

EcoAction Project Summary - Neighborhood Streams

Northeast Avalon ACAP Inc., GCXE17P101

Neighborhood Streams project focuses on improving and protecting water quality in local streams and rivers by reducing non-point pollution. Over two years, Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Project (NAACAP) worked with residents and community groups in two St. John's neighborhoods, Southlands (Figure 1) and Kenmount Terrace (Figure 2) where new residential areas are headwaters to significant urban river systems. In Southlands, South Brook is the largest tributary to the Waterford River and Petty Harbour River. In Kenmount Terrace, Kenmount Brook and Yellow Marsh Stream feed into Rennie's River, which exits at Quidi Vidi. These two major watersheds contain the most densely urbanized and populated areas in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

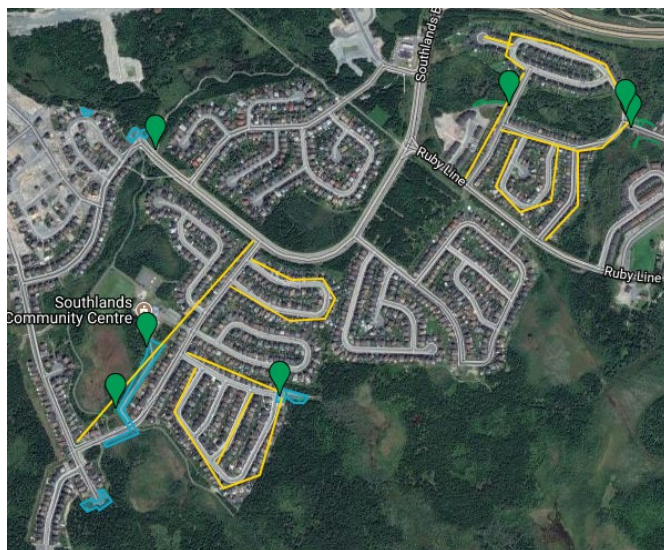


Figure 2 Map of Southlands Projects

Yellow lines: Storm Drains painted
Green pins indicate Garbage Clean – Up
Blue areas indicate planting areas

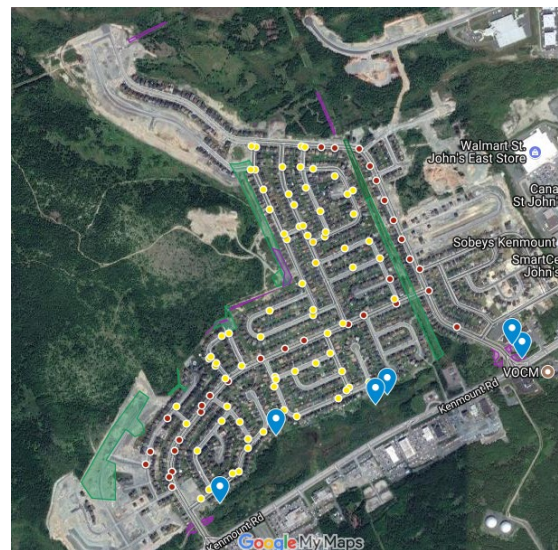


Figure 1 Map of Kenmount Projects

Green areas: Garbage Clean – Up
Purple: Planting areas
Yellow and red dots: Storm drains painted

Neighborhood Streams successfully addressed three main activities, capacity building, nature, and clean water over the course of this project. Nicholas White, Chair of NAACAP says, *"Canada's EcoAction Program allowed our small organization to take on this strategic initiative at often-neglected headwaters of major river systems in our metropolitan region. Our staff, students, and board members were all able to directly engage with residents in those upstream areas, discussing how day-to-day activities impact storm water quality. This project improved our ability to engage with the public and collaborate with other community groups. We feel we have increased residents' appreciation for riverine ecosystems and had a positive impact on these important watersheds."*

Neighborhood Streams Project Highlights

- Planting in areas near storm sewer outflows improves soil stability, biodiversity and habitat. **NAACAP planted over 2000 indigenous plants, trees, and shrubs** in areas near sewer outflows to help improve biodiversity and habitat.
- **Exceeded our planting survival rate** goal at almost 90% surviving their first winter. This ensures our efforts will grow and flourish over the next few years.
- Community cleanups reduced the amount of solid waste reaching streams and rivers. Green Team members, residents, and volunteers **doubled** our initial goal, removing 2,171 kg of harmful waste from the environment.
- NAACAP undertook non-point source pollution and storm sewer education and awareness activities, including the development of brochures, **distributing 300 copies through door to door canvassing** and the Southlands Community Centre.
- Development and launch of a **social media campaign** with homeowner tips for improving storm sewer water quality.
- **Connected with over 400 members of the community** to discuss the purpose of our work , raise awareness of local watersheds, and improve habits.
- Engaged multiple community groups and after school programs in cleanup and fish painting events throughout our efforts.
- **Created 4 positions**, providing valuable work experience in environmental field for youth
- Participated in Trout Unlimited Canada's Yellow Fish Road Program. This program involves students off all ages to paint yellow fish near storm sewer inlets to remind everyone that anything entering the storm drain ends up in their watershed, untreated.
- Efforts galvanized homeowners, who **advocated for green space and parks** in new residential subdivisions. The strong community support demonstrates potential for permanent conservation of our urban watersheds and NAACAP is optimistic that our efforts will be sustained.

Neighborhood Streams Project Photos 2016-18



Figure 3 2016 Green team in Southlands



Figure 5 Canvassing door to door in Southlands



Figure 4 Painting Storm drains, Yellow Fish Road



Figure 6 2017 Green Team in Kenmount Terrace

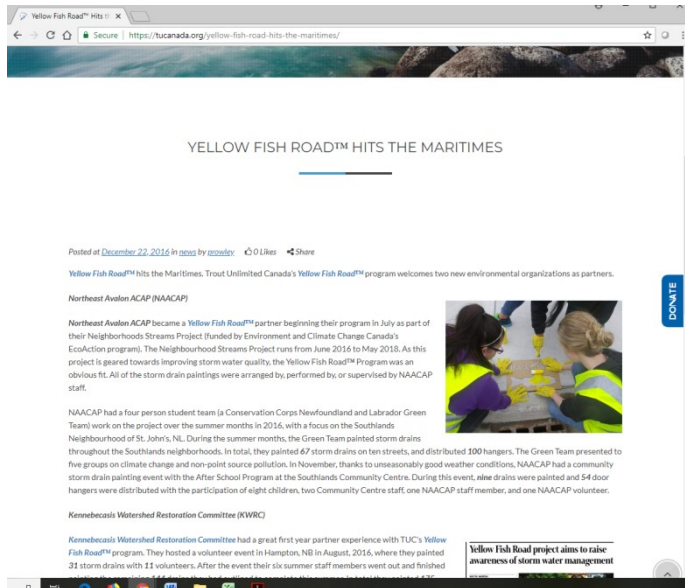


Figure 7 2017 Green Team cleaning up



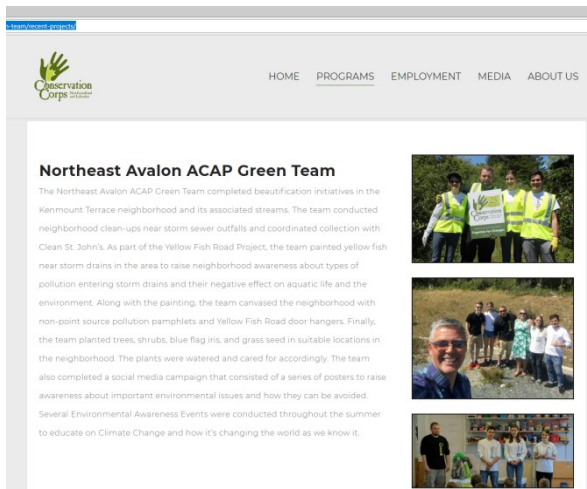
Figure 8 Checking Tree Survival in Kenmount Terrace, 2018

Neighborhood Streams Media Highlights



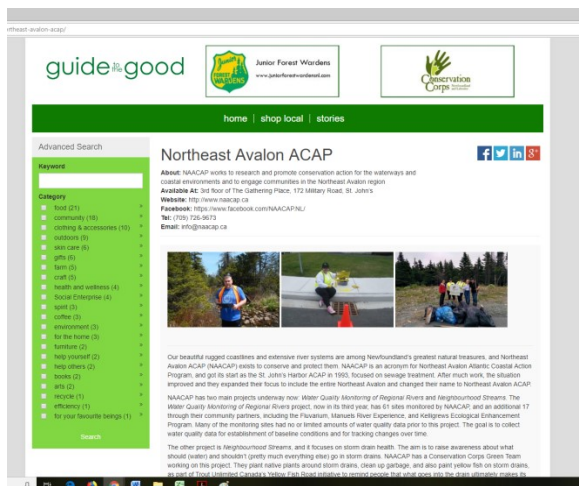
Blog Post

"Yellow Fish Road Hits the Maritimes" Trout Unlimited Canada: <https://tucanada.org/yellow-fish-road-hits-the-maritimes/>



Blog post

"Northeast Avalon ACAP Green Team", Conservation Corps NL: <http://www.ccnl.ca/programs/green-team/recent-projects/>



Blog post, "Northeast Avalon ACAP", Guide to the Good: <http://guidetothegood.ca/listing/northeast-avalon-acap/>

Accessed online

June 2018: <http://kicker.cna-nl.com/2017/10/26/volunteers-want-make-areas-less-trashy/>



Volunteers want to make their areas less trashy

October 26, 2017 Jason

Sheppard Featured, Metro, Province 0

People are giving up their time to make their neighbourhoods cleaner and safer.

St. John's is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in North America, but keeping it that way is a challenge.

As part of Waste Reduction Week In Canada, the Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program recently organized a community cleanup in Kenmount Terrace. Six people met in the parking lot of St. Michael and All Angels Church to clean up the neighbourhood.

In an hour, they had collected seven bags of trash.

Corrina Favaro is an executive committee board member with the group. "It's important we take care of our neighborhoods as they become overrun with garbage," she said. Favaro feels these cleanups are important because if people don't take care of their neighbourhoods, it could lead to other issues besides unsightly litter.

"We do this because we care about the health and cleanliness of our neighbourhood because people are healthier if they have clean environments," she said.

The group performs these cleanups about twice a year – in the spring and fall.



9 Corrina Favaro collects trash during the Kenmount Terrace community cleanup event as a part of waste reduction week. In an hour, seven bags of trash were collected. Jason Sheppard/Kicker

Favaro, 30, was among the younger volunteers at the cleanup. Another volunteer, Geoff Whiteway, 55, also believes in the value of a trash-free neighbourhood.

"One of the first things anyone visiting or living in our community notices is the amount of debris that collects around residential areas," he said. "I think it's important that our community looks clean and appropriate for people."

Whiteway, an instructor of environmental chemistry at the Marine Institute in St. John's, says it's not just about making an area pretty.

"It also reduces the spread of diseases," he said.

"This is a fairly new area with young families so I am surprised at the amount of debris ..."

The volunteers find the usual items – empty coffee cups and chip bags. On Saturday, Whiteway found something unexpected – \$5 lying on the ground – which he then donated to the organizers.

For information on community clean-up events happening in your city and how to get involved, contact <http://www.naacap.ca/site/>