for a truck.

The first day of hauling chips (a 40 minute round trip) was an arduous object lesson; buckets are not a back-friendly transport system! NCC staff made a quick visit to Value Village to procure more hockey bags for the next day. Serving as human mules gave everyone a much greater appreciation of the chip-toting carried out the previous year by "Helping Nature Heal" workers. As if the original weight of the chips wasn't enough, rain threatened to make them even heavier. Dee Hilbert and Stan Smith grabbed a tarp, rope, and weights and covered the pile.

If it weren't for the Halifax-based Katimavik group who spent two days carrying wood chips from Upper Kingsburg to the beginning of Gaff Point, the project would still be waiting to happen! Even with all that help, though, there were still wood chips left on private property. After considering a number of options, KCC asked James Hirtle to bring his tractor and help move the chips to KCC land that is accessible by road. All-in-all, quite an adventure.

## Report on Gaff Stewardship

by Heather White

I want to express our sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who monitored Gaff Point in the past year. Gaff monitors made thirty-one monitoring walks on Gaff, equal to about 105 volunteer hours. It is this dedication that has allowed us to maintain Gaff as a safe and natural environment. This summer we welcome new monitors Paul Murphy and Heather Dennis to our ranks.

The monitor reports for the past year were unanimous: Gaff is a special place and people who visit there respect that. There was little garbage or signs of misuse on the trails. There seemed to be more walkers this year – more than a dozen on December 31! - and all expressed their appreciation for the excellent condition of the trail. Fall and winter storms downed many trees over the trail, and special thanks go out to Derek Driver and Greg Amos who cleared those away.

After winter 2008's trail maintenance, building corduroy trails in several wet areas and diverting the trail around other wet places, our monitors reported much less water and mud on the trail this year. However, reports of sitting water and mud were still frequent for the

area where walkers return from the point. To tackle this, NCC initiated and carried out a volunteer work day to add wood chips to sections of the trail requiring fill and to repair the very muddy section with logs from windfalls and wood chips to secure the corduroy. Thank you to NCC, Katimavik, NSNT and KCC volunteers who did the hard physical labour of this upgrade. If you would like to volunteer to walk the Gaff trail as a monitor, please contact Heather White [hwhite@eastlink.ca](mailto:hwhite@eastlink.ca).



Former KCC Board member Greg Amos mans his chain saw to clear dead trees and cut them to length for trail upgrades.

### Many Thanks to All Gaff Point Volunteers

#### Trail Upgrade

Derek Driver  
Sally-Jo Gallant  
Shannon MacDonald  
Olaf Hollak  
Andrew King  
Don Bolivar  
Carolyn Bolivar  
Dave Cosh  
Marion Homer  
Greg Amos  
James Knock  
The Katimavik Crew

### Trail Monitors

Greg Amos  
Frances Anderson  
Jill Comolli  
Jared Congdon  
Marilyn Congdon  
Iris & Dave Cosh  
Heather Dennis  
Derek Driver  
Gerald Hallowell  
Daphna Levit  
Eric Mackie  
Anne Mills  
Gerald Mossman  
Paul Murphy  
Heather White



Vistas off West Ironbound Island

## Island Dreams

by Dave Cosh

Everyone who hikes Gaff Point takes note of the island just off the tip of the peninsula – appearing quite near, yet remaining an intriguing mystery. As one nears the Point there is a feeling that the island is somehow related to Gaff, yet being an island, it must be different. For years I have felt just this way, and had a strong yearning to visit it and see for myself. The opportunity occurred when the KCC decided to consider purchasing the island through the Land Legacy program, and organized an excursion to inspect the island.

On a bright sunny morning in mid-May a group of us gathered near West Dublin and boarded Milton Bush's boat for a 40 minute voyage to West Ironbound. As we travelled, Jake Wentzell, the island's shepherd (there has been a flock of hardy island sheep there for several decades), shared stories about his experiences there. Jake's association with the island goes back to his childhood, as his grandfather originally owned West Ironbound, and his father was shepherd before him. By the time we arrived, we sensed that we were about to spend the next few hours exploring a very special place.

Making shore involved transferring into a smaller boat, as no wharf exists. However, with only minor wet-feet issues, we all managed to trek up to the small, solar-powered cottage, where plans were finalized for the actual excursion. (There is only the one house, plus an automated lighthouse on the opposite side of the island.) We were not disappointed! Travelling in a clockwise direction, we experienced a succession of stunning coves and

## Island Dreams

*(Continued from page 12)*

vistas, including small sandy beaches, larger cobble/shale beaches and almost vertical drop-offs. Inland there was a mixture of pasture, coastal forests and bogs. Of particular importance is the flourishing blue heron colony. On a later trip, James Hirtle reported that the size of the colony was significant, with several young chicks vocalizing.

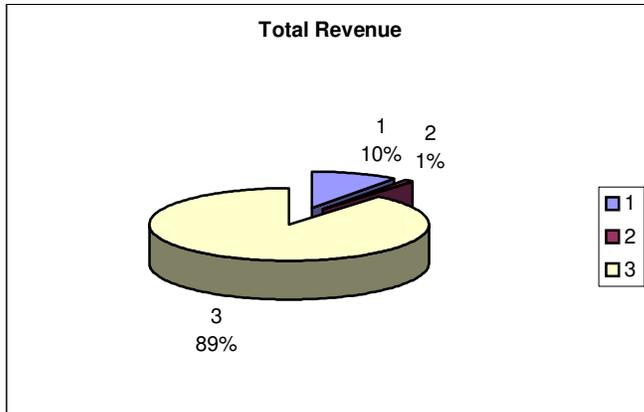
To visit the 150 acre island is to sense its magic. This magic should be preserved, and if we receive financial assistance from the Land Legacy Trust Fund we might just do it! To date, KCC has organized three trips to West Ironbound - each time taking naturalists who are developing an inventory of the birds, plants, mosses, seaweed, and lichen. More trips are planned so we can build a convincing ecological presentation to accompany our application for funding.

Pictures and information will soon be available on the KCC website. However if West Ironbound is already special for you (even if you've never visited it) then consider joining us in our campaign to purchase it. We need your help, whether it is financial or time. Or simply let us know how you feel about KCC purchasing the island. We value your input.



Vistas off West Ironbound Island

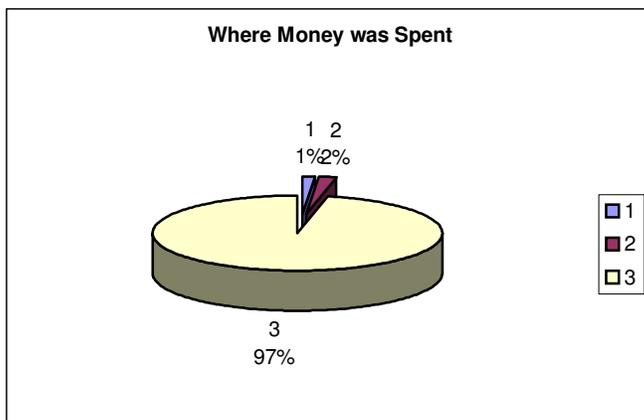
### Financial Highlights for 2008/09



**Legend**

- 1 Donations
- 2 Investments
- 3 Tides anada Grant from a US donation

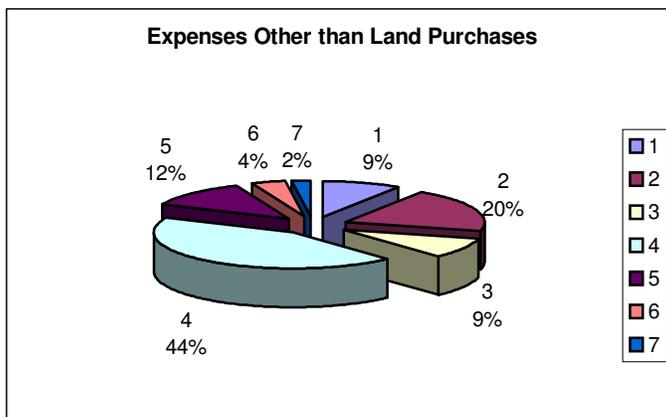
**Total: \$1,717,956**



**Legend**

- 1 Administrative costs
- 2 Land Purchase Expenses
- 3 Land Purchases

**Total: \$776,934**



**Legend**

- 1 Newsletter & Website
- 2 Appraisals
- 3 Insurance
- 4 Legal and Accounting
- 5 Property Taxes
- 6 Office
- 7 Miscellaneous

**Total: \$26,934**

## Financial Highlights for 2008/09

by Dave Cosh

2008/09 was an exciting year of growth as the KCC increased the number of properties under its stewardship. This was facilitated through a combination of land, securities and monetary donations that occurred during the past twelve months, and we are grateful for the generosity of the people who demonstrated their support in this fashion.

**This past year was very special due to an unexpected and once-in-a-lifetime anonymous donation of \$1.5 million.**

The donor specified that some of the money be used for properties beyond the Kingsburg Peninsula, and Revenue Canada requires that most of the money be spent within two years. To date \$625,000, or 42% of this money, has been invested in properties. (KCC can also apply to Revenue Canada to delay some of the required spending.) Of the original donation, \$285,000, or 19% , has been placed in conservative long-term securities in order to introduce financial stability for the organization and guarantee income to cover basic expenses – a kind of ‘rainy-day’ fund.

The KCC normally receives approximately \$7,000 in annual donations, and this year was typical. However, last summer and fall both a partial and a complete land donation were made, creating an unusually high value in the Donations category of the Revenue Pie Chart.

As the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy is a strictly-volunteer organization, we can keep ordinary expenses to an absolute minimum (1.4% of total expenses in 2008/09). Supporters know that their donations will always be put to use in ways that reflect our mission “to conserve and protect shoreline, wetlands, beaches, freshwater habitats, fields and forests, and to ensure that access to these places both on Kingsburg Peninsula and in neighbouring areas remains available to the public forever.” It is through the generosity of the board members themselves, willingly providing their time and also absorbing the personal expenses they incur while doing KCC work, that our ordinary expenses remain so low.

With the increased activity on land acquisition, it is only normal that we should experience larger legal and accounting costs. On the other hand, property taxes remain quite low, and in fact, due to the generosity of both the Province and the Municipality of Lunenburg, we will pay virtually no property taxes in the current 2009/2010 year.

All data for this Financial Summary were obtained from the KCC Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2009, as prepared by Lyle Tilley Davidson, Chartered Accountants.

Since the inception of the KCC in 1995 it has worked to protect and maintain access to the special places you treasure on Kingsburg Peninsula and beyond. As we depend on the generosity of our membership in order to continue with the stewardship and management of these protected areas, we need your financial assistance more than ever. 2009/10 will also be an exciting year of new acquisitions, and although the KCC will be searching for other sources of financing, success will ultimately depend on the support of our membership.

If you wish to donate securities or land, or are a US taxpayer, please contact our treasurer (Dave Cosh), [info@kccns.org](mailto:info@kccns.org) or 902.766.0265. All contributions are tax deductible on Canadian tax returns, and may also be on US tax returns. We hope to hear from you!

## KCC's First Donation of Stock

by Marion Homer

In December, 2008, KCC was given its first ever donation of stock, and with the tax advantages to such donations, we anticipate that more and more of our donations will be in the form of stocks, mutual funds, and Registered Retirement Savings Accounts.

Canadians are used to the idea that when they sell an appreciated asset, and when they die, they have to pay capital gains tax. Until recently, this tax treatment applied to donations as well, but now most of that has changed. Now only donations of land trigger a deemed capital gain, and even some land is exempt, if it qualifies as eco-gift property. Donations of stocks, mutual funds, and RRSPs give the donor a tax receipt for the full current value of the gift, and no longer result in a capital gain on donor's the tax return.

KCC's stock donor had acquired the stock over 30 years ago, so even with our current economic slump, there was a considerable increase in value. If the donor had first sold the \$5,000 worth of stock, and then donated the proceeds, capital gains tax would have been calculated on most of the value. Instead, by giving the stock directly to KCC, the donor paid no capital gains tax, and received a tax receipt for the full value. Incidentally, KCC is especially pleased that this donation has increased in value by over \$2,000 since December!

## What is an Investment Policy?

by Marion Homer

When KCC suddenly found itself with so much money, we started researching how to invest it and Dave Cosh, our treasurer, learned that many non-profits have a policy about how they will handle and invest assets. A charity usually considers the same factors an individual considers - things like whether or not to hold any stock, or to stick strictly with fully guaranteed investments, whether to consider the ethics of a stock company as well as its profitability, how much money to keep in a form that is instantly spendable, and how much to set aside permanently to guarantee the ability to pay fixed expenses. We learned that there's a great deal of variability in investment policies. Some charities automatically sell all stocks donated to them, without first considering whether or not they might want the stock as an investment. Some hold no stock at all, for fear that the principle could be lost, and others establish a % of their assets that can be in stock. The fact that some stocks have consistently paid dividends much higher than bank interest has prompted several institutions, such as St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, to invest a high % of their assets in stock. (St. Francis is now rethinking that policy.)

After reviewing many investment policies, Dave Cosh created a draft policy for KCC, and he and Marion visited with accountant Jamie Ernst to have the policy critiqued. Jamie was quite impressed with Dave's work, and asked for a copy. As of this writing, we are still considering the guidelines to include in the policy, and the only stock we own is the relatively small amount that was donated. As usual, please send us any suggestions you may have.

### Ways to Give to KCC

We want to remind everyone that we have a million creative and environmentally-friendly ways we could use your hard-earned money! And we also accept stocks, mutual funds, land, and all the hours you'll give KCC. Even in the current economic crunch, the greater Kingsburg area is sought after, and property values are expected to go astronomically higher. If we don't act soon, most land will be developed, or offered at a price several times what it is now. Donating appreciated stocks, mutual funds, & RRSPs is a great way to give because the giver gets a tax receipt for the current value, without paying capital gains tax (as long as the security is transferred directly to the charity - not sold by the giver.) Land donations are more complex, but can also provide a tax receipt for the current appraised market value. If you want a quick & easy way to give over the Internet, donate through Canada Helps, which can be accessed directly at <http://www.canadahelps.org/> or via [kccns.ca](http://kccns.ca).

Things are a little trickier for US citizens who wish to donate to Canadian charities. Americans can receive Canadian tax receipts, which the IRS allows filers of Schedule A to credit against any Canadian income the donor may have, such as capital gains on the sale of Canadian land. US citizens can also make donations to specialized US charities that help Canadian charities. These charities are registered in the US, as US charities, and therefore qualify to issue US tax receipts. Some of these charities have dual registration, making them charities in Canada as well as in the US. Such options currently exist through "Friends of the Nature Conservancy of Canada" and through "The Tides Foundation," and will eventually exist through a new group, American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts.

For more information, please contact a KCC Board member. It's a good idea to talk to one of us, and also your tax preparer, before making any non-cash gift.



### Volunteers Needed!

KCC needs part-time volunteer help in a variety of ways. As an example, we recently asked our newest Board member to transcribe an 1885 deed written in longhand, so we could circulate copies electronically, and read the document more easily. We need walkers who can visit our properties to make sure all is well. We need a book keeper to assist our treasurer, plant identifiers, a photographer to collect photos of our properties, a webmaster to keep our web site up to date, a fund raiser, a legal expert, an income tax expert to handle donation issues, someone to monitor insurance needs, an investment counselor, someone to prepare letters and presentations to government, someone to investigate grant opportunities, and someone to effectively organize & catalog all our reference materials. And probably other things too!

## KCC Board Members Update their Knowledge

In 2008, KCC Board members attended a variety of meetings and classes designed to increase their knowledge in ways helpful to KCC.

Bob Buckley & Dave Cosh attended a full day workshop on legal information for environmentally-focused groups. Please see the following article for details.

Marion Homer attended a one week course on the wetland identification system used by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The course was held at Eagle Hill, Maine, and approximately half the attendees were Canadian.

Marion also attended a one day workshop on Canada's eco-gift program, including the qualification process for the properties, and the tax advantages for individual donors.

## ECELAW 2008 Environmental Law Workshop

by Bob Buckley

Dave Cosh and I travelled to Halifax to attend an all-day workshop hosted by East Coast Environmental Law, a relatively new sub-set of the Law School at Dalhousie, and Nova Scotia Environmental Network. The workshop was comprised of approximately sixty people representing groups akin to the KCC, individuals simply interested in the issues, law students and representatives from DoE and DNR.

While the workshop focused on approaches for dealing with issues that might impact directly on the environmental nature of land use, such as strip-mining or contamination of tracts of land, and less on the preservation of natural, open land for community use, from our perspective the workshop was useful in at least two ways for the KCC:

1. As we became more familiar with the dynamics of the East Coast Environmental Law group, it became apparent that part of their mission is to become a resource to groups, such as the KCC, and individuals in Nova Scotia who are seeking guidance in how to legally approach issues and individuals who might have a negative impact on local Nova Scotian environments. Near the close of the session, the director of the group, Meinhard Doelle, directly stated that such assistance is part of the ECELAW's charge. This makes ECELAW a valuable asset for legal guidance and legal perspectives when KCC is considering steps to take or actions to consider when faced with preserving the land and environment of this area. They might not initially have the information we need at their fingertips, but they appear to be developing the structure to be of assistance in this regard. The group is clearly in the formative stages, but, over time, they could become a strong resource for the KCC.

2. During one of our breaks, we spoke with members of CARP (Clean Annapolis River Project), which is a group akin to ours in Annapolis Royal. They are a long-standing organization that clearly has an extensive history of experience working on local environmental issues, developing related fundraising, attracting the support of Nova Scotia's universities, and maintaining themselves as a dynamic organization. We think it would be useful for us to get in touch with them to study their organization and see what we can learn from them as we seek to further develop the structure, mission, and activities of the KCC. They have also developed water-testing procedures (they do extensive testing of the Annapolis River) that we could use on our ponds. Their website is [www.annapolisriver.ca](http://www.annapolisriver.ca)

## Hirtles Beach Management Committee Dissolves

by Marion Homer

In early 2009, after nearly 12 years of service, the all-volunteer Hirtles Beach Management Committee decided to limit its focus to that of an advisory board, and turn all management responsibilities over to the municipality, which owns the Hirtles Beach property. The most significant accomplishment of the committee was obtaining funding for boardwalks to protect the dunes. Community members and area visitors helped with funding by paying \$25 to have their names engraved on boardwalk planks. A 2008 analysis by Saint Mary's university student Kate LeBlanc investigated the effects of the boardwalks on the dunes. There were too many variables for her to conclude that the boardwalks *alone* helped the dunes, but she was able to conclude that during the years immediately before the boardwalks were laid down, the dunes receded, and during the years the boardwalks were in place, the dunes grew. Unfortunately, two storms, Hurricane Juan in 2003 and post-tropical storm Noel in 2007, caused major damage to the boardwalks. After Hurricane Juan, various levels of government contributed money to restore the boardwalk, and after Noel, 143 Airfield Engineering Flight in Bridgewater helped out and some of the boardwalks were moved to less vulnerable locations.

All questions about maintenance and infrastructure at Hirtles Beach should now be directed to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

## South Shore Naturalists

by Judy Smits

The South Shore Naturalists have been active in this area since 1991 when interested individuals banded together to create an organization which would offer opportunities to explore and learn about all aspects of the natural world, and to share knowledge with others.

Over the years we have held public meetings with speakers every month except July and August, and have conducted field trips in our local area and beyond. This past year we have enjoyed presentations on the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, on orchids in Nova Scotia, on the Colin Stewart Forest Forum and protection of wilderness areas, on terns, hummingbirds, coastal plain flora, and the natural wonders of the South Atlantic. We have taken part in birding outings, hunted for spiders, explored the geology of Gaff Point and hiked to Labrador Castle and in Keji.

The Club continues to be involved in conservation efforts with representation on the Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Team, the Coastal Coalition and LaHave Water Rescue Project. After five years, we have handed over our seat on the Abitibi/Bowater Forest Advisory Committee to the Annapolis Field Naturalists, who will keep the naturalist and conservation perspective visible on the Committee. We continue to press Government for greater protection of wilderness and coastal areas, and are closely following the Open Spaces and Sustainability Plans in our own area.

We welcome KCC members at our meetings and on our field trips. Knowledge and appreciation of the natural environment are one of the foundations for stewardship, and we congratulate KCC on their hard work and achievements over the years. If you would like more information on SSN, please contact Judith Smits, 766-4716, or Jill Comolli, 766-4697.

## Coastal Management is a Cost Effective way to prepare for Climate Change

by Jennifer Graham

Coastal Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre

There is no longer much debate – our climate is changing and we are already experiencing climate change impacts in Nova Scotia, such as changes in precipitation patterns, accelerated erosion rates, and rising sea levels. There is growing scientific consensus that earlier predictions about the rate of Arctic ice cap melting and subsequent sea level rise are too conservative. Our coastal areas are on the frontlines of climate change, especially since beaches, dunes, wetlands, offshore sandbars, and other coastal features offer important protective buffers for inshore areas. In these uncertain times, the efforts of groups like the KCC to acquire and protect coastal lands are more important than ever.

Good coastal management can help us prepare for climate change, and it can also save us money. In a recent study, the U.S.-based National Institute of Building Sciences calculates that for every dollar spent on mitigating climate change damage, society saves \$4 in recovery costs. We can prepare with a few key investments, all adapted from an Opinion Piece which appeared in the Chronicle Herald on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**1. Identify and fill information gaps so that climate change can be incorporated into decision-making.**

We need high-definition flood and coastal maps for every municipality, showing the current and future risks to property, infrastructure and coastal ecosystems. Areas like the Kingsburg peninsula are great case studies on how to use maps to support better coastal planning. Nova Scotia's Climate Change Action Plan says that coastal mapping and climate change modeling is a priority – yet doesn't identify any clear timelines to accomplish this. This is a good time to remind elected officials that to make good decisions, we need the right tools, and that we should invest in important research now.

**2. Require risk-based land-use planning.** Land-use planning can safeguard property and lives, and minimize the cost of repairing damaged infrastructure. We may have to create no-build zones in hazardous or flood-prone areas instead of continuing to issue permits for new developments in unsuitable areas. All municipalities in Nova Scotia are currently developing Integrated Community Sustainability Plans, and residents of the County and Town of Lunenburg can participate in public meetings, planning area committees, and other forums to support good land use planning in coastal areas.

**3. Design infrastructure and building code standards to meet future risk.** The most appropriate infrastructure will protect existing property and infrastructure from damage, while also maintaining and restoring natural shoreline features like irregular, uneven coastlines, eroding drumlins and headlands, sand bars, groundwater recharge areas, and vegetated buffer zones that maintain shoreline stability. Coastal & lakefront property owners can go to [www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca) for helpful tips on how to work with coastal processes when living on the coast. Bird Studies Canada also recently published a stewardship guide for coastal landowners. You can obtain a copy by emailing [nsplowers@gmail.com](mailto:nsplowers@gmail.com).

**4. Strengthen coastal ecosystems as part of a risk-reduction strategy.** Coastal ecosystems, like salt marshes, beaches, dunes, and barrier islands, have enormous protective value and are essential to any climate-change adaptation strategy. Nova Scotia

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20 **Coastal Management to prepare for Climate Change**)

Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy is a critical tool for ensuring the sustainability of our coasts and coastal communities over the long term. Public policy should reflect (and protect) values important to residents of Nova Scotia. In the coming year, citizens will have the opportunity to attend public hearings and make written submissions on a report called "State of the Coasts" describing in detail what's going on in coastal Nova Scotia, as well as the provincial Water Resources Management Strategy. Please participate to preserve Nova Scotia's coastal future!

In addition to the above, there are other interesting coastal happenings. The province of Nova Scotia is preparing a no-net-loss of wetlands policy as it committed to under the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. EAC is developing a discussion paper on coastal and water policy, as well as a policy brief. We want to articulate some of our own ideas on how to ensure sustainable coastal areas and water resources, as well as to create a resource for individuals and groups planning to make submissions during public consultations. In late summer and early fall, we hope to travel to different communities to get feedback on our proposed coastal and water policies. Stay tuned. We also publish Coastlines, a monthly natural history column about coastal and water issues that appears in many community newspapers around the province. Coastlines & all other EAC publications are available online at [www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal-issues](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal-issues).

Last but not least, as Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre – and an active member of the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia – I have the great privilege of working with people and organizations that are true "coastal champions" on a range of different issues. Thank you for all the ideas and inspiration. I am always available to answer questions about Nova Scotia coastal policy and what's happening where in coastal Nova Scotia.

### **Riverport & District Area Advisory Committee (AAC) News**

by Marion Homer

In 2008, our AAC presented 3 recommendations for consideration by Municipal Council, but since municipal staff have not had time to work on the 2005 request from Municipal Council to research bylaws that address Geological Hazards, there has been no progress in that area. People can still build on areas predicted by Lidar studies to experience storm surges and sea level coverage within the next 25 years.

1. The boundaries of our district were redrawn in order to reduce the size & expense of the Municipal Council. This change was approved, so we now live in District 2, rather than District 3. The bylaws that govern development in this area were renamed from "District 3" to "Riverport & District." These bylaws cover only the original area approved by voters, and not the full area of the new District 2.
2. The AAC proposed using provincial aerial photography to designate wetlands. Approved.
3. The AAC proposed bylaws designed to protect water from contamination by farm animals. These bylaws were revised from rules proposed and rejected in 2005. The public meeting on these bylaw changes was highly charged, with citizen input on both sides. Some people stated that water protection is a public health issue that cannot be ignored or this area could face its own Walkerton. In contrast, other people asserted that the rules discriminated against farmers, and that this area has never had a water problem. The change was defeated.

## Could Halifax Harbour Sludge Put NS Farms Out of Commission for Centuries?

by Marion Homer

The debate over use of harbour sludge as farm fertilizer has already been settled in places like Newfoundland, Labrador, and many European countries, where it is banned or strictly limited. But in Nova Scotia, the debate limps along, with most people unaware that Halifax Harbour sludge is available to farmers at practically no cost, and that some of the contaminants found in the sludge by private testers could contaminate a farm for centuries.

With the escalation of global warming shifting the locations of prime agricultural areas, and the need to cut back on use of fossil fuels that truck food across the globe, Nova Scotia's farmland may become essential to our survival. Under these circumstances, we should be doing everything possible to protect our farmland.

One of the major problems is that no one is sure what's in the sludge. It *is* being tested, but not for the full range of possible and deadly contaminants that are likely to find their way into an industrial harbour. Rick Howe, who used to do a morning radio call-in show (now cancelled) devoted one of his last shows to this topic, and left listeners wondering how this product could be for sale in Nova Scotia. And if the chemicals aren't sufficient to frighten people, there's also a potential threat from the prions that cause mad cow disease. In a study of how prions respond to wastewater decontamination (aka sewage treatment), researchers found that infectious prions can survive and wind up in fertiliser, potentially contaminating fruit and vegetables to which the fertiliser is applied.

The threat is not just an ivory tower theory. Inglewood Farms in Truro, N.S. had a major problem in 2004 after using Halifax-produced sludge on-site, poisoning neighbours in the process. And in the US, a federal judge ordered the US Agriculture Department to compensate Georgia farmer Andy McElmurray, whose land was poisoned by sludge, killing hundreds of cows. The same poisons that killed the cows showed up in milk marketed by a neighbouring farmer. According to the Associated Press, "the level of thallium---an element once used as rat poison---found in the milk was 120 times the concentration allowed in drinking water by the Environmental Protection Agency."

After the Inglewood fiasco, the Nova Scotia Farm Practices Board condemned the application of biosolids as an abnormal farm practice and The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has recommended that farmers refuse to buy the N-Viro product produced from Halifax Harbour sludge, but farmers still have the right to use it, and the short-term cost-savings make sludge use a huge temptation. The N-viro web site says "Approximately 35,000 tonnes of N-Viro Soil Amendment is produced per year. It is anticipated that 60% will be distributed for agricultural purposes and 40% will be used for topsoil manufacture, sod growing, horticulture and land reclamation."

Ironically, our municipality has NO right to ban harbour sludge for use on undeveloped land. Municipal controls come into effect only after a building/development permit is in place.

Fred Blois, a leading Nova Scotian activist against the use of sludge on farms, expressed the problem succinctly, "You can't find what you don't test for, and since you have a cocktail of chemicals, you can't even predict how they change their nature in combination."

### Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia – 2008/9 Update

by Heather White, past KCC Board Member

The Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia (CCNS) is composed of organizations and individuals, each with its own mission or interest, sharing a common concern for the future of Nova Scotia's coastal lands. The KCC was a founding member of CCNS. Since its creation in 2004, members of the Coalition have worked together to raise awareness on coastal issues and the need for provincial leadership on coastal management through a comprehensive coastal policy. Members of CCNS meet regularly, often by teleconference, to discuss current issues and craft responses. CCNS plays a vital role in keeping the pressure and, thus, government interest, in coastal policy strong. In addition, Coalition members provide scientific, policy, and general coastal education support to local groups. Members also engage in support of local issues, such as the infilling at Sand Dollar Beach and the Port Mouton aquaculture expansion.

This year, CCNS members met with the Nova Scotia Provincial Oceans Network (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/marine/coastalzone/pon.shtml>), which is composed of representatives from provincial departments and agencies with responsibilities and interests in coastal and ocean management, and with staff from the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. CCNS organized or co-sponsored several workshops to bring together the different partners in coastal issues. These included: *True Grit Beaches Workshop*, *Coastal Access in Nova Scotia* and *The Role of Municipalities, First Nations and Communities in Coastal Management*. Through the Coastal Nova Series, CCNS also helped sponsor a public talk by Silver Donald Cameron on beaches management and a panel discussion called *Coastal Communities Creating Success*.

CCNS was encouraged by the Province's release of The Coastal Management Framework on June 5, 2008. The framework outlines strategic activities for the next two years, including the release of a Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy in 2010. Updates on the framework and related activities are available online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/marine/coastalzone/>

To contribute to an active and informed public conversation on a coastal policy, the CCNS Steering Committee has summarized information on institutional and ecological factors relevant to sustainable coastal management. These summaries include the legal framework, policies and programming, land use and resource planning, capacities and resources, and climate change. Summaries are posted on the CCNS website: [www.ccns.chebucto.org](http://www.ccns.chebucto.org)

In a letter coordinated by CCNS to the former Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, thirty-one community and environmental organizations from Yarmouth to Cape Breton formally offered their collective assistance to the province to help develop this Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy. These organizations want a role in the policy development process. With the recent change in Government in Nova Scotia, CCNS is preparing a letter of introduction to the new Minister. Our hopes are high that this will be a fruitful relationship.

To keep up to date on coastal issues and find out the latest CCNS news, check the website <http://ccns.chebucto.org/index.htm> . CCNS needs the support of individuals committed to saving and restoring our coastal areas. If you are interested in becoming a member or joining the listserv, access the website, click on "members" and follow the instructions.

## News from Indian Path Common, June 2009

Catherine Pross

Over the last few years, a number of trees have died on the Common, especially in the section closest to the Fish Peddler Road. Christopher McCarthy, a man knowledgeable about forests (in his day job he is Conservation Biologist at Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site), came for a hike on the trail last January with our Indian Path Common Committee. The day was bitterly cold, but the sun shone warmly enough that we could stop and talk along the way without frostbite setting in.

Fir trees are dying in several patches along the trail and natural regeneration is occurring. He thinks that this is probably a result of mature stands dying off and replacing themselves. Some of the fallen trees were healthy spruce trees which had been surrounded by firs. Exposed to high winds, their trunks split, perhaps along old cracks, and they fell. Other newly exposed healthy spruce had shallow roots which couldn't hold in the high winds we have had recently. Ice could be adding to the weight of trees in wind storms making them more susceptible to wind effects. Chris was impressed by the good growth and color of the seedlings coming up in these patches where the dead trees are decomposing and improving the soil over time.

Coastal forests are known for their toughness, not their biodiversity, except for lichens, and perhaps mosses, which thrive in the moist conditions. The forest on the Common consists largely of fir and red spruce, which are predicted to suffer from climate change in some places. (Even though climate is predicted to be more stable in Nova Scotia than in most of North America, we have had notable wind storms over the last few years.) There is also some red maple, birch and a very few white pine. Some red oak seedlings have been noted. These species are predicted to do well in warmer temperatures as their ranges extend well south of here and their roots delve deeper into the soil. Of course, Lunenburg County deer populations have their own ideas about forests and like to browse hardwood seedlings such as maple, birch and oak. Someone should tell them about climate change!

## BCAF Monitoring of The LaHave River

Tyler Jefferson & Kent Mader  
Field Technicians, LaHave Water Rescue Project

The LaHave River watershed encompasses an area of approximately 1700 km<sup>2</sup>, with its origin in Annapolis County extending into both Kings County and Lunenburg County before entering the Atlantic Ocean on the South Shore. It provides a diversity of habitats for both freshwater and anadromous fish species, as well as various other species of plants and wildlife. The watershed hosts a high level of residential, industrial, and recreational activity. Tourism, forestry, farming, and fishing are all common throughout the LaHave system. There are also avid boaters, cottagers, hunters, and anglers who use the LaHave system on a regular basis. These pressures have taken their toll on the watershed and the communities are starting to realize and recognize their own harmful impacts. People are now looking for guidance and information on how to restore the watershed to what it once was and how to save the watershed for continued sustainable use by future generations.

A water quality monitoring program has been implemented on the LaHave system since August of 2007. Fifteen sample sites are monitored biweekly to document the natural

*(Continued on page 25)*

## BCAF Monitoring of The LaHave River

*(Continued from page 24)*

variability along the LaHave system and track changes in general water quality. Sample sites were strategically chosen to provide an accurate picture of the LaHave as a whole. Sites are located at each major tributary entering the main branch, under each of the outflows from three sewage treatment facilities along the river, and in the headwaters where there is little to no human impact. Parameters monitored biweekly with a 600QS YSI water quality sonde include: temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, total dissolved solids, and salinity. These parameters monitored at their current frequency allow BCAF to distinguish between the natural variability of the river and environmental stressors entering the system. On a monthly basis water samples are collected and taken to a certified lab to test levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, ammonia, nitrates and nitrites, fecal coliforms, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, and chloride. BCAF currently has data for approximately 2 years, and has compiled an annual report for the full year of sampling in 2008. The 2 years of data is not considered to be a long enough time period to definitively say what trends are present in the watershed.

In the future, sampling will continue and, as more data is collected, trends in the water quality of the LaHave watershed will become visible. These trends will give insight on how to address the issues that are facing this watershed.

### On The Front Lines: Strategies for Healthy Beaches in Nova Scotia

by Sadie Beaton

Coastal Researcher, Ecology Action Centre, March 2009

ISBN 978-0-9812094-0-1

[http://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images/file/Coastal/EAC\\_-\\_20NS%20Beaches\(1\).pdf](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images/file/Coastal/EAC_-_20NS%20Beaches(1).pdf)

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Funding for the EAC Better Beach Management project was received from the Bonnell Cove Foundation & a Mountain Equipment Coop Research Grant.

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**Note to readers of our  
electronic newsletter:**

Pages 26 - 34 of our paper newsletter were photocopied from the Ecology Action Centre Report referenced on p. 25, and could not be inserted here in electronic format. To read that article, please click on the separate icon for "On the Front Lines: Strategies for Healthy Beaches in Nova Scotia."

A KCC donation form is available on the next page of THIS document.

**Please Help KCC continue our stewardship work by sending your donation today!**

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### **Donation Options**

1. We recognize that different people have different interests, and may want to contribute to different projects or locations. You are welcome to target your contribution toward a specific project or property. If doing so, please include a note identifying how you would like your donation to be used.
2. We are able to accept stocks and mutual funds, whether for Canadian or American companies (and maybe others?), and RRSPs. Please contact us for transfer details. Be aware that such transfers can take a week or more, so it's best to contact us well in advance of year end.
3. We can accept credit card donations via the Canada Helps web site, <http://www.canadahelps.org/>, which has a link from the KCC website, [www.kccns.org](http://www.kccns.org).
4. We are able to give Canadian tax receipts for donations of cash, stock, mutual funds, and land. These provide credit on Canadian tax returns, and may provide benefit on a US tax return, if the donor has Canadian income and itemizes deductions. US donors should consult an accountant for details.
5. There are ways to arrange for US tax receipts for donations of cash, stock, and mutual funds, but it is generally practical only for larger donations, and we need ample lead time. Please contact us prior to December.

Thank you for reading our newsletter  
and for your continuing support of KCC.

For donation information, please see the  
reverse side of this page.