

Ecology & Action

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



IN THIS ISSUE



50 Things: An Interactive,
Province-wide Art Adventure



Recognizing Our Community:
EAC's Annual Awards



Reflections on the Movement

VOL. 39 NO. 2

PM 4005 0204 | ISSN 2369-5943

A publication of

Ecology Action Centre



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Contents

Letter from the Centre	1
50 Things: An Interactive, Province-wide Art Adventure	2
Recognizing Our Community: EAC's Annual Awards	8
50th Anniversary Cover Contest: Meet Our Winners	12
Reflections on the Movement	14
Action is our Middle Name	18
The Seasonal Gourmet	20



Ecology Action Centre

Ecology & Action is published three times a year by the Ecology Action Centre (the EAC), a charitable organization (PM Registration # 40050204).

The EAC is a member-based environmental charity in Nova Scotia. We take leadership on critical environmental issues from biodiversity protection to climate change to environmental justice. We are grounded in community and a strong voice and watchdog for our environment. We work to catalyze change through policy advocacy, community development and building awareness. We take a holistic approach to the environment and our economy to create a just and sustainable society. Views expressed in *Ecology & Action* are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the EAC or its supporters.

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Letter from the Centre

WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU! EMAIL YOUR THOUGHTS TO MAGAZINE@ECOLOGYACTION.CA

This year, the Ecology Action Centre is celebrating our 50th anniversary as an organization!

It is truly remarkable to look back over a half-century of successes, failures, laughter and experimentation, and all the people who've been part of that journey. Our victories and struggles are those of our dedicated staff and volunteers, our members, our friends and our allies, and we couldn't have made it here without your support.

Our shared history has taught us that when we work together – even against incredible odds – we make amazing things happen. From the first recycling program in the province, to stopping what would have been the world's largest nuclear power complex, to helping protect thousands of kilometres of our land and oceans, and everything in between, we're proud of the impact EAC has had in this province and beyond.

In this special 50th anniversary edition of *Ecology & Action*, you'll find quotes from EACers past and present, reflecting on this incredible moment in our movement's history. We also feature some of the artists who are part of *50 Things*, our big province-wide art adventure that we've been cooking up with the help of the fabulous folks of Zuppa Theatre Co.

Speaking of cooking, we've got a delicious recipe for a celebratory blueberry torte for our birthday! You can also learn about the history and purpose of EAC's annual awards, a beloved tradition since 1976, and enjoy some photos from our archives.

EAC's story is written by the countless individuals and groups who have dedicated themselves to the vision of an equitable, sustainable future here in Mi'kma'ki and beyond. It is the passion and tireless work of our staff, volunteers, members and supporters that have made the last 50 years possible, and we can't wait to see what the next 50 hold.

Thank you for being a part of our story.
Here's to the next 50 years of action!

Ecology Action Centre



Letter From The Editor

CORRECTIONS

In our article titled *Ecological Fiction Inspires Action!* (*Ecology & Action*, Spring 2020, page 8) we mistakenly missed the title of Cherie Dimaline's book *The Marrow Thieves*.

In the same article, we also misspelled author **Christiane Vadnais'** last name.

In the caption of a photo in our article titled *Re-imagining Intersections as Places for Reconnection* (*Ecology & Action*, Spring 2020, page 17) we sourced a photo from: *Royal Society of Canada. Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada* which stated, "circa 1916". A reader pointed out that "the map which [we] have used is an early 1918 map. The area in the north end of Halifax which is outlined in red shows the area of total destruction caused almost instantly when the S.S Mont-Blanc and its 2.95 kilotons of explosive chemicals blew up at 0904:35+/- 10 seconds on the morning of Thursday, December 6, 1917." so it is from 1918 at the earliest.



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50 Things: An Interactive, Province-wide Art Adventure

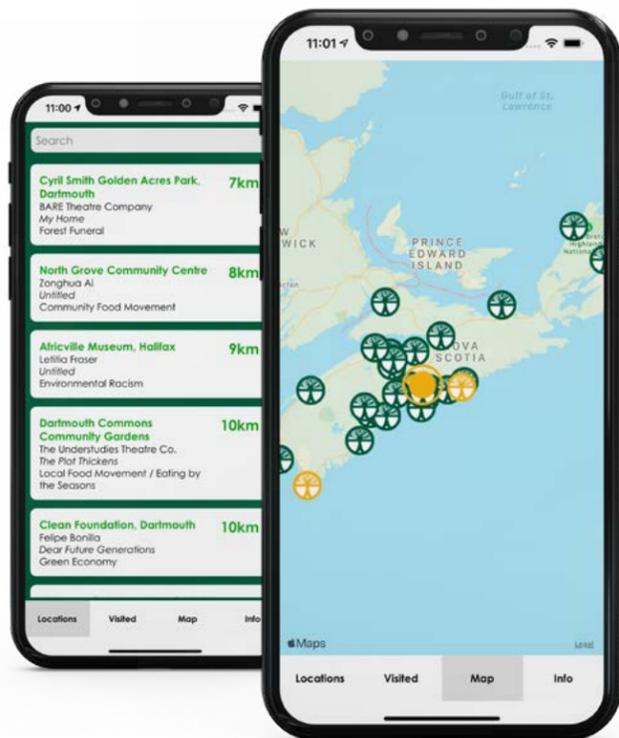
by JOANNA BULL /// EAC Staff

Art is a powerful catalyst for feeling and action. So what better way to celebrate 50 years of action than with a province-wide art adventure?

This year, EAC enlisted the help of Zuppa Theatre Co. and dozens of other artists from across Mi'kma'ki to tell the stories of the past 50 years and to help spark our vision for where we go from here as an environmental movement. The result is *50 Things*: an app-guided, province-wide, interactive art adventure in celebration of the EAC's 50th Anniversary.

Here are a few of the artists you'll encounter in various locations throughout the province, and a few hints about the art they've created as part of this celebratory storytelling extravaganza.

The project runs from August 27 through October 17, 2021. To read the complete bios of these artists and experience all the artworks, download the app at ecologyaction.ca/50things.



As a part of EAC's ongoing commitment to centring BIPOC perspectives within our environmental movements, we created exclusive BIPOC artist commissions within *50 Things* where the artists were free to conceive and create on any topic related to environmentalism, climate, conservation, climate justice, etc. that they wanted to address.

The artists who received these commissions were **Tyshan Wright** and **Shauntay Grant**, **NAT chantel**, **Lorne Julien** and **shalan joudry**.



NAT chantel

Art: *Recalling Mourning*
Sculpture. Installation.

Location: The Deanery, Lower Ship Harbour

Mi'kmaw place name: Ketmenipukwek, "where Indian men were bludgeoned to death" (Ship Harbour)

About the Artist: NAT chantel is a primarily self-taught artist who engages subtle movement and repetitive processes to revisit memory and personal history as a way to reclaim the body and voice. NAT has a degree in English Literature, she is a Yoga Teacher and Reiki practitioner focusing on energy systems and sound healing.

Project Description: *Recalling Mourning* is a collection of nested forms of variable heights, hollowed out from the inside, based on free-fallen branches and roots. These structures are intended to be engaged with by the artist and community to clear stories of the past and invite space for healing through sounding-off and calling into the land.

This nature-based installation is a reflective response to ongoing devastation from generations of people being discarded, displaced, uprooted and silenced. It calls forward our right to live, to breathe, and be of voice. We are all of the land and, just as the earth, we remain here still.



shalan joudry

Art: *milui'tm (i call it by different names)*
A four-part audio series. Bring your headphones.

Location: There are four separate locations, all located in *Kespukwitk* (Annapolis County). They are: *Tuitruk*, at the out flow (Digby gut), *L'so tkuk*, cutting through high rocks (Bear River), *Apji'kmuju'katik*, place of the ducks (later named after a murderous British General), *Nme'juaqnek*, the place of bountiful fish (Annapolis Royal). When you get close to any of these locations, the app will provide you further instructions.

About the Artist: shalan joudry is an L'nu (Mi'kmaw) narrative artist and conservation ecologist who uses 'Two-eyed Seeing' methodologies to ground mainstream ecology in L'nu cultural perspectives. As an oral storyteller, poet, podcast producer and playwright, shalan uses her theatrical background to bring Mi'kmaw and ecological stories to new listeners, as well as recounting personally crafted narratives that follow Mi'kmaw storying custom.

Project description: This four-part audio series, *milui'tm* (i call it by different names), reflects on and celebrates the L'nu (Mi'kmaw) place names and history surrounding the Digby/Bear River/Annapolis Royal region of southwest Nova Scotia by telling alternative narratives of those places. Through a mix of poetry, music, soundscape, spoken word and conversation, artist shalan joudry seeks to not only reclaim the ancestral words, but also a consciousness of the long history of human occupation as well as different relationships to land and water. Against the backdrop of colonial changes to the landscape and memory, shalan invites us to turn to visit the location and listen.

Spend time learning from the online Mi'kmaw Place Names Atlas at placenames.mapdev.ca





Photo: Angelika Woldow

Lorne Julien

Art: *Respect the Sun*
Visual Art. Mural.

Location: The exterior wall of 2550 Agricola Street.

Mi'kmaw place name: Kjipuktuk, the great harbour (Halifax Harbour)

About the Artist: Lorne Alexander Julien is a proud Mi'kmaw artist and member of Millbrook First Nation, Nova Scotia. He specializes in contemporary Indigenous acrylic paintings and murals. His Mi'kmaw name is "Warrior on the Hill" (Sma'knis).

Project Description: The piece shown is to remind us to respect and honour the sun. The sun holds a connection to everything on earth, it gives life and it can be a threat, a powerful element. I am concerned that we are not leaving a healthy planet for our next 7 generations. The eagle is very important to my people as it represents love and flies high in the sky and has a connection to the Heavens. This eagle is flying towards the sun with one wing reaching out towards the sun for healing and to show respect, while the other is pointing down towards the earth to honour the connection. The image also represents us as people having one hand on earth and our other hand reaching towards the Heavens. We need to be reminded to respect all our relations in order to start healing. Msit no'kmaq.



Image courtesy of the Canadian Museum of Immigration

Shauntay Grant and Tyshan Wright

Art: *A CALLING*
Visual art and sound installation. Bring your headphones.

Location: The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, Cherry Brook

Mi'kmaw place name: Pu'tijk, sitting down place (Lake Major)

Artists: Shauntay Grant is a poet, playwright, performance artist and children's author. Tyshan Wright is a visual artist.

About the Artists: Writer Shauntay Grant is a descendant of Black Loyalists, Jamaican Maroons, and Black Refugees who came to Canada during the 18th and 19th centuries. A multidisciplinary artist, she "creates artworks that are engaging and accessible, but also challenging, rigorous, and informed by deep research (The Royal Society of Canada)." shauntaygrant.com

Visual artist Tyshan Wright hails from the historic Maroon Town of Accompong in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. A "Keeper Of The Heritage" (Jamaica Gleaner) and traditional maker of Jamaican Maroon instruments and cultural objects, Wright's work explores intersections between traditional and contemporary craft. tyshanwright.com

Project Description: *A CALLING* is an invitation to explore and reflect on the history and culture of Black Nova Scotians, and to consider the resilience of historic Black communities that have endured marginalization, discrimination and environmental racism. An abeng—a traditional Jamaican Maroon instrument used to call people to a gathering place—pays homage to the province's earliest Black migrants, and serves as a site of reflection.



Photo: KT Lamond

Keeper E

Art: *What if we lose everything*
A song. Listen to audio or read a transcript of the lyrics. Bring your headphones.

Location: Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration Trail Parkette, Walton

Mi'kmaw place name: Wapu'ek, The white waters (Cheverie, Hants County)

EAC Story: Cheverie Salt Marsh Restoration. The EAC successfully protected thirty acres of ecologically significant marshland in Cheverie in 2004.

About the Artist: Keeper E. is a musician living in Kjipuktuk/Halifax. She combines heartfelt, tender lyrics with playful pop sounds and beats, enveloping the listener in her sweet melodies.

Project Description: This song is an imagined conversation with world leaders, corporations, and anyone who is apathetic about the climate crisis. It pleads with them to consider the impending doom that awaits us if climate change continues as is. It invites the listener to not just think about what will happen to the earth in general, but to think about how climate change will deeply affect everyone very personally.

The song ends with a reminder of the earth's beauty, and one of the reasons we want to preserve and care for the earth. It is a little thank you note to one of my favourite eco-systems: the salt marshes.



Photos: Emily Invidita & Rachel McGrath

Vanessa Furlong and April Hubbard

Art: *Where the Wild Things Aren't*
Multimedia video collaboration exploring the relationship with nature through the lens of Disability. Bring your headphones.

Location: Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area

Mi'kmaw place name: Mnikwaqnik, place where they get bark (Birch Cove, Halifax)

EAC Story: Health, Wellbeing and Accessibility of Nature. EAC strives to protect land that can be accessed by the general public, including the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area.

About the Artists: Vanessa Furlong (she/her) is a professional circus and physical theatre artist specializing in acrobatic stunts, trapeze, and clown. She identifies as a Mad artist (of the Mad Pride movement) and is based in Kjipuktuk/Halifax.

April Hubbard is an actor, director, producer, arts administrator, accessibility advisor and a proud queer, Mad & Disabled woman. As the Chair of the Halifax Fringe Festival and cofounder of disabilityX Halifax, she creates space for those with unseen bodies and unheard voices.

Project Description: *Where the Wild Things Aren't* is an examination of access and nature. Vanessa and April set out to explore the physical and mental barriers present when accessing the seemingly inaccessible parts of nature. Using acrobatics, and their apparatuses (wheelchair/forearm crutches and stunts), they documented their experience of beaches and the woods through the lens of Disability.



Visit ecologyaction.ca/50Things to download the app and visit the artwork! 50 Things runs until October 17, 2021.



photo: Samson Photography

Lou Sheppard

Art: *Radiant Hours/Fall in, Fallout*

An audio and visual composition of augmented reality. Bring your headphones!

Location: The End of Boundary Street, Clarks Harbour, Shelburne County

Mi'kmaw place name: Muinawamek, at the place of the bears (Bear Point)

EAC Story: Stoddart Island Nuclear Plant. In 1973, there was a plan to build a 12,000-megawatt nuclear plant on Stoddart Island. The fledgling EAC was a part of a large coalition consisting of dedicated local volunteers, environmental activists and other environmental organizations, who came together to stop the project.

About the Artist: Lou Sheppard is an artist working in interdisciplinary audio, performance and installation-based practise. He lives in the South Shore of Nova Scotia/Mi'kma'ki.

Project Description: *Radiant Hours/Fall in, Fallout* is an audio and visual composition based on the erosive damage done to human DNA over prolonged radiation exposure.

The elements of our bodies came from exploding stars and will return to constellations -- of DNA, of stardust. We hang in the balance, remembering what could have been our future, and imagining what would have been our past.



photo: James MacLean

Liliona Quarmyne

Art: *while here/there*

Video of dance with audio. Bring your headphones!

Location: Martinique Beach Provincial Park, East Petpeswick

Mi'kmaw place name: Likasutik, at the hiding place (Musquodoboit Harbour)

EAC Story: Coastlines, Erosion, Shorelines. Since the early 2000s, EAC has been campaigning for coherent coastal protection policy, while also educating Nova Scotians about the risks of sea level rise, climate change, and the preventative measures they can take to help manage and adapt to these issues.

About the Artist: Liliona is a dancer, choreographer, actor, singer, community organizer and activist based in Kjiptuktuk. Liliona performs across the country and internationally, creates original works as an independent artist, facilitates community programming, and is the Artistic Director of Kinetic Studio.

Project Description: I stood on the beach 79 years ago, in 2021. I remember that my bare toes just caught the surf as it raced up to meet them. I felt the space open wide both behind and in front of me. I turned my back to the water and looked at the sand. I closed my eyes and felt its cool solidity. I imagined the two-metre sea rise they said would come. I imagined the giving way of land to water. I imagined my feet resting in the same spot and yet submerged. It was frightening and strangely beautiful. I stood on the solid beach of that sand and wondered if I was drowning.



photo: Carley Mullally

Carley Mullally

Art: *McNamara's Lace*

Textile. A quilt created from discarded lobster claw bands.

Location: The Gazebo at the Hubbards Community Waterfront and Park

Mi'kmaw place name: Kjiptanu'pek, great bay opening out to the sea (St. Margarets Bay)

EAC Story: Community Fishery. As part of their work to protect our ocean, the EAC's Marine Program works with fishers and their families on advocacy and community-based initiatives that challenge consolidation and industrial-scale fishing, and seeks to support community led fishing and seafood opportunities that are the backbone of thriving, coastal communities.

About the Artist: Carley Mullally is a textile artist based out of Kjiptuktuk/Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her material-based art practice focuses on the versatility of off-loom textile processes such as rope-making, knotting, beadwork and braiding, and how they can be translated for a wider audience and used interdisciplinarily.

Project Description: Beginning as a summer project during the height of COVID-19 in 2020, *McNamara's Lace* is part of an ongoing series of quilts created by discarded lobster claw bands collected on the shores of Nova Scotia. The name comes from the term used by sailors in the 19th century to refer to various macramé processes. It was created using a combination of woven and knotted cotton rope and the most common colours of lobster claw bands found in Nova Scotia: yellow, green and blue.



Kate Phillips

Art: *Spray Days*

A family retelling of successful & unsuccessful protests against pesticide & herbicide sprays in the 70s and 80s, told through a comic-style narrative.

Location: The Skyline Trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Mi'kmaw place name: Unama'ki, land of fog (Cape Breton)

EAC Story: The EAC, Cape Breton Landowners Against the Spray, and other parties campaigned to ban aerial spraying of pesticides during the 1970's and 1980's.

About the Artist: Kate Phillips is a comic artist and illustrator born and raised in Cape Breton. Owner of a large collection of antique meat-grinders and a never-ending pile of laundry, Kate draws artwork that is often playfully searching for strangeness (and queerness) in the mundane world.

Project Description: In *Spray Days*, artist Kate Phillips teams up with her mother, Connie Phillips, to create a comic-style narrative that discusses the successful protest against anti-budworm pesticide sprays in Nova Scotia, as well as factors leading up to the budworm threat itself. But while the budworm spray protests were successful, they didn't necessarily lead to the sweeping changes for which many environmentalists had hoped. *Spray Days* reminds us why we should care about forestry policy, and why ecological activists should keep their attention on politics as well as protests.



Visit ecologyaction.ca/50Things to download the app and visit the artwork! *50 Things* runs until October 17, 2021.

Joanna Bull is the Community Engagement Manager with EAC, and a big believer in the magic of art.

Recognizing Our Community: EAC's Annual Awards

by STEFANIE WILSON /// EAC Volunteer

Paying attention. It's one of the most important things that EAC does. Keeping our eyes open to what is going on around us and making it known.

One of the ways we pay attention, and bring attention, to current environmental issues is through our annual awards. Every year since 1976, we've handed out awards at our Annual General Meeting to recognize the efforts of those who are aiming for common goals, to thank those who support our efforts and to call out those who are making our work more difficult.

The EAC currently awards recognition in four categories: the **Danielle Moore Sunshine** award, the **Tarred Duck** award, the **Bubby Mooers** award and the **Tooker Gomberg** award.



Making a Difference

One of the very first awards was the **Sunshine Award**. This award is given to a group or an individual who has made a particularly effective effort in an environmental issue in Nova Scotia. In 2020, the award was renamed to The **Danielle Moore Sunshine Award**, in honour and in memory of Danielle Moore.

Danielle was an enthusiastic and passionate volunteer at EAC for many years until, on her way to represent Canada at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, her life was lost when flight ET302 crashed in Ethiopia. Danielle left her mark on everyone she met. She was full of sunshine, always ready to jump in with two feet, and like each year's recipients of the Sunshine Award, she has certainly left the world a better place.

Over the years, the Danielle Moore Sunshine Award has recognized the work of the Mi'kmaq Water Protectors in their defense of the Shubenacadie River. We've celebrated youth projects like the Glace Bay Changemakers who raised funds for a safe pathway and pedestrian bridge to their school. We applauded the community effort of the Buy Back the Mersey initiative, recognized the determination of the Eastern Shore Forest Watch, among many other excellent community initiatives.

Acting Without Consideration

At the opposite end of the spectrum is the **Tarred Duck Award**. Every year, by presenting this award to a group or individual who has acted in violation of environmental issues or advocated for economic development without consideration for the environment, we call attention to the challenges that continue to face Nova Scotian ecology.

When Forest Nova Scotia used lobbying dollars to mislead private landowners and rally a cry against the essential Biodiversity Act, they made the list. Northern Pulp was dishonoured when they failed to come up with a socially and ecologically viable plan for dealing with their effluent after the closure of Boat Harbour. We've also recorded our disapproval of the opening of the Donkin Coal Mine and our disappointment with the Steele Auto Group when they demolished houses to make more room to show cars. On several occasions, we've used the Tarred Duck to express our frustration with the federal government.

Thank You For Your Generosity

EAC has a deep appreciation for the generous people who give their time, talents, passion and resources to support our goals. And what better way to say thank you than to give something in return? The **Bubby Mooers Award** is presented to an individual or group who has given of themselves, either over time or in the past year, to environmental issues in Nova Scotia and to the Ecology Action Centre in particular.

Bubby Mooers was a carpenter by profession, but he was best known for his exceptional folk art. His whimsical carvings were filled with imagination and joy. As an active EAC member he gave generously of his time. And the EAC's annual Garden Party auction regularly featured Bubby's humorous and sensitive donated artwork. After his death in 2002, this award was created to honour that legacy of generosity in others.

Most recently, Gregory Heming was recognized for stepping up as the first-ever citizen 'intervenor' in Nova Scotia's new Aquaculture Review Board (ARB) process. We've also lifted up the efforts of citizen researcher Jane Allin, photographer Irwin Barrett, and many volunteers and committee members including Marc Comeau, Peter Glenister, Kathleen Hall, Ian Smith, Jess Metter, Geoff Le Boutillier, Brad MacInnis and Wendy MacGregor, among many others.

Getting Noticed

Sometimes taking action requires grabbing the attention of the public and the press. So, each year we applaud the person or event that most creatively and brilliantly made the news in the past year with the Tooker Gomberg Award.

This annual award is named for Tooker Gomberg, a Canadian political and environmental activist, who was known across Canada for his media charisma and his clever and effective advocacy for environmental justice. His environmental career included founding one of Canada's first curbside recycling programs and many activist initiatives such as the Golden Turkey Awards, Burying a Car and Robin Hood at the Toronto Stock Exchange that were designed to get media attention. Tooker was a true "greenspiration."

This year we awarded Jacob Fillmore for a 23-day hunger strike that turned the spotlight on clearcutting in Nova Scotia forests. Elliot Page and Ian Daniel got the prize for giving voice to environmental racism through their documentary *There's Something in the Water*. The Healthy Forest Coalition's memorable Acadian Forest funeral also caught our attention, as did Idle No More's flash mobs and several others who brought ingenuity and resolve to the cause.

When we look back, we can reflect on these awards as an accounting of what we were noticing—a what's what and who's who of the regional environmental issues of the year. We can also see the broader context for the work we do and we're reminded that we're not doing this alone. But perhaps most importantly, these awards are an opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the incredible people who make an impact within our environmental movement beyond the walls of Fern Lane. Thank you!



Stefanie Wilson lives in Halifax and enjoys exploring the Nova Scotia outdoors. She has two incredible kids and has been earning a living as a writer, in one form or another, for over 25 years. She thinks that makes her pretty lucky.



Hydrostone

In their own personal ways, Richard Nickerson's clients work hard to leave the world a better place than they found it. For many clients, this means investment decisions that support companies which act in accordance to that client's values. Richard is a socially responsible investor and he supports his clients in choosing high quality investments that align with their values.

LEARN MORE AT: assante.com/advisors/richardnickerson

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We support the Ecology Action Centre because they have successfully demonstrated the connection between environmental issues, local communities and the local economy. That is why we donate \$ 500 every time an EAC member buys or sells a property using our services, helping to strengthen EAC's voice and impact. We're thankful to partner with EAC to help make this a better a world.

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 Ecology Action Centre

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and economic development, that respects the heritage, traditions and values of our community. Working with EAC as a Sustainability Ally will amplify our collective efforts, enhance public awareness, and further the protection of our environment.

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LEARN MORE AT: helpingnatureheal.com

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50th Anniversary Cover Contest: Meet Our Winners

We received lots of wonderful submissions for our 50th Anniversary Cover Contest. A big thank-you to everyone who participated! To judge, we put together a committee made up of EAC staff, board members and volunteers. All the submissions were assigned a random number and then voted upon. The first-place winner was Daramfon Morgan and his artwork is featured on the front cover of this issue. We also wanted to show off our second-place and third-place winners, Willa Fisher and Shelby Edwards, respectively.

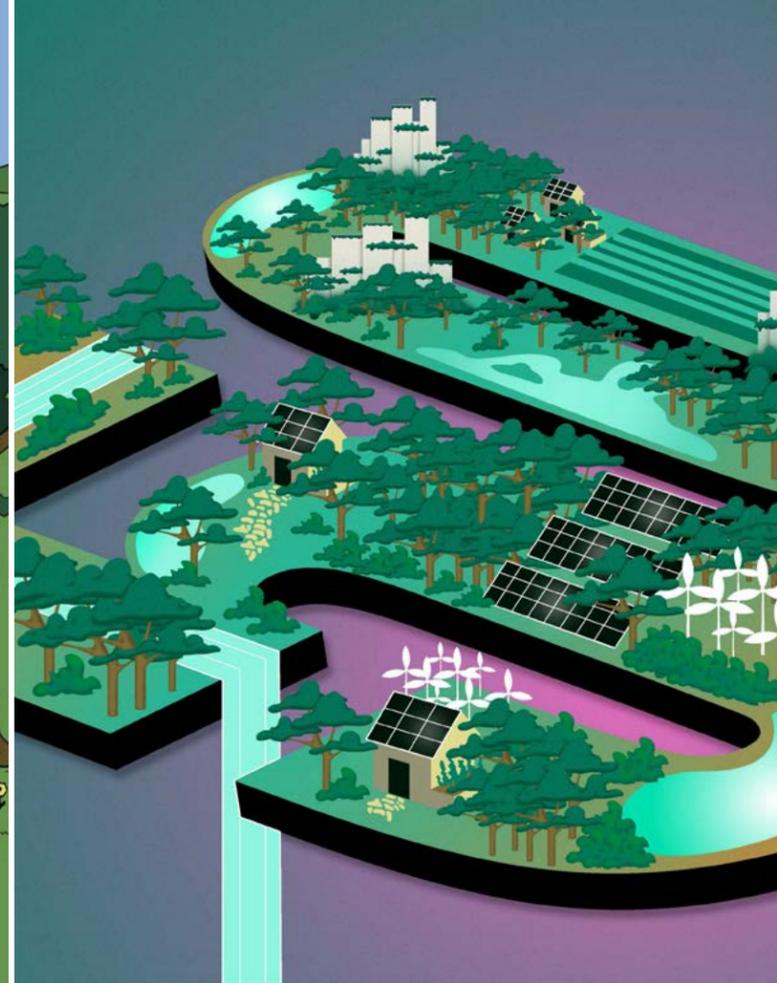
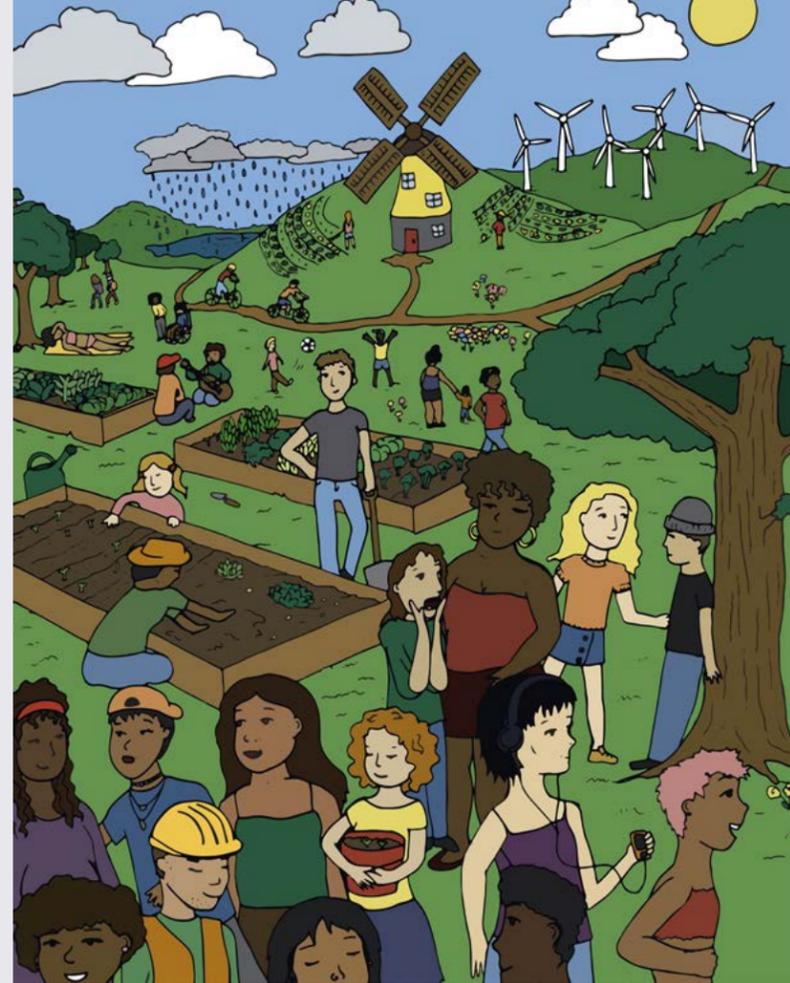


photo: Aoyun Viron

① Daramfon Morgan

Daramfon Morgan is a Nigerian-Canadian artist primarily focused on digital and acrylic art mediums. The inspiration behind his work is derived from life experiences such as travel, music, food, and other cultures. He enjoys animating colours and captivating the audience with it. This piece was inspired by the contrast and comparison of cities and villages he has visited and fusing their systems and process of sustaining a green environmental future. The piece was designed digitally through digital art software.

For more information about Daramfon's art, please visit [@dcm_art011](#) on Instagram and [DcmArtCreations](#) on LinkedIn.

② Willa Fisher

Since her second year of high school Willa has been an active participant in the climate movement, from leading rallies to educating fellow young people, she has been working hard to make a difference in as many ways as possible. During the pandemic she has been exploring new mediums and forms of communication in hopes of using these skills to make change in the future.

For Willa, art is a huge part of activism. There is art at the heart of every social justice movement, and she wants to connect with the climate justice movement through it.

“ I left the magazine on the table with my drawing on it and everyone in my household had thought it was the actual cover. This of course inspired me to enter the contest... I still never expected to win, and I am so honoured to have been chosen for 2nd place! ”

③ Shelby Edwards

Shelby is a queer artist based in Kijipuktuk (Halifax). Her practice is mostly informed by accident. She is an artist who creates works in a variety of mediums focusing primarily on books, performance, and drawing. She is interested in finding humour in human behaviour, exploring mundane histories and objects, making collections through connections, and making projects and ideas approachable.

Her inspiration behind this cover design was to highlight the huge achievement of 50 years of work. She also wanted to show what the future 50 years of work could accomplish. For more information about Shelby's art, please visit [shelbyedwards.ca](#)

Reflections on the Movement

Compiled and edited by **MAGGY BURNS** and **KAILYN HANKE**

The EAC is made up of so many people. Over the past 50 years, countless volunteers, members, advisors, staffers, students and community partners have all contributed to EAC's work. They've helped protect land and water, changed the food system, fought for climate justice and so much more. Of course, the past 50 years have not been without their share of failures and foibles.

EAC has been calling for ambitious action on climate for decades.



photos from EAC's Archive

EAC'ers Grant MacDonald, Rob Johnson, Jen Graham, Hudson Shotwell, and others, from a climate protest



David Suzuki at EAC's offices on Argyle Street in 2003. Wayne Groszko and Mark Butler are also pictured, among others.

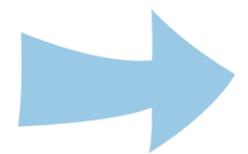


Cat Abreu waits for her turn to speak to the 2014 Wheeler Commission on fracking in Nova Scotia, in a packed room at Kings College University.



To honour those many people of EAC, we created an audio series as part of *50 Things*. In it you'll hear a few of EAC's friends, volunteers, former staff, and collaborators, reflecting on the impacts of 50 years of environmental activism, the unique ways that EAC has gone about its work and engaged with communities, how we can deal with failures, how environmental justice fits into the picture, and what they see when they look to the future.

Read on for excerpts from these audio interviews or visit ecologyaction.ca/50things to download the app for the full audio experience.



David Suzuki *an award-winning geneticist and broadcaster and co-founded the David Suzuki Foundation.*

We aren't dealing with climate change properly because we've elevated corporations and the economy above the very environment, or the very planet that allows us to live.

I've always said we had to have hope, or we fail to motivate. It's a very difficult time now.... I realize that we're never going to have a victory, but the important thing to me is that we're trying in many different areas, to make a difference to make a better world. So, maybe that's my hope... that we don't know enough. We know all the indications, we know our track record, but we don't know everything, so maybe we have a chance.

Elizabeth May *is one of Canada's best-known parliamentarians and is a life-long environmental advocate.*

The environmental movement is so mainstream now, which is a good thing, but it carries risks to go mainstream. You have to hold on to being relentless and uncompromising, particularly around issues like climate.

I think the environmental movement across Canada will be healthier and more connected to its grassroots when it's member-based and not just donor-based, which is an important distinction. Staying so that the membership of an environmental group is empowered by that membership... Engaged, active citizens are the backbone of democracy, and the environmental movement needs to champion that and protect it.

One of [EAC staffer] Susan Holtz's great lines was, "we have to treat this planet as if we plan to stay." Planning to stay involves making sure that when you talk about something as important as "Should a pulp mill close?", "What's the effect on the workers?", that you've got a plan that shows that the economy cannot just survive but thrive.

Brian Gifford & Cliff White

EAC founding members and long-time activists.

Brian: Hundreds and hundreds of people have been involved and helped keep the Ecology Action Centre going, but also all these other groups all around the province. It's marvelous, it's really marvelous to see. I've been very, very impressed with the quality of the people who are both volunteers and staff at EAC, and with the quality of the work they've been doing in the last ten years since I've been back!

Cliff: Yeah, I don't think any of us thought at the beginning, the first summer, that this would still be going in 50 years. We came close at one point to fading away, but it managed to renew itself. It's an incredibly important organization that gives Nova Scotia a voice that it otherwise wouldn't have.

Mark Butler *was with the Ecology Action Centre for 23 years, first as the Marine Coordinator and then as Policy Director.*

Most of us are not literate, ecologically. We don't recognize the signs. We don't know what a Blackburnian warbler looks like so if it disappears, we don't notice it. We don't notice a lot of the other warning signs that nature is sending us. If the Earth were a car, one wheel would have fallen off already, and the engine would be limping along, and smoke would be coming out of the hood. We'd all know that it was a really serious problem, and we'd have to fix it, but because we're not particularly ecologically literate we don't notice all the signs.

I really think Nova Scotia looks different because of the work of the Ecology Action Centre. It's different when you step out your door and walk around; there's things you see or don't see.... whether it was stopping a bad project like a nuclear generating station on the South Shore of Nova Scotia or offshore drilling on Georges Bank, there are things that didn't happen in Nova Scotia because of the work of the Ecology Action Centre.

I think that EAC has deliberately chosen to maintain and engage lots of volunteers, and to have them genuinely involved in the organization. I think that's a really important feature of the organization, and a really important part of change and how change happens.

Jen Graham *has been a volunteer, board member, and staff member of the EAC, and was the Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre for many years.*

So one thing that I always loved about EAC that made it so unique, is that we cared a lot about having livelihoods for people living in coastal communities.... I think that's maybe part of EAC being hyperlocal in many ways. It's really hard to advocate shutting down an entire fishery when you care about the future of Nova Scotia's communities and might know some of the people who are involved in the fishery.

I think what gives me hope is how many people have started to come together from really different perspectives around what our future in Nova Scotia could look like. It's amazing to hear the young climate activists, the retired university professors, the people that retire from their government positions, First Nations leaders, First Nations youth, and the young Black candidates for the provincial election, all articulating what sounds like a common vision and being wise enough to know that we have to work together.



Stephanie Sodero *is a Lecturer in Responses to Climate Crises at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester and an EAC transportation team alum.*

If EAC is a mosquito in a big tent, it is a mosquito with flair, it is a fabulous fly that amplifies its voice through creative methods. Different advocacy measures and doing those in really creative ways garner so much more attention, a disproportionate amount of attention to the size of the organization, and I think there's an appetite for that creativity and for seeing possibilities and shaping up a way of seeing or being in the world.

There's now this recognition that the ecological and the human are entangled, and that vulnerabilities in these systems bring the other systems down.... How does nature, broadly, have to move, how can humans work with that rather than dominating it? It's another shift in the way of thinking about sustainable transportation, it's putting the human and the environment on equal footing rather than saying the environment has to conform to wherever we want to put roads.

Cat Abreu *is an internationally recognized, award-winning campaigner whose work centres on building powerful coalitions to advance transformative action on climate change. She is EAC energy team alum.*

I think it is kind of a mind shift, to break free of the shackles that have been intentionally put on our imaginations by the fossil fuel industry and the politicians in their pocket, for what is possible when confronting the climate crisis.

I really hold true to this Joan Baez quote that says, "the antidote to despair is action." Not that I dismiss hope, I look for hope where I can get it. But I am less interested in how an individual who is feeling despair when it comes to climate change or other ecological crises like biodiversity loss, is going to find hope, and more interested in how they're going to take action.

...what ultimately led to me working at the EAC, was wanting to create a space for myself where I could do the work that I wanted to do, that I felt compelled. Where I knew there would be a community around me who would buy into that work and lift it up and where I would be doing a whole lot of learning. And that is exactly what happened.

Brendan Haley *Policy Director for Efficiency Canada, the national voice for an energy efficient economy, and an EAC energy team alum.*

I think that EAC is an organization that inspires people and talks about what could be done. I think that the province would be pulled towards mediocrity without the EAC trying to define what's possible. I think that it has been proven that what EAC often demands, and is at first considered to be unrealistic, is actually possible.

Ginny Point *has a long-standing interest in agriculture and healthy food and was the EAC's Coordinator in the early 1980s.*

I do have hope. Climate change is serious and it's not something that has been fixed. We don't have any more new nuclear power plants and we don't have any uranium mining... So, I do have hope, but collectively and individually we better get working pretty hard.

But even from the beginning, EAC was pretty broadly based for a very small organization.... So, I think there was always multiplicity. It wasn't a single focus organization, even way back when there were so few staff.

I think one very clear characteristic that has carried on at EAC is the real commitment to high-quality work and to being an authoritative voice.

Laena Garrison *is Coordinator for Consultation and Reconciliation in Manitoba's Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations and an EAC transportation team alum.*

At EAC I think we had the ability to bridge the on the ground with the political. We had that diversity of skillset and that philosophy too. We genuinely wanted to work together with community to build towards a better state of sustainable transportation in the province. I definitely think that this bridge is a strength.

Working with so many people that were passionate about creating change and people with diverse talents and abilities, that's what kept me buoyant.

Hudson Shotwell *is a long-standing EAC volunteer in the Energy Action Team and has also served on the EAC's board.*

Lots of times when we're confronted with stuff that's really intense, we go to nihilism or eternalism. You know, like, nothing matters, I'm gonna go eat some worms. Or eternalism is like, they'll take care of it somehow - science, or technology... or an external deity... But I think that actually for my point of view, it's neither one of those. It's the middle way.

James Lovelock, was looking at what was happening with climate change and he said there are going to be climate refugees who are going to come into Europe – and we should welcome them. The Dalai Lama said, compassion is the radicalism of our time. And so to have that kind of quality of compassion for people you don't know, who are suffering, is a radical thing.

You could say that the materialistic outlook, which is "what's in it for me?" has been pervasive. And interestingly, the more that the climate crisis begins to impact more of us human beings, the more the feeling of compassion might come back to the fore. And when that happens, then we are more willing to give up our thing in order to think about the other person's thing. And that's the only way.

Action is our Middle Name

COASTAL

The Coastal Protection Act moved forward to regulation consultation FINALLY in mid-July 2021. EAC shared information with members and coastal citizens, gathered feedback, and submitted our concerns and comments to the provincial government. We will be keeping the pressure on so that the regulations are completed in a timely manner. Our goal is to get the Act into force as soon as possible so that we can stop inappropriate coastal development right away. This is a public safety issue and too important for such slow movement. You may hear from us in early 2022 if we need your support to tell MLAs, the environment minister and the premier to HURRY UP!

We've been working with the Wilderness Team on wetlands protection and will be focusing some of our efforts this fall on enhancing wetland protection in NS and on public education about the importance of wetlands. This will include our new wetland infographic.

Our activities to share information about coastal climate change impacts and about adaptation solutions continues as we work with citizens, municipal decision makers and provincial government partners to move Nova Scotia to a better place in the face of coastal climate change risk.

MARINE

Along with many NGO partners, the Marine Team continues to push hard for progress on marine protection in Canada. Throughout the past year, we advocated for more funding for marine protected areas in the federal budget to help address the biodiversity and climate crises. In April, Canada announced an historic \$977 million investment in these special places! Now, the work shifts to making sure that this money is spent wisely and produces the conservation benefits that our oceans desperately need.

The Team has also been very concerned about the state of Atlantic mackerel in our region. The population has been in the Critical Zone for a decade and this year declined to the lowest level ever recorded. We have been advocating for a commercial fishery closure, and this year the Minister partly heeded our advice and cut catches in half and stated that a closure is likely if the stock does not improve. While this catch reduction might not be sufficient, this is a big step forward for a species that has been overfished for far too long.

Lastly, our eelgrass conservation program continues to grow. We've expanded our citizen science eelgrass monitoring project to include youth groups, kayak outfitters and several new locations around the province. We also recently spent time working with a group from Memorial University in Newfoundland to learn about eelgrass restoration, which we hope to implement in Nova Scotia next year.

ENERGY

From May into July the Energy Team mobilized and prepared community stakeholders to participate during the consultations for the *Sustainable Development Goals Act*. We rolled out a four-part webinar series: *Mobilizing for a Just and Sustainable Future*, which engaged Nova Scotians to explore key innovative ideas to build an equitable and sustainable future for all. During the consultations, we created an Engagement Toolkit. This helped Nova Scotians participate in the process and provided examples of issues that could be brought to light. We also partnered with the *Climate Emergency Unit* on a letter writing event and invited participants to submit personalized letters to the consultation process.

The Team continued to host building professionals as part of the *Better Building Speaker Series* and completed the WHERE NS (Whole Housing Energy Retrofit Envelopes in Nova Scotia) Feasibility Study in April. The full report can be found at ecologyaction.ca/where-ns-feasibility-study.

The Energy Team created a new set of webinars with Efficiency Nova Scotia, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Pictou Landing First Nation and Paqtnkek Mi'kmaq Nation that focused on energy efficiency careers for youth in Mi'kmaq Communities.

We also commissioned East Coast Environmental Law to conduct a study which compared the legislated sustainability mandates within the Electricity Acts of various jurisdictions within Canada and New England. It recommended legal language that could be incorporated within Nova Scotia's Public Utilities Act to enable the Utilities and Review Board to regulate the provincial utility with a sustainability lens.

We also collaborated with provincial and national groups to speak up against the proposed fossil gas export terminal in Goldboro.

FOOD

The Food Team has been busy working in partnership with Halifax Regional Municipality on the development of JustFOOD: An Action Plan for the Halifax Region. In June we held our second virtual workshop with individuals and groups interested in working toward a just, sustainable food system. This engagement session helped identify action areas and associated strategies that should be covered in the plan, including; support for school food programming, improved food distribution systems, shared food infrastructure – all reflecting community values and strengths throughout the plan. We will continue to build on these themes and welcome new perspectives during additional engagement activities taking place throughout the fall. To stay informed about upcoming engagements and JustFOOD progress, please send a note to the food team at justfood@ecologyaction.ca

TRANSPORTATION

This summer has been bustling with bikes! Since June, Making Tracks has delivered safe cycling education to over 180 children, youth and adults. Our Pop-Up Bike Hub is getting people back on bikes by providing access to bike tools and tune ups; so far this season, they've helped get 771 bikes safely rolling in 16 communities across Nova Scotia.*

The Bike Buddy Program pairs newcomer mentees with local bicycle mentors, making newcomers feel more confident riding their bicycle, exploring the city and meeting new people. Currently eight newcomers are participating with a larger cohort starting this fall. We'll also be partnering up with Vancouver and Toronto in a three-year federal study on the impact of newcomer mentorship bicycle programs.

The Easyride Ebike initiative is in full swing with nearly 10 employees from various organizations getting out of their cars and onto ebikes for daily commutes.

Our youth-led Active Transportation (AT) projects are on the go, with the Glace Bay Changemakers accessible pedestrian pathway in its implementation phase. By sharing key youth input with decision-makers, we're positively impacting how communities are approaching AT throughout the province.

With the *National Active Transportation Strategy* released and the first dedicated federal AT Fund announced, we're building a provincial database of proposed AT projects to identify the magnitude of funding needed for construction; this will help map the progress toward a connected NS-wide AT network.

And big thanks to our super summer staff who've been integral in making this summer a success!

*Numbers as of 23 August 2021

WILDERNESS

This spring the Wilderness Team welcomed 62 new proposed protected areas for public consultation, including the new Ingram River Wilderness Area. Even more exciting, during the provincial election campaign, all the major parties made commitments to increase land protection, with the victorious Progressive Conservative Party committing to protect at least 20 per cent of Nova Scotia's lands and waters by 2020 as part of reaching Canada's international commitment to protect 30 per cent by 2030. We look forward to working with the new government and other groups to identify and protect a significant new suite of areas of high ecological value.

We also welcomed a new \$130 million federal government program to create new national urban parks in cities across the country – including Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes in Halifax. This is an exciting new development and will bring significant new funding and parks planning expertise to this complex project. EAC has been campaigning for the creation of this urban wilderness park for over 20 years.

Some important progress has finally begun on implementing the Lahey Report on Ecological Forestry with the release of two cornerstone guides: the Silvicultural Guide for the Ecological Matrix (SGEM) and the draft High Production Forestry report.

We also continue to voice concerns about the impacts of gold mining on the natural environment, biodiversity and local communities. In recent months, have submitted our comments in the federal consultations for the proposed Fifteen Mile Stream mine site, and in the provincial consultations for the proposed expansion of the existing Moose River mine.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Through June and July, Halifax Regional Municipality was conducting public engagement on the review of Halifax's Regional Plan – the municipality's highest-level plan that guides where we grow, what we protect, and the developments that we see.

The EAC analyzed the existing Regional Plan and HRM's report which explained the proposed direction of their updates to the plan, finding many positive advancements. We also found several concerning directions, including proposed development at Sandy Lake and Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, lack of ambitious targets to control sprawl, and absence of necessary measures to protect our watercourses.

From here, we took action! EAC members engaged in the Regional Plan review and asked for climate action, biodiversity, and livability to be top priorities. Members' voices were heard, with over 120 detailed letters being written to HRM and even more people completing HRM's public survey. The Built Environment team will continue to closely follow the process – stay tuned!

The Seasonal Gourmet

by **PAULA ACETO** /// EAC Staff

Blueberry Birthday Cake

It's an exciting time of year in Nova Scotia—not only is it EAC's 50th anniversary, it's also blueberry season! So, what better way to celebrate than with a blueberry birthday cake. This delicious, easy to make vegan friendly, gluten free cheesecake style torte is the perfect dessert to make in the summer, as it's also bake free!



The Crust

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 10) crushed in a tea towel or food processor (I used Kinnikinnick S'moreables Gluten Free Graham Cracker, but you can also use regular graham crackers)

5 tbsp. of unsalted vegan butter, melted

1/4 cup of sugar

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Mix the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, and sugar together with wooden spoon or spatula in a medium bowl until combined.
- 2 Press the mixture into a 9–10-inch baking dish or pan making sure the crust is tight and compact using your hands to press it firmly to the base.
- 3 Chill crust for a minimum of 2 hours before filling.

The Torte Filling

INGREDIENTS

2 cups vegan cream cheese (I used vegan cream cheese from Real Fake Meats in Halifax, but you can find many different varieties at your local grocery store)

2/3 cup of sugar

1/2 cup of coconut oil (melted)

1/3 cup of lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Allow the cream cheese to warm up to room temperature before mixing.
- 2 Put cream cheese, melted oil, and sugar in a bowl and mix with a hand blender until combined.
- 3 Add lemon juice and blend again until combined.
- 4 Pour into chilled crust.

The Blueberry Topping

INGREDIENTS

4 cups blueberries

1/2 cup Pure Maple Syrup, Organic if possible

1/4 cup water

2 tbsp. cornstarch

1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Combine blueberries, maple syrup, and lemon juice in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir until combined.
- 2 Put the cornstarch into a small cup with water and whisk until smooth.
- 3 Add the cornstarch mixture into the blueberries and turn up the heat, stirring constantly.
- 4 When the sauce boils, reduce heat to medium high and stir until thickened, about 5 minutes.
- 5 Once the sauce is thickened, you may choose to leave it whole berry, or purée it in a blender to desired smoothness.

Keep torte refrigerated and enjoy!

Our Seasonal Gourmet for this issue comes from the EAC's very own Community Giving Manager, **Paula Aceto**.

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JOIN THE GREEN AVENGERS SAVE THE WORLD!



The Ecology Action Centre is looking for runners and walkers to join our team in the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon the weekend of November 6, 2021.

Reasons to get involved:

- Race subsidy provided
- Join virtually or in-person
- Be a part of a supportive team environment
- Get active for a great cause
- Be a part of EAC's biggest fundraiser and help us reach our goal of \$30,000
- Prizes for top fundraisers and team spirit



JOIN US TODAY!

Contact carly.hominuk@ecologyaction.ca

Want to know what it feels like to join
5,000 other voices for change?

Become a member of Ecology Action
Centre today and find out!

How?

Call or email Alicia Wilson of our membership team.

Call: (902) 487-4173

Email: alicia.wilson@ecologyaction.ca

Or sign-up online: ecologyaction.ca/become-member