

2011 Annual Report



Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council

**Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council**
11 Kent Street, 4th Floor
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

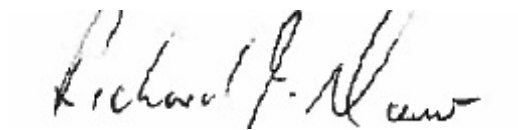
Honourable Janice Sherry
Minister and Attorney General
Environment, Labour and Justice
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Sherry:

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

This report covers the period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Richard Davies
Chair

Table of Contents

Introduction. Page 2

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference Page 2

General Comments.. . . . Page 4

Developing the Conservation Strategy. Page 4

Issues Page 6

2011 Science Fair Winners. Page 7

2011 PEI Environmental Award Winners. Page 8

Appendix A

Environmental Advisory Council 2011 Membership.. . . . Page 10

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

Subsection 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; and
- (b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. 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 it by him or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To report annually to the Minister on submissions received, research conducted, investigations undertaken and recommendations made under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
3. To advise the Minister on environmental matters related to activities in relation to the Provincial Conservation Strategy.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister on conservation or environmental improvement awards.
5. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
6. To recommend to the Minister public education projects or programs.
7. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.

-
8. To advise the Minister on legislative proposals as they relate to environmental protection and enhancement.
 9. To advise the Minister on such matters as he may direct.
 10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under clause 4(2)(b) of the Act.

Support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Labour and Justice.

General Comments

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has been authorized by government to engage in the development of a new Conservation Strategy for Prince Edward Island. The EAC's review of the State of the Environment Report in February 2011 formed the basis for its subsequent discussions.

Council held eight regular meetings during 2011, together with a number of special meetings of various subcommittees of Council, including the Environmental Awards, Science Fair Subcommittees and the Council as a whole to address the Conservation Strategy.

Developing the Conservation Strategy

Environmental Advisory Council began working on a draft report to update the 1987 Conservation Strategy for Prince Edward Island. Council heard from stakeholders and experts familiar with the issues. A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2011, and the discussion topics addressed, are presented in the table below.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
Jan. 12, 2011	Judge Ralph Thompson	<i>Overview on Land and Local Governance Report</i>
Jan. 12, 2011	Christine MacKinnon	<i>Land and Local Governance Report Presentation on Issues and Solutions</i>
Jan. 15, 2011 Workshop	Dr. Susan Preston	<i>Making the Invisible Visible: Recognizing the Values of Ecological Goods and Services</i>
Jan. 15, 2011 Workshop	Christine MacKinnon	<i>Visual Explorer Activity & Social Marketing</i>
Jan. 15, 2011 Workshop	Dan McAskill	<i>Motivating Behavioural Change is More than a Pamphlet & Activity to Help Identify Environmental Advisory Council's Priorities</i>
Jan. 15, 2011 Workshop	Doug Deacon	<i>Natural Capital Values on PEI</i>

Mar. 10, 2011	Barry Thompson	<i>Sustainable Agriculture Resources Programs</i>
Mar. 10, 2011	Mary Robinson	<i>Agricultural Lime - Gypsum and Our Environment: Are We on the Right Track?</i>
Mar. 17, 2011	Dr. Tony Lemprière	<i>Forests and Carbon</i>
Mar. 17, 2011	John Jamieson	<i>Developing a Shared Vision for Agriculture on PEI</i>
Mar. 24, 2011	Kate MacQuarrie	<i>Forests, Fish and Wildlife Programs</i>
Mar. 31, 2011	Shelley Cole-Arbing	<i>Environmental Management on Transportation Infrastructure and Climate Change</i>
Apr. 13, 2011	Erin Taylor	<i>Climate Change on PEI</i>
Apr. 29, 2011	UPEI Climate Change Symposium	<i>Rising Tides - Preparing for Climate Change</i>
May 5, 2011	Bruce Raymond	<i>PEI Water Issues</i>
May 5, 2011	Greg Wilson	<i>Waste Water</i>
May 5, 2011	Morley Foy	<i>Environmental Assessment and Land Section</i>
May 26, 2011	Dr. Tony Sturz	<i>Conservation Strategy Foundation Document</i>
Oct. 12, 2011	Dale Thompson	<i>Wetlands, Buffer Zones - Forest Harvesting</i>
Oct. 20, 2011	Dr. Michael van den Heuvel	<i>Ecological Threats to Water Resources on PEI</i>
Oct. 20, 2011	Dr. David Cairns	<i>Overview of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Mandate + Reflections of Achieving Environmental Goals</i>

Other Matters

During the year, Council members discussed a variety of environmental issues. These are listed below:

- Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program - Incentive Payments and Improvements in Administration
- Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES) Program
- Biomass Plants - Pilot Projects
- Building Regulations
- Climate Change
- Combined Sewer Systems - Charlottetown
- Coyote Hunting
- Cutting within Buffer Zones
- Education and Information - Engagement and Motivation
- Electricity Pricing
- Fish Kills
- Home Oil Tank Spills and Insurance
- Hydraulic Fracturing
- Incentives for Motivating Environmental Improvements
- *Lands Protection Act*
- Natural Capital and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services
- Nitrate Levels in Drinking Water
- Northumberland Strait Waterways
- Pollination Programs
- Waste Watch
- Watershed Management
- Wood Lots - Certification Programs

2011 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 2011, 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 2011 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

Junior Category:

1st - Liam Broderick, Elm Street Elementary - Will different soil types effect bean germination?

2nd - Keira Gallant, Miscouche Consolidated - Water Purification

3rd - Jordan Cotton, Alberton Elementary - Water Purification

Intermediate Category:

1st - Chandler Acorn, Summerside Intermediate - My Electric Generator

2nd - Laura Mohan, Birchwood Intermediate - Bio-Gas

3rd - Matthew Arsenault, Francois-Buote - L'erosion

Senior Category:

1st - Courtney Stewart and Sarah Simpson, Bluefield High - Energy Harvesters

2nd - Daniel Larsen, Charlottetown Rural High - Transformer Efficiency

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 2011, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following :

Winner: Montague Intermediate Team

St. Teresa's Environmental School Challenge

This group of students has demonstrated strong environmental stewardship by caring for and enhancing their school environment for the benefit of all students and staff. By establishing a green space for the school community, the students have not only created a healthier space, but a 'sense of place' in their community.

Winner: Peter Rukavina

L. M. Montgomery Land Trust

The L.M. Montgomery Land Trust is a volunteer, non-profit organization working to preserve 400 acres of land known as the L.M. Montgomery Seashore in French River. As president of the L.M. Montgomery Land Trust, Peter Rukavina has worked tirelessly as a volunteer to preserve the Island's coastal landscapes. Through his persistence and determination, the visibility of the L.M. Montgomery Trust has increased significantly.

Winner: Clive Stewart

Forest Restoration

For over 25 years, Clive Stewart has been actively involved in restoring the health of his forest stand in the community of Stratford. Clive has spent countless hours planting native species throughout a significant portion of his land. Clive is preserving and enhancing the forest acreage he owns. He has demonstrated a keen interest in enhancing and protecting this particular aspect of the local environment. With the creation of the trail system throughout this forest stand, he allows local residents to enjoy the beauty of the natural environment.

Winner: Karl Smallman

Triple S Farm

Karl Smallman is an owner and partner of Triple S Farms located in West Prince. He is one of the largest potato producers in the area and he has been actively involved in environmental awareness and protection for many years. As an environmental advocate, he served as an agricultural representative on the Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter's watershed planning committee and was instrumental in developing a watershed management plan for the Trout River watershed areas. He is an active participant in the Alternative Land Use Services program, and

has demonstrated that he cares deeply for his land by maintaining buffer zones and headlands that meet or exceed regulations.

Winner: Ann Wheatley

Wheatley River Improvement Group

Ann Wheatley is a pioneer in the environmental movement on Prince Edward Island. She is a founding member serving several terms with the Wheatley River Improvement Group and a founding member serving several terms with the PEI Watershed Alliance. Ann has generously shared her talents and organizational expertise with other watershed and environmental groups. Her influence nurturing a new generation of ‘voices’ for the environmental movement has been significant, and has enabled all to become active participants in creating and maintaining healthy, vibrant communities.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2011 Membership

Alan Hicken, Chair
Montague

Mark Bernard
Freetown

Paula MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Charlottetown

Allan Gallant
Georgetown

Bruce MacNeill
Beach Point

Neil Harpham
Charlottetown

Paul Gallant
Souris

Daryl Guignon
Crapaud

Bertha Campbell
Kensington

Bruce MacIsaac
Cornwall

Diane Griffin
Stratford

Richard Davies
Belle River

Stephen Moorehead
Stratford

Patrick Birtwhistle
Stratford

Title Page: Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
Print Credit: Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz (1885)
Otto Wilhelm Thomé <http://caliban.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/thome/index.html>