



February 16, 2021

Email: endionspei@gmail.com Website: nspeidiocese.ca/den

Facebook: [Environment Network Diocese of NS & PEI](#)

Welcome. DEN, the (Anglican Diocese of NS & PEI) Diocesan Environment Network is active in many ways in promoting care for and involvement in environmental and related causes. We publish a weekly (FB) News, articles in the Diocesan Times, promote many means of expressing concern for our “fragile island home”. We provide support and teaching through eco-grief session (with Nancy Blair, regular online session), links to many environment concerns/groups, encourage the use of Season of Creation, as well as retreats and special events like our recent Hope and Inspiration Art Gallery. We are now offering a chance to pray together. Please see info below.



Faithful Climate Conversation – Tuesday Feb 16th on Zoom with Kairos and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Register at this link. <https://forthe loveofcreation.ca/event/faithful-climate-conversation-creation-climate-and-you/>

Thursday Evening Gatherings continue on February 18 at 7 pm via Zoom: Session 7 will be LIVING A FAITH THAT IS COMMITTED TO CARE FOR THE EARTH with Nancy Blair.

What would our Spiritual Practice look like if we were living a faith that was committed to care for the earth? Would we pray differently? Would we feel differently? Would we act differently? How would our homes and gardens look? How would our weekdays change? How would our Sundays change? How would we walk with humans and the other than humans? How would we be different? Come with dreams, despair, ideas, fears, wisdom, questions and plans. Come as you are ... and as you would like to be.

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, Founded on the covenant of your love. - The Cry of the Earth. To acquire the link Email endionspei@gmail.com

Energy Efficiency & Greening our Church Buildings will be our Zoom session on Feb. 25th with Ben Grieder, Energy Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre.

Ben was a Fall Presenter at our Den Thursday gatherings and we ran out of time for Ben to answer your specific questions on solar, insulation, fans, bringing costs down, etc. We promised to bring Ben back! and he is back with us on February 25th. Please send your questions, ASAP, - as detailed as you need - to Nancy Blair, DEN Thursday Gathering Moderator. She will send them to Ben. nancyblaircounselling@gmail.com Please put "Questions for Ben Grieder" in the Subject line.

Ben is passionate about Community Energy Planning, Sustainable Building Sciences, Active Transportation and anything related to Energy Efficiency. Ben graduated from Acadia University with a Professional Studies degree in Community Development and Environmental Sustainability Studies. In recent years, he has worked as a Community Energy Planner, his goal being to help people understand the benefits of energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy. Ben is an energy efficiency specialist, with a background in building sciences and energy analysis.

Praying with the DEN Community led by the Rev. Tory Byrnes continues each Friday 9:30 am on Zoom. To obtain the link, please email endionspei@gmail.com

Each Friday at 9:30 we will host morning prayers. Prayers will take shape from different traditions and focus on various aspects of our relationship with Creation.

We hope that weekly (or more often) prayers will continue after Epiphany, through all seasons, led by you – individuals, parishes or other groups, who would like to lead online prayers once – or more often. The DEN leadership can provide support, and some training in using Zoom if needed. Think about it. It would be a wonderful thing for every parish to take turns leading prayers on a regular basis. For more information or questions or to share how you/your parish or group are praying for creation, please e-mail victoriabyrne02@gmail.com

Ecological Grief: The DEN Ecological Grief Support Group takes place on the third Monday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Please note we may go a little longer than an hour. Do you experience ecological grief...once in a while, once or twice a week... every day? If ecological grief is becoming part of your life, this support group is for you. You are not alone. We will begin each Group with a short presentation about some aspect of ecological grief. There will be lots of time for discussion - for those who want to talk.

Nancy Blair, the Group Facilitator, is a Registered Counselling Therapist (RCT) in Nova Scotia, with a Masters of Education (Counselling) from Acadia University and a Masters of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. As a Certified Pet Loss and Bereavement Counsellor, she has extensive experience working with individuals experiencing grief for humans and for non-humans. For further information, contact: Nancy Blair at nancyblaircounselling@gmail.com



Hope & Inspiration Gallery of the Arts We have changed the name to acknowledge the breadth of mediums used to reflect the beauty of the earth. We will be featuring painter Ed Coleman very soon along with three new photographers. Please click “Like” to follow our page and see all the new offerings and invite your friends as well. Our first four artists continue to be showcased and we have just launched a Poetry section kicked off by a poem from Carol Scott who is a DEN member and constant attendee to our Thursday evening gatherings on Zoom. If you would like to submit art or a poem for inclusion in the gallery, please leave a message on that page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/373394600384260>

or our website:

<https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/diocesan-environment-network/pages/den-hope-inspiration-art-gallery>



This letter to the Editor DEN ENews was received following last Thursdays presentation of Two Way Bridges discussing how DEN can support the Healthy Forest Coalition

From Gail Wylie:

“I attended my first DEN discussion session on February 11th and found the presentation on forestry concerns in Nova Scotia very interesting and quite parallel to what I have learned from others involved in similar concerns about the impact of the modern forest industry in New Brunswick. The proposed ‘five questions’ for politicians or election candidates would work equally well in New Brunswick - with some adjustment given that we do not have an equivalent to the Lahey report.

Sharing the questions across a broad spectrum of the public could also be an excellent educational vehicle. As someone in the group commented, few people really understand the deep impact of the current forestry practices, which go far beyond the aesthetics of losing the beauty of the forest to clear cutting and plantations.

I would like to suggest two videos recently shared with folks concerned about forestry practices in New Brunswick: These links could possibly be shared along with the five questions as a way for people to supplement their knowledge of forest ecology and the impact of industrial forestry practices.

1.The New Brunswick Forestry Apocalypse

https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3oVnwLFc6ytGBTWEoZsHAzNXzEFYd4ua1QuT3gZgXTh74xwDqd_i nfrME&feature=youtu.be&v=QTLPzsDmy8Q

This is a virtual small plane flight over the forest in New Brunswick between the Miramichi and Fredericton. It provides an exact picture of what you would see in a flight, by combining satellite pictures of the forest with photogrammetry technology that turns this into a 3D picture. You can see the roads and where the big forest harvest machines leave tracks, the clear-cut effects and the tree plantations. The sound track then includes the explanation by the environmentalist as to the impact of everything you are seeing on the whole range of life - from animal habitat to micro-organisms to soil and water retention.

2. A film about modern forestry practices in Sweden

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q51FMbTOn_Q&feature=share

This one was shared by a long term and very knowledgeable advocate for the forest in New Brunswick, who described it as “..a must-watch film about Swedish forestry. It could easily be about New Brunswick forestry practices, which emulate those of our Swedish friends.” It ‘takes on’ the industry claims promoting their current practices and rebuts each one in turn, with scientific explanation of evidence to the contrary.. “



Stations of Creation: The on line version can be obtained by Emailing endionspei@gmail.com Other resources can be found on our website: <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/diocesan-environment-network>

Diocese of Toronto Creation Care

Download a “Fast for the Earth PDF: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Lent-Fast-2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2hijkcxWXd-nHdHysKCR9Pp6yhoWkPgg65ILQhhOjXACo0ldResaG5Wwl>

PWRDF Creation Care / Climate Action Lent Resource: Go to the link below to subscribe and download this resource focusing on 40 days of Lent, 40 days of stories about PWRDF and 40 prayers for the earth. <https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/lent2021/>



Papal Encyclical: **Laudato Si** (“Praise be to you, my Lord”)

Book source: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Schedule: Every Wednesday beginning Feb 24. Time to be announced

Facilitator: Bruce Langhus (brucelanghus@gmail.com), email Bruce whether you’d prefer mornings (10am) or evenings (7pm) for Wednesdays in Lent.

This book study will enter this encyclical to learn its teachings, its radically different viewpoint on climate action, and its urgent message to all people of Faith. Come join us, we await your contribution. This book will change you as a climate activist.

Lenten Journey with the Poetry of Mary Oliver – every Friday during Lent beginning Feb 19th, 3:15 to 5 pm. Please send an email to Debbie Fice (widgebeads@gmail.com) to receive your study guide and the weekly emails with the poems for the week.



Save Owls Head – please follow this link for an open letter to Premier Rankin concerning development at Owls Head. <https://saveowlshead.org/mediacoverage/open-letter-to-premier-rankin/>

Stop Clear Cuts on Crown Land. Protect Mainland Moose Habitat

Marilyn Cameron, a small woodlot owner and a farmer in Kings County, has postcards for the Minister of the Environment which she is willing to send you to support the protest against clear cuts in moose habitat.

To get cards, contact Marilyn Cameron with the number you want and your mailing address. Maricameron0@gmail.com. If you want to distribute them at a church service, please contact your church leaders first to work out Covid protocol.

Forest Management Guide Nova Scotians are invited to provide their feedback on the new Forest Management Guide, which outlines the silviculture prescriptions and timber harvest methods allowed on Crown land. You can submit your feedback by 19 February 2021. The Ecology Action Centre have some very good suggestions for our submissions. <https://novascotia.ca/natr/consultation/forest-management-guide-public-consultation.asp>

Preliminary Review of the Silvicultural Guide for the Ecological Matrix as provided by the Ecology Action Center The most recent draft Silvicultural Guide for the Ecological Matrix (SGEM) contains numerous improvements over previous versions of the guide, such as;

- Increased emphasis on managing for long-lived, shade tolerant species and structurally complex, multi-aged stands and more widespread application of irregular shelterwoods. The SGEM is better positioned than previous iterations for aligning silviculture with the natural disturbance regime of the Acadian Forest region.
- A reduction (but not elimination) in avenues to clearcutting and other similar even-aged silviculture systems that have no place in an ecological forestry paradigm for matrix lands.
- Removal of rare and ecologically sensitive sites from forest management within the matrix (cedar, karst, floodplain, open woodland, wet deciduous and wet coniferous forest groups). These sites play an important role in biodiversity conservation and removing them from harvesting is a positive step.
- Integration of soil nutrient sustainability as part of the harvest planning system. Integrating this information into harvest decisions will reduce harvest removal rates as more trees are left behind to meet soil nutrient requirements. Rather than seeking to only maintain currently degraded rates of soil productivity, the goal of soil nutrient management within the SGEM should be to repair losses in soil productivity that have resulted from anthropogenic causes such as clearcutting and acid rain.

Despite the improvements noted above, several concerning issues persist within the guides that collectively reduce ecological outcomes in favour of maintaining wood supply.

- Extraction rates are too high for numerous situations described in the SGEM. “Restoration” keys will see up to 80% of the forest removed. These “overstory removal with reserves” harvests are basically clearcuts with scattered retention that can be expected to blow down. This will not achieve ecological forestry on the matrix lands in line with the intent of the Lahey Report and public expectation for forestry reform.
- The language used in the draft SGEM still reflects an economic/extractive viewpoint which needs to be corrected in order to make the “Health of the ecosystem as primary management objective” clear in purpose and intent. For example, rather than describing “minimum retention” rates or percentages, the language should be reversed to describe “maximum extraction rates” instead.
- The designation of permanent reserve trees to serve as biological legacy is welcome, but the amount of forest being left behind to serve ecological roles is too low. Current rates call for only 15-20 trees/ha (equivalent to 9-12 trees on an area the size of a football field).
- We note with some alarm the appearance in the draft SGEM of some new and hitherto unheard of forestry categories which attempt to subdivide the Acadian forest into two distinctly different categories called Zonal and Azonal. We are particularly concerned that the new Azonal category would allow very heavy removal rates of up to 80%. This is counterintuitive to the principle of restoring degraded forests and soils. We are opposed to the sub-categorization of the Acadian forest for operational purposes and we again state clearly that there should be no more than 30% removals.
- We are troubled by the use of the selective quote from the Lahey Report in the draft SGM to frame the goal of the Matrix lands: *“where conservation and production objectives are both applicable and combined.”* This limited and vague selection suggests a familiar attempt to “balance” competing objectives, where wood supply concerns are of equal weight to ecological values. The Lahey Review specifically rejects this notion of “balancing” economic and environmental considerations in the Matrix lands, instead concluding that forestry practices must *“give priority to protecting and enhancing ecosystems and biodiversity... protecting ecosystems and biodiversity should not be balanced against other objectives and values as if they were of equal weight or important to those objectives of values. Instead, protecting and enhancing ecosystems should be the objective (the outcome) of how we balance environmental, social and economic objectives and values in practising forestry in Nova Scotia.”* (Lahey Report, executive Summary, p. iii) This then is the appropriate quote from the Lahey Review which should be used to frame the final SGEM.

To address the issues noted above and achieve the conclusions and recommendations of the Lahey Review, EAC is advocating for the following changes.

- Maximum extraction rates of 30% in a single entry and increased permanent retention of 50 trees/ha.
- Harvesting should predominately employ high retention, gap-based irregular shelterwood systems that are acknowledged in the SGEM as the preferred approach for biodiversity considerations.
- Ensure forests carbon sequestration potential is maximized and restore healthy soils for the future.
- Change the framing of the document and the language from extractive to ecological as described above.

- We also strongly recommend, either in the final SGEM or through policy and regulation, the mandating of a “silent spring” period during bird nesting season when harvesting in the Matrix lands would not occur. This is in keeping with the focus on biodiversity in the Matrix lands and the Migratory Bird Act.
- Similarly we recommend the expansion of riparian zones within the Matrix zone from 20 to 100 meters to increase protection of waterways and for greater wildlife connectivity and biodiversity.

North Atlantic Right Whales North Atlantic right whales are one of the most endangered whales in the world, with only around 400 individuals left. Oceana.org have a petition to Canadian and U.S. Government Officials asking them to address the two greatest threats to North Atlantic right whales (collisions with ships and entanglements in fishing gear.)

https://act.oceana.org/page/48248/action/1?utm_source=Social&utm_medium=fb&utm_campaign=RightWhales018&fbclid=IwAR1D558Z5AYMsjyrjirxeHfFurdHN55Zcn5mDK84ftBma8rn9YL4DWtCLFs

Green Job Applications – The goal is to flood the PM’s fax machine with applications for green jobs to spur action on this front. <https://350.org/canada/jta-fax/?akid=140256.2535335.mouLap&rd=1&t=7>

Strengthen the Net Zero Carbon Accountability Act – for more info on this petition from the Council of Canadians, click on this link: https://canadians.org/action/petition-net-zero?utm_source=Council+of+Canadians&utm_campaign=631ddd236b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_02_09_04_46&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f477a42a0b-631ddd236b-383789016&mc_cid=631ddd236b&mc_eid=595c39542e



Education / Resources

The New Brunswick Forestry Apocalypse Please see the Letter to the Editor above for more information on these videos.

How a Young Activist Is Helping Pope Francis Battle Climate Change: Follow this link for the audio of a fascinating interview with a cartographer who concluded that the Catholic “Church had the means to address climate issues directly, through better land management, and that it was also capable of protecting populations that were especially vulnerable to the consequences of global warming.”

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/02/08/how-a-young-activist-is-helping-pope-francis-battle-climate-change?utm_source=onsite-share&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=onsite-share&utm_brand=the-new-yorker

Indigenous Sovereignty & Energy Justice Webinar has been postponed until March 25th. To register please go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u6gNw82MQbi-hAfnOXjoig

Sacred Earth Community Click on the link for more information and resources exploring how every spiritual tradition needs to contribute to healing the earth. <https://www.sacred-earth.net/a-vision-of-earth-community>

Drawdown – this website has an excellent list of solutions to reduce emissions and other environmental solutions. www.drwdown.org

Climate Hub is connected to www.climatereality.ca and www.climaterealityproject.com

David Suzuki excellent info including 10 best actions we all can do. davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/top-10-ways-can-stop-climate-change

New Brunswick Environmental Network is working on Children’s Environmental Bill of Rights for NB. Information at nben.ca

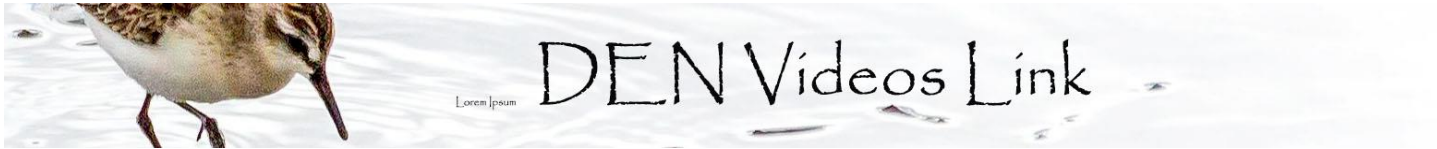
Change your Corner of the World <http://changeyourcorner.com/> Carl Duivenvoorden is a Climate Reality Leader who lives in NB. The link below is a video power point presentation explaining the science behind the climate crisis, the specific impacts of the climate crisis worldwide and on Eastern Canada. He also shares local stories and inspiring solutions. It is about 30 min long plus questions and answers. Advance to 7.00 min as the first mins appears blank. <https://www.facebook.com/climaterealitycanada>

EcoJustice webinar Fighting for Fairness – Challenging premier Kenney’s inquiry into “Anti Alberta” activities (environment groups) <https://ecojustice.ca/webinars/>



PEI Community Energy Solutions is a new grant program that includes a FREE energy audit and may cover up to 50% of the total energy efficiency upgrade to a max. of \$25,000. The program is to benefit small businesses and non-profits including churches. For more information, click on the link.

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/transportation-infrastructure-and-energy/community-energy-solutions>



Webinar Creation Care/Climate Action Launch video:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/52rPS-hr8ht2ieYNSyswZEjKAR74MfxLw1ALvt1gTBeNNtX17-dACx4xIHZ88usr.xH6WOTyK9JC3DC5T>

Access Passcode: !7iBasJf

Video from last week's DEN Thursday evening gatherin: Municipal Climate Action

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNzSshdCqus&t=17s>



Eternal God,
whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light and life;
by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in your people.
Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards,
that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth
may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life
and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your works;
through Jesus Christ, your living Word,
in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed.
Amen. **Rt Revd Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport**

Deadline for Submissions is Friday before publication. Email them to endionspei@gmail.com

Our Mission

