

# 2015 Annual Report



Prince Edward Island  
Environmental Advisory Council





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

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

Dear Minister Mitchell:

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, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Davies  
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 four regular meetings during 2015, together with a number of special meetings of a subcommittee of Council to address the Environmental Awards, and Science Fair and the *Water Act* public and one-on-one consultations.

### ***Meeting Outlines***

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2015, and 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>
Jan. 20, 2015	Todd Dupuis Jim Young	<i>State of the Environment and High Capacity Wells Water Act White Paper and Website</i>
Apr. 14, 2015	Dr. Adam Fenech	<i>Update on the work of the UPEI Climate Lab</i>
June 15, 2015	Todd Dupuis	<i>Update Water Act White Paper and Website</i>
Sept. 23, 2015	Todd Dupuis, Jim Young, Tony Sturz	<i>Update Water Act White Paper and Website</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 a *Water Act* for Prince Edward Island. These included but were not limited to

- developing a consultation process for a *Water Act*;
- general aspects of water conservation and protection;
- the current state of water quantity and quality in Prince Edward Island; and
- watershed management.

### ***Public Consultations for the Water Act White Paper***

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Over the period September 24 - December 7, 2015 a special panel drawn from the Environmental Advisory Council, hosted a comprehensive series of public consultations to provide all residents of the province with the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings as to how government, businesses, communities and individuals can protect and manage our water resources. The results of these consultations will be used to create a *Water Act* for Prince Edward Island.

Islanders could submit their ideas to the Environmental Advisory Council by

- e-mail,
- Facebook,
- Twitter,
- regular mail,
- phone line, and
- public consultations.

Over the course of the consultation period<sup>1</sup> the consultation panel received information through the following channels:

- Public consultation sessions: 46
- One-to-one consultation sessions: 14
- Online comments: 61
- Written submissions from stakeholders: 14

A report detailing the findings of these consultations is being prepared.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the amount of public interest the deadline for public consultations was extended. Information provided includes all submissions received up to and including January 15, 2016.

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## **2015 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 2015 winners are as follows:

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

#### **Elementary:**

##### **First**

Coliform Bacteria in Water

Students: Courtney Black and Hannah Silliker

School: Somerset Elementary

##### **Second**

EWV, Gross Algae!

Student: Rachel VandenBroek

School: Cardigan Consolidated

##### **Third**

Trouble with Green Crabs

Students: Liam Chatfield and Liam Craig

School: West Royalty Elementary

#### **Junior:**

##### **First**

Does the Colour of a Solar Panel Affect the Intake and Output of Heat?

Students: Paige Arden and Shianne Adams

School: Kensington Intermediate Senior High

##### **Second**

Eau ou Glace?

Students: André Arsenault and William Mitchell

School: Ecole Evangeline

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### **Third**

Gatorade vs Water - Which is better for Exercise?

Students: Abbey Saunders and Isabel Wagner

School: Queen Charlotte Intermediate

There were no submissions in the Senior category.

### ***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 2015, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

#### **School Award**

##### **Kinkora Regional High School**

Kinkora Regional High School is home to the Academy Diploma Program in Agriculture.

Among the many initiatives that they support, students and staff plant trees, tour wildlife areas, learn about wind energy, raise money to purchase school gardens in Africa, participate in a school yard clean-up, host no litter lunch days, grow small-scale agriculture crops, and grow and provide vegetables for the school's cafeteria.

#### **Individual Award**

##### **Joyce MacKay of Kensington**

Joyce MacKay of Kensington received recognition for her substantial donation of forested land for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations of Islanders. In 2014, she donated 123 acres of woodland in Indian River as an Eco-Gift to the Island Nature Trust. Ms. MacKay has been a life-long champion for conservation on Prince Edward Island – continually investing in and promoting soil conservation projects.

#### **Organization Award**

##### **Eastern Kings Community Council**

Eastern Kings Community Council received the award for many reasons including its strong environmental vision set forth in their official planning, and for increasing their buffer zones from 15 to 60 metres within four of their watersheds.



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**Appendix A**  
*Environmental Advisory Council*  
*2015 Membership*

**Richard Davies**, Chair  
Belle River

**Dean Stewart**, Vice-Chair  
Summerside

**Wayne Gallant**  
Summerside

**Art Smith**  
Stratford

**Lokesh Garg**  
Charlottetown

**Irene Dawson**  
Cornwall

**Nick Webb**  
O'Leary

**Darlene Moore**  
Northam

**Bertha Campbell**  
Kensington (resigned March, 2015)

**Ron Maynard**  
Tyne Valley

**Paul Gallant**  
Souris

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Title Page: Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*)  
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Otto Wilhelm Thomé <http://caliban.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/thome/index.html>

