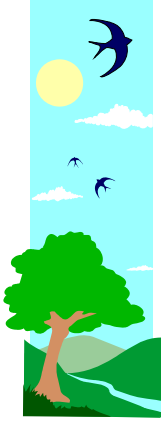


2009
Annual
Report

**Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory
Council**



Prince Edward Island
Environmental
Advisory Council

11 Kent Street, 4th Floor
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Honourable Richard Brown
Minister of Environment, Energy & Forestry
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Mr. Brown:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Hicken,
Acting Chair

Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference	Page 2
General Comments	Page 4
Issues	Page 6
2009 Science Fair Winners	Page 9
2009 PEI Environmental Award Winners	Page 10
Appendix A	
<i>Environmental Advisory Council</i>	
<i>2009 Membership</i>	Page 12

Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister responsible for the environment on environmental matters.

Secretarial services for the Council are provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Section 4 (2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that:

The Council shall:

- (a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister responsible for the Environment;***
- (b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.***

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. The Council was advised by the Minister that nothing of an environmental nature should be out of bounds for the Council to investigate. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister responsible for the environment on matters referred to the EAC by the Minister or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To prepare a report annually to the Minister on activities of the EAC.
3. To recognize individuals and groups who work to improve the environment and environmental knowledge.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
5. To recommend to the Minister public education programs or projects.
6. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.

-
7. To advise the Minister on proposed and existing legislation as it relates to environmental protection and enhancement.
 8. To advise the Minister on such matters as the Minister may direct.
 9. To update the Minister on relevant research conducted on the environment.
 10. To promote public awareness of environmental issues.
 11. To make recommendations to the Minister on environmental awards.

General Comments

The Environmental Advisory Council had a busy year in 2009, with a diverse agenda. Council began the year with eight members. Four members completed their second terms in 2009; Elmer MacDonald - Chairperson, Dr. James Kemp - Vice Chairperson, Don Matheson and Murray Cook. Five new members were appointed in March 2009, Mark Bernard, Bertha Campbell, Paula MacKinnon, Stephen Moorehead, Sherra Profit and the Federation of PEI Municipalities nominated Mel Gass to replace Gwen Wyand.

Council reported to the Hon. Richard Brown, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry. Council had nine (one cancelled due to weather conditions) regular meetings during 2009. In addition, a number of special meetings of various subcommittees of Council were held, including the Environmental Awards and Science Fair Subcommittees.

Council endeavored to keep abreast of new developments and issues, and was fortunate to have knowledgeable people make presentations on some of these issues. A list of speakers and their topics of discussion is presented in the table on the following page.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
January	Kate McDonald, Energy Coordinator Environmental Coalition of PEI	Prince Edward Island Energy Update
February	Bruce Raymond, Manager - Watershed Management Section Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> and the changes to Buffer Zones
March	Ron Estabrooks, Energy Advisor, Energy and Minerals Division Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	Wind Development on PEI
April	Brenda Penak, Climate Change Coordinator, Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	PEI Climate Change Strategy

May	Dr. Robert Coffin, Crop Specialist Cavendish Farms	Pesticide Usage and New Developments in Potato Breeding
June	Bob Younker, Director of Strategic and Corporate Planning Maritime Electric	Planning for Maritime Electric's Future Electricity Supplies
September	Ron Estabrooks, Energy Advisor, Energy and Minerals Division The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	Tour of the North Cape Wind Farm and Hydrogen Village
November	Dave Godkin, Vice President and General Manager PEI Energy Systems	District Heating in Charlottetown

Issues

During the year, the Council members discussed many environmental issues, some of which are dealt with in more detail. These are listed below:

Biomass Heat

In December of 2009, the Minister asked the Environmental Advisory Council and Public Forest Council to form a joint working group to explore the issue of biomass heat.

Once the joint committee agreed to establish a subcommittee to address this issue, the Minister provided the following Terms of Reference to guide its work:

Objectives: (1) Identify areas of concern associated with expanded biomass production and use on PEI; (2) outline how these issues are being handled in other jurisdictions; and (3) make recommendations to the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry regarding how these issues should be addressed on PEI.

The Subcommittee will begin meetings in January of 2010.

Watersheds

As a result of recommendations in We are all downstream We are all upstream We are all part of a Watershed - A Report on the Public Consultations on Managing Land and Water on a Watershed Basis, several initiatives were implemented in 2008 and continued in 2009.

On April 25, 2009, Island watershed groups attended a workshop at the Emerald Community Centre. The purpose of the workshop was to take the next step in the formation of a provincial watershed alliance. Two motions were passed at this workshop; a motion to incorporate and a motion to develop bylaws.

The Alternative Land Use Program

The Alternative Land Use Services Program (ALUS), announced in early 2008 provides farmers and landowners with financial incentives to carry out environmental services that go beyond the minimum standards mandated by provincial regulation.

In 2009 the program continued to have strong growth in its uptake by stakeholders. Watershed groups are strong supporters of the ALUS program and are working with landowners/farmers to promote the program and plant trees in buffer zones. Uptake in the ALUS program is expected to continue since the program helps landowners/farmers “grow” a better environment on Prince Edward Island.

Nitrate Clinics

The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry offered free, community-based testing of nitrate levels in drinking water across PEI in 2007 and 2008. In 2009, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry continued this initiative and 16 nitrate clinics were held across PEI.

Other Items

Other topics that were discussed were:

- Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program
- Best practices for spraying of blueberries
- Beavers
- Bee pollination
- Biomass energy
- Buffer zones
- Climate change strategy
- Construction and demolition
- Cost of electricity
- Crop insurance
- Crop rotation
- Drywall
- Energy from Waste Plant
- GMO's
- Glycol
- Home Heat Tank Regulations
- Hydrogen Village
- Island Waste Management Corporation
- Model forests
- Natural protected areas
- Office of Energy Efficiency
- Pesticides
- Potato fields
- Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations
- Separation of gyprock
- Sewage sludge disposal
- Sustainable agriculture
- Water conservation
- Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations
- Watershed groups
- Wind Development
- Wind farms

2009 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. In 2009, the Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards were presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of \$80, \$50 and \$30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively. The 2009 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

Senior Category:

- 1st Andrew Martel (Grade 12) & Darcy Worth (Grade 12), Evangeline High School
- "*L'amelioration de Nos Emissions*"
- 2nd Emma Trivett (Grade 11), Charlottetown Rural High School
- "*The Mechanism of Emamectin Action on Sea Lice*"

Intermediate Category:

- 1st Josh MacDougall (Grade 9), Hernewood Junior High
- "*Let the Sun Shine In*"
- 2nd Jason Waertz (Grade 9), East Wiltshire Intermediate
- "*Stinky Science*"
- 3rd Julia Ross (Grade 9), Hernewood Junior High
- "*Lupins in Our Buffer Zones: Will it Help Prevent Soil Erosion?*"

Junior Category:

- 1st Olivia Cox (Grade 5), West Royalty Elementary
- "*Biodegradable or Biodestructable*"
- 2nd Lauren Rogerson (Grade 4), Eliot River Elementary
- "*Ultraviolet Radiation & Compact Fluorescent Bulbs*"
- 3rd Rémie Mill (Grade 5) & Symonne Outhouse (Grade 6), Ecole Belle Cloche
- "*Le Rechauffement de la Terre*"

PEI Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards.

In June, awards were presented by Lieutenant Governor Barbara A. Hagerman and the Hon. Richard Brown to the following:

Andrew MacDonald

St. Teresa's Environmental School Challenge Winner

The St. Teresa's Environmental School Challenge award for environmental initiatives in an Island school was presented to Andrew McDonald, a Grade 10 student at Colonel Gray High School in Charlottetown. He saw an environmental opportunity in the new Beverage Container Management System introduced by government last spring.

Andrew began collecting returnable containers at his school in November 2008. On his lunch hour, he'd gather cans and bottles from classrooms around the high school, then once they were counted and sorted, Andrew would bring them to a nearby depot.

By Earth Day April 22, 2009, Andrew had collected 22,000 containers at Colonel Gray and had raised \$1100.

The money that Andrew raised was used to fund a number of worthy efforts, including the Charlottetown Food Bank, the Colonel Gray Breakfast Program and the School Climate Change Action Committee. Andrew said he hopes to expand his efforts to other schools in the Charlottetown Area.

Robert Harding

Robert Harding is someone with a real passion for the natural history of Prince Edward Island.

As the nomination form says, "Robert Harding is a remarkable volunteer whose dedication to seeking knowledge of the damselflies and dragonflies of the Maritimes is matched by his dedication to sharing this knowledge."

Mr. Harding has donated more than 6,000 specimens of PEI dragonflies and damselflies to the New Brunswick Museum and has made a very important contribution to our understanding of wetland insects in this province. He was also the first person to document the presence of the pickerel frog on Prince Edward Island; a species that was missed when the National Museum made its survey of Prince Edward Island amphibians.

Robert obviously has a passion for wetland life and is eager to pass on that enthusiasm to young Islanders. He is an annual visitor to Greenwing Day in Mount Stewart where he allows dozens of budding naturalists to learn about pond life and to see the art and craft of collecting dragonflies.

Earlier this year, Robert Harding was recognized by Ducks Unlimited with the Lieutenant Governor's Greenwing Award for Wetland Conservation.

Clarence Ryan

Clarence Ryan has devoted countless hours to the improvement of the Pisquid River watershed.

Clarence is chair of the PEI Trappers Association and under his leadership, this group has sponsored an annual improvement project in the Pisquid River watershed. Through their work, thousands of trees have been planted, many kilometres of stream have been enhanced and fish passage has been restored to the entire river system.

Clarence has also been instrumental in starting a community-based watershed management process for the Pisquid watershed. This project aims to see the entire community involved in addressing sources of environmental challenges in the watershed.

Clarence Ryan is leading the kind of community-based approach government would like to see repeated in all of Prince Edward Island's watersheds.

The Richmond Bay Watershed Association

The Richmond Bay Watershed Association has been active since 2003. Under the leadership of executive director Cathy Gallant, this watershed group has worked with local landowners to improve the quality of both the Little Trout River and the Tyne Valley Watersheds.

Some of the keys to this group's success have been its insistence on a non-confrontational approach with landowners, its emphasis on community awareness and its involvement of local youth in issues related to the environment.

Working in cooperation with watershed specialists at the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, the Richmond Bay Watershed Association is developing watershed stewardship plans that look at factors ranging from nitrate levels in the streams to land use and wildlife habitat.

While the Richmond area is still quite rural and agricultural, it is becoming a bedroom community for the City of Summerside. The leadership it is showing in dealing with the environmental challenges of a heavily-used land base will be an example for communities across the province.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2009 Membership

Mr. Elmer MacDonald, Chair
Borden Carlton
(term expired July 1, 2009)

Dr. James Kemp, Vice-chair
Wheatley River
(term expired October 30, 2009)

Mr. Don Matheson
Oyster Bed Bridge
(term expired October 30, 2009)

Mr. Murray Cook
Stanhope
(term expired October 30, 2009)

Mr. Patrick Birtwistle
Stratford

Mr. Bruce MacNeill
Beach Point

Mr. Alan Hicken
South Pinette

Mark Bernard
Freetown
(appointed March 3, 2009
replaced Joanne LeBlanc-Arsenault)

Bertha Campbell
Kensington
(appointed March 3, 2009
replaced Emmerson McMillan)

Paula MacKinnon
Charlottetown
(appointed March 3, 2009
replaced Jeanne Maki)

Stephen Moorehead
Stratford
(appointed March 3, 2009
replaced Leslie Cudmore)

Sherra Profit
Alberton
(appointed March 3, 2009)

Mel Gass
New Haven
Federation of PEI Municipalities
(appointed March 3, 2009
replaced Gwen Wyand)