

2016 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, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Stewart
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.

Administrative support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

General Comments

Council held five regular meetings during 2016, together with a number of special meetings of a subcommittee of Council to address the Environmental Awards, Provincial 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 2016, together with the discussion topics addressed, is presented in the table below.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
May 4	Tony Sturz	<i>Update Water Act Public Consultation Report</i>
September 21	Cindy Crane	<i>Fish kills in the Mill River 2015</i>
October 19	Deputy Minister Michele Dorsey	<i>Water Rights in Prince Edward Island</i>
November 16	George Somers Jim Young	<u>Water Act Update</u> <i>Holding Ponds Information Session</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. Other matters examined included but were not limited to

- fish kills on the Mill River
- the current state of water quantity and quality in Prince Edward Island
- water bottling on Prince Edward Island

Public Consultations for the Water Act White Paper

The special panel drawn from the Environmental Advisory Council spent the early part of 2016 preparing a report detailing their findings from the public consultations for the *Water Act* during the Fall of 2015. The report was presented to Minister Robert Mitchell, Communities, Land and Environment on May 16, 2016 and released to the public at that time.

2016 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 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 2016 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Elementary:

First

Clean Air?

Students: Ashlyn Meisner

School: Greenfield Elementary

Second

Water Power

Students: Will Yeo

School: L.M. Montgomery

Third

Solar Energy

Students: Ethan Michelin and Colby Munro

School: Central Queens Elementary

Junior:**First**

L'effroyable manque de sirop d'érable
Students: Claire MacNeill and Evan Bouchie
School: Summerside Intermediate

Second

Soda Can Solar Panel
Students: Ayden Clinton
School: Souris Regional High

Intermediate/Senior

Capturing the sun's rays
Students: Emma Ellsworth and Mikayla Ellsworth
School: ME Callaghan Intermediate

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 2016, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

School Award

This year's winning school is West Kent Elementary School. West Kent staff and students are continuously placing focus on preserving and protecting the environment. Among the schools efforts are participation in the IWMC Plastic Grab Bag Challenge, collection of recyclables to raise funds to donate to the CBC turkey drive, several garden projects, the collection of recycled materials for art projects, tree planting and the adoption of a bald eagle.

Individual Award

The winner of this year's individual award is Ms. Lilly Hickox of Stratford. Lilly is a Grade 11 student at Charlottetown Rural High School (CHRS) who is a key member of the school's Envirothon Team, a founding member of the CRHS Green Club, a volunteer with the Sierra Club and a member of Model UN where she skillfully applies her environmental knowledge.

Organization Award

The organization category award was presented to the Farmers of Barclay Brook with special recognition to Bill MacKendrick for the collaborative project undertaken by farmers, industry and government for the betterment of the environment. The Barclay Brook is an important fish nursing area for the Trout River Watershed and this group worked together to ensure this vulnerable area is protected.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2016 Membership

Dean Stewart, Chair
Summerside

Darlene Moore, Vice-Chair
Northam

Richard Davies (term ended June 2016)
Belle River

Wayne Gallant
Summerside

Lokesh Garg
Charlottetown

Irene Dawson
Cornwall

Nick Webb
O'Leary

Art Smith
Stratford

Paul Gallant
Souris

Ron Maynard
Tyne Valley

Jim Jenkins
Charlottetown

Title Page: Pear (*Pyrus communis*)

Print Credit: Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz (1885)

Otto Wilhelm Thomé <http://caliban.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/thome/index.html>



