



# **NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK**

**2011 Year in Review**

# THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK (NLEN)

The NLEN is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation whose purpose is to carry out environmental education with the following objective: to educate members of the public (including members of environmental and other non-profit organizations, students, policy makers, educators, professionals and the general public) through topics such as climate change, protected areas, biodiversity, sustainable forestry, sustainable fisheries, waste management, water conservation, pesticide use and sustainable development.

The NLEN is directed by a volunteer steering committee composed of representatives of its member organisations who are elected at the NLEN's annual general meeting.

**WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.** Please forward comments and feedback on this publication to [nlen.ed@gmail.com](mailto:nlen.ed@gmail.com) or call our office at 709-753-7898.

**YOU CAN SUPPORT THE NLEN** by making a financial donation or by volunteering with us or one of our member groups. Contact our office to find out how.

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication highlights the work of several of NLEN's members and associate member groups in 2011. The articles were voluntarily contributed by these organisations following a call for submissions by the NLEN in December 2011.

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**COVER** | Grassy Place, NL.

Photo Credit: Nature Conservancy of Canada

*Year in Review 2011 is published by the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network (NLEN). The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the NLEN or its member groups.*

View the report online at [www.nlen.ca](http://www.nlen.ca).

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# WELCOME TO THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK'S 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

This publication highlights some of the excellent environmental projects and programs that are happening around our province. It is truly motivating to see all the work being done by groups from across the province - many of them driven by dedicated volunteers. We'd like to acknowledge all the incredible things they do every day to contribute to environmental education, action and policy.

This past year has also been eventful for the NLEN as many of you will have heard about the loss of our core funding from Environment Canada. This cut affected our parent organization, the Canadian Environment Network, as well as all the affiliate Networks across the country. Sadly, many of them have had to shut their doors. In our case, we are grateful to still be in operation, thanks in large part to a one time grant from the provincial Department of Environment and Conservation. We are now seeking sustainable funding, in the hopes that we can continue to support the many groups that belong to our network over the coming years.



Katie Temple and Margaret McKeon  
Co-Chairs, NLEN Steering Committee

# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK 2011 RECAP

2011 will be remembered as a difficult year for the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network (NLEN) and the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN). On October 13, 2011 we learned that federal government funding to the CEN and provincial environment networks across the country was to be cut, effective immediately. This money, a \$500,000 annual grant to the CEN, had provided annual core funding for the NLEN (approximately \$20,000) since its establishment in 1990.

Following this announcement, NLEN Steering Committee and member organisations mobilized to consider options for continued funding and survival of the NLEN. One of the major

decisions approved by membership vote in December was to prepare an application for charitable status, and revise our organizational mandate and bylaws to meet the requirements for charitable environmental organisations.

We also communicated our concerns surrounding the funding cuts to the media, public and decision-makers. At a meeting with provincial Environment and Conservation Minister Terry French and his staff in early December 2011 we made a request for provincial funding support. That request was positively received, and we learned mid-February 2012 that the province would support the NLEN with a one-time grant of \$20,000.

## NLEN'S REVISED MANDATE STATEMENT (DECEMBER 2011):

The Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network (NLEN) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation whose purpose is to carry out environmental education with the following objective:

to educate members of the public (including members of environmental and other non-profit organizations, students, policy makers, educators, professionals and the general public) through topics such as climate change, protected areas, biodiversity, sustainable forestry, sustainable fisheries, waste management, water conservation, pesticide use and sustainable development.

# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK 2011 RECAP

The NLEN also published a set of environmental policy recommendations and an all-party questionnaire, in an effort to raise public awareness on environmental issues during the fall provincial election. These documents were prepared collaboratively with the input of several NLEN member groups, and were delivered to each provincial party for review and response. The party responses to the questionnaire were published several days before the election and can be found at [www.nlen.ca/issues/forests/party-responses-to-environmental-policy-questionnaire/](http://www.nlen.ca/issues/forests/party-responses-to-environmental-policy-questionnaire/)

## NLEN E-Update: Are you subscribed?

We published 48 issues of the NLEN E-Update in 2011. It's a weekly summary of upcoming environmental events, opportunities, action alerts, and a recap of the news. Subscribe at [www.nlen.ca](http://www.nlen.ca).

**GET IN TOUCH >> Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network**  
Contact: Chris Hogan, *Executive Director*  
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Website: [www.nlen.ca](http://www.nlen.ca)

Some of the events the NLEN helped deliver in 2011:

**February – April: Film Screenings of “Play Again” in St. John’s, Glovertown, Corner Brook, Stephenville, and Rocky Harbour**

**October: Public Forum: Genetically Modified Atlantic Salmon – Atlantic Canada is at the center of the global controversy over GM fish**

**April: NLEN Annual General Meeting**

**November: Panel discussion: Climate Policy, Climate Justice**

Some vital statistics for 2011...

**250** The number of public events (as appeared in NLEN’s online calendar) organized by environmental groups around the province. [Note: This represents only a portion of the total number of meetings and planning sessions that are organized by groups throughout the year in an effort to protect our natural environment].

**45** Member and associate member organisations of the NLEN.

**17** New protected acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador (read more on page 30).

**0** New marine protected areas created.

**5** Number of ingredients captured by the cosmetic pesticide ban announced in 2011 (see more on page 16).

**621** Active, unremediated contaminated sites identified in the province; total costs for remediation of these sites is unknown (NL Auditor General’s 2010 report, published January 2011).

**8.9 MILLION** Tonnes of Green House Gases emissions produced in the province (circa 2010). Note that the 2020 target is to reduce emissions to 10% below the 1990 level (to 8.3 million tonnes), and the longer-term 2050 target is to reduce emissions to 75-85% below 2001 (approximately 2.5 MT).

**WE’VE LOST COUNT** Number of community garden initiatives underway around the province! (see more on pages 22 – 24).

**BOAT LOADS** Number of volunteer hours given to environmental organisations across the province.



## ACAP HUMBER ARM

ACAP Humber Arm's Trading Books for Boats program celebrated its tenth anniversary this past fall. The Trading Books for Boats program is a hands-on marine science experiential learning opportunity that is based on the Newfoundland and Labrador grade eight science curriculum.

A major focus of ACAP Humber Arm is environmental education. While school curriculum covers components of stewardship and environmental science it is all too often classroom based and focused on case studies far from the students own environment. ACAP Humber Arm believes students learn best by doing and that local context allows students to better relate to the subject matter.

In 2002 ACAP Humber Arm developed the Trading Books for Boats program to get students out of the classroom and into the stimulating learning environment of the scenic Bay of Islands. The program is essentially divided into three parts: The first an introduction and water quality testing on a boat, then a presentation of characteristics of the local marine environment and human impacts on it accompanied by a set of learning stations and a workbook. Finally the data that the students collected on water quality is analyzed and presented back to the students in an in-classroom follow-up presentation.

In 2007, Trading Books for Boats was awarded the Gold Medal for Environmental Education at the Canadian Environment Awards. It has been featured in Canadian Geographic, on the Weather Network, and at several international environmental education conferences. To date approximately 5000 students have participated in the Trading Books for Boats program which has educated a generation of students on issues affecting our marine environments and fostered a closer connection between residents and their local coastal areas. As the program enters its eleventh season, students who participated in the program in its early years are now adult members of the community; residents with a strong knowledge of their local marine environment and issues affecting it.

### GET IN TOUCH >> ACAP Humber Arm

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## BURGEO REGIONAL ACTION GROUP



Burgeo Friends of Beaches Chapter | Credit: Maxine Dicks

Burgeo Regional Action Group (BRAG) is an ad hoc group of eco friendly folks working together since 2006 to assist our community in maintaining its rich natural heritage and fishing history, as well as helping to ensure the responsible sustainability of our little town, population 1600. Located on the southwest coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, residents and visitors from around the world can enjoy white sandy beaches and boating excursions to coastal islands once habited, having been resettled in the 1960s. The natural archipelagos of Burgeo and Ramea Islands lend themselves to outdoor ocean adventures which led us to partnering with MI Ocean Net to join us in removing

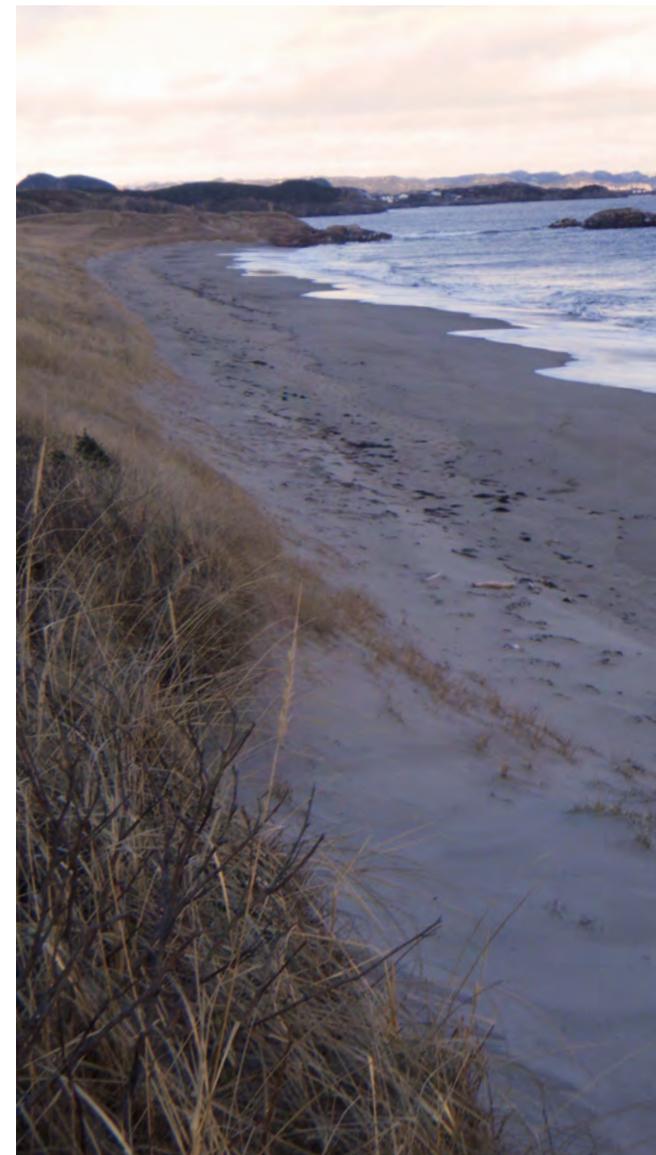
washed up debris and garbage from our shorelines and many beaches. Special events in spring, summer, and fall might involve Burgeo Academy students, community groups, or just a group of friends doing a clean-up while having a picnic or picking the delectable mussels and wrinkles you can find in some of the island's coves. Our last Shoreline Crawl and Haul netted 22 engine oil jars included in the nine bags of garbage taken from one cove; so much work is yet to be done.

While we are rich in history and natural beauty, Burgeo residents have been for eight years without good drinking water. Residents are required to buy water or travel 15

km to gather spring water at Beaver Hill, which has not been tested to our knowledge, since it is outside town limits. We do have a brand new \$4 million dollar water treatment system, it just doesn't work. Another major issue in Burgeo is "open burning" of our garbage which includes medical waste, vinyl siding, asphalt shingles, and more... because government can't decide what to do with our garbage. Many feel that a new up to date incinerator would be safer and healthier than open burning since it would be properly equipped to burn off some of the toxins now being emitted from the forever simmering open burning pit. Many residents fear that the air and water issues may be contributing to the high rate of cancer in our little town.

BRAG encourages all residents to come together to voice their fears and opinions and to sign petitions when necessary. One such petition was generated regarding an ongoing issue in our community with an offal fishmeal plant belonging to Barry Group of Companies. Safety issues, along with other concerns of air pollution, airborne asbestos, and building deterioration, were raised by BRAG with a provincial Environmental Protection Officer, who arranged meetings with BGC and BRAG in an effort to try and work together. In an interview with CBC's John Furlong on the Fisheries Broadcast, Mr. Bill Barry suggested that \$200,000.00 of improvements had been implemented over a two year period and BRAG takes some credit in helping to make this happen.

BRAG's ongoing projects include recycling awareness, beautification, and raising concerns with Town of Burgeo on all matters of the environment. BRAG members assist Town of Burgeo with orientation and tours for visiting judges of Tidy Towns; deliver special events at the Burgeo Museum with an eco friendly message; support Burgeo Academy's Recycle Blitzes by providing prizes to the winning team; and support the town's major annual spring and fall clean-up efforts. BRAG is committed to raising public awareness about local environment issues; to foster citizen participation; and to work with individuals and organizations who work towards safeguarding, improving, and protecting our environment for future generations.



**GET IN TOUCH >> Burgeo Regional Action Group**  
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# BROTHER BRENNAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

*Operated by the Environmental Education Commission*

It was another busy year at the Brother Brennan Centre with lots of enthusiastic classes from the Eastern School District enjoying their two day stay and all the fun and learning that goes along with that. There was added excitement for many students who, besides seeing the usual resident squirrels and snow-shoe hares also saw foxes who moved into the area and were active in the evenings and early mornings.

A few years ago a permanent orienteering course was set up around the forest trails at the Brother Brennan Centre. It was intended for winter campers, but this year a group of students asked to use it and enjoyed it so much that orienteering became a regular and very popular activity. Orienteering is challenging, fun and very active and a great way to learn map-reading while exploring. At the Centre an adult goes with each group of students who are told they are responsible for getting their adult back safely. Since adults aren't 'allowed' to help with map reading, team building quickly happens among students as they figure out the best way to go. Some teams choose routes that are not the most efficient, but it all adds to the fun and learning.

Strong winds have meant that the Centre's had lots of wind generated electricity in 2011, but also many old trees have blown down. They are adding to the ancient rotting trees that have been left to decompose naturally in the old growth areas of forest. Some of these rotting logs were closely studied by High School students who come to do field work related to their Science program. Other students planted native trees in areas where grazing moose are preventing regeneration of the fir forest.

Some schools and teachers feel strongly that their students should visit the Brother Brennan Centre, but there are also many who don't know about this great opportunity. So in 2011 an in-service was offered to grade 5 and 6 teachers who came for a day to experience for themselves some of the activities their students could do if they came to the

Centre. Already some of these teachers have booked to bring their class in 2012.

In June Holy Name of Mary Eco-kids, the winners of the Brother Brennan Centre Climate Change Challenge Competition, claimed their prize of a visit to the Centre. They did an impressive number of activities to combat climate change to win the competition and they had a wonderful adventure as a reward.

Other highlights of the year included partnering with NLEE to host the "Just Get Out" workshop designed to encourage educators to get outdoors with their students. The number of organizations renting the Brother Brennan Centre for their own events went up.

*To find out more about using the Brother Brennan Centre for your own environmentally responsible residential event, check out the website at [www.brotherbrennancentre.ca](http://www.brotherbrennancentre.ca).*



Teachers experience the Brother Brennan Centre Outdoor Environmental Program.



**GET IN TOUCH >> Brother Brennan Environmental Education Centre**  
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Participants of the "Just Get Out" workshop prepare to find their way using a compass

**GET IN TOUCH >> Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NL**

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## CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY – NL

The staff and volunteers of CPAWS-NL have been very busy working on projects within the local communities of Newfoundland and Labrador. Over the past year we have reached many communities along the southern shore as part of our Adopt-A-Beach program as well as the addition of purple sandpiper surveys, and more recently our new Light Modification and Puffin and Petrel Patrol Programs.

In 2011, CPAWS-NL joined with Juergen Schau in his efforts to rescue stranded puffin and petrel chicks in the Witless Bay area. Running from August 21 to October 30, both adults and children volunteered their time and effort to this project and were able to rescue several pufflings and baby petrels.

Puffin and petrel chicks are attracted to artificial lighting on the coast, this causes them to fly towards the community leaving them stranded and confused. Due to their inexperience and age, chicks are more likely to be attracted to coastal lights. Newfoundland weather enhances this problem because of the frequent cloud cover and foggy nights, leaving more chicks vulnerable to stray from their natural habitat.

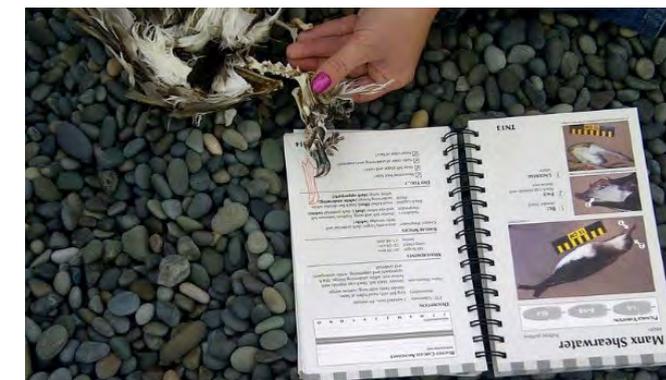
In addition to our seabird related projects, we have been actively engaged in national campaigns related to our boreal forest and caribou, parks programs, as well as the 12 by 12 marine campaign which involves the Southwest Coast Fjords proposed National Marine Conservation Area and the Laurentian Channel Area of Interest. We have been involved in other conservation related issues as they appear and try to maintain a responsible voice for the wilderness!

We are very excited to announce that we have successfully launched our “Exploring Eastern Newfoundland Geotourism MapGuide” Project on Oct 12th, 2011 in Petty Harbour, which closed in March. This project involves an exciting partnership with National Geographic that truly has the potential to get Newfoundland and Labrador on the map as a choice destination.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to become aware of the natural areas surrounding us and recognize that you can become a steward of the environment simply by appreciating it. We always welcome new volunteers, so feel free to give us a call so that we can continue to work together to protect the natural areas and wildlife throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.



CPAWS-NL identifying bird remains | Photo Credit: CPAWS-NL



CPAWS-NL using a Field Guide to identify bird carcass  
Photo Credit: CPAWS-NL

## COALITION FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES – NL

Members of the Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides-Newfoundland & Labrador (CAP-NL) were delighted by the provincial government's announcement in July 2011 of a province-wide ban on the sale and use of cosmetic (non-essential) pesticides for lawn care. While this may have seemed like a pre-election bolt from the blue to the majority of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, the decision came about as the result of a persistent, long-standing (14-year) campaign, with appeals to about seven different environment ministers, by individual environmental activists, grassroots environmental organizations, health-care groups, physician advocates, and municipal councils. Pre-election pressure was also building on the government as a result of the fact that Newfoundland & Labrador was the only Atlantic province—the only province from Ontario east, in fact—that had not enacted a ban on cosmetic pesticides.

The provincial campaign against non-essential pesticide use appears to have begun on the west coast with the formation of the Communities Free of Pesticides Committee (CFPC) in Corner Brook in June 1997. They joined a national campaign that had begun in May of that year, led by the Ottawa-based organization Campaign for Pesticide Reduction (CPR), for the creation of community pesticide by-laws. CFPC's mandate was to alert the public to the dangers of pesticides, promote safer alternatives, and campaign for municipalities in their area to pass by-laws to ban or restrict pesticide use. This campaign was to spread right across the province with the formation of a broad-based coalition of individuals and groups advocating for government action on this issue. There were setbacks along the way, and the lawn-care industry was a most obdurate opponent of change, but in the end the campaign achieved its major goal.

Much of the early activity in the provincial campaign to convince the government to ban cosmetic pesticides

occurred behind the scenes or beneath the radar. For example, as early as 2003, the City of St. John's, in a letter to the provincial government, asked that the City of St. John's Act be amended to permit the City to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides if the government was not prepared to do so. The City never received a response to this request. Around the same time, the City of Corner Brook implemented a voluntary ban on cosmetic pesticide use. (In 2003, Quebec was the first province in Canada to introduce a cosmetic pesticide ban.)

Things really began to pick up steam in 2008. As a follow-up to meetings with the provincial government in July of that year, the Canadian Cancer Society-NL, the NL Lung Association, and the NL Medical Association (NLMA) wrote to then Environment Minister Charlene Johnson in February 2009 recommending a province-wide ban on cosmetic pesticides. This was followed by another letter of appeal in June 2009, this time on behalf of a large "Provincial Coalition of health and environmental organizations and concerned citizens." (Ontario's new, and comprehensive, Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act had come into effect in April of that year, giving the NL movement added momentum and conviction.)

Alas, the NL government was not to be so easily convinced. The campaign for a ban intensified, however, supported by events in the other Atlantic provinces. In November 2009, at its annual meeting, Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador passed, unanimously, a resolution presented by the City of Mount Pearl calling on the government to enact a provincial ban on cosmetic pesticides. The Telegram, the province's largest and most influential newspaper, gave its support to this resolution in a strongly worded editorial a few days later. Early in 2010, in advance of the upcoming lawn-care season, the St. John's City Council passed a motion to issue the following public advisory: "To protect the health of our citizens,

As concerned citizens, we believe in a healthier and more environmentally friendly Newfoundland and Labrador that is free of cosmetic pesticides. 80% of Canadians are protected by such bans. We Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are not.

When you meet a candidate, ask "will you support legislation that bans non-essential pesticides in our province?"

**WE NEED YOUR HELP THIS 2011 PROVINCIAL ELECTION.**

VOTE FOR YOUR **HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**

ballot box

**CAP NL**

To find out more, visit Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAPNL)

[PESTICIDESALTERNATIVESNL.WORDPRESS.COM](http://PESTICIDESALTERNATIVESNL.WORDPRESS.COM)

CAP-NL advertisement published in the Telegram newspaper, May 2011.

especially young children, City Council recommends that the general public avoid the use of pesticides on lawns and gardens for cosmetic purposes." (Also in 2010, both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island enacted cosmetic pesticide bans, and Nova Scotia would follow suit in 2011.)

Our government's official position, however, communicated to the media and to the Provincial Coalition, was that they were still studying the issue, still listening to all stakeholders. They had been studying and listening for a decade or more. They seemed to be resisting all pressure, and in 2010 the Newfoundland campaign for a province-wide cosmetic pesticide ban stalled. The Provincial Coalition, a diverse, amorphous group, without the guiding hand of a formal executive, seemed to be disorganized and inactive. The three Coalition organizations that had spearheaded the anti-pesticide campaign since 2008, the Canadian Cancer Society-NL, the NL Lung Association, and the NLMA, retreated from the front lines.

Into the breach stepped a number of individual Provincial Coalition members, who transformed the organization into a small, cohesive working group with a formal executive—the Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides-Newfoundland & Labrador (CAP-NL). They were determined to take this campaign to another level, especially as 2011 was an election year. Funding was secured to hire a co-ordinator, who helped organize meetings, set up a website, start a petition, and organize a public forum in February 2011. The NL Environment Network and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) lent their moral and financial support. The executive director of CAPE, whose organization had led a campaign, supported by the Canadian Cancer Society and other health-care groups, to ban lawn and garden pesticides in Ontario, which resulted in the most health-protective legislation in North America, came to St. John's and spoke at the forum at City Hall.

Meanwhile, CAP-NL's advocacy campaign continued unabated. Members of the organization issued a daily Spray Advisory and wrote frequent letters to the newspaper in an attempt to counter government resistance and the lawn-care

## COALITION FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES – NL (CAP-NL)

industry's powerful lobby. A petition organised by CAP-NL was presented by the Liberals, the Official Opposition, at the House of Assembly. In the spring, CAP-NL representatives met with Environment Minister Ross Wiseman and Department of Environment officials and were assured that an announcement that would address their concerns was forthcoming. On July 14, 2011, the long-awaited announcement was made, but there were very few details.

In a letter to the Pesticides Control Section, Department of Environment, on October 24, 2011, after the election, CAP-NL recommended that the proposed new pesticide regulations mirror the Nova Scotia and Ontario ones, which, according to the Suzuki Foundation, "offer the best model for protecting human health and the environment." The Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act covers a large number of pesticides and its scope extends beyond lawns. It prohibits the use of 96 active ingredients and the sale of 172 products containing these chemicals. There are retail restrictions on an additional 103 mixed-use products. CAP-NL also recommended that the NL ban include a so-called white list—a list of permitted lower-risk pesticides and alternatives to pesticides, and prohibit the sale and use of all pesticides not on that list; that it should include a mechanism for classifying new pesticides that appear on the market and are proposed for use, to prevent the ban from becoming outdated; that all exemptions for banned pesticides should require a permit, and exemptions should only be permitted for public health and safety reasons; finally, that the ban should include an effective monitoring, inspection, and enforcement program, and a public information and education component. CAP-NL offered to assist the government with this public education program. No response was received to this letter.

CAP-NL representatives met again with the Environment and Conservation Minister Terry French and Department officials after the election, in February 2012, in an attempt to get

more information about the upcoming cosmetic pesticide ban (to begin spring 2012), but little was forthcoming beyond what was in government's July 14, 2011 press release. The ban applies to lawn care only, and the sale and use of the following pesticides will no longer be permitted: 2,4-D, carbaryl, mecoprop, dicamba, and MCPA. Apparently, this covers about 95% of what is currently being used by lawn-care companies. The ban will simply take the form of changes to the Pesticides Control Regulations (which which come under the Environmental Protection Act), not new legislation. Hence it will need only Cabinet approval, not a vote in the House of Assembly; therefore, there will be little opportunity for critical assessment and debate.

Article prepared by Paul Bowdring, member of CAP-NL. Also on the campaign train were fellow members Dr. Ian Simpson, Sheilagh O'Leary, Diana Baird, Darcie Cohen, Dr. David Saltman, Judie Squires, Bob Diamond, Piotr Trela, Donald Quigley, Julie Huntington, Chris Hogan, Gideon Forman, Sally Rowsell, Andrew Riggs, and Sarah Dredge.

### GET IN TOUCH >> Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides – NL

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# DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Conservation, Stewardship and Education

**GET IN TOUCH >> Ducks Unlimited Canada**  
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Male Common Eider | All photo credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Community based stewardship and conservation plays a large role in the work DUC does in NL and 2011 was no exception. As part of our conservation program focusing on coastal habitat, we hired a summer student for an eider duck conservation project in Charlottetown, Labrador. This project was supported on the ground by the Town of Charlottetown, community volunteers and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We also engaged Junior Canadian Rangers from several communities along the Northern Peninsula in a project that had them, under supervision by their patrol leaders, build 80 eider duck nest shelters and place them on offshore islands. The shelters are intended to provide protection to nesting females where little natural cover might leave nests open to predation.

In addition to annual inspections of our wetland project sites and as part of ongoing management of our eider nest shelter program, inspections of eider duck nest shelters in Sacred Bay off the coast of L'anse aux Meadows were also done with assistance from Parks

Canada. This was part of ongoing management of our eider nest shelter program, to determine the condition of older eider nest shelters and collect information that tells us if breeding eiders are successfully using them.

As well, in collaboration with our Eastern Habitat Joint Venture partners at the NL Wildlife Division, we participated in stewardship based outreach events in several communities that are members of the Stewardship Association of Municipalities. These included school visits in Burgeo and Carmanville and workshops in Red Bay, St. Lewis, and Cartwright. While in Carmanville, we presented resident birder and conservationist, George Brinson, with the 2011 Lieutenant Governor's Greenwing Conservation Award for his commitment to wetland and waterfowl conservation.

An education highlight for 2011 was the establishment of the new Project Webfoot field trip site at the Corner Brook Marsh, to be used for delivering wetland field trips to grade four students. While checking out the wetlands, students do

fun educational activities like "critter dipping" with a net for aquatic invertebrates, birding, and playing games with an ecological theme. The program is sponsorship based and has both an "in class" and a separate field trip component. Both components are curriculum-linked and teach young people about the value of wetlands. In 2011 throughout the province, 17 grade four classes participated in the in-class program while 17 classes attended field trips and 27 lucky classes experienced both! We would like to thank our long term partner, the Fluvarium, for delivering high quality Project Webfoot field trips in the St. John's area.



Project Webfoot field trip at the Corner Brook Marsh 2011

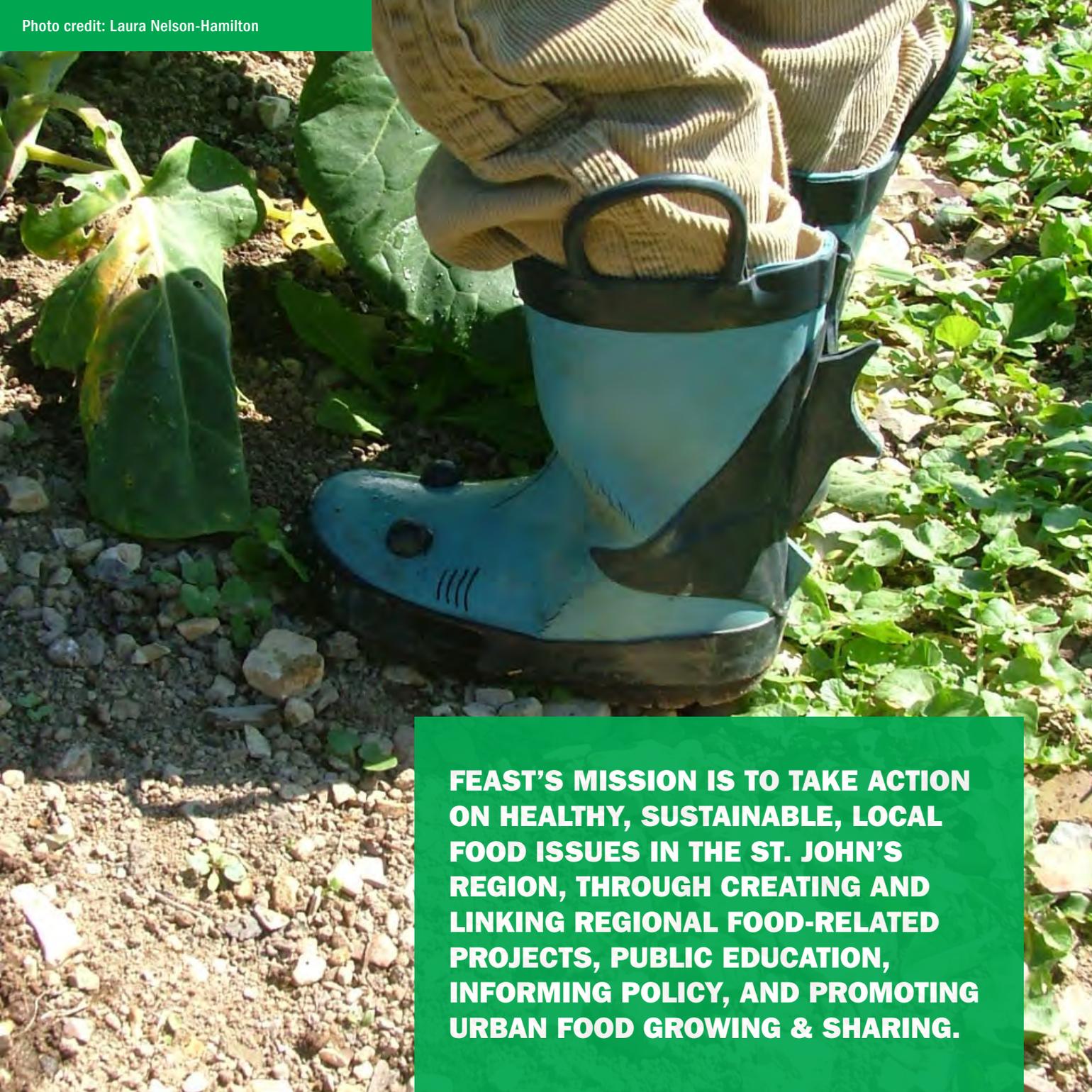


From left: Heather Chaffey- Wildlife Division; George Brinson (of Carmanville, NL), 2011 Winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Greenwing Conservation Award; Danielle Fequet, DUC

## Fundraising and Events

2011 was a busy and successful year for fundraising in NL. Throughout the province, 15 active volunteer chapters organized 14 DUC dinner and auction events. The top fundraising chapter for the year in NL was the Bonavista North Chapter based in Trinity – Centreville – Wareham, and credit for being the most improved chapter went to the Lewisporte committee. In addition, Lewisporte was busy hosting two more events. One initiative, "Ducks at the Till", held at the Blue Ridge Outdoor Supply Store (NL's largest supply store of its kind), involves the clerks asking people to donate \$2 to DUC with each purchase. The other DUC sponsored event was the Waterfowl Heritage Day for youth held at the Notre Dame Rod and Gun Club in conjunction with the NL Wildlife Division. This is an annual event and was the third year of the program which teaches firearms safety, conservation, and outdoor education to youth ages 10 – 14.

DUC is always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising events, so if you are want to do something fun and contribute in a positive way for the environment, please contact Paul Wood. DUC charity dinner/auctions are scheduled for St. John's, Grand falls Windsor, Stephenville and Springdale in early 2012.



**FEAST'S MISSION IS TO TAKE ACTION ON HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, LOCAL FOOD ISSUES IN THE ST. JOHN'S REGION, THROUGH CREATING AND LINKING REGIONAL FOOD-RELATED PROJECTS, PUBLIC EDUCATION, INFORMING POLICY, AND PROMOTING URBAN FOOD GROWING & SHARING.**

# FEAST – FOOD EDUCATION ACTION ST. JOHN'S

FEAST has had another wonderfully successful year of workshops and events in St. John's. The spring garden planning season began with a fantastic FEAST Fest celebration at St. Thomas's church hall in downtown St. John's. The day's activities were very well-attended; new and well-seasoned gardeners and local-food lovers had the opportunity to learn about diverse food-related issues like seed-saving, growing sprouts, and providing bee habitat (among many others), and to ask questions and share experiences with a knowledgeable panel of experts.

The FEAST annual general meeting was also held in the spring. A new board of directors was selected, and this board has continued to meet through the year. The board has met with some challenges as some members have had to move on in order to continue with other plans; at this time there are openings on the board for new members, and we are actively seeking to increase our board membership.

The two main outreach activities of the summer season are the FEAST workshops at the St. John's Farmers' Market, and our Open Garden Day. The FEAST workshops this year were a highlight of the season for many market-goers, who had the opportunity to learn about such intriguing subjects as making preserves, saving seeds, overwintering homegrown onions and garlic, and gardening in small spaces. FEAST workshops at the St. John's Farmers' Market are held outdoors, and for the most part the weather agreed with us, which is always a triumph!

Open Garden Day was a fantastic success this year, with eighteen gardens being opened up for public viewing. Roughly half of these gardens were home gardens, while the remainder were community gardens based on different food-sharing models. Open Garden Day is a free, self-guided tour that enthusiasts can take, using a map generated by FEAST volunteers. While the nature of the event makes it difficult to track the exact number of participants, many of the

gardeners reported a steady flow of guests. Feedback was, overall, quite positive, and many participants were excited and inspired by the different garden models they toured.

Throughout the summer and fall, activities continued at the Pippy Park Family Garden. Weekly gardening get-togethers provided excellent gardening experiences for parents and children, and have introduced young gardeners to the wonder of potato-and-onion-harvesting, the pleasure of snacking on just-picked green beans, and even the magic of garlic.

With the end of the growing season, FEAST has turned to planning for the next year's projects. We are looking forward to a strategic planning session in the coming months, and will be looking for ways to make volunteering even more enriching for the many individuals who have come forward to offer their time and talents to help FEAST grow.

**GET IN TOUCH >> Food Education Action St John's**  
Contact: Emily Doyle  
Email: [local.feast@gmail.com](mailto:local.feast@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.feastnl.ca](http://www.feastnl.ca)

# FOOD SECURITY NETWORK OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

2011 has been an exciting year for the Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador (FSN). Our network has grown to over 800 organizations and individuals from across the province, and we have developed new resources and established new initiatives to support community groups working to address food security across Newfoundland and Labrador.

We are continually seeing a growing number of community driven food security initiatives across the province including farmers' markets, community gardens, community kitchens, and community freezers, and we never cease to be amazed by the remarkable food security work happening in communities province-wide. FSN strives to provide these groups with resources and opportunities in order to help them succeed in their initiatives.

Some of the new resources from 2011 include:

**Best Practices Toolkits:** In 2010-2011, FSN developed four best practices toolkits to assist community organizations across the province in establishing Community Gardens, Farmers' Markets, Community Kitchens, and Bulk Buying Clubs. Each toolkit provides a step-by-step guide to starting the initiative including funding opportunities, an 'are you ready' checklist, and numerous helpful appendices. The toolkits are available online at: [foodsecuritynews.com/resources](http://foodsecuritynews.com/resources)

**Root Cellars Rock Blog:** Over the past year, our Root Cellars Rock blog has continued to grow, with the site now averaging 2,500 visits each month! Chock-full of food skills resources, including local food recipes, gardening tips, and composting how-to's, the Root Cellars Rock blog has truly become the go-to place for information about local food in the province. Visit the blog at [rootcellarsrock.ca](http://rootcellarsrock.ca).

**Take Action Factsheets:** FSN has recently released two factsheets to help raise awareness and action around food security in Newfoundland and Labrador. The two factsheets are on 10 Ways to Take Action and 10 Ways to Eat Local Food. Factsheets can be found online at: [foodsecuritynews.com/resources](http://foodsecuritynews.com/resources)

**Community and Annual Reports:** FSN has also developed two new reports; our Annual Report which highlights some of the exciting work FSN has embarked upon over the 2010-2011 year, and a Community Report which showcases exciting community food security projects happening across the province. These two reports can be found online at: [foodsecuritynews.com/resources](http://foodsecuritynews.com/resources)

**THE FOOD SECURITY NETWORK OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR (FSN) IS A PROVINCIAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH A NETWORK OF OVER 800 ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE. FSN'S MISSION IS TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE COMPREHENSIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL.**

Some of the other exciting activities of 2011 include:

**World Food Day 2011:** World Food Day events are held in 7 communities across the province during the week of October 16th 2011, including Hopedale, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Riverhead, and St. John's. The Hopedale event raised \$500 for their Community Freezer Program, and the St. John's event raised \$800 for the St. John's Farmers' Market.

**Root Cellars Rock Workshop:** The Root Cellars Rock coordinator has been busy creating new food skills workshops on 8 topics: Composting, Container Gardening, Seed Saving, Edible Wild Plants, Cooking with Local Vegetables, Cooking with Herbs, Safe Canning, and Root Cellars. FSN organized a pilot workshop to bring together community groups from across the province to try out the Container Gardening workshop. All of the workshops will be available to community organizations in spring 2012. To read more about the pilot workshop check out this post on the Root Cellars Rock Blog: [rootcellarsrock.ca/2012/01/food-skills-workshop-pilot/](http://rootcellarsrock.ca/2012/01/food-skills-workshop-pilot/)

To learn more about FSN and get involved, be sure to sign up for our E-News at: [www.foodsecuritynews.com/enews](http://www.foodsecuritynews.com/enews)

**GET IN TOUCH >> [Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador](http://www.foodsecuritynews.com)**

Contact: [Kristie Jameson](mailto:kristie@foodsecuritynews.com)

Email: [info@foodsecuritynews.com](mailto:info@foodsecuritynews.com)

Websites: [www.foodsecuritynews.com](http://www.foodsecuritynews.com) | [www.rootcellarsrock.ca](http://www.rootcellarsrock.ca)



Happy gardeners with freshly planted garlic at the Root Cellars Container Gardening Workshop | Credit: Food Security Network NL



A table of guests at the St. John's 3rd Annual World Food Day Movie and Meal Event, October 14 | Credit: Food Security Network NL

# MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

## Digging into the waste issues on the St. John's campus: Memorial University Waste Audit

The Memorial University Sustainability Office, in partnership with Memorial's Department of Geography, is nearing the completion of a year-long waste audit of the St. John's campus. The project is funded by the Harris Centre MMSB Waste Management Applied Research Fund and supported by the Department of Facilities Management through its Custodial Services unit.

The purpose of the audit is to identify and analyze the composition of the waste generated by every day activity on campus. This will help determine the success of current recycling programs and the potential for other waste reduction initiatives on campus.

The audit was launched in the University Centre (UC) during Sustainability Week in March 2011. This first "mini-audit" was used to raise awareness about the project and test the sorting procedure. Students from a graduate level geography course taught by Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee contributed to the method development and the audit launch.



Coffee cups collected over a 24 hour period in two small buildings on the St. John's campus. Disposable cups are not accepted in the paper or beverage container recycling streams & must be thrown in the garbage.

sort waste for four to five hours. The project has provided five graduate and five undergraduate students with the opportunity to work part-time on campus and receive safety training while learning about waste management issues. The students are from a wide range of programs including Business, Computer Science, Geography, Biology, Earth Sciences, Anthropology, and Environmental Science.

In each building, waste is collected from offices, classrooms and public areas and is then sorted into 11 categories. The categories include garbage and various recyclable and compostable materials that could potentially be diverted from the waste stream. Four categories (paper, beverage containers, plastics and metals) are then sorted again to provide more detail.

Most of the main buildings on campus have had a typical day's garbage examined. Areas that create a lot of food waste have also been audited, including the University Centre (UC) food court and the main dining hall.

The audit results will be presented in a report which will include recommendations for reducing the amount of garbage produced on campus.



Sixteen new recycling/waste containers with signs describing what can be recycled have been installed in the UC in an effort to increase recycling and decrease contamination of the recycling streams | Photo Credit: Nancy Burt

Since then, student employees and staff of the Sustainability Office have been learning hands-on what gets thrown out on a daily basis at the university. Depending on the size of the building being audited, five or more waste audit assistants

GET IN TOUCH >> Memorial University Sustainability Office / Advisory Committee on Sustainability

Contact: Toby Rowe, Sustainability Coordinator

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Website: [www.mun.ca/sustain](http://www.mun.ca/sustain)



From left, students Chao Wang & Jenn Broadbridge, & Sustainability Co-ordinator Toby Rowe sort garbage from the University Centre food court.

## MERCY CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND JUSTICE



Photo Credit: Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice

Part of the mandate of the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice is to provide educational opportunities and to work in cooperation with others, internationally, nationally and locally, to expand awareness of the intrinsic value and integrity of all creation and to find new practical ways for the restoration of ecology and justice in our world and in all of creation.

The Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice endeavors to raise consciousness around the eco-injustices of our times which threaten the future sustainability of planet Earth. Presently we are part of a Mercy International Association Global Action group of Sisters of Mercy, representing seven countries of the world along with our NGO from the United Nations, on Cosmology/Eco-Justice in preparation for 2012 Earth Summit Rio +20. (See [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)).

In October 2011 we participated on a national committee of representatives from the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) in the organization of the first bi-lingual national conference which was held in Montreal. Two hundred people attended the conference which challenged all in attendance to a radical shift in our approach to work in social justice to include eco-justice as we reach out to be a planetary people, shapers of a new world for a transformed Earth. As a follow up to this event the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice sponsored two screenings of the film *Journey of the Universe, An Epic Story of Cosmic, Earth, and Human Transformation* by Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker ([www.journeyoftheuniverse.org](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org)). To further this story of the universe we offer a six-week small group studies on the educational series accompanying this film.

The Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice Core Youth Group is now in its eighth year and continues to raise awareness of humanitarian and environmental issues through their concert theme of “Music and Song to Right the Wrongs”. This past July the group presented a concert of Early Music to promote the protection of Canada’s ancient lakes and in particular to further attention to the pending destruction of our provincial ancient lake, Sandy Pond. For the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice the protection of water is a sacred trust.

This summer we held another successful environmental camp for young children. We employed a teacher and together with two volunteers we were able to accommodate a total of thirty-three students. Besides the daily activities held at the Centre, these students were also able to avail of a presentation at both the Botanical Gardens and the Suncor Energy Fluvarium.

Raising awareness of the need to preserve and respect fresh water is an important work of Mercy Centre for Ecology and one on which we network with other environmental groups and organizations. An oral presentation was given by the coordinator of the Centre at the Newfoundland and Labrador’s Mineral Strategy Public Consultation held in St.

John’s, March 2, 2011. Sister Mary Tee used this opportunity to urge government that as jobs are being generated through the development of our natural resources, this be done in a way which does not compromise the integrity of the natural environment or deprive future generations of the ability to meet their needs. (See Nature NL’s publication “The Osprey” Spring 2011, Volume 42, Issue 2).

A number of other programs, projects and activities with a focus on caring for Earth and fostering right relationships in the one web of life were also offered by the Centre. As we bring our work forward we continue to be mindful of the words of the late Thomas Berry, “The human community and the natural world must go into the future as a single sacred community or we will both perish in the desert”.

### GET IN TOUCH >> Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice

Contact: Sister Mary Tee

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Photo Credit: Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice



Photo Credit: Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice



## NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA – NL

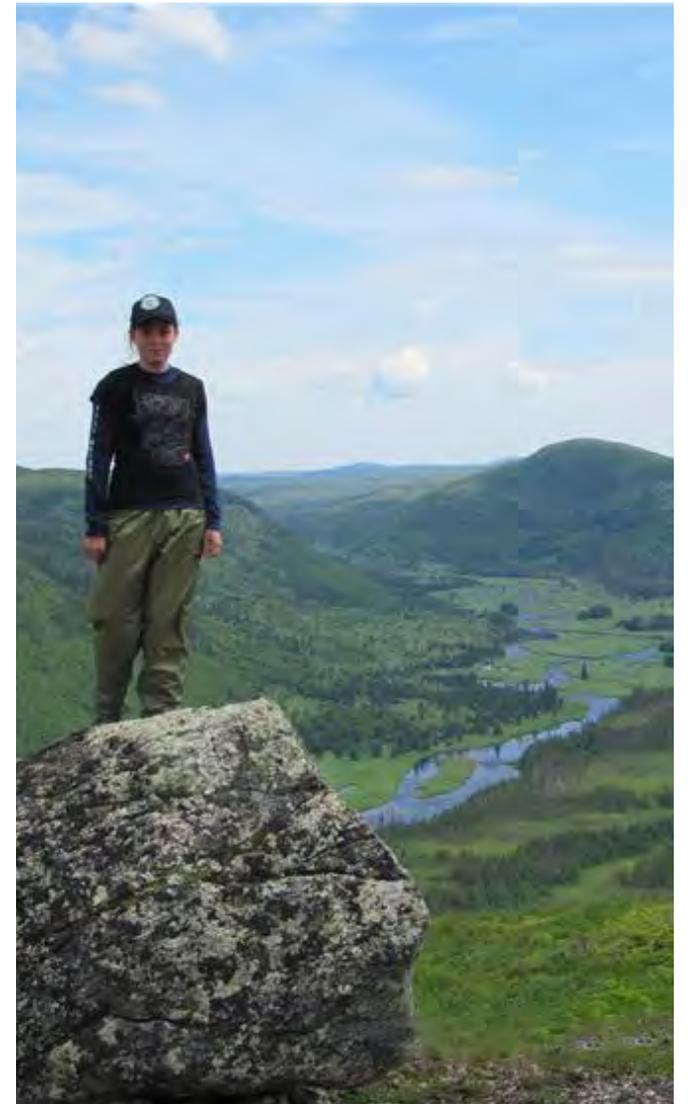
The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a conservation land trust which means that NCC acquires ecologically sensitive private land through purchase or donation. In 2010-2011, NCC acquired 17 properties totaling more than 4,100 acres or almost 17 square kilometers (larger than the City of Mt. Pearl). These lands include seven parcels on Sandy Point (important for Piping Plover) and the astonishing Grassy Place (Newfoundland Marten habitat). These properties are used as outdoor classrooms and laboratories.

Two summer students were hired as Piping Plover beach guardians (with the help of the Department of Natural Resources office in St. Georges). They helped patrol the beaches in Bay St. George with the goal of informing the public of the presence of Piping Plover. In the Spring of 2011, NCC held another birding workshop in Stephenville Crossing. Participants followed the workshop with a tour of Sandy Point (that avoided Piping Plover nesting areas).

In March 2011, NCC successfully acquired the Grassy Place. This large parcel of private land is at the remote headwaters of the Robinsons River. This area has been identified as containing Newfoundland Marten habitat. While conducting a biological inventory in July, NCC staff and volunteers identified two other listed species (Olive-sided Flycatcher and Rusty Blackbird), as well as six uncommon or rare vascular plants.

NCC has shifted focus to eastern and central NL, where Woodland Caribou, Representative Forest and Wetlands, Marine and Coastal Birds and Riparian Ecosystems are priority biodiversity targets.

**GET IN TOUCH >> Nature Conservancy of Canada – NL**  
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Website: [www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/newfoundland-and-labrador](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/newfoundland-and-labrador)



The view from above: the headwaters of the Robinsons River meander through the Grassy Place | Photo Credit: Nature Conservancy of Canada–NL

Located in southwestern Newfoundland, the Grassy Place was acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in March 2011 | Photo Credit: Nature Conservancy of Canada–NL



## NATURE NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

In 2010, Nature Newfoundland and Labrador celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first natural history society in the province. Located in St. John's, Nature NL (formerly known as the Natural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador) is a province-wide organization dedicated to promoting the enjoyment and preservation of nature in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and surrounding waters. To that end, we hold monthly public lectures on natural history topics, conduct regular outdoor events, and publish a quarterly journal, *The Osprey*, featuring articles on natural history. We make representations to municipal, provincial, and federal governments, concerning development plans or legislation that affect our provincial natural resources, write letters, serve on a wide range of government and non-governmental committees, and partner with various organizations to promote and protect the nature of the province.

The major name change to Nature NL was approved by the membership at the AGM in March. When the Canadian Nature Federation changed its name in 2004, it invited provincial affiliates to do the same, and some did. At the time the society decided against changing its name but now after further discussion, we decided to join most other provincial organizations in the name change and so, from henceforth, we will be known as "Nature Newfoundland and Labrador".

Following the very successful collaboration the previous year, we once again collaborated with The Rooms to offer several extremely well attended presentations, "Ten Amazing Years of Ocean Exploration - the Census of Marine Life" by Dr. Paul Snelgrove, and "Of Men, Ice, and Dogs: the Antarctic Voyages of Eagle and Trepassey, 1944-1947", by Dr. Anthony Dickinson. In addition to these talks, Ms. Julie Huntington led a workshop on drawing animals as part of the Family Fun Day programme.

In addition to these special events the Society also

sponsored the following public presentations at its regular monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

JANUARY	<i>Lessons Learned (from oil spills, offshore drilling etc.)</i> by Dr. Bill Montevecchi
FEBRUARY	<i>Redefining Old Growth and Biodiversity in the Boreal Forest: A Context for Globally Rare Lichens in the Newfoundland Landscape</i> by Dr. Ian Goudie
MARCH	A.G.M. and members' slide show
APRIL	<i>Full Circle: The Bell Island Shipwrecks</i> by Mr. Rick Stanley
MAY	<i>Extraordinary Birds from the Winter of 2010-2011 in Newfoundland: The most exciting ever!</i> by Mr. Bruce MacTavish
SEPTEMBER	The Tuck-Walters Award presentation to Dr. Bill Montevecchi
OCTOBER	<i>Five Weeks in the Antarctic</i> by Ken Knowles
NOVEMBER	November-The Rooms presentations
DECEMBER	Green Holiday Potluck at the Environmental Gathering Place

Avalon Forest ecology tour through Fog Forest to Back River Big Pond, led by Ian Goudie August 27, 2011  
Photo credit: Nature Newfoundland & Labrador

# NATURE NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

The Society also organized a number of outdoor events during the year including:

JUNE	Annual Charley Horwood Lady Slipper Walk (led by Dr. Allan Stein)
SEPTEMBER	Outing to Virginia River (led by Dr. John Gibson)
	Avalon Forest Ecology Field Trip (led by Dr. Ian Goudie)
	Avalon Forestry Practices Field trip (led by Mr. Bill Clarke)
OCTOBER	Spawning Brook Trout at Three Pond Barrens (led by Dr. John Gibson)
	Trout Watch at Rennie's River (led by Dr. John Gibson)

**GET IN TOUCH >> Nature Newfoundland & Labrador**

Contact: Michael Collins, *Past President*  
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 Website: www.nhs.nf.ca

Four regular issues of our journal, The Osprey, were published during the year under the co-editorship of Ms. Stephanie Porter and Ms. Jennifer Higgins who maintained the high standard of the well-respected periodical and we thank them for all their hard work and dedication on producing such excellent publications. Unfortunately the co-editors had to tender their resignations due to work commitments. Our search for a new editor identified a new, enthusiastic pair of co-editors, Mr. Justin So and Ms. Sarah Penney.

Several members continue to represent Nature NL on a number of governmental panels, while others have participated in workshops on our behalf. Nature NL has been working with other ENGO's, government and industry groups towards a more ecosystem-based and sustainable forestry policy. This includes participating in district planning, discussions on a new provincial forest management strategy, interventions and media presentations regarding caribou habitat protection, and recognition of 2011 as the United Nations International Year of Forests with a special forest issue (Vol.42, Issue 4, Fall 2011).

A submission was presented to the Hebron offshore development assessment public hearings. Meetings have also been held with Statoil Canada Ltd., Chevron Canada Resources, Husky Energy and WesternGeco Canada to express our concerns about seismic and other offshore surveys.

We have continued to partner with Nature Canada in developing an IBA (Important Bird Areas) Caretaker Network. Rosalind Ford (25 IBA sites on the island of Newfoundland) and Kathleen Blanchard (16 IBA sites in Labrador) have continued to develop contacts for specific IBA sites, identify potential caretakers and develop appropriate materials for those sites and caretakers.



R. John Gibson shows us invertebrate indicators of ecosystem health on the Virginia River – 25 September 2011  
 Photo credit: Nature Newfoundland & Labrador

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

The Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Educators (NLEE) had a very successful year, providing two educational and connection-building events for this province's growing network of Environmental Educators.

This year's 'Just Get OUT' environmental education workshop brought together 21 environmentally-minded Teachers, Education Students, and other Environmental Educators, who learned new and innovative ways to get kids outdoors and learning about the natural world. The Brother Brennan Environmental Education Centre provided an ideal venue to hold the interactive and hands-on sessions, which included an earth walk, nature journaling, orienteering, and a session on using technology as a tool for outdoor learning, presented by special guest TA Loeffler.

Inspired by Dr Alan Warner's presentation at the 2010 workshop in Traytown, NLEE decided to try a "Great Meals for A Change" as an educational, fundraising and awareness event. In March over 50 people in St John's sat down to a meal prepared from local, organic or otherwise sustainably produced food while they enjoyed discussion around the issues of sustainable food. As far as we know this was the first time a "Great Meal for A Change" had been done on this scale and we felt that it was a success. Normally a "Great Meal For a Change" would be a dinner party of 6 to 8 people. It's a wonderful motivating way to inspire yourself and others to make sustainable food choices. NLEE used some of the profit from the dinner to buy 6 kits which are available for anyone to borrow for a small fee. If you'd like to host your own Great Meal for a Change dinner contact Laura Temple at [lauratemple@gmail.com](mailto:lauratemple@gmail.com)

**GET IN TOUCH >> Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Educators**

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# NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**GET IN TOUCH >> Newfoundland & Labrador Women's Institute**  
Contact: Maxine Dawe | Email: [nlwi@nfld.com](mailto:nlwi@nfld.com)



NLWI celebrates Women's Institute Week at Government House, April 2011

In 1929, in response to a disastrous tidal wave in Newfoundland, a group of volunteers led by Lady Muriel Anderson, wife of the Governor of Newfoundland, formed a service league to assist those affected by the disaster. The volunteers formed a permanent organization, called the "Jubilee Guilds" in 1935 which later changed to Women's Institutes in 1968. They are a part of a national (Federated Women's Institute of Canada) and worldwide organization (Associated Country Women of the World) of approximately 9 million women.

Nearly 650 members in 35 branches throughout the province are still today actively involved in a variety of programs that focuses on personal family and community development.

For example, NLWI continues to administer the NL & Lab Environmental Awards in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation and Multi Materials Stewardship Board. Its members publicize the information in the community and encourage people to nominate individuals and groups who are known to have preserved or promoted the protection of our environment. NLWI also partners with Tidy Towns and have been actively involved in promoting this program throughout their communities.

NLWI promotes the importance to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. In 2010, its 75th anniversary, they adopted "NLWI Go for Green" as its annual theme. Branches were encouraged to purchase items with less packaging, plant

a new tree for every book you read; walk, ride or bike and skip the car whenever possible, or even plan a group effort to pick up litter at your local park or beach. They also included a new category in their annual competitions titled "Novelty Item made from Recycled Goods".

In supporting FWIC's national project "Hard Facts About Women's Health", NLWI together with the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Recreation NL and Eastern Health, are hosting workshops for members and the general public in six locations province-wide to promote information on heart health, physical exercise, and healthy eating. NLWI also participated in FWIC's "Walk Across Canada Challenge" where members were encouraged to wear pedometers and record their daily steps. By combining steps they have compiled the required number to reach their destination of Sidney, B.C. in time for the National Convention in June

The organization supports ACWW in its area project titled "Climate Change and its effects on Women and Agriculture – Women as Change Agents". The short term aim of the project is to train and raise the awareness in women of the effect of climate change on them, the environment and on agriculture. This training will empower these women to spread their knowledge and skills in their own countries and improve the standard of living for themselves and their families. Eight NLWI members also attended the ACWW World Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 2010, where a resolution was passed stating that all ACWW Member Societies should urge their communities to restrict the use of plastic bags and reduce excess packaging.

NLWI members continue to work together to expand their skills, broaden their interests and improve conditions in the home, community, and around the world and welcomes any new members. If you would like any further information on the organization and its programs please visit [www.nlwi.ca](http://www.nlwi.ca) or contact the provincial office @ 753-8780.



## NORTHEAST AVALON ATLANTIC COASTAL ACTION PROGRAM

The Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program (NAACAP) is a community action group formed to address environmental issues affecting watersheds and coastal areas on the Northeast Avalon Peninsula. NAACAP's staff, board members, and volunteers work to protect watersheds and coastal areas by carrying out various scientific projects, coordinating and participating in public events, as well as educating Northeast Avalon municipalities and the public on the importance of watershed protection and what can be done to preserve our watersheds. NAACAP had a busy year in 2011 juggling all of these activities!

We launched two science-based projects in 2011, one pertaining to wastewater treatment and the other investigating Northeast Avalon wetlands. The wastewater treatment project linked to NAACAP's past role as the St. John's Harbour ACAP, and set out to examine the byproducts of wastewater treatment in the Northeast Avalon. This project involved testing for chlorine disinfection byproducts in two wastewater treatment facilities that use chlorine as part of the treatment process. Both of these treatment facilities were and continue to be very accommodating and helpful as NAACAP continues this project into early 2012. The second science-based project NAACAP was involved with this year was carried out with the help of a Conservation Corps Green Team, whereby a number of wetlands were surveyed across the Northeast Avalon during the summer of 2011. Wetland surveys included a plant and invertebrate inventory, as well as a description of general water quality, and were aimed at gaining an understanding of the condition of Northeast Avalon wetland ecosystems. This project was a success in its first year and NAACAP is optimistic that it will be an ongoing project. Since the summer of 2011 we have heard from the general public and several municipal council members on suggested wetlands to survey for the 2012 field season. NAACAP is looking forward to it!

In addition to our science-based projects, NAACAP was involved in a number of community events as well. We participated in the Friends of Victoria Park's Lantern Festival, where we had an information booth on our work and the history of Bennett's Brook, a culverted stream that flows under Victoria Park. Children at the event really enjoyed the opportunity to paint their handprints on a rain barrel, which visitors had the opportunity to win. NAACAP also had an information table at the Kelligrews Railway Festival in August - helping the Kelligrews Ecological Enhancement Program (KEEP) to educate the public on watershed issues.

To enhance the natural beauty of the Northeast Avalon, NAACAP hosted and participated in a number of cleanups in 2011. In conjunction with the city of Mount Pearl NAACAP held two cleanups along the Waterford River. As well, NAACAP volunteers cleaned up a section of Leary's Brook along Prince Philip Drive. This included the removal of debris that appeared to mark the high water line created during flooding caused by Hurricane Igor. NAACAP also assisted the Kelligrews Ecological Enhancement Program (KEEP) to clean up Kelligrews Beach and Kelligrews Pond, and lent helping hands during some of MI Ocean Net's Beach Cleanups. That's a lot of garbage picked up in 2011!

**GET IN TOUCH >> Northeast Avalon ACAP**  
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Website: [www.naacap.ca](http://www.naacap.ca)

One of the rain barrels painted by children at the Lantern Festival  
Photo Credit: NAACAP

Green Team with garbage collected during the Business Blitz cleanup of the  
Waterford River | Photo Credit: NAACAP

# PROTECTED AREAS ASSOCIATION – NL

In 2011, Protected Areas Association of NL (PAA) continued our participation in public environmental consultations, promoting Eagle River Waterway Park and the Natural Areas System Plan, moving forward with our educational programs, and working collaboratively with other ENGOs on other conservation issues.

PAA partnered with the Conservation Corps of NL and TD Friends of Environment to hire a Green Team to perform our skit “Something Unique In Every Place” at summer camps in and around the St. John’s area during July and August. We had a great success in 2011 with increasing popularity of the show and positive feedback from campers and camp organizers. Our play focused on environmental education for students from ages 5-13, providing knowledge of Boreal Felt Lichen, Newfoundland

Old Growth Forests, Newfoundland Pine Marten, NL eco-regions, protected areas, and endangered species etc.

This project provided an opportunity for children and the public to learn the importance of sustainable development and the preservation of our natural resources. Our mandate is conservation biodiversity and we believe the educational process is very important; in this case it is a fun way to teach our future leaders and young citizens.

Another highlight of 2011 was our annual environmental art competition. Every year we hold an environmentally themed art competition for students in grades K-12. While learning about fundamental conservation and creating fun art, based on our theme, they have the opportunity to win great prizes.

In concurrence with The United Nations International Year of Forest, our competition theme for 2011 was: “Our Forests, Our Future”. We received more than two hundred entries throughout the province. Among them were a great deal of surprisingly impressive and some really amusing art work.

If you would like to know more about our work, we would like to hear from you. Become a member of PAA or get in touch for more information about us.

**GET IN TOUCH >> Protected Areas Association — NL**

Contact: Fanta Yao  
Email: [fanta.yao@nf.aibn.com](mailto:fanta.yao@nf.aibn.com)  
Website: [www.paanl.ca](http://www.paanl.ca)



Our Green Team performing at Suncor Fluvarium’s summer camp on July 20, 2011 | Photo Credit: Fanta Yao



Photo Credit: Fanta Yao



3rd place art work from Erica Lee | Photo Credit: PAA



1st place art work from Suzy Lim | Photo Credit: PAA



## THEGREENROCK.CA – HABITS FOR YOUR HABITAT

thegreenRock.ca – Habits for your Habitat is a social media initiative that shares stories of green practice and habits for residents of the Northeast Avalon. The website, thegreenrock.ca profiles local individuals, businesses and organizations whose actions contribute to a more sustainable community. Many of these stories were created in partnership with the Conservation Corps Green Team during the summer of 2011. thegreenrock.ca facebook site shares green actions from the greater community. thegreenrockca youtube channel also shares thegreenrock.ca Green Team videos.

The tone is engaging, non-judgemental and progressive. The idea is that no matter where we are on the range of environmental practice, we can all do something to contribute to a more sustainable community.

Following are some of the Green Team's initiatives of 2011.

### GREEN YOUR SUMMER

Green teams do amazing things! thegreenrock.ca green team made videos, and others get up to their knees in green action. In the summer of 2011, thegreenrock.ca green team checked in to see what their wetland surveying colleagues were up to.

### DOWN TO THE DIRT – WORMS MAKE THE WORLD A GREENER PLACE

Last summer thegreenrock.ca green team took a trip to Bay Bulls and met with Christa Williams, co-owner of the J&C Sod Farm, and the Trouters Special Worm farm. They found out that worms work magic! From chowing down on kitchen waste to making nutrient-rich soil that needs no harmful chemicals to get stuff growing they are the green bomb.

### PAM PIPPY'S GARDEN

Pam Pippy is one down-to-earth gardener. Her space is amazing – so much so that even the dog and cat play in it

together. Her compost bin is in three parts. Her inspiration comes from those who came before her and she's passing it on to those who are following. thegreenrock.ca green team paid Pam a visit in the summer of 2011, and found a feast for the eyes, and data on what to do with kitchen scraps!

### THE ORGANIC FARM - GENTLE SUSTAINABLE GOOD

Mike and Melba Rabinowitz started The Organic Farm back when 'green' was a colour and 'organic' had little to do with marketing. In the summer of 2011 thegreenrock.ca Green Team visited The Organic Farm on Churchills Road in Portugal Cove – St. Phillip's.

### GET IN TOUCH >> thegreenrock – Habits for your Habitat

Contact: Kim Todd

Email: [kat@thequickbrownfox.ca](mailto:kat@thequickbrownfox.ca)

Websites: [www.thegreenrock.ca](http://www.thegreenrock.ca)



thegreenrock.ca Conservation Corps video premiere, August 2011.

## NLEN MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES 2011

Atlantic Coastal Action Program Humber Arm (ACAP)  
Burgeo Regional Action Group (BRAG)  
Canadian Boreal Initiative  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society — NL (CPAWS)  
Central Labrador Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)  
Centre for Long Term Environmental Action NL  
Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides — NL  
Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador  
Council of Canadians (St. John's Chapter)  
Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)  
East Coast Trail Association  
Environmental Education Commission  
Food Education Action St. John's (FEAST)  
Food Security Network — NL  
Friends of Cape St. Mary's Inc  
Friends of Pippy Park  
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador Inc.  
Kelligrews Ecological Enhancement Program (KEEP)  
Memorial University Advisory Committee on Sustainability  
Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice  
MI Ocean Net  
Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice

MI Ocean Net  
Model Forest — NL  
MUN Advisory Council on Sustainability  
MUN Botanical Garden  
MUN Project Green  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Nature Newfoundland & Labrador (NNL)  
Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Educators (NLEE)  
Newfoundland & Labrador Women's Institute  
Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program (NAACAP)  
Oxfam Canada (St. John's)  
Partridge Forever Society  
Protected Areas Association NL  
Quidi Vidi Rennie's River Development Foundation  
Salmon and Trout Restoration Association  
of Conception Bay Central  
Sierra Club of Canada - Atlantic Canada Chapter  
the greenRock — habits for your habitat  
Torbay Environment and Trails Committee  
Western Environment Centre (WEC)  
Whale Release and Stranding  
World Wildlife Fund — NL (WWF)  
Youth for Environmental Awareness

## NLEN STEERING COMMITTEE 2011

Margaret McKeon — NLEN Co-chair (NL Environmental Educators)  
Katie Temple — NLEN Co-chair (Food Security Network)  
Julie Huntington – NLEN Vice-chair (Tangly Whales / Whale Release and Stranding)  
Marjorie Evans — NLEN Treasurer (Nature NL)  
Roberta Frampton Benefiel (Grand Riverkeeper)  
June Hiscock (Burgeo Regional Action Group)  
Sister Mary Tee (Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice)  
Piotr Trela (Sierra Club of Canada – Atlantic Chapter)  
Ruth French (Protected Areas Association NL)  
Jane Tucker (Northeast Avalon ACAP)  
Carolyn Wheeler (Western Environment Centre)



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENT NETWORK**

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