

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
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Cape Breton Field Unit Meets its' Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target

Canada had made a commitment under the Kyoto protocol to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 6%, from the 1990 levels. Under the "Federal House in Order" initiative, the Federal government's reduction was assigned to several Departments. Parks Canada was assigned a reduction target of 5.2% of the 1998 levels to be accomplished by 2010.

A "Master Plan for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions within Parks Canada's Operations", was produced in 2002. This plan provided background information as well as detailing the various means of GHG reduction. The Federal Government, through Natural Resources Canada developed a suite of incentive programs that were designed to assist in meeting the GHG reduction targets.

The Cape Breton Field Unit has taken advantage of several of the incentive programs. These have provided partial funding for the major retrofit of heating, ventilation and air condition systems (HVAC) at AGB, the purchase of energy efficient vehicles, lighting changes and the video-conferencing project in the Highlands.

The Cape Breton Field Unit was assigned a target of 3,461 tonnes of GHG emissions. We have surpassed this target in the past fiscal year, reducing to 3,383 tonnes of emissions.

Approximately 85% of our reduction can be attributed to the HVAC retrofit project at AGB. The remainder is the result of a combination of things, and the downsizing of fleet vehicles is certainly a significant contributor in that remaining 15%.

Our GHG production for the previous fiscal year was just slightly above the target at 3,523 tonnes. There is no doubt that the past mild winter contributed to the additional reduction. As we cannot rely on such a winter every year, we must remain diligent in our activities in order to maintain our GHG production below our target level. While actions such as the recent purchase of Hybrid and "Smart" vehicles will help, our greatest opportunity with our fleet is avoiding a trip altogether.

Everyone should be proud of the part that they played in accomplishing our GHG reduction target. *See Chart on last page*

For further information on GHG Reduction attached is a website that addresses the impacts of climate change, provides information on rebates and other incentives, and includes a tool to calculate greenhouse gas emissions:

<http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/>

The following provides tips on conserving

energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/index.cfm>

This website provides tips for lowering fuel consumption and GHG emissions. Many of the tips reflect the direction in Tom's recent staff notice. I suggest we lead with some of these.

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/personal/driving/autosmart-maintenance.cfm?attr=8#defensive>

GAEA Award

This month's winner of the Gaea Award for Environmentally Friendly Activities is Mark Sajatovitch.

As you can see in the attached photo, promotional signs for our two barrel recycling system are now complete and will be placed on the buses this summer. These signs will inform the visitors about our recycling program and will also help to encourage them to recycle using the proper containers. Indispensable in helping Anne Marie Lane-Jonah with the completion of this product was Mark Sajatovitch who provided the photos, and was a huge help with the layout and the design for the new signs.

Thank you Mark for your invaluable assistance on this project, and congratulations on doing your bit to help the environment.



Take the Challenge!

The National Commuter Challenge is a friendly competition between Canadian individuals, communities and organizations to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation to and from work. When you walk, cycle, carpool, take transit or telework, you can improve your health and that of the environment. You can play a significant role in reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

During [Clean Air Day](#) (June 7, 2006) and [Canadian Environment Week](#) (June 4 to 10, 2006) try a new and sustainable way to get to work! If you already use a sustainable mode of transportation, get others on board and register for the Commuter Challenge.

For more information, please contact [Go for Green](#) by telephone at 1-888-822-2848 or the commuter challenge website at: <http://www.commuterchallenge.ca>

News from AGB

The Young Man and Science – An Interview with Dr. Alexander Graham Bell – Reported by C.H. Claudy (From [The American Boy](#) for January 1916)

“But material reward does sometimes come to the scientist. The true test of practical value of anything is its worth in money. If money is spent for anything which has been discovered or invented, it shows there was a need or a demand for it. In my own case, I invented the telephone because it was a puzzle which I had to work out, but I had from the first a very high idea of the commercial value of the invention. I had a clear conception of what it must be for a year before I could reduce it to practice. When I tried to follow out my mental conception, I met lions in the path, mental lions, in my own mind which had to be overcome. I believed that the vibrations which I hoped would be transmitted by the electrical current in the telephone would be too feeble to give clearly audible results. So, without waiting to see, I began to devise the means for magnifying these results. It was not until I had rid myself of this ‘lion’ and worked

out the telephone in strict accord with my conception, that it was successful.

“How shall the young man know if he is fitted for a scientific career? That is a hard question. I think one indication is to be found in the fondness many boys have for making collections ... It makes comparatively little difference whether the boy collects scientifically or not ... The point is that he do something himself for himself ... I collected plants when I was a boy. I was very fond of botany. One day someone tried to help me, and showed me how I should hunt up each plant in a book, and classify it by a long Latin name. That spoiled the whole thing for me! I wasn't interested in the names, but in the things. Of course just because a boy collects things it doesn't mean he will be a good scientific student. But it shows a logical, orderly mind, and that is one requisite for any scientific work ...”

May Bookings

The month of May is drawing to a close having passed all too quickly.

We are looking forward to greeting the school groups who have booked their annual field trip with us. Bookings are about on par with other years and especially busy during the third week of June.

Welcome Flyer

Our revamped AGB Welcome Flyer is at the printer and staff is very pleased we will have one again. As a cost saving measure it has been reduced from 7 panels to 5 panels mostly as a result of reducing the size of the wayfinding map and is just as useful as it was.

WATER Exhibit

Work is now underway to gather the images and text to rejuvenate the rail panels in the WATER exhibit area. Fading and peeling are making them less effective in providing the exhibit information they contain.

Bell Family Album

All two hundred scanned historic images as requested have been forwarded to Formac Publishing for the 'Bell Family Album' book. It is expected Formac will be using around 100 of the images for this book which should be launched in September.

Staff Training

Blaine Aitkens delivered the 'Outstanding Visitor Service' training to our staff on May 11th. We thank Blaine for this informative session. For the first time in over 20 years, our staff training took a total of one day as all staff are returning staff.

Anne MacRae and Linda Watson attended the Harassment Training session on May 25th along with many other staff from our Field Unit.

On May 29th staff from CBHNPC held a training session for their janitorial staff in our main theatre. Our staff were invited to sit in on Jocelyn Quann's delightful presentation about CBHNPC and once again came away thankful that national parks exist. An update on fees was also provided.

We appreciated Georgina Leslie's offer to provide AGBNHSC information to the recent Taxi Driver Training sessions as they are offering tours that bring visitors to our Site especially on cruise ship days.

NS School Board Association

The Nova Scotia School Board Association held its annual general meeting in Baddeck from May 25th -27th. On Friday we set up a table display cross promoting Parks Canada CBI along with all 4 solo panels which added nicely to the overall look of the space.

Other displays included Canadian Heritage, Aliant, Acadian education network, Minolta, Superstore, Stacking Cups learning tools and an organization that offers workplace safety training.

On May 25th the Crown Corporations Advisory Committee on Official Languages held day one of their annual 2 day retreat in our main theatre. Carol Whitfield welcomed the group of around 30 participants shortly after 9 a.m. and from 1 –2 p.m. guided tours of our museum were given in both official languages. Their meeting finished around 4:15 p.m. and they travelled to North Sydney where day two was taking place.

Site Openings

Marconi National Historic Site and Canso Islands National Historic Site are open as of Thursday June 1st and remain open until September 15th. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission is free at Marconi and is self-administered at Canso.

And, on a fairly regular basis a vast array of products from singing fish and photo albums to recipe books are dropped off to our staff room for anyone who might be interested in making a purchase. Can you guess who bought the umbrella being modelled in the attached photograph?



Protecting Yourself in the Sun



The following article on Sun Protection has been submitted by Valerie White, our Occupational Health & Safety Adviser for the Field Unit. Valerie will continue submitting articles of interest and help to all employees in the coming issues. Anyone with any particular questions or concerns can contact Valerie at 733-3526.

Sunlight contains ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which causes premature aging of the skin, wrinkles, cataracts, and skin cancer. The amount of damage from UV exposure depends on the strength of the light, the length of exposure, and whether the skin is protected. There are no safe UV rays or safe suntans.

Skin Cancer - Sun exposure at any age can cause skin cancer. Be especially careful in the sun if you burn easily, spend a lot of time outdoors, or have any of the following physical features: numerous, irregular, or large moles, freckles, fair skin, blond, red, or light brown hair.

Self-Examination - It's important to examine your body monthly because skin cancers detected early can almost always be cured. The most important warning sign is a spot on the skin that is changing in size, shape, or color during a period of 1 month to 1 or 2 years.

Skin cancers often take the following forms: Pale, wax-like, pearly nodules. Red, scaly, sharply outlined patches. Sores that don't heal. Small, mole-like growths—melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer. If you find such unusual skin changes, see a health

care professional immediately.

Block Out UV Rays

Cover up - Wear tightly-woven clothing that blocks out light. Try this test: Place your hand between a single layer of the clothing and a light source. If you can see your hand through the fabric, the garment offers little protection. Use sunscreen - A sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 blocks 93 percent of UV rays. You want to block both UVA and UVB rays to guard against skin cancer. Be sure to follow application directions on the bottle.

Wear a hat - A wide brim hat (not a baseball cap) is ideal because it protects the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp.

Wear UV-absorbent shades. Sunglasses don't have to be expensive, but they should block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation.

Limit exposure. UV rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you're unsure about the sun's intensity, take the shadow test: If your shadow is shorter than you, the sun's rays are the day's strongest.

Source: OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (www.osha.gov)

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Raymond Lillington and his family on the death of his sister.

Also our condolences to Debra Chew and her husband, Gary on the death of his mother, Kaye Chew on May 22, 2006.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Cape Breton



