

# Ecology Action Centre

Forrest Building Dalhousie University Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3J5 (902) 422-4311

## 1976-77 Annual Report



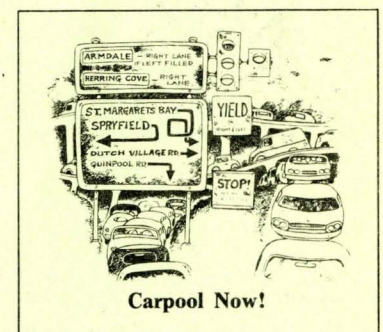
The Ecology Action Centre, founded in 1971 as a small Halifax-based group, has gradually spread its roots throughout the province. Today, with our membership drawn from all segments of Nova Scotia's population, the Centre constitutes a dynamic and well-recognized body, concerned with many local and provincial environmental issues. *What follows are some highlights of the Centre's work in 1976/77:*

### Electric Rates

High electricity rates became a crisis for many Nova Scotians this year. Ecology Action Centre's energy team focussed on the total energy picture when the Centre became a major participant in the Public Utility Board hearing on electricity rate increases. After detailed research, our proposal for a pricing structure based on actual production costs was presented at the hearing and several of the Centre's recommendations were adopted in the Board's final decision. Our contribution to this important hearing was praised for its constructive and comprehensive approach to a difficult energy problem.

### Car Pooling

Over 7,000 cars are driven in and out of downtown Halifax every working day, creating energy waste, pollution, unnecessary costs. Ecology Action Centre's Car Pool Project helped employers provide a car pool matching service to some 10,000 people in downtown Halifax. Our successful five-month demonstration project has been incorporated into the area-wide car pool service of the City of Halifax.



### Spruce Budworm Control

A major environmental victory has been the Nova Scotia Cabinet's decision, for the past two years, not to use a chemical spray to control the spruce budworm infestation in Cape Breton. The Cabinet decision was in part a consequence of the work of the Centre and reflects the value of responsible citizen input. Through comprehensive research the Centre contributed a wealth of information to the public debate and played a key role in focusing the issue through press, radio, television and public meetings.

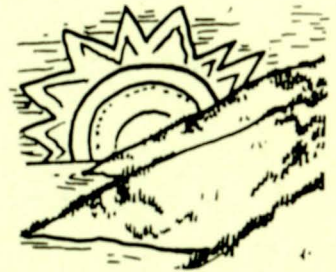


# Barrington Street

The Halifax City staff proposal to widen and realign North Barrington Street drew a strong reaction from Ecology Action Centre. Taking social and environmental considerations into account, the Centre presented an alternate proposal for the development of land adjoining the existing roadway. City Council endorsed the constructive criticisms of the Centre and followed our major recommendation that this section of Barrington Street remain in its present alignment. This decision represents one of the many positive contributions of the Centre in its long-standing involvement in urban issues.

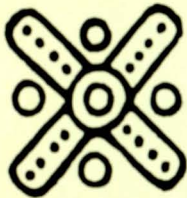
## JUSUN

The Centre has published twelve issues of **JUSUN** over the past two years. **JUSUN**, a newsletter with a readership of 2,100, describes the Centre's current activities and discusses environmental issues throughout the Maritimes.



# THE FUTURE

## Energy



We're planning to continue to raise environmental considerations in energy planning and development. Proposed activities for the coming year include:

- Publication of a pamphlet on marginal cost pricing of electricity and its application in Nova Scotia;
- Promotion and distribution of information on energy alternatives and energy conservation;
- Monitoring of the strip mining operation in the New Glasgow area.

A multi-media approach will be developed using radio, television and theatre presentations to stimulate an awareness of environment concerns. An educational ecology package will be designed for use in public schools.

## Environmental Education

## Rights-of-Way

Traditional rights-of-way are being bulldozed and shut off, often without public knowledge or debate. The Centre plans to produce a handbook and to assist in preserving threatened rights-of-way.

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## Ongoing Projects

**Resource Centre:** Filling requests for environmental information is a daily routine;

**Refillable Bottle Campaign:** Ongoing effort to adopt recycling of soft drink containers;

**Energy Library:** Containing some of the most up-to-date and comprehensive information on renewable and other energy sources;

**Fundy Tidal Power Educational Seminars:** To make detailed information readily available so as to encourage a reasonable public dialogue concerning tidal power development;

**Regional Parks Project:** To promote an awareness of the need for a system of regional parks in the Halifax-Dartmouth metropolitan area.

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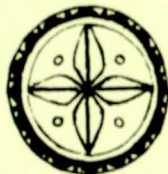
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## Membership

Annual membership to the Centre is open to any individual or corporation.

The following categories of membership are available:

- \$ 5.00 Individual Member
- \$ 25.00 Contributing Member
- \$ 50.00 Professional or Group Member
- \$100.00 Corporate Member
- . . . . . Donations



## Board of Directors

Paul Armstrong, Secretary  
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Linda Christiansen-Ruffman  
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Richard MacFarlane  
Carolyn MacGregor  
Susan Mayo, Coordinator  
Alan Ruffman, President  
Elizabeth Ruiz, Vice-President  
Barry Stuart

## Legal Status

The Ecology Action Centre, incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act, is a registered

## Charitable Organization

Our registration number is: 0413096-59-03.

All payments are tax-deductible.

*“Waste is a resource out of place.”*



