



Adopt-A-Watershed Program

The Adopt-A-Watershed Program was developed by Clean Nova Scotia with support from Halifax Water as a pilot project in 2008 to advocate the importance of environmental sustainability and educate Nova Scotians about the importance of maintaining healthy watershed areas.

In 2009, Clean Nova Scotia built upon the pilot project by reaching more students and youth in key watershed communities. This year's program engaged youth in after-school groups and students in grades 6, 8 and 10 that live within and near the Lake Major Watershed.

In May and June, over 340 youth from 15 classes within 5 schools and 60 youth from 3 youth groups in the communities of Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, North Preston, East Preston and Portland Hills received Clean Nova Scotia's Adopt-a-Watershed program presentations which taught them how to become stewards of their watershed. Adopt-a-Watershed presentations are tailored to specific grade level science curriculum. They engage students and teachers in

scheduled garbage clean-ups, watershed field trips, and art projects to facilitate hands-on learning. Through these activities, youth are taught how to prevent pollution with an emphasis on the importance of maintaining a healthy water supply.

The program also encourages stewardship by focusing on water preservation, conservation and sustainability issues that are prevalent in the lives of youth to better impress upon them how to maintain a healthy water supply.



To compliment the educational aspect of this program, Clean Nova Scotia hosted an "Ubuntu: Watershed Stewardship Fair" in the community of North Preston in June 2009, in

partnership with the Preston Area Trail Association.

This finale event of the 2009 Adopt-A-Watershed Program brought the communities of North Preston, East Preston and Cherry Brook/Lake Loon together to celebrate their efforts to protect their watershed environment.

Held at the North Preston Community Centre, the Fair was a huge success, with a turnout of over 150 people. Highlights included performance and instruction by dancers from the Maritime Center for African Dance, as well as a complimentary BBQ, entertainment, games that reinforced what the youth learned about watersheds, and prizes.

Funding for this year's program was provided by Halifax Water, the Southeastern Community Health Board, and the Unilever-Evergreen Aquatic Stewardship and Conservation Grant.

For more information about the event or the Adopt-A-Watershed Program, visit Clean Nova Scotia's website at www.clean.ns.ca, or email them, at cns@clean.ns.ca.

Board News

Preston Area Trails Association -

The Preston Area Trails Association (PATA) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), in cooperation with Halifax Water, are in the process of developing a non-motorized, Active Transportation Trail connecting the communities of North Preston, Cherry Brook, and East Preston.

The trail under construction is approximately 3 km long, running between Long Lake and the North Preston Roadway. The first phase of the project, the construction of the trail sub-base, has been completed. The next phase of the project will involve activities such as trail surfacing, landscaping, and the installation of bridge crossings.

The official opening of the trail will take place this spring, along with a "Name that Trail" contest sponsored by PATA, date and details to be announced.

For further information, contact Dolly Williams, Chair of PATA, 462-0344, or Dawn Neil of HRM, 490-6633.



Hurricane Juan Cleanup - Hurricane Juan clean-up efforts for the Lake Major and Lake Lamont Watersheds started in October 2003 and were completed in October of 2009. Despite delays due to market conditions and the Brown Spruce Beetle Quarantine Zone, Halifax Water considers the Hurricane Juan Cleanup program a success.

Approximately 88% of the identified area was completed; in total 173 hectares of the planned 196 hectares were cleaned up. The few remaining areas were left mainly due to soft ground conditions or steep terrain. Halifax Water would like to thank the public for their patience and the people involved in the clean up for their dedication in protecting the health of the watersheds. For further information, please contact the Watershed Manager, Barry Geddes, at 869-4304.



Profile of Mr. Stewart Sparks

Born in Halifax Nova Scotia, Stewart is one of eight siblings. Stewart is a father of three wonderful children Tara, Andre and Justin. He is happily married to his wife Laurie and they enjoy sharing many common interests such as travel, music, community social events and golf.

Stewart attended Graham Creighton High School in Dartmouth Nova Scotia. After completing high school Stewart attended the Dartmouth Community College where he enrolled in the Architectural Technology Course. He continued education at the Nova Scotia Institute of technology (NSIT) and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) where he received a diploma in computer science. After which he worked in the Oil and Gas industry for many years as a senior Geological Drafter in Alberta Canada.

After many years in western Canada, Stewart returned to settle in the community where he grew up. It has

been his lifelong ambition to see the community grow and flourish while maintaining its individual cultural and historical attributes.

Stewart is a charismatic, twenty one year employee with the Department of National Defence (DND). At CFB Halifax, he is a Computer Support Administrator in the Hydrographic Services Office where he maintains some of DND servers.

Stewart takes joy in being a person who is self motivated. He continually reaches for a higher place with the confidence instilled in him by his mother and father. His success is derived from weighing his options, being deeply spiritual and being deeply committed.

Along with his work and home life Stewart enjoys volunteering on many community boards and committees, including the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association, and the South Eastern Community Health Board.

Other boards and committees Stewart has sat on include The Cherry Brook United Baptist Church Trustee Committee, The Black United Front of Nova Scotia Board of Directors, as well as The Dartmouth East Black Learning Center board of directors.

Stewart joined the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board in 2008 as the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Community Representative. In face of a global drinking water supply shortage, he believes it is everyone's business to become involved in water conservation. As the community representative he invites community members who are interested in learning more about the Lake Major Watershed, or have concerns, to email him at stewspark@hotmail.com.

How to Contact Us:

The Lake Major Watershed Newsletter is a publication of Halifax Water. Visit our website at www.halifaxwater.ca, contact Customer Service at 490-4820, email us at Cust_Inq@halifaxwater.ca, fax us at 490-4749, or write to us at P.O. Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5M1