

# 2018 Annual Report



Prince Edward Island  
Environmental Advisory Council





**Prince Edward Island  
Environmental Advisory Council**  
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Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Honourable Richard Brown  
Minister of Communities, Land and Environment  
PO Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PE  
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Brown:

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, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Gilbertson  
Chair

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## ***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.

## ***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 the Minister 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 other provincial strategies and initiatives.
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 the Minister may direct.
10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under clause 4(2)(b) of the Act.

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Administrative support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

### **General Comments**

Council held seven regular meetings during 2018 together with special meetings to select the winners of the Science Fair and the Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards, and to attend the Environmental Awards ceremony.

### ***Meeting Outlines***

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2018, together with the discussion topics addressed, is presented in the table below.

<b><i>Meeting</i></b>	<b><i>Guests/Speakers</i></b>	<b><i>Issues Discussed</i></b>
February 21	Cindy Crane	<i>Anoxic Events 2017</i>
April 4	Todd Dupuis	<i>Climate Change Action Plan</i>
May 16	Greg Wilson	<i>Contaminated Sites in Prince Edward Island</i>
June 6	John Hughes	<i>Plastics - re-inventing &amp; re-thinking society's "material workhorse"</i>
June 16		<i>Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards</i>
October 24	Greg Wilson	<i>Culvert Sizing Program</i>
November 7	Dr. Adam Fenech	<i>Climate Change Laboratory - Research Update</i>
December 12		<i>Regular Meeting</i>

### ***Other Matters***

During the year, Council members discussed in a variety of settings and sessions the environmental issues that related to the development of the *Water Act* for Prince Edward Island. Other matters examined included but were not limited to

- nitrate levels in the Northumberland Strait

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- water quality report card
  - alternate methods of carbon reduction
  - new regulations under the *Building Codes Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act*
  - soil fumigation in the agriculture industry

### **2018 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. 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 2018 winners are as follows:

### **DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS**

#### **Dr. Leon Loucks Award for Environment Stewardship & Sustainability**

##### **Elementary:**

##### **First**

Does Cinnamon Protect Carrots? Getting to the Root of the Matter  
Student: Jannah McCallum,  
School: West Royalty Elementary

##### **Second**

Biocarburant  
Student: Grace Simmons  
School: Parkside Elementary

##### **Third**

Hold the Salt  
Students: Addison Langley and Nolen MacLeod-Peters  
School: Gulf Shore Consolidated

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**Junior:****First**

Pesticide Free and Worm Free Fruit  
Student: Andrew Clow  
Birchwood Intermediate

**Second**

Exploring the Advantages of Neutralizing Whey  
Student: Ajit Bala  
School: Stonepark Intermediate

**Third**

Recycling Greywater  
Students: Ifra Zaidi and Kennedy Beals  
School: Stonepark Intermediate

**Intermediate/Senior:****First**

Cost-Effective Extraction of Chitin and Chitosan from Lobster Shells  
Student: Neleah Lavoie  
School: Gulf Shore Consolidated

**Second**

Pop Can Cooler  
Students: Allie Ellsworth and Makara Perry  
School: ME Callaghan Intermediate

**Third**

Acid Rain: What A Pain! / Pluie acide: quelle peine!  
Students: Chloe Betts and Brinley Gallant  
School: Summerside Intermediate

***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 2018, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

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## **Environmental School Challenge Award**

### **Queen Elizabeth Elementary School, Kensington**

Students of Queen Elizabeth Elementary School were involved in a number of activities that taught environmental stewardship. Students participated in garbage pickup days. They raised butterflies to tag and release. They grew plants to learn about plant life cycles and to beautify their school. They raised salmon from eggs and released them in the spring. The school also had a recycling program and made organic vegetable boxes to promote eating locally and sustainably.

## **Organization Award**

### **Eastern Kings Senior Neighbours Club**

The club started an organic community garden in 2017 to help raise awareness among children about where their food comes from and to promote the value of organic crops. The club also taught rug braiding and rug hooking using recycled blankets and it hosted a series of presentations on environmental awareness with the Souris & Area Wildlife Branch.

## **Individual Award**

### **Wayne Gairns, Emyvale**

Wayne Gairns has shown great dedication to watershed restoration. He has volunteered in the Fisheries and Oceans “Adopt a River” program. He was the driving force behind the creation of the PEI Federation of Fly Fishers to oversee work on the West River. He was a key figure in the initial setup of the semi-natural rearing pond at Mooney’s Pond and he plays an active role in a number of organizations including the Central Queens Wildlife Federation and the Island Nature Trust.



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**Appendix A**  
***Environmental Advisory Council***  
***2018 Membership***

**Dean Stewart, Chair** (term ended June 2018)  
Summerside

**Darlene Moore, Vice-Chair**  
Northam

**Irene Dawson** (term ended November 2018)  
Cornwall

**Mike Gilbertson**  
Brackley Beach

**Wayne Gallant** (term ended April 2018)  
Summerside

**Jim Jenkins**  
Charlottetown

**Dr. Connie Gaudet**  
Charlottetown

**Ron Maynard**  
Tyne Valley

**Lokesh Garg**  
Charlottetown

**Art Smith**  
Stratford

**Steve Watts**  
Hampton

**Marcia Hooper**  
Charlottetown

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Title Page: Norway maple (*Acer plantanoides* L.)  
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