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COASTLINES COLUMN TO FOCUS ON FRESH WATER

What: For the next 12 months, *Coastlines* Natural History Column will be exploring freshwater issues in Nova Scotia. Our province's water resources include more than six thousand lakes larger than one hectare in size, numerous watersheds containing river systems, countless wetlands, and many groundwater resources. It is easy to take this bounty of fresh water for granted, but these resources are immeasurably important and often threatened. Significantly, all Nova Scotians have a role to play in the conservation and protection of fresh water resources.

We believe this is a timely topic, as Nova Scotians have lately had "water on the brain". General concern for our environment and the natural world are on the increase all over the province. More specifically, local headlines have been featuring prominent stories on our fresh water resources - including drinking water, sewage systems, fish habitat, and lakeside recreation and development. As well, the provincial government is currently working to shape an overall "water strategy" to ensure we protect, preserve, and use the province's water resources prudently.

Who: *Coastlines* is a project of the Ecology Action Centre, appearing in community newspapers around the province as well as at www.ecologyaction.ca/coastlines. *Coastlines* is supported by the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund with contributions from hunters and trappers

Where: *Coastlines* appears in a variety of weekly and web-based publications across Nova Scotia. We welcome opportunities to expand our readership – if you are interested in carrying our column in your publication, please contact us.

When: The *Coastlines* Natural History Column will be appearing 15 times over the next year. The first column, entitled "Getting to Know Your Watershed" will emerge early next week.

Contact: Sadie Beaton, Coastlines Coordinator.
(902) 442 5046. sadie@ecologyaction.ca