

Halifax: Global Leader in Environment and Health



Sheila Cole

Environment and Health Educator

Early Days

- 1988 – EAC Board of Directors
- 1989 – NSAEHA Board of Directors
- 1991 – Henson College, Dalhousie University – Our Environment/Ourselves
- Dalhousie University, St. Mary's University, University of King's College, Mount St. Vincent, Technical University of Nova Scotia
- Citizens Against Incineration
- Support Groups on CFS and FM

Physicians Involved

- Dr. Gerald Ross
- Dr. William Rae
- Dr. Patricia Beresford
- Dr. David Baker
- Dr. William Lavalee
- Dr. Elizabeth Gold
- Dr. Gregory Booth
- Dr. Jake Ascunsion
- Dr. Kempton Hayes
- Dr. John Reudy – Dean Dal Medical School
- Dr. Michel Joffres

- **1990 - VG Pilot Clinic Grant - NS Government**
 - Dr. Gerald Ross – Environmental Health Centre, Dallas, TX (10 days every 2 months)
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment
 - IV vitamin and mineral supplementation
 - Exchange of information, education
 - Identification of needs
 - Matching people with interest areas
 - Many Camp Hill staff were patients of the Clinic

NSAEHA – now EHANS

- Founded in 1985
- Active in education, advocacy, input to policy, liaison with government, medical establishment, universities, and the public
- Also represented on the National Board of AEHA Canada
- Newsletter – UPDATE – widely circulated
- Large AGM/Conference
- Smoke-free social gatherings



- Less Toxic Guide – www.lesstoxicguide.ca
 - Consumer Advice, Personal Care, Household Cleaners
 - Baby Care, and Chemical Hazards
- Environmental Health Website – www.environmentalhealth.ca
 - Political Issues, Ask the Experts, Less Toxic Living
 - Information About EI and MCS, Uranium, etc

Non-smoking



- NSAEHA was instrumental in the establishment of this bylaw and with introducing the ban in public buildings, hospitals, schools, offices, restaurants, clubs, etc.
- This greatly increased the opportunity for people with Environmental Sensitivities to have more access to public offices and meeting places

Pesticide Bylaw



Halifax was one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to enact a pesticide bylaw.

RATE

(Real Alternatives to Toxins in the Environment)



RATE

- Presentations to City Council – many groups made presentations, including physicians
- Education of MLAs
- Information and advocacy campaign with media (local and national press)
- Outreach and liaison with officials within government, hospitals and the medical establishment, schools, and public buildings

The logo for 'Pesticide Free Nova Scotia' is enclosed in a green rectangular border. The text 'Pesticide Free' is on the top line and 'Nova Scotia' is on the bottom line, both in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized illustration of green grass.

Pesticide Free Nova Scotia

- Formed for the purpose of eliminating cosmetic and non-agricultural pesticide use throughout Nova Scotia
- Implementation of provincial and municipal policies and regulations
- Broad public education campaign
- EAC
- EHANS
- RATE



Canadians for
A Safe Learning Environment



www.casle.ca
info@casle.ca

- CASLE began in 1994 with a small group of Halifax parents whose children were harmed by incidents in their schools.
- CASLE has led the way locally and nationally, and also has international reach
- Halifax now has several schools built to the highest environmental and health standards
- Many schools in the province have scent-free policies and other environmental measures in place

From the CASLE Website

- Learn how to do a school building walk-through
- About Ventilation Standards
- Air Filters: Choosing Portable Equipment
- Alternatives to Pesticides
- Building Healthy Schools From the Ground Up
- Back to School Tips

- HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY
 - www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay

Scent-Free



Scent-Free

- Scent-free policies were a necessity to accommodate those with environmental sensitivities
- Policies are active in all hospitals, government buildings, schools, universities, dental and doctors' offices
- Many churches and other public places make use of the scent-free policy

Camp Hill Hospital

- Hundreds of hospital staff on sick leave from 1988 – 1993
- Kitchen staff became ill, then operating room nurses, eventually included other staff members
- Dr. Roy Fox also became ill
- Research led to discovery of **amines** in water pipes at five times the allowable levels – amines are highly toxic
- Other problems included air intake from vehicle loading docks, pigeon excrement in rooftop vents, etc.
- Consistent media interest in the story, locally, provincially, and nationally
- Lengthy, in-depth public dialogue ensued – Departments of Health, Environment, and Labour, the medical community, and academics weighed in

Nova Scotia Environmental Health Centre

- This permanent centre was established in late 1990s
- Built to the highest environment and health standards
- Funded by Capital Health, in conjunction with Dalhousie Medical School
- Leading physician – Dr. Roy Fox
- 400 – 500 active patients
- 100 out-of-province patients each year
- Only government-funded Environmental Health Centre in the world

Nova Scotia Environmental Health Centre

- Most patients have MCS, FM, or CFS
- Treatments – exercise, sauna, and IV therapy

- Contact:

NS Environmental Health Centre

Fall River, Waverley, NS

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Thank you very much!



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