

Habitat Conservation Fund
Wildlife Division
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
136 Exhibition Street
Kentville, Nova Scotia
B4N 4E5

August 2, 2005

RE: Final Report for *Coastlines* Natural History Column for 2004

The Marine Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre has been running the *Coastlines* natural history column in weekly newspapers around Nova Scotia since February 2002. This illustrated column focuses on coastal wildlife and habitat in Nova Scotia. The objectives of the column are threefold: 1) to develop a greater appreciation and understanding of coastal wildlife and habitat conservation in Nova Scotia; 2) to foster greater involvement in wildlife habitat conservation among the people who have the most impact on the coastal and marine environments, principally landowners and resource users; and 3) to provide an opportunity for students and amateur naturalists from across the province to gain experience in writing about science for a general audience.

In *Coastlines'* first two years, we succeeded in producing weekly articles on coastal animals, plants, habitats and processes that were distributed to community newspapers around Nova Scotia. Habitat related articles included those written on the topics of salt marshes, tide pools, tidal barriers, estuaries, coastal plain flora, barrier beach systems (barachois) and impacts of coastal flooding.

Over the last three years, we have gradually increased the distribution of *Coastlines* from 6 to 12 weekly community newspapers around the province and now reach over 55,000 readers weekly. We hope to increase the distribution of our column to more newspapers in the coming year.

We have approached various organizations, including the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, the Nova Scotia Federation of Naturalists, Dalhousie University, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to invite their members to write articles for the column. This year our outreach activities proved extremely fruitful. We have launched a new *Coastlines* webpage and have also arranged to have several articles posted on the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BOFEP) website. A presentation was also delivered to various schools in Lunenburg County and HRM, such as the Environmental Club at the Sacred Heart School of Halifax, to discuss the *Coastlines* Column and to invite students to write articles for the column. In addition to receiving several articles from various freelance writers and environmental enthusiasts (enclosed – shorebird migration), we were pleased to accept articles from a Registered Professional Forester (enclosed – purple loosestrife) and a Grade 9 student (enclosed – sperm whale). We were also fortunate to receive several habitat protection/conservation articles from different organizations, including the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation in Mahone Bay (enclosed – Roseate Tern). We will

continue to encourage participation from other organizations and interested individuals with a particular focus on providing young people with an opportunity to write for the column.

The *Coastlines* column has been well received and we are pleased with the progress we have made since February 2002. We plan to continue to coordinate and produce the weekly column for at least another year. We look forward to the opportunity to continue educating Nova Scotians about coastal wildlife and habitats.

We thank you for your continued support of the *Coastlines* column. Please find enclosed invoices for 2004.

Sincerely,

John Brazner
Coastlines Coordinator