

CBEA GAZETTE

The official newsletter for Cape Breton Environmental Association



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WHO WE ARE

A registered nonprofit environmental organization.

We are a group of volunteers who are passionate about the environment and our community. It all started in 2017 when Dylan Yates, a Glace Bay resident was concerned about the illegal dumping issue his community was facing and decided it was time for a change. He began organizing community cleanups and his efforts didn't go unnoticed, volunteers began showing up to offer their help and a few later months CBEA was established.

As the group expanded we took on more tasks, including our most recent, the issue of abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear. We coordinate and facilitate a variety shoreline cleanups throughout Cape Breton, as well as collect vital information regarding ALD gear and other forms of marine debris. We offer workshops for youth groups as part of our community outreach work and offer assistance to other groups when possible.

Since 2017 we have completed 43 community cleanups. The majority of our cleanups are community based, and are successful because of our dedicated volunteers.

We provide environmental awareness through education and participation.



CLEANUP REPORTS

In 2019, we completed 21 community cleanups removing 496 bags of garbage, 170 lobster traps, and 33 vehicle tires. Some of the weirder things we have come across include dolls' heads, mattresses, and a deep freeze!

Find out more at
cbenviro.org/reports

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

All of our best bits!

We surveyed 11 shorelines throughout the Bra D'Or Lakes for Marine Debris!

Shorelines surveyed included: East Bay Sandbar, St. Peter's Marina, George's River, Baddeck Marina, Big Pond Beach, St. George's Channel, Dundee Beach, Irish Cove Shoreline, Grand Narrows, New Harris, Irons Ville.

Highest amounts of fishing related debris recovered: New Harris Shoreline, 135.

Highest amounts of plastics recovered: St. Peter's Marina, 153.

Highest amounts of cigarette butt litter: Dundee Beach, 15.

For the full report, please visit:
cbenviro.org/reports



STREAM CLEAN SPONSORED BY STANTEC



WE MARCHED FOR THE EARTH



DYLAN YATES AT GEORGE'S RIVER
COLLECTING MARINE DEBRIS



LITTER PATROL IN DOWNTOWN SYDNEY



WE HELPED WITH BRAS D'OR WATCH
HOSTED BY THE BRAS D'OR LAKE
BIOSPHERE RESERVE



REMOVING DEBRIS FROM THE
OCEAN

OUR BIGGEST CLEANUP YET

Victoria Mines, July 2019

Last July we organized a shoreline cleanup in Victoria Mines with several partners and sponsors, including the CBRM Solid Waste Department and the New Victoria Volunteer Fire Department, and with over 40 volunteers arriving on the day, and over 140 lobster traps recovered from the shoreline. Our most successful operation to date!





HANNAH AND NEIL WALSH

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Awarded to volunteers who show dedication and commitment to their community and the environment.

Awarded to: Hannah and Neil Walsh (2019).

DOCUMENTING MARINE DEBRIS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Tides of Change is a documentary about marine debris in Atlantic Canada with a primary focus on Cape Breton Island. A unique blend of science, solutions, concerns and artistic expressions. The goal of the film is to showcase the issues associated with abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear along with other forms of marine debris such as single-use plastics.



To learn more and view our official trailer please visit www.cbenviro.org/oceans-documentary

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN 2020

If you are interested in getting involved, either at a clean up or helping during a fundraiser, or know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please contact us at info@cbenviro.org or visit our website at cbenviro.org!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

CBRM Solid Waste Management
Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association
Bungalow Beans Coffee
Nova Soapia
Bay it Forward
Talo Cafe Bar
RBC (Glace Bay)
Unoriginal Clothing
Louisbourg Seafoods
Eastern Nova Scotia Marine Stewardship Society
New Victoria Volunteer Fire Department
Stantec
CLUB 55
ACAP Cape Breton
NS Adopt a Highway
Tower Road Volunteer Fire Department
Chris Ross





1.) REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE – This is an obvious one but did you know only 11% of all plastics are recycled each year in Canada? It's important that we **REDUCE** and REUSE as much as possible with recycling being our last resort!

2.) GROW YOUR OWN FOOD – Spring is just around the corner, it's time to start that garden you've always dreamed about. Growing your own food is a great way to reduce your environmental footprint.. Can't start your own garden? That's alright.. Just be sure to visit your local farmers market and support local.

3.) PICK UP LITTER – Heading out for a walk, why not grab some gloves and a trash bag and pickup some litter while you're at it? Picking up litter can be a great way to get outside and exercise while giving the planet a big HUG.

4.) WALK OR RIDE YOUR BIKE – Are you bored and thinking about going for a drive? Why not hop on your bike or bust out your walking shoes!

5.) STOP BUYING BOTTLED WATER – What if I told you that water from your tap is just as good as water in a bottle that's labeled pristine mountain water? Don't let clever marketing fool you. There are exceptions of course, but the majority of tap water in Canada is safe to drink. If you have access to safe drinking water, ditch the bottle! In 25% of cases, bottled water is just filtered municipal water sold at a premium according to the Canadian Bottled Water Association.

– Dylan Yates

***KEEP IT CLEAN, KEEP IT
GREEN.***