SECTION 1.0. INTRODUCTION

THIS SECTION CONTAINS:

- An introduction to the program
- How the program works
- Getting a group together
- Getting started
- A quiz to test your knowledge

1.1. What is Adopt-A-Stream?

The Adopt-A-Stream (AaS) Program brings professional habitat biologists and volunteers together to rehabilitate aquatic habitats for fish and wildlife. The Nova Scotia AaS program has been very successful in restoring thousands of square meters of habitats over the past ten years. Enthusiastic fish and wildlife groups, community organizations, and schools have cleaned streams, stabilized stream banks, restored fish populations, and installed special devices to improve habitat for fish, birds, and other aquatic and land-based wildlife living around watercourses.

Fish and other animals have a certain set of "needs" to live and grow: water, space, shelter and food. Taken together over time, these elements describe an animal's **habitat**. Each kind of fish **(species)** or group of related fish needs a particular combination of water, space, shelter, and food. These are called **habitat requirements**.

A habitat biologist was studying a stream on a farm. The farmer told him that when he was younger he caught many large trout in the stream. Now there were none. The biologist asked him what had been done near the stream in the last thirty years. The man said, "I've owned the land since my father passed it down and I've been farming and cutting firewood in the same way that my father did. Nothing's changed."
When asked to think about it again the landowner said, "Actually, there haven't been trout in here since they built the new road and bridge over there in 1968." The biologist went to look at the bridge and could see that it had been built improperly. Silt had been pouring into the stream every time it rained. This silt had ruined the habitat for the trout

In the river near the farm, described in the text box, important habitat requirements were spoiled. We'll talk more about this later, but briefly, silt smothers fish eggs or young fish in the gravel, harms their gills, and makes it difficult for fish to catch insects for food. With the Adopt-A-Stream program you will learn how to improve habitat for fish and other wildlife that live in or near watercourses of all kinds. Adopting a watercourse means trying to make it a better place for fish to live. This is called **habitat improvement** or **rehabilitation**.

After an illness or an accident we have to rehabilitate or rebuild our bodies. The process you are now reading about is the rehabilitation of fish habitat that might include cleaning debris from a watercourse or building special structures. Other options will be outlined as you read further.

Many human activities change streams and other watercourses. These include:

- *Over-fishing*
- *Chemical pollution of waters from households, farms, industry, road salt, acid rain*
- *Careless land-use practices, such as improper farming, forestry, road construction and improper stream-crossing techniques.*

You are probably aware of problems facing Nova Scotia's watercourses, and may feel helpless about doing anything. The Adopt-A-Stream provides good news for those of you who are worried about our environment and want to help in a practical way. Adopting a stream, lake, or river is much more than a one-time spring clean up of a watercourse in your community. Adopting a watercourse means taking a **long-term interest** in its welfare by nurturing and caring for it.

STEWARDSHIP

A steward is a caretaker or a guardian.

Stewardship is an important concept if we are to make our environment a healthier place to live.

Stewardship means looking after something so that it stays healthy and productive for future generations to enjoy and use.

Sometimes stewardship will mean restoring or cleaning up something to make it look and function more like it did long ago.

Environmental stewardship means looking after our planet, our country, our province, and your own backyard.

People involved in stewardship programs are better environmental citizens.

Don't worry about making mistakes, or that the work will be too technical and difficult. This manual will give you the confidence to get started, and along the way there are trained professionals ready and willing to help.

The rewards of participating in the Adopt-A-Stream program can be many:

- Above all, you will develop a sense of **stewardship** towards nature.
- Your group will develop a sense of community pride and accomplishment.

- Working together outdoors is a healthful and pleasant activity.
- You will learn more about the history of your community and come to appreciate it in a new way.
- You will learn about our natural environment and its ecosystems. Working in or near a watercourse often means you can study birds, fish, and other animals, and learn how to identify plants. Learning in the Adopt-A-Stream program is practical, hands-on learning, enjoyed by children and adults alike.
- You will enhance the Ecotourism potential of your area. Ecotourism (hiking, bird watching, canoeing etc.) has great economic potential for our province.

When the Europeans came to North America, they found the watercourses teeming with fish.

Here are some examples:

In the 1800's farmers shoveled salmon out of rivers to use for fertilizer.

Inmates in local jails complained of being fed too much salmon.

Tourists complained that the splashing of salmon made riverside areas too noisy to sleep.

Early settlers in Nova Scotia said there were so many fish you could almost walk across the water on the backs of the fish!

1.2. Watercourses in Nova Scotia's History

These few pages on the history of Nova Scotia's watercourses are included only to remind you of what you already know; water and fish have always been an important part of many Nova Scotia communities and cultures. Fish were a staple in the diet of the First Nations communities and are still of great cultural importance. In earlier times, fish were in such abundance that residents used spears for fishing. They simply walked along the river and quickly speared fish for their needs.

Europeans discovered the rich offshore fishing grounds around 1500 and fished for many years before the province was settled in the 1700's. The early settlers to Nova Scotia left behind Old World rivers that had already been over-fished. The New World, although filled with hardship, was a land of plenty. There are many early records of the abundance of fish in rivers, lakes, and the ocean.

The abundance of fish in our coastal waters has been renowned until recent years. Fishing grounds off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland are world famous and have been exploited by many countries including Canada. These great quantities of fish were once very important to the economy of Nova Scotia. For the past several years, despite declines, Canada has been the

world's largest exporter of seafood products, Nova Scotia accounting for almost 26% of the total Canadian fishery exports.

Evidence that our waters are not as healthy as they once were is shown by the serious decline in fish populations in both rivers and oceans. This decline is largely the result of over-fishing and the destruction of critical habitat for fish.

As well as being important economically, inland and offshore ecosystems have tremendous ecological significance. Many fish, birds, and other animals depend on healthy environments to survive. Because all natural ecosystems are interconnected, the general health of our environment, including human health, is affected by any changes we make to natural systems.

The increasingly efficient modern equipment of today's fishing fleets and the growing demands of a rapidly increasing world population, have caused offshore over-fishing in some areas.

Many fish (eels, gaspereau, smelt, salmon, trout, striped bass, Atlantic whitefish, shad) spend some of their time in the ocean and some time in streams and rivers. The health of rivers and oceans are closely connected. All rivers eventually flow to the sea, so what is done to them as they move across the land affects the ocean.

Over fishing, by the recreational fishermen, has been a leading cause of population declines of freshwater fish. Brook trout, Smallmouth bass, and Atlantic salmon are the most popular freshwater game fishes in Nova Scotia. Recreational fishing started when the Province was first settled, but bit-by-bit, the stocks have become seriously depleted, not only through over-fishing, but also by poor land use in the watershed.

The destruction of inland habitat in the 1800's was mainly due to logging, land clearing for farms, and damming of rivers. By 1890, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries reported that logging and damming operations had left only four out of 27 rivers in the Northumberland Strait open for salmon. The story was the same throughout the Province. The use of rivers for log and pulp driving caused a lot of habitat disruption. Rivers and streams were often widened, straightened, and their banks shored up with rocks in order to ensure that the logs moved efficiently downstream. This left the streams wider and shallower than the natural fish habitat. In recent years, with the increased frequency of droughts, this habitat has become increasingly non-productive.

Coastal and offshore marine habitats are being degraded by ocean dumping, oil spills, litter and waste disposal from ships, sewage disposal from coastal communities, port dredging and causeway building - just to give a few examples. Land-based sources of pollution account for 80% of the pollution in our developed harbours and in estuaries with rural watersheds this can be 100%. Changes in coastal estuaries have dramatically affected the health of our oceans.

The Adopt-A-Stream program is designed to help you look at some of the destructive things we do in our watersheds and to help you correct them.

In some cases, you will be trying to correct damage done over hundreds of years.

In other cases, you will be looking at problems created by our modern, chemically-dependent society. Throughout the work of the project you will be attempting to understand history, and learn how to avoid repeating its mistakes.

1.3. How the Adopt-A-Stream Program Works

1. The program is for **volunteers**. Your group may decide to apply for funding to cover some of your costs (materials and labour). You may use many volunteers with many different levels of expertise and experience.

2. The program involves **professionals** from the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, and trained members of community groups, who act as advisors and administrators of the program. You can apply for funding assistance for materials and labour through the NSSA.

3. The program is **cooperative**. Different groups, involving everyone from schoolchildren to seniors, can work together on a project. There are jobs for everyone, including those with physical disabilities. Although some of the work takes place in or near the watercourse,

there are important research and reporting tasks that can by done be someone who may not be able to participate in fieldwork.

4. The program is **long term**. It is not a one-time clean up. Communities are asked to make a commitment to "look after" what they adopt. Because the program is cooperative and can involve many different sectors of the community, this long-range task may not be as difficult as it sounds.

5. The program is as **non-bureaucratic** as possible. Paperwork and legalities exist, but they are kept to a minimum.

6. The program relies on **consultation**. You, your group, and your community play a big part in decisions that are made about your watercourse. Such decisions are made in consultation with habitat professionals. You will find that you can educate professionals about your community while they can educate you about water habitats. You will also find it necessary to consult with other people who have a direct interest in the watercourse, such as landowners.

7. The program has **no formal starting time**. However, the ideal time to identify a watercourse and organize a group is in the fall. During winter, your group can research the history of the watercourse and plan the fieldwork for spring or summer.

8. The program is a **team effort**. You could Adopt-A-Stream on your own, but you will most likely need assistance from others. If possible, make your project a combined effort of several groups. Community groups, schools, industries (including service industries like hospitals, motels, restaurants), and municipal government have often successfully cooperated in the past. **The more groups you involve, the better your chances are for success**. In addition, funding agencies often look favourably on projects that are supported by different community groups.

1.4. Finding a Team

If you are already a member of an organized group (watershed, fishing, river, guiding/scouting, environmental, natural history, or community club), you may want to skip the next section and move directly to **First Steps - How to Begin the Program.**

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- *Are you a municipal official?*
- *Are you a concerned citizen with an interest in the health of a local watercourse and would like to interest others in joining you?*

If so, this section will give you some tips and ideas. Before trying to organize a group, be organized yourself. Become familiar with this manual so that you can readily explain the program to others.

Take your pitch for the Adopt-A-Stream program to an existing community group first. Many areas have natural history clubs, or community service groups that are looking for worthwhile projects. Environmental projects are increasingly popular as people become more aware of the problems facing our natural world. If these groups are not interested, they will probably give you advice about who else in the community might be.

Look for ways of working with other local groups. Maybe schools can help you find the history of the watercourse; a local industry will contribute materials. The seniors' club may provide you with valuable information and insight on what the area was once like. Be creative and involve as many people as possible.

> Don't feel that you have to be the "expert". Stress to interested people that this manual is user-friendly and that help is available. Mention the fun you will have working together.

SCHOOL GROUPS

If you are a teacher who is thinking about using this program, this section will give you some further information. By choosing to become involved in Adopt-A-Stream you will join other teachers who are doing practical, outdoor projects to help the environment while teaching about it.

Teachers will probably use different groups of children over a specific period of time. The Adopt-A-Stream program fits very well into Junior and Senior High curricula covering such areas as local and provincial history, as well as ecology and biology. Senior elementary students may be used for some aspects of the work, such as clean-ups and releasing of small fish.

As well as relating to different curricula, the program provides a valuable outdoor and

environmental experience. The combination of class work, outdoor research, and the rehabilitation of a watercourse can be powerful tools for creating environmental citizenship in your students while they learn the basics of biology and ecology and develop research skills. Your school may adopt the watercourse you choose over a time so that different students become involved in the work from year-to-year.

Here are some important considerations when trying to motivate your students or other teachers:.

- Children will be more involved in the "adoption" process if the watercourse has some personal, everyday meaning and relevance to them. For example, an easily accessible watercourse near your school would be a good choice. Perhaps this watercourse has some local historical significance. Choosing something that children "already know" enhances the stewardship process.

- Think seriously about getting parents and other interested community members involved. A joint project takes some responsibility off your shoulders. Local service or naturalist clubs are a good starting point.

- Keep in mind that this program is not just a classroom exercise**.** Your students will be involved in fieldwork regularly. (Make sure you can get transportation to and from the fieldwork area; in these days of budget constraints, picking an area close by is advisable.)

- Don't worry about how much personal experience you have with ecology and biology or fieldwork. This manual has been designed to take you through all the necessary steps.

- This program can be linked to other curriculum and environmental programs as supplementary material. The Adopt-A-Stream program can be used with the Aquatic module of the Project Wild program, and with Fish Friends, a project of the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

YOUTH GROUPS

If you are an adult leader of a youth group (Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, 4-H), see how the Adopt-A-Stream program can fit into your "badge" programs and investigate the possibility of coordination and cooperation with other youth groups in the area.

1.5. First Steps: How to Begin the Program

These steps assume that you have found a "team" or others interested in working on the idea.

Step 1: Go Through the Manual

Step 2: Identify the Watercourse

Step 3: Contact the NSSA

Step 4: Set Preliminary goals

Step 5: Sell Your Idea

Step 6: Identify Stakeholders (including landowners)

Step 7: Contact Landowners or Other Stakeholders

Step 8: Hold an Organizing Meeting

Step 9: Make a More Final plan

Step 10: Apply for Funding

Step 1: Go Through the Manual

It is not necessary at this point to read the entire manual in detail, but you should go through each section briefly so you are at least familiar with its contents. Certain sections of the manual may help you in some of these first steps. For example, the sections on the different kinds of watercourses may help you identify where you want to work.

Step 2: Identify the Watercourse

The first step in adoption is to identify what you would like to adopt. Maybe it is a stream that runs near a schoolyard or through your town. Perhaps it is a nearby lake or marsh. Maybe it is a river that you and your group have traditionally used as a local fishing area. It is important that your group reach a consensus regarding the choice of a particular watercourse. Without a commitment, the best-designed project will fail. If you're not sure of what watercourse you want to adopt, you can use this manual to help you decide or consult a professional.

Step 3: Contact the NSSA

Your initial contacts should be with:

NSSA / Adopt-A-Stream Program
R.R. 2 581 Stanburne Road
Barss Corner NS B0R 1A0
Tel: (902) 644-1276
Fax: (902) 644-1279
e-mail: amy.weston@ns.sympatico.ca

Tell them what watercourse you are thinking of adopting to make sure that no one else has adopted it, and let them know that you are starting to get organized. You will be given a main contact for the program who will provide you with equipment, ideas, and information.

Step 4: Set Preliminary goals

At this stage you need to make a rough plan of what you would like to do and when you would like to accomplish it. This plan will probably change over time but for now it will give you something to work with.

Step 5: Sell Your Idea

Use the suggested materials in the section **Presentation/Press Materials** to help publicize and get support for the project. Some of these materials can be readily photocopied onto overheads for use in presentations.

WHAT IS A STAKEHOLDER?

A stakeholder is anyone who has an interest or ownership of the watercourse or the areas around it. Stakeholders include many people and organizations in your community:

- **Landowners along the watercourse**
- **Local government officials (mayor, warden, councilors)**
- **Local fishing, trapping, or hunting groups**
- **Local naturalist, birding, canoeing, environmental, photography clubs and groups**
- **Industry - including service industries, hospital, radio, newspaper, restaurants, small businesses**
- **Fishermen**
- **Farmers**
- **Local tourist operators**
- **Local schools (the next generation are some of the most important stakeholders)**
- **First Nations groups**
- **Government (federal, provincial, municipal)**

Step 6: Identify Stakeholders in the Community

It is very important to make sure that everyone who has some "stake" in the stream will be consulted. Changes made in the stream may affect other people, so it is important to make sure that there is support for your work. Find out who owns land around or near the watercourse. This information can be found at your local tax office.

Step 7: Contact Landowners or other Stakeholders

Whether you expect them to become involved or not, let everyone know what you plan to do with the watercourse. Communication may help change attitudes and behaviour of people, even if they aren't directly involved in your project. You might want to ask their advice about some specific part of your plan, sometimes their experience along the watercourse may add to your own bank of knowledge. Contact these landowners and explain your project. Rather than laying blame for current problems when approaching people, take the attitude that everyone must cooperate to solve the problems together.

People don't change their behaviour or attitudes if they are bombarded with accusations and spoken to in a confrontational manner.

For example, you may be aware of a particular landowner who is causing problems in the stream. For whatever reason, this landowner may not have been cooperative in the past concerning changing his/her practices. In the section called **Before You Begin Restoration** there are some other tips for dealing with stakeholders.

Step 8: Hold an Organizing Meeting

As a community, you should hold organizational meetings for the Adopt-A-Stream program. Your first meeting is important and should be carefully planned. There is nothing worse than long drawn-out meetings where little gets accomplished. Remember that by this stage a lot of preliminary contact and discussion has already occurred. People will become "sold" on the idea because of your efforts.

There are some simple things that can be done to make your meetings productive and enjoyable.

Set clear and concise goals for the meeting. All too often meetings are held without clear goals. This usually leads to a "lot of talk and little action". Get together with your planning team and brainstorm on what you want to accomplish at the meeting. Knowing exactly what you want to accomplish (forming an organization or getting help, for example) is very important.

Publicize the meeting well. Send the Press Release contained in the section on Presentation/Press Materials to local newspapers, and radio stations, and Cable television stations. Many community newspapers will print the press release in its entirety. Use the Community Bulletins on radio and television to advertise your meeting.

Make sure all the stakeholders are invited. Don't leave anyone out. You may want to invite a government stakeholder from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or the N.S. Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Have an agenda. Write it on a blackboard or pass it out on a piece of paper so people know what is going on. This does not have to be complicated but it will help you stay on track.

Know what you want to say and say it clearly. It's not necessary to write a speech but it is worthwhile to write down the points you want to cover. Index cards can be useful for this purpose.

Limit the meeting length to a maximum of one and a half hours.

Start on time and finish when you say you will.

Make people feel comfortable. For many people, this includes providing coffee, tea, or juice. If you do provide these, ask people to "lug-a-mug". Don't use disposable cups. Conservation should begin at the meeting.

Speak loudly and clearly.

Choose your "expert" speakers carefully. They can often be too technical and long-winded. Keep things simple and informal. If you invite an "expert" make sure you tell him/her that you

want an informal, simple presentation that uses visual materials (slides or videos). **Always leave time for questions** and take everyone's ideas into consideration.

If your group is larger than 15 people, **break into small groups** when you need to discuss something. People are often uncomfortable speaking up in large groups especially if they don't know each other well. If you have a large group and a limited amount of time only a few people will get a chance to speak. Small groups allow everyone more time to express their opinions.

WHAT YOU SHOULD ACCOMPLISH AT YOUR FIRST MEETING

1. **Appoint someone as leader, chairperson, or manager of the project. The project needs someone to coordinate activities. Sometimes homemakers, retired persons, or other people whose time is more flexible can be ideal candidates.**

2. **Make a task list. To do this you will have to become familiar with the entire manual. The manual will take you through each section carefully.**

3. **Create committees or recruit individuals to carry out the tasks. At this stage just concentrate on tasks that will keep things moving.**

If you have developed a group made up of groups from different parts of the community, you should assign specific tasks to each group. For example, schoolchildren might be great at collecting information about the past.

Sample Task List/First Meeting

TASK	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME
Contact Village Donuts to see if they can provide coffee and donuts for the next meeting	Mary-Ann MacDonald	By the end of the month
Write up a short press release for the newspaper about what we're doing (using press materials in the manual)	Marcel Fournier	For next Monday
Call NSSA Adopt-a-Stream to let them know we're going ahead	John Chisholm	By next week
Get together with committee to make a budget	etc.	etc.
Read the rest of the manual		
Give talk at school to get kids excited about the project		
Get information on oral history to Seniors Club (you can photocopy forms in this manual) and so on... (there will be lots of tasks)		

Step 9: Make a More Final Plan

Making a plan involves using your common sense. Basically a plan tells the following information in a short and simple fashion:

- *What you are going to do?* ***Project Proposal***
- *Why you are doing it?* ***Background Information/Rationale***
- *Who is going to do it?* ***Project Staff/Volunteers***
- *How is it going to be done?* ***Methods***
- *When is it going to be done?* ***Time-Line***
- *How is it going to be paid for?* ***Budget***
- *Was it worthwhile?* ***Evaluation***

As with the task list, you will be unable to make a complete project plan until you have gone through other sections of this manual.

Step 10: Apply for Funding

Although it is entirely possible to use the Adopt-A-Stream program without funding, there may be expenses that you would like to have covered. These might include:

- *Hiring a project manager or coordinator*
- *Organizational costs (meeting costs, printing, travel)*
- *Costs for education and training workshops or to sponsor special speakers*
- *Costs to cover special rehabilitation work in the watercourse (building a fishway or fixing a culvert)*
- *Advertising costs to promote the program*
- *Photographic costs to document your work*

If you have decided you need funding, you will need to prepare a budget. The next page shows a sample budget for an imaginary Adopt-A-Stream Program. In the section on Presentation/Press Materials you will also find a sample letter to send to groups that may provide support. Most funding sources have their own format for proposals so be sure to obtain the proper forms. Make sure your budget shows the cost of items that are being donated. Many funding programs will finance only part of a program. If you can show that your community is donating some costs, including volunteer labour, your chances of getting money will be better. Remember that you can put a dollar figure on volunteer time. Many funding programs will match other sources of funds, donated material, and volunteer time, but will not contribute without them. If the fund allows it, be sure to include time spent by government employees as a contribution to your project.

Sample Adopt-A-Stream Budget Request
The Any Nova Scotia Watercourse Stewardship Group

BACKGROUND
The Any Nova Scotia Watercourse stewardship group is a community group formed in Anywhere, Nova Scotia to look after and protect the Any Nova Scotia Watercourse. We are seeking partners to help us. Our group is made up of members from the following groups:

PARTNERS
Grade Eight class: Northern Oriole Junior High
Grade Eleven class: Blue Jay High
The Bald Eagle Naturalists Club
The Atlantic Salmon Fishing Club
The Active Seniors Club
Anywhere, Nova Scotia Town Council
Village Manufacturers (local industry)

PLAN
Volunteers from these groups will be doing the work.
We seek funds to clean up, enhance, and become general stewards of the Any Nova Scotia Watercourse through the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-a-Stream Program. When we contacted government officials they suggested that we need to do the following on our watercourse:
1. Write an oral history of the watercourse
2. Assess the current land use
3. Do a watercourse survey
4. Clean up the watercourse

After completing these tasks we may also need to build a fishway and repair some culverts. Attached is a budget request for funding. This budget is for the year 200-. At the back of this document you will find letters from the organizations that have agreed to make contributions to the project.

{Attach a simple statement of your monetary needs as shown on the next page}

Budget Requirements	**Amount Needed**	**Current Contributions**	**Funds Requested**
Project Coordinator	$10,000.00	Town of Anywhere $5000.00	$5,000.00
Meeting Costs	$ 750.00	Village Donuts (coffee) $100.00 University: speaker $200.00 Promotion: local newspaper $450.00	$0000.00
Documentation of work-Photography	$ 200.00	Anywhere Photo Labs $200.00	$0000.00
Clean up Costs (bags etc.)	$ 200.00	Anywhere Grocery Store $200.00	$0000.00
Oral History report write-up	$ 250.00	Anywhere Heritage Club $250.00	$0000.00
Purchase of Maps and supplies	$ 100.00	Anywhere Trail Club $100.00	$0000.00
	TOTAL BUDGET NEEDS $11,500.00	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS $ 6,500.00	TOTAL MONIES REQUESTED $5000.00

Other items may need to be added to this budget such as photocopying.

Although the total budget is $11,500, parts can be donated as a contribution other than cash. You can document the worth of something that is donated to your project. For example, in this budget, Village Donuts has agreed to provide coffee and donuts for the meetings. They have estimated the cost of this donation to be $100.00. This is put into the budget as a monetary figure.

Always remember that it is often easier to get equipment or supplies donated rather than a cash donation. These are called "in-kind" contributions or contributions that are made to your organization in the form of supplies or time. As another example, a construction firm may be willing to donate a few hours of machine-time if you need large machinery at some point. A lumber company may be willing to donate wood if it is required. Both money and "in-kind" contributions can come from the following sources:

1. **Local Industries**
Many companies like to be involved in community or school projects and are quite willing to help with environmental work of this kind. In bigger companies, contact the communications department of the company first by writing a letter explaining your group and what you're trying to do. Ask for an appointment to discuss the matter with the company. You can use some material in the section on **Presentation/Press Materials** if you wish to make a presentation. Tell the company that you will be publicizing your work and will give them credit for their support. Don't just look for the biggest and most obvious companies and industries. Small service industries like hotels, restaurants, local newspaper and radio all may be willing to help with your project. In these cases, just dropping in and chatting with the owner can prove to be helpful. School children can help you solicit donations as part of their contribution to the project.

Some businesses like Shell Canada and TD Canada Trust have special Environmental Funding Programs.

2. **Municipal Government**
Some municipal councils can be convinced to fund projects of this kind, particularly if they know that it can enhance the natural beauty of their region and the productivity of fish, thus increasing the ecotourism potential. Start by writing a letter to the town or county clerk and ask to be put on the agenda of the next meeting. When you go to the meeting, you might want to use the overheads contained in the section on **Presentation/Press materials**.

Explain to the council what your group is trying to do. Getting your local government involved is always beneficial. Some communities will even suggest that minor court sentences be handed out as community work. You might want to suggest to a local judge that traffic offenses be worked off by helping your group with stream rehabilitation. If you do participate in programs where orders are issued from the court, you must have the work ready to be done and be available to supervise the work. Municipal governments are also closely connected with the recreational groups in your area and may be able to suggest places to get more assistance.

3. **Federal Government**
Generally the federal government supports non-profit groups and projects. There may be many government departments willing to support your work. Federal government departments encourage partnerships of different kinds, so people should not hesitate to explore those they even consider to be unlikely. In one Nova Scotia project, major stream work was carried out with the support of Correctional Services Canada. Many of the Departments do not have formal funding programs but encourage communities to partner in their programs which sometimes match well with adopting a watershed.

The Federal Department of the Environment's National Green Source Funding Guide to the best source of information on funding and how to obtain it. This guide will help you locate numerous sources of funding for environmental projects. It includes information on public and private sector programs and organizations that provide financial assistance, labour costs or in-kind donations to community groups.

The Green Source is available in searchable database format, (http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/grnsrc/index_e.cfm) or in hard copy format available from the Environment Canada regional office.
Atlantic Region, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth NS, B2Y 2N6
ph: 426-7990

http://www.ec.gc.ca/envact_e.html

They also have information guides that will help you plan your project and fundraising.

Community Environmental Projects: From Needs Assessment to Evaluation
This Reference Guide is an excellent step-by-step resource for groups who want to turn a good idea into a successful community environmental project.
These links will re-direct you to Atlantic Region's EcoAction page:
HTML or PDF.
http://atlantic-web1.ns.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&nav=D2EECEE4-1

Fundraising Ideas that Work for Grassroots Groups, by Ken Wyman, brought to you courtesy of the Community Partnerships Programs of the Department of Canadian Heritage. This publication provides advice on fundraising for grassroots groups. It includes sections on the fundraising climate in Canada, the four types of fundraising, working with volunteers, and more.
These links will re-direct you to Canadian Heritage Site:
HTML or PDF. http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pc-cp/pubs/e/fr4gras1.htm

What You Can Do website

The What You Can Do website is a place to find information, resources, tools and ideas to help you take action for a healthier environment.
http://www.ec.gc.ca/eco/main_e.htm

4. Provincial Government

The N.S. Department of the Environment and Labour runs an annual youth conservation corps that may be able to assist you with your work.

Contact:
Program Coordinator
Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps
Nova Scotia Environment and Labour
5151 Terminal Road, 5th floor
P.O. Box 697
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T8
Tel: 902-424-6307
Fax: 902-424-3571
Email: nsycc@gov.ns.ca
http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ess/ycc/programs.htm

Many funding programs change from year to year. Your contacts at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries will have up-to-date information.

5. The Nova Scotia Salmon Association Adopt-a-Stream Program Funding

The Nova Salmon Association has funding support available for non-profit groups who are undertaking projects, which will improve the sport fish habitats. This funding is provided through the Sport-fish Habitat Stamp purchased by anglers with their fishing license and contributions to the Association. A funding guide is available on the NSSA web page (look under programs / adopt-a- stream) or from the program coordinator.

NSSA / Adopt-A-Stream Program
R.R. 2 581 Stanburne Road
Barss Corner NS B0R 1A0
Tel: (902) 644-1276
Fax: (902) 644-1279
e-mail: amy.weston@ns.sympatico.ca
http://www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca/

6. Local Events

Local events such as bake sales, fairs, flea markets, fishing derbies, auctions, t-shirt sales, and contests are all excellent fund-raisers and also a way of letting people in your community know what you're doing.

There are many innovative ways to raise money and most Nova Scotian communities are good at working together on these kinds of events. Use local people whom you know have special talents for organizing events like this.

Now that you have a well-organized group that is ready to work, your group will complete the following phases:

- Learn about watersheds
- Learn about stream, wetland, salt marsh, and other habitats
- Learn about fish and how they live
- Research the history of the watercourse
- Survey the watercourse as it exists today
- Survey the watercourse to see where the problems are
- Develop maps of past and present situations on the watercourse
- Develop a suitable rehabilitation plan by working with a habitat official
- Rehabilitate the watercourse
- Publicize your work

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!
HOW WELL HAVE YOU READ THIS SECTION?

TRUE AND FALSE QUIZ

	True	False
1. There are only three habitat requirements that all animals need to live. These are: food, water, and space.		
2. Using rivers to transport logs helped to make better fish habitat in Nova Scotia.		
3. Adopt-A-Stream programs must start in the spring.		
4. You should have an expert person leading your Adopt-A-Stream team.		
5. Adopt-A-Stream programs are not just for streams; you can adopt a marsh, a pond, or any other watercourse.		
6. The two government agencies supportive of the Adopt-A-Stream program are the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.		
7. The word "stakeholders" only applies to those people who own land near a watercourse.		
8. Most people in Canada want to do something to help the environment.		
9. Adults like to speak most in meetings if it's one big group of people.		
10. “In-kind” contributions" includes cash contributions		

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS MANUAL