

# THE RECAP



Divert NS news and events: working to improve Nova Scotia's environment, economy and quality of life by championing recycling in Nova Scotia.

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## Happy Holidays from Divert NS!

It's been a big year at Divert NS - from our name change to celebrating #20YearsRecycling, and so much more. Thanks for following along with us. We wish you a safe, joyful holiday and a happy New Year!

## Innovate, nominate, celebrate: The 2016 Mobius Awards

On the evening of November 9, Divert NS brought together recycling champions from across Nova Scotia to present the 18th annual Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence.

This year's Mobius Awards were better (and bigger!) than ever. Featuring the legendary David Suzuki as keynote speaker, the event attracted nearly 300 stakeholders, partners, award recipients, and members of the public. The Honourable Margaret Miller, Minister of Environment, brought welcoming remarks and Mi'kmaq Elder Jane Abram blessed the event.

Dr. David Suzuki inspired us with his insights on putting the environment first. He expressed that clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment should be considered basic human rights. In addition, by meeting Divert NS staff and stakeholders, he learned about Nova Scotia's success in recycling



and waste diversion over the past 20 years. We thank everyone who joined us!

The [2016 Mobius Award winners](#) were the true guests of honour at the event; we were proud to award them for their hard work and commitment to taking care of our environment.

## EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

Sponsored by EPRA – Nova Scotia  
**Brian Macintosh, Pubnico**



Brian Macintosh saw a problem in his community and found an opportunity to be a part of the solution. His new business, Pubnico Plastics, helped divert 100,000 pounds of plastics away from our landfills in the last year alone.

## SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**Oaklawn Farm Zoo, Aylesford**



The team at Oaklawn Farm Zoo goes to great lengths to reduce, reuse and recycle. Even though the zoo gets over 100,000 visitors each year, they sort each and every item

of waste that is produced. The zoo even brings in waste from local businesses to reuse and dispose of properly. These practices and many more prove that Oaklawn Farm Zoo is a small business making a BIG impact.

## LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Scotia Recycling  
**Miller Waste Systems Inc.**



Since 1990, Miller Waste has been providing composting services to Canadians and has operated the Miller Compost Dartmouth facility since 1998. In just

one year alone, Miller collected over 75,000 metric tonnes of material from its commercial customers in Nova Scotia. Miller also values sustainability internally – take for instance their “Nothing New” policy for office furniture. Every chair, desk, lamp and more is purchased second hand, rather than new. Amazing!

## COMMUNITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

**Eddie’s Litterless Road Tour, Clean Foundation**



Clean Foundation’s puppet project starring a young, shy cat named Eddie is a real-life way to engage elementary students. Since its inception in 2008, Eddie has performed over 600

presentations and reached over 36,000 students with his message about the three Rs. The Eddie concept has even begun to expand across Canada!

## INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Novapet Inc.  
**Munro Academy, Balls Creek, Cape Breton**



The students and staff of Munro Academy in Cape Breton are champions of recycling. The 12,000 square foot facility started its life as a decommissioned building, but today, the

school is carbon neutral and 90% of its energy comes from renewable sources. Munro Academy also has an extensive recycling program, plus a pack-it-in and pack-it-out waste policy. Students and teachers reuse just about every material they can get their hands on for art, writing tests, math problems and more.

## HALL OF FAME

Sponsored by Innovacorp  
**Rochelle Owen, Halifax**



Rochelle Owen has worked in environment and sustainability for over 25 years. Today, she is the Director of the Office of Sustainability at Dalhousie University. Rochelle is a

catalyst for change: not just for waste management, but for sustainable practices in general, leading the charge for sustainability at Dalhousie and beyond.

## INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Walmart  
**TRUROBOTICS, Truro**

Trurobotics noticed a big problem in their community: some ‘biodegradable’ plastic bags were causing problems for their local compost facility. To help, they developed a strong, flexible plastic recipe bag that doesn’t get caught in machines and completely decomposes in less than two weeks!



# Recognizing Enviro-Depots at Depot Day 2016

October 26, 2016

Divert NS' annual Depot Day was held in Truro on October 26. We were excited to once again welcome so many ENVIRO-DEPOT™ owners and staff to a productive and informative day.



On the evening of October 25, many attendees joined us for a meet-and-greet reception to kick off Depot Day. The next morning, we convened to discuss depot improvements, emergency planning, marketing on a budget, and much more. Valerie Roy, Chief Executive Officer, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Inc. gave a presentation about the benefits of chambers of commerce around Nova Scotia.

We also awarded Depot of the Year to two outstanding businesses: Beehive Adult Service Centre in Aylesford as Small Depot of the Year, and Karen's Recycling in Dartmouth as Large Depot of the Year. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work!



Divert NS CEO Jeff MacCallum presents Large Depot of the Year to Karen Skodje-Samoila of Karen's Recycling Ltd. in Dartmouth.



Jeff MacCallum presents Small Depot of the Year to Bambi Hamilton from the Beehive Adult Service Centre in Aylesford.



# Reusable Bag Pledge: Do You Divert?

Do you divert? That's the question we asked Nova Scotians this Waste Reduction Week!

Over 1,000 people signed our pledge to reduce their plastic bag waste and commit to reusable bag alternatives. On November 1, we drew one lucky winner of a \$500 gift card to White Point Beach and a \$500 gift card to Walmart.

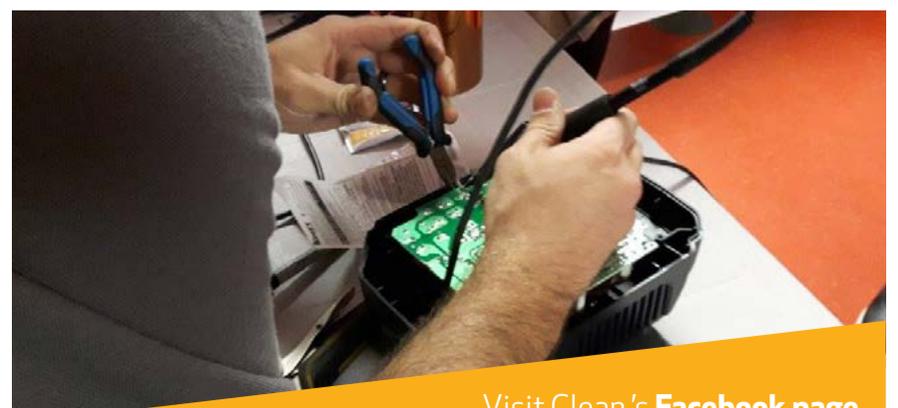
Congratulations to Joan Sinden – she and her little friend Bodhi are pictured above with Divert NS CEO Jeff MacCallum.



## Fix it, Don't Ditch it!

In celebration of Divert NS' 20th anniversary, and as part of Waste Reduction Week, [Clean Foundation](#) hosted their first-ever Fix-it Fair: an event that included workshops on upcycling and repurposed art, learning how to fix things, meeting local businesses in the business of fixing and repurposing, and getting broken things fixed (or at least, assessed!). The event welcomed dozens of guests and businesses. We were happy to be there and meet some great Nova Scotians who embrace the culture of #NothingWasted!

Thanks to Clean for helping us celebrate 20 years of recycling and promoting the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling (and fixing) everyday items.



# Research and Development: Compost

Divert NS has an active Research & Development funding program that supports innovation in diverting waste. As of late, a few of the ongoing projects have a common theme: compost!

## CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL MARKET FOR NOVA SCOTIA COMPOST

Compost is an important resource to improve and maintain healthy soils. Divert NS, in partnership with Nova Scotia Environment, has provided funds to LP Consulting to identify and improve compost market potential with the goal of increasing compost use on Nova Scotia agricultural land. The project will involve testing and analysis at select compost facilities, along with agricultural marketing recommendations for the finished product.



## HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMPOST FOR GREENHOUSES

Another recently approved project will investigate capturing energy outputs – carbon dioxide and heat – from the aerobic composting process for use within a greenhouse setting. The project is being undertaken at the Dalhousie University Agricultural College in partnership with Acadia University, co-led by Drs. Gordon Price and Paul Arnold. If successful, it has the potential to convert heat and carbon dioxide outputs that were traditionally lost, into valuable inputs for greenhouse crop growth.

# New Educational Resources!

Considering how much material is diverted from landfill in Nova Scotia, you likely wonder from time to time what happens to material *after* the recycling bin.

New Divert NS educational kits, distributed to regions throughout the province this fall, are helping answer those questions! The kits contain a variety of items made from material Nova Scotians recycle, including:

- Carry-out drink trays made of recycled newspaper at CKF in Hantsport
- Plastic flake made from recycled beverage containers at Novapet Inc. in Amherst
- Compost made from food and yard waste in Colchester County
- Journals made from old book covers in Halifax



Contact your regional educator today to learn more about the educational kits and free waste education!

## Presenting Divert NS at the 2016 UNSM Conference



This year's UNSM conference in Halifax was a great chance to meet with municipal partners, new and familiar alike.

Divert NS was proud to sponsor the conference and present at the event to a crowd of over 100 municipal stakeholders. If you're interested in a Divert NS presentation, contact us!

## Celebrating the Adopt-A-Highway program

As we celebrate 20 years of recycling in Nova Scotia, our partners are joining us! In September, the Nova Scotia **Adopt-A-Highway program** held a Volunteer Recognition Awards celebration to honour their hardworking members and to celebrate our 20-year anniversary.

Adopt-A-Highway presented awards in nine categories, thanking community groups big and small for their service in keeping roadways clean. As Adopt-A-Highway's sole funder, Divert NS was even presented with an award: Financial and Moral Support of the Adopt-A-Highway program (*pictured below!*)

Thank you to the staff at Adopt-A-Highway, and to Nova Scotians, for your hard work helping keep our roadways litter-free.



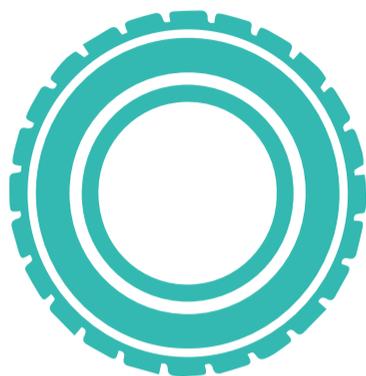
# Fiscal Trends Year-to-Date

Divert NS data collected April 1 to September 30, 2016



## Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program

- ↑ Remittances up 5% compared to prior year
- ↑ Revenue up 6.6% compared to prior year
- ↓ Redemption rate down, 79.8% versus 84.3%



## Used Tire Management Program

- ↑ Remittances in passenger tire equivalents up 7.8%
- ↑ Tire revenue up 12% compared to prior year
- ↓ Return rate down to 85.8% versus 87.9% prior year

## Supporting United Way of Colchester County!

Divert NS recently partnered with United Way of Colchester County to offer staff the opportunity to make donations to United Way through payroll deductions.

In September, we also attended the United Way's Annual Kick-off Luncheon. It was a great chance to learn about the big impact United Way has in our community and beyond.



## Staff Updates

As 2016 comes to a close, it's the end of a journey for a few of our Divert NS team members. After over 11 years in total with us, **Greg McCarthy**, operations supervisor, is retiring in January. Greg will be missed not only in the office, but at our Kempton processing facility and across the province in his work with Enviro-Depots. His retirement is truly bittersweet! In light of his departure, we are pleased to welcome **Brenda Carrigan**, previous Kempton processing facility warehouse supervisor, to the position. With 19 years of Divert NS experience, Brenda is an exemplary fit for the new role!



**Brenda Pryor**, administrative assistant, will also be retiring from Divert NS this January. Brenda has been part of the team since 1998 and is an incredible support in our office. She too will be sorely missed!



Our new administrative assistant starting in December will be **Kim MacLean**, previously of Grant Thornton's Truro office. Welcome aboard!

**As we welcome new faces to the team, we also send best wishes to Greg and Brenda in their retirement!**

## About Divert NS

Divert NS (formerly known as RRFB Nova Scotia) is a not-for-profit corporation working in partnership with Nova Scotians to improve the province's environment, economy and quality of life by reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering resources.

Divert NS administers two core programs: beverage container and tire recycling. We also manage a network of province-wide Enviro-Depots and work together with government, industry and academia to champion recycling.

We believe Nova Scotia is a model for recycling and we advocate on its behalf worldwide.

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Divert NS is a registered business name of the Resource Recovery Fund Board, Inc.