

ENGAGE IN CARING FOR OUR WATER

All people in the province need water and everyone can play a role in its management, not just the government. It doesn't matter if it is a business, an organization, the Mi'kmaq, or is simply an individual. We can help them by providing education, training, information, and participation opportunities.

This can contribute to an improved understanding of water. It also increases the protection of the resource by changing the way Nova Scotians do things. Providing opportunities for groups and individuals to get involved in caring for water promotes a public understanding and ethic of water stewardship. It can also encourage innovation and create opportunities for those outside of government to demonstrate leadership in water management.

THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Program is a national, multi-stakeholder driven program that promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage and ensures Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable way. The Margaree and Shelburne Rivers are recognized through this program.

Actions for Today

- Build capacity for community water monitoring in watersheds across the province.
- Work to engage youth in water stewardship and management activities.
- Support the establishment of national water efficiency and labelling standards program.
- Engage in outreach and partnership activities to promote water stewardship practices for residents to maintain and protect their health and property.
- Confirm support for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, and increase the knowledge and profile of Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nova Scotia.

Actions for Tomorrow

- Facilitate the sharing of information and ideas between water users at a regional level through the establishment of a forum on water management.
- Recognize and encourage water stewardship efforts by establishing a program to recognize exemplary instances of water stewardship.
- Provide assistance to develop, implement, and promote projects that maintain or improve the stewardship of our fresh and coastal waters.
- Evaluate and update water-related educational tools for a range of water-related topics including conservation, property management, septic systems, and drinking water.
- Partner with business to develop and promote water-wise best practices such as conservation and efficiency.

Directions for the future

Many Nova Scotians are already engaged in caring for our water. But we understand that many watershed stewardship groups, non-governmental organizations, Aboriginal communities and organizations, businesses, and individuals require additional support. Because of this, we will continue to develop new ways of funding, and developing outreach and educational materials, and other tools for these groups.