

# Coastal Communities Network



**CCN** Coastal  
Communities  
Network

**Annual Report**  
April 1, 2005 to March 31st 2006

## Year Overview

This year was a momentous year for CCN. Coastal Communities Network won the Excellence in Collaboration Award at the Celebrating Innovative Communities Awards. This award highlights our incredible ability to network diverse people and bring them together working towards a common goal. In many ways this reflects the past year.

## Activities

### Wharves:

January 2005, in Eastern Passage CCN brought together a large group to discuss follow up to the study *Between the Land and the Sea* and to examine the issue of sustainability of Harbours and wharves in Nova Scotia. Recommendations from this meeting highlighted the need for more opportunities to share information. Also the need to engage all levels of government and connect government with community issues, implement a communications plan on the value of harbours and wharves, discuss a more integrated approach to funding by all funders, increase capacity of all stakeholders to work together.

As a result of this event, four Special Learning Circles/Regional Meetings took place in March 2005. Meetings were held in the following locations: Tatamagouche, St. Anne's, Cornwallis, and Seaforth. Participants included municipal councilors and planners, regional development authorities, harbour managers, fishermen and government authorities along with the planning committee which consisted of a number of participants from the Jan 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Community Training, Learning and Leadership Roundtable:**

On June 24, 2005, groups and individuals that offer training to community groups in Nova Scotia were invited to participate in a Roundtable to discuss efforts to coordinate and sustain training efforts. In the first part of the Roundtable, participants were asked to describe their interests in community training, explain types of training provided and explain how groups access their training. In the second part of the Roundtable, discussion focused on four main areas of concern: What training do communities need? How can training be made more accessible?; How can training opportunities be linked? And are there opportunities for collaboration? The results of the session are published in the *Community Training, Learning and Leadership Roundtable Report June 24, 2005*.

### **Additional Workshop Module(s)**

In the original proposal for this project, it was proposed that a new module using the information from the study, *Between the Land and the Sea* and the accompanying database be developed. While this module was not completed in the timeframe of the project, CCN developed and delivered a workshop on the *Between the Land and the Sea*

database. This workshop was held at the Truro library with 12 participants. This workshop could be adapted to develop the additional module.

### **Skills Development Workshops:**

#### **Workshop: Building a Solid Foundation – The Steps along the Way**

This workshop was held on October 28, 2005 in Truro. In the morning participants could choose from two concurrent workshops: Board Development and Difficult Conversations. In the afternoon, participants chose from two concurrent workshops: Funding Tips and Board Liability.

### **Rural Communities Impacting Policies (RCIP):**

-RCIP Celebration Event January 11, 2006

-Over the past five years, the RCIP Project has created tools, resources, reports and community-based research about rural communities and using research to influence policy. Currently, all of these things can be found on the RCIP website. By February 2006, the Coastal Communities Network will take ongoing responsibility for maintaining and updating the RCIP website - accessible through the same web address [www.ruralnovascotia.ca](http://www.ruralnovascotia.ca) or through the newly created **Rural Gateway** at [www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca](http://www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca)

#### *Proposals for Future Work*

Discussions between many of the groups and individuals involved with the RCIP Project have been occurring - in terms of new innovations that build on what has been learned and continuing to offer valuable services related to using research to influence policy. Stay tuned...and please get in touch if you have ideas or want to contribute.

#### *RCIP Project Evaluation*

RCIP has been working with Horizons Community Development Associates to evaluate the project. A participatory model was used to ensure that all participants in the RCIP Project had opportunities to express their views in Work Group meetings, focus groups and a web survey. All documents produced by the RCIP Project were also included in the evaluation process.

#### *Thank-you & Farewell (for now)*

While there are still more RCIP events, tools and resources yet to come, the RCIP Project is coming to a close. Thank-you to all those who gave their time and energy over the past number of years - according to what has been heard and seen, it was worth it! Best wishes as we all continue to do research and policy change work that contributes toward healthy and sustainable rural communities. Stay in touch

### **Funding:**

We were in the second year of a two year funding agreement with the Rural Secretariat. We also received support from Office of Economic Development. The RCIP project sent

some funds our way. For the first time we received funding through Service Canada for an Office Assistance and in January we received funding for a web master and writer.

## **Learning Circles:**

There were eight learning circles held for this reporting period, several interesting and informative presentations were heard.

May 4, 2005, Truro

Presentation: Shelly Paris, Community Liaison Officer, HRSDC, Job Creation Partnership (JCP)

Presentation: Peter Hogan, Director of Community Development for Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency (ACOA), Social Inclusion Program

June 1, 2005, Nova Scotia Community College Shelburne, NS

Presentation: The Black Loyalist Heritage Society, Elizabeth Cromwell and Debra Hill

July 5 2005 Truro, NS

Presentation: "Dealing with the Media" Valérie Roy, Rural Secretariat.

Presentation: Owner Operator/Fleet Separation Update, Rick Williams, Policy Advisor to Professional Fish Harvesters Council

September 14, 2005 Truro, Nova Scotia

Presentation: Amelia Lombard, 2005 RCIP Intern Project: Retention of Health Professionals in Rural Nova Scotia

October 5, 2005 Shamrock Club Canso, Nova Scotia

Presentation of CCN's Between the Land and Sea, Ishbel Munro

Presentation: Laurie Alexander, Office of Economic Development

December 7 2005, Truro, NS

Presentation: Karen Donnelly, Regional Business Facilitator for the Women in Business Initiative

January 11, 2006, Truro, RCIP Celebration

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 Truro

Presentation: Mark Gloutney, Ducks Unlimited Canada

## **Annual General Meeting:**

### **2005 Conference: Weathering Change...Building Your Survival Kit**

The 2005 Conference was held on April 15, 16 & 17. The conference opened with a networking exercise and "True Colours" workshop which provided opportunities for participants to get to know others and themselves better. As in 2004, the conference included a variety of workshops, a panel presentation, a social gathering, and a closing circle.

Participants were able to choose one of three workshops in the morning and afternoon.

Presentation and workshop topics included:

- ♦ Policy Café. Facilitated by Andrea Caven, CCN this session involved participants rotating through several table discussion to identify key policy issues followed by identifying the root causes of an issue and learning about potential policy change strategies to address issues.
- ♦ Waterways Cliff White, Council of Canadians facilitated this workshop which focused on the importance of water as a human rights issue and the Canadian government's stance related to this issue.
- ♦ Coping with Stress. In an interactive workshop facilitated by Jackie Race, participants defined stress and shared best practices for stress management.
- ♦ Plant Life. Erica DeSousa, CCN facilitated this workshop which focused on discussion of various uses of plants and included a "plant walk" to identify local medicinal plants.
- ♦ ABCs of Proposal Writing. Ishbel Munro, CCN led this workshop which focused on the basics of proposal writing and what funders like to see in a proposal.
- ♦ Food for Thought. Presentation and discussion on the availability, quality, nutritional value, and social aspects of food security by Christine Johnson, a Project Coordinator of one of the Participatory Food Security Projects.
- ♦ Small Business Successes. A panel presentation focusing on small business stories as well as information on business development services. Panelists were Jim Lorraine, Ron O'Brien, Cindy White, Tanya Dawn Dale, and Susan Belt.

Participation:

There were 36 participants in the 2004 conference and 37 participants in the 2005 conference with a total participation of 72. The anticipated conference numbers in the proposal was 40-50 per year.

## **Web Site**

CCN's new website is our Rural Gateway which pulls together a wide variety of information into one easy to use web portal. It is a great vehicle to link and connect us; it is also a link to funding opportunities and CCN archives. The site is divided into three main sections; Coastal Currents, which provides information about wharves and harbours, aquaculture, coastal tourism, boatbuilding and fishing activities; CCN's main cite which has our publications and community updates from around the province, recent news items, interesting facts about Nova Scotia as well as links to funding opportunities and other publications and resources; and the Rural Communities Impacting Policy, which provides statistics about rural Nova Scotia and offers the Rural Tackle box which is a wonderful community resource.

[www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca](http://www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca).