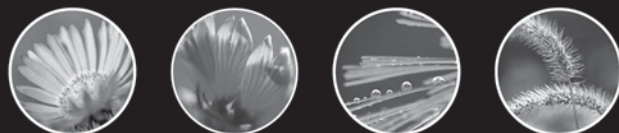


Winter 2010

The newsletter for members and associates
of Landscape Nova Scotia



Landscape
Nova Scotia

greenNScene

Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association

Highlights

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Looking back on 2009

2009 has certainly been a busy year for Landscape Nova Scotia. The office, located in Burnside Industrial Park continues to receive many visitors from members and non members. I am still amazed at how many members stop by to talk about the association and industry and non-members drop in and want to discuss the benefits of membership.

The board, committees and staff have been working very hard to keep up with the usual activities: the popular 2009 HortEast event (a huge success in New Brunswick), the Annual Grant Mosher Memorial Golf Tournament (a great turn out on one of the few sunny days of summer), the 2009 Ideal Garden & Patio Show, the Atlantic Canada Landscape Directory and the 2009 Awards of Excellence Gala, along with a variety of workshops and information seminars in 2009 kept us busy last year.

Landscape NS stepped up its marketing efforts in 2009 focusing on promoting the Award of Excellence winners, the professionalism of the membership and the Home Renovation Tax Credit. This was very successful, the office received many calls from the general public looking for a member of Landscape NS. It also prompted non-members to find out more about the association.

Landscape NS continues to work with other industry associations and the educational sector. Associations that work with environmental issues, and organizations such as Skills Canada, are a few examples of collaborations over the past year. Landscape NS wishes to continue to build on old relationships and develop new ones in 2010.

Our industry is facing a proposed province wide non-essential pesticide ban. There are more details in the newsletter on Landscape Nova Scotia's position and how the Plant Health Committee has responded. You can download the full version on the LNS website. If you like the position, please respond to the provincial government by emailing "*I support LNS' position*" to policy@gov.ns.ca.

Landscape Nova Scotia has some very exciting things on the horizon. The Atlantic Centre for Landscape Excellence (ACLE). ACLE will be the signature innovation centre for landscape horticulture in Atlantic Canada. It will support the Nova Scotia Agricultural College's (NSAC) continued leadership in landscape horticulture training and education.

NSAC has aligned its educational programs and services outcomes with landscape industry certification and will participate in the provincial Red Seal approved Landscape Horticulturist trade program. The integrated learning environment will offer a uniquely efficient combination of theoretical and practical hands-on training and testing for both students and industry professionals.

Book your calendars for November 22 - 24, because 2010 HortEast is coming back to NS at the Cunard Centre and the committee has already started planning. This year will be a great year to exhibit. To learn more visit www.horteast.ns.ca.

Landscape Nova Scotia never stands still! To prove it, the Awards of Excellence committee has decided that moving the deadline for submissions and the celebratory event to the winter time would allow more of the LNS membership to take the time to put their entry submission together.

The committee has decided that hosting a winter event would encourage more participation from the industry rather than the usual fall season from the past. So mark your calendars for March 2011 and start taking pictures of your favorite projects NOW!!! Further details about changes to the judging criteria can be read further in the newsletter.

These are just a few initiatives Landscape Nova Scotia has been embarking on. And it doesn't look like a quiet year ahead. If any members would like to become involved we invite you to participate on a committee.



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www.horteast.ns.ca

Save the Date! November 22-24, 2010: Cunard Centre, Halifax NS



Presidential Corner

New President for LNS

~ by Scott Mosher, President, LNS

Recently we had some Board changes. It was difficult saying good bye to some long-standing board members however we are pleased to announce some new blood to the association.

We have a number of LNS events planned for 2010, some booked and ready to go: The Garden & Patio show is booked – March 26 -28. The Grant Mosher Memorial Golf Tournament is set for August 5th At the Sherwood Golf & Country Club in Chester.

Spring is on the way which brings many new challenges and opportunities. This spring is shaping up to be a busy one for our members and our Association.

LNS has created a Plant Health Committee to deal with the NDP Government's proposed Provincial ban on "non-essential" lawn care Pesticides. We encourage all members to familiarize themselves with the position paper that the committee has formulated & we encourage everyone to respond to the Governments website at www.gov.ns/nse/pests/comments.asp

Mark your calendars for Horteast, Nov 22-24, 2010 is in Halifax this year at the Cunard Centre. Horteast 2009 was a great success and we hope this year will be even better

Best Regards,

Scott Mosher, P. Eng
President, Landscape Nova Scotia



Landscape Nova Scotia is calling for Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering on one of our committees, or becoming a commodity rep., contact LNS at (902) 463-0519.

2010 Garden & Patio Show

On March 26 - 28th, 2010 LNSHTA will be hosting another Ideal Garden & Patio show! And this year's event is sold out! The Garden & Patio Show enables our members to showcase their individual companies to large crowds and potential customers. For many of our member companies, participation in the Garden & Patio Show represents the beginning to another season.

This is an opportunity for business owners and their employees to talk to prospective buyers about their products and services and ultimately build their businesses. Participants celebrate an end to a long winter and embrace a unique opportunity to jump-start the season with early sales and potential new prospects.

If you would like to volunteer at the Ideal garden & Patio Show or donate an item or service for our auction please contact the Landscape NS office



Certification has a new look!

Starting in 2010 the face of certification will be changing across North America. All certification will be brought under one umbrella, landscape Industry Certified. This is a large step toward in better aligning the certifications to meet the needs of the industry and improving recognition of certified employees.



Building Capacity in the Landscape Horticulturist Trade

~ by Susanne Anderson - Orychock, BPR, Apprenticeship Board Coordinator - NS Labour and Workforce Development

On March 31st, 2009 Landscape Horticulturist was designated as a trade in Nova Scotia. Around the same time, a group of industry representatives (ad hoc advisory committee) began working on a regulation for the trade in hopes of encouraging people to enter into apprenticeship training. Considering Landscape Horticulturist is a new trade in Nova Scotia, Journeypersons in this trade simply do not yet exist.

In order to build capacity in the Landscape Horticulturist trade, Journeypersons are required in order to teach new apprentices who will eventually be coming through the system. On December 1st, 2009 the Apprenticeship Training Division received a letter on behalf of the advisory committee asking apprenticeship to recognize the already established Certified Horticultural Technician (CHT) exam as equivalent to the exam for apprenticeship training in the Landscape Horticulturist trade.

Following a careful review of the training and exam process for the CHT, the Apprenticeship Training Division has found that it meets the outcomes of the apprenticeship program. Some additions and exceptions apply.

At this time the Apprenticeship Training Division will recognize individuals who hold all of the four certifications associated with the CHT program, and have the required 6,000 hours of hands-on work in the trade, as being equivalent to the Provincial Certificate of Qualification for Landscape Horticulturist. The four certifications being: Softscape Installation, Hardscape Installation, Turf Maintenance, and Ornamental Maintenance.

Individuals who have completed this group of certifications can contact the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Coordinator with the Apprenticeship Training Division for an application.

The process for application is in the development stages and will be ready in the early months of 2010.

The examination for the Red Seal Certification in the Landscape Horticulturist trade will be available in 2010 and we encourage people to challenge this exam. The Red Seal is the nationally recognized standard for the trades. Individuals who have a Provincial Certification will be automatically eligible to challenge the exam.

The Apprenticeship Training Division appreciates the interest in this program. We hope to continue to work together to build the capacity to train more apprentices and to certify more journey people in the Landscape Horticulturist trade.

Are you Landscape Industry Certified?

~ by Julia Ricottone, Certification Coordinator

Industry certification is undergoing an exciting change. Beginning January 2010, a new brand, Landscape Industry Certified, will officially launch in Canada and the United States. The new brand consolidates the specialties of green industry certification under one umbrella. Everyone who is certified under CNLA's programs will be identified with this universal title. This will help certification be more understood by consumers, and create greater recognition of our certification programs.

Landscape Industry Certified will continue to define individual specialties:

1. Technician (formerly CHT) - a combined written and hands-on evaluation for employees in the industry who are involved in the technical application of skill and knowledge. This program has 5 classifications: Softscape Installation, Hardscape Installation, Turf Maintenance, Ornamental Maintenance and Interior Landscaping. Candidates can complete any one of these classifications to earn their certification.

2. Retail Horticulturist (formerly CHT Retail) - Also a written and hands-on evaluation, focusing on knowledge and tasks specific to the Retail Garden Centre sector.

3. Designer (formerly CLD) - A written exam and portfolio review of three design projects must be successfully completed to earn this certification.

4. Manager (formerly CLP) - A seven part written exam focusing on the skills and knowledge for owning and managing a business.

Upcoming Exams

The Atlantic Region Certification Committee will be holding a Landscape Industry Certified exam April 23-24, 2010 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Both written and hands-on tests for all specialties will be taking place over the two days. If you are interested in being a part of the growing number of Landscape Industry Certified individuals, please contact Julia Ricottone the CNLA office for testing information (1-888-446-3499, ext. 8615, julia@canadanursery.com).

Study manuals are available for most exams. Contact your provincial association for training opportunities near you that can help you prepare. Visit www.youtube.com/cnla for videos of parts of the Landscape Industry Certified Technician exam.

There are nearly 300 Landscape Industry Certified individuals in the Atlantic Region. Become a part of a growing number of professionals within our industry!



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Changes for Awards of Excellence Program

Our Awards of Excellence committee has been working hard to improve the Awards of Excellence program participation and to create an improved judging criteria. These changes are to encourage a transparency for all award submissions. Details will be posted on the LNS website in the coming weeks.

Some changes will include;

New Date - To move the entry submission date away from the fall rush, the date of the awards will now take place around the time of the LNS General Membership Meeting during the winter. Since it is too soon to have another scheduled Gala in March 2010, the next scheduled Gala will be in March 2011. So start thinking about your projects now!!

CNLA Judging Criteria - The judging criteria will follow the National Award of Excellence standards for major categories. The National Awards judging criteria has more judging factors to consider. This will ensure fairness to all participants. It will also ensure a seamless procedure to enter Nova Scotia's winner to the National Awards.

One Project - Two Entries - To prevent multiple entries of the same project, any one project can only be entered in two categories.

Categories Changes - Some categories have been

changed. More monetary breakdowns for some categories, such as Installation. Some categories have been simplified for an easier understanding by the participant. Examples include:

INSTALLATION: RESIDENTIAL - \$0 - \$10,000 / \$10,000 - \$25,000 / \$25,000 - \$50,000/ \$50,000 and over

INSTALLATION: COMMERCIAL - \$0 - \$25,000 / \$25,000 - \$50,000 / \$50,000 and over.

DESIGN: Residential / Commercial

Workshops - A workshop on how to put together a winning entry will be held at the General Meeting on March 10. We encourage everyone to come out and attend. Keeping good records of your landscaping projects can help with future legal and insurance issues.

On line package submissions - Entry packages come to LNS in all shapes and sizes and to ensure fairness an online system will be developed. In the future all award package will have the same on line format to ensure constancy for the judges. This is also ensure packages are complete.

Videos / Pictures - Stricter guidelines for submitting visual requirements for the packages to ensure better judging. More pictures and videos will be required in order to judge properly.

Winning by default - Using the new scoring system provided by CNLA, a minimum score must be achieved before any project can receive an award. If no entry reaches the standard, no award will be given that year.

Member must be in good standing with LNS - Entrant will automatically be disqualified if membership has not been paid.

Deadline for 2011 submissions will be in Jan, 2011. Start taking pictures and / or videos and record all aspects of the project now

Another Successful HortEast

~ by Rebecca Wetselaar, Manager of Provincial Relations

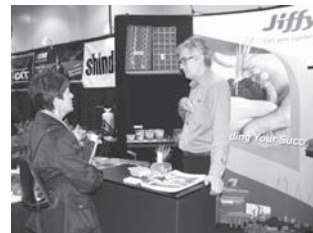
The 2009 HortEast Trade Show was an extremely successful event – with the move from a bi-annual to an annual show, the committee was very pleased with the turn out and participation at HortEast this year. This was the second year that HortEast has run with a new committee structure, with representation from Landscape New Brunswick, Landscape Nova Scotia, and Landscape Newfoundland and Labrador staff and volunteers, and staff support from the CNLA office.

The 2009 show was held at the Moncton Coliseum Complex, and delegates and exhibitors all commented on the convenient and central location

of the venue. The show featured an excellent line-up of speakers, coming from across Canada, the US, and even Switzerland. Delegates commented that this was the best speaker program in the history of HortEast. The trade show was held on Tuesday and Wednesday and featured over 100 booths.

A big thanks to all of our event sponsors, including our Platinum Event Sponsor – Shaw Brick. Special thanks to Kevin Nauss with Price Landscaping Services in Lutes Mountain, NB for chairing the 2009 organizing committee, as well as to all of our other committee volunteers who worked tirelessly to pull off an incredible event.

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsor



Save the date of the 2010 HortEast Trade Show and Conference, November 22-24th, 2010 at the Cunard Centre in Halifax, NS and visit www.horteast.ns.ca for more show details.

For more information visit www.horteast.ns.ca



2009 Award of Excellence Winners!

Landscape Nova Scotia celebrated winning landscapes created by their members at a Gala Event on December 2nd at the Ramada in Dartmouth. The Awards of Excellence program puts outstanding projects at the forefront. Projects entered for the consideration of the judges must meet strict criteria in the areas of quality of workmanship, suitability to the site, and sympathetic treatment of the environment. The needs of the client and the challenges presented by the site are carefully considered.

The range of projects included design and construction of residential and commercial landscapes and installation of residential and commercial landscapes designed by contract designers. Exclusive awards were given for outstanding work related to design, the construction of wooden landscape structures, landscape paving, use of natural stone, and segmental concrete retaining wall construction.

Special project awards were granted for projects that provided community involvement, demonstrated environmental stewardship, and showcased excellence in the selection of plants for the site conditions.

Our 2009 Award of Excellence Winners are....

Lost Art Stonework

- Design / Build - Residential Under \$10K
- Design / Build - Residential Over \$10K
- Installation - Residential Under \$10K

Highland Landscapes for Lifestyles

- Design / Build - Commercial Over \$25K
- Plant the RIGHT Tree in the RIGHT Place
- ICP & SRW
- Environmental Stewardship

All Points Property Services

- Installation - Residential Over \$10K
- Design
- Wood Construction

Clintar Landscape Management

- Natural Stone

Andrew MacDonald Landscaping & Tree Services

- Community Involvement

Queensyard Landscaping
• Aquascaping

Congratulations Everyone! Great Job!



Winners of the 2008 Awards of Excellence in Landscaping



Kevin McGinnis of Shaw Brick presenting award to Brian Ross of All Points Property Services



Scott Mosher of Terra Nova Landscaping & LNS President presenting award to Pierre Breton of All Points Property Services



Bryson Parsons of Green Diamond presenting award to Christene LeVatte CLP of Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle



Kevin McGinnis of Shaw Brick presenting award to Ian West of Lost Art Stonework



Scott Mosher of Terra Nova Landscaping & LNS President presenting award to Victoria Donovan of Queensyard Landscaping



Mike Fralick of Bell & Grant Insurance presenting award to Duggan Kennedy of Andrew MacDonald Landscaping & Tree Services.

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Introducing New Board of Directors

Now that things have settled down since the Annual General Meeting and Awards Gala on December 2nd, we would like to take this opportunity and introduce you to the new Landscape NS Board of Directors for 2009 - 2010. Serving on the board takes a lot of time and hard work. Members of the Board are expected to attend meetings, represent the industry at many events, serve on a variety of committees and volunteer much of their own time. All of which makes Landscape NS the success that it is.



Cary van Zanten, CNLA President presenting an appreciation award Doug Conrad award for serving as CNLA representative in Calgary 2009.

But first, we would like to recognize those leaving the board this year: Doug Conrad, Clintar, Kevin McGinnis, Shaw Brick and Craig Roberts, Clintar

These three individual's commitment to the growth and success of this association and the membership is overwhelming and appreciated by members of the board and staff. We hope to continue to work with Doug, Kevin and Craig through committees and other Landscape Nova Scotia initiatives. Their knowledge and experience is forever valuable to the industry and the association and we want to recognize their past efforts and support. Thanks to you all for your hard work over the years!

We would like to introduce our four newest members of the board...



JEFF MORTON,
CNLA Rep
M2 Horticulture Inc.



DOUG BRANNEN
Shaw Brick



TOM HEIGHWAY
Maritime Lawn and
Garden



ANDREW PALMER
Blomidon Nurseries

Equipment Tip

– by Tom Heighway, Maritime Lawn & Gardens

Fuel and your Power Equipment

As Spring approaches people start to think about getting out their equipment and starting it up. To their surprise the unit does not start. It worked fine when it was put away but does not start now. The main reason..... the fuel has gone bad. Gas will start to go off after 30-60 days. This means that it will start to form a gum or varnish in your equipment.

From Shell, BP and Valero: The way gasoline is now mandated to be made and formulated, it can only store it for approximately 25 to 40 days MAXIMUM. So how do one identify bad gas?? One way is to eyeball it. Oxidized fuel often turns darker over time and may even smell sour. You can check stored gasoline by pouring some into a clear glass container and comparing it side-by-side with known fresh gasoline. If your old sample looks noticeably darker than the fresh gas, you have strong evidence the gas has gone bad.

When this gum / varnish is formed it clogs up the intake of the carburetor causing it not to work properly. It will also cause the engine to run rich leaving oil deposits on the spark plug and you will see a black smoke from the exhaust.

What to do?? Do you drain the fuel???

Engine manufacturers today say that a high quality fuel stabilizer will allow the fuel to stay in its current make up for up to 2 years, it reduces the oxidations of the fuel during this time.

When fuel is left in your unit it keeps all of the gaskets moist, they do not dry out and shrink not causing further problems. If you are going to drain the fuel, make sure that you remove the float bowl and drain all of the fuel out of it. If fuel is left in the the bowl it will gum/varnish up your intake jet and even if you think you did the right thing, the unit will not start.

Keep fresh gas on hand and change it out every 30 days.

Small engines run much better with premium fuel as they burn cleaner at higher temperatures.

Remember.... Fresh fuel makes for an easier summer!!

Tom Heighway

Maritime Lawn and Garden

Youth Get Their Hands Dirty

Skills Canada – Nova Scotia (SCNS) is a not-for-profit organization promoting skilled trades and technologies as viable career options for Nova Scotia's youth. The organization promotes this mandate through various events including; presentations, youth projects, and competitions where students can take an interactive approach in exploring careers that are in demand.

SCNS will host the 13th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition and Career Showcase in April 2010, encouraging excellence while highlighting careers that have a growing demand in our province. Certified skilled tradespeople in Nova Scotia average between 40-50 years old. Due to the rise of retiring tradespeople, Nova Scotia is quickly facing a skilled labour shortage, making events such as this crucial to our economy. In the realm of Landscape Gardening, labour market research shows Nova Scotia's general population is aging, and this in turn should stimulate employment demand for private lawn-care services and landscaping over the next few years.

Although trades people and technologists are in high demand, employers are looking for those with the right skills. "The objective of the Nova Scotia Skills Competition is to educate young people about the opportunities that are available in Nova Scotia, while

showcasing hard working competitors as they strive for excellence in their chosen field of work," said Courtney Gouthro, Executive Director, Skills Canada – Nova Scotia. "Training in Nova Scotia is among the best in our country, resulting in 17 medals in 14 competition areas at the Canadian Skills Competition last year."

Apprentices, post-secondary, and secondary students will compete during the 13th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition throughout the month of April at various locations across the province. Olympic-style competitions include 50 different skilled trade and technology areas including landscape gardening, carpentry, architectural CAD and many more. Registration will open on January 25th, and will close on February 26th, 2010.

Approximately 1,800 non-competing students will be given guided tours at locations including Memorial Composite High School in Sydney, the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Kingstec Campus in Kentville, and the NSCC Akerley Campus in Dartmouth. Most competition areas will have informative displays for visitors and there will also be a career showcase where industry representatives will host interactive displays. "Interactive displays are an effective way to give students an opportunity to sample a variety of career options" said Gouthro. "Students are much more excited to learn when they are encouraged to participate in a hands-on activity," she added.

At the end of the competition, medals are awarded to the top three competitors in each category, judged by leaders in industry and education. Gold medalists become part of Team Nova Scotia, and will represent our province at the Canadian Skills Competition in Waterloo, Ontario from May 20-23, 2010.

The efforts of Skills Canada – Nova Scotia, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Workforce Development, the Nova Scotia Department of Education, Service Canada, and the Nova Scotia Community College, are raising awareness to youth that there are many exciting and rewarding careers in skilled trades and technologies for those who want to live and work in Nova Scotia.

For more information, visit <http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca>, or contact Matt Millar, Competition Coordinator at millarmc@skillscanada.com, (902) 424-5180.



Atlantic Centre for Landscape Excellence

Vision: to develop centres of Landscape Excellence across Canada. The Atlantic Centre for Landscape Excellence will be the first ground-breaking venture.

The Atlantic Centre for Landscape Excellence (ACLE) will be the signature innovation centre for landscape horticulture in Atlantic Canada. It will parallel and support Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) continued leadership in landscape horticulture training and education.

NSAC will align its educational programs and services outcomes with landscape industry certification and specialize in the provincial Red Seal approved Landscape Horticulturist trade program. This integrated learning environment offers a uniquely efficient combination of theoretical and practical hands-on training and testing for both students and industry professionals.

Students and professionals will have streamlined access to Atlantic Canada's accredited educational institution for industry training and certification programs including Landscape Industry Certified.

The Need for ACLE

• Addresses the continuing skilled labour shortage in Atlantic Canada, with the landscape horticulture trade

in need of employees to meet the demand.

• Fulfills industry requirement for training in the months from fall to spring. This facility would allow this training to take place indoors during the typical industry downtime.

• Offers our students, industry members and industry stakeholders streamlined and relevant skills training solutions and opportunities!

• Supports the Landscape Horticulturist Apprenticeship and the practical training/testing.

• Fosters a networking partnership between the college and the industry to host joint events/educational sessions by offering central training or meeting facilities to industry related associations/groups.

• Expands opportunity for events such as field days, equipment/product demonstrations, skill competitions, public open houses and other networking activities.

• Allows for the potential expansion of a high school focused training program.

The ACLE Campaign has targeted 5 priorities:

• Create a Centre for Landscape Excellence to showcase and advance horticulture, landscape-based education and the related stakeholder activities and opportunities.

• Expand the reach and access of educational opportunities for the students, industry, government and the community.

• Establish direct delivery routes between education and the workforce with the integration of industry-specific apprenticeship and certification programs.

• Broaden the selection of practical, hands-on education and training programs to meet the growing demands of skilled professionals, member companies and related stakeholders in the landscape horticulture industry.

• Seek and secure financial resources to establish a sustainable facility to continue the development and delivery of a variety of education events and programs.

Champions supporting ACLE:

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) is an internationally recognized and respected teaching and research institution, providing quality education since 1905.

NSAC has always been a vital partner with the landscape horticulture industry, in meeting the growing demand for qualified landscape horticulture professionals.

Story continued

NSAC will partner with its industry stakeholders to develop the Atlantic Centre for Landscape Excellence and deliver a broad spectrum of post-secondary and industry-specific training initiatives.

The following associations have pledged their support of the ACLE venture:

Landscape Nova Scotia, Landscape Newfoundland and Labrador, Atlantic Region Certification Committee, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association.

A committee of dedicated volunteers and CNLA staff has been meeting and developing this new exciting venture for the landscape sector in Atlantic Canada.

Christene LeVatte, CLP Chair, Atlantic Region Certification states: "The return on investment from a central and permanent landscape industry training facility for Atlantic Region Certification will reach far and wide. From students, teachers and professors to labourers, supervisors, managers, owners and suppliers – long term benefits for generations to come".

The committee is presently investigating funding opportunities to build the facility from the ground up.

Please join us as a champion in building the Atlantic Centre for Landscape Excellence!

For more information on sponsorship or partnership opportunities, contact us at 1-888-446-3499 ext. 8615.



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“Atlantic Green Forum” a Success!

Landscape Newfoundland and Labrador (LNL), a not for profit association for the horticulture industry in the province, is committed to finding long-term environmentally conscious solutions for our urban landscapes and for our industry. In an effort to take a proactive approach to global issues such as water usage, green communities and best practices for sustainable landscapes, the association will be hosting the 2009 Atlantic Green Forum on November 9-10th at the Holiday Inn St. Johns. This event will encourage discussion on all aspects of sustainability for our urban landscapes.

Anthony O'Neill, President of (LNL) and owner of O'Neill's Gardenland in Spaniards Bay slates that "as Canada's green industry, we are very pleased that the world is waking up to the fragile nature of our environment and the damage that we are inflicting on it." As individuals, we need to ask the question: "How can we encourage sustainability in our landscapes?" The goal of the Atlantic Green Forum is to investigate how we can address these efforts in collaboration with our provincial government and municipal partners to encourage sustainability and environmental stewardship in our communities.

We have arranged for local, national and international speakers to share information at the Atlantic Green Forum on topics such as water issues, green roofs and living walls, green cities, LEED, as well as initiatives surrounding invasive species and much more. We are encouraging a diverse group of delegates to participate and learn from this timely event. Our association is making strong efforts not only to improve our own green initiatives, but to make the public aware of the benefits of the green industry - we hope that you will attend this important provincial event

Join us at the 2009 Atlantic Green Forum! Visit www.landscapenl.org for more information

For More Information Contact Rebecca Wetselaar, Event Coordinator:

P: 1-866-383-4711

F: 1-866-833-8603 or 1-905-875-1840

E: rebecca@canadanursery.com

do you love what you do?

Register now to show off your skills at the 13th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition & Career Showcase, hosted by Skills Canada - Nova Scotia.

This event will be held across the province in April, showcasing skilled trade and technology careers, from landscape gardening to culinary arts to graphic design.

Registration opens January 25th until February 26th
* Competitors must be an enrolled student, or apprentice and under 30 years of age.

You can register, find eligibility requirements and a list of all competition areas online at skillsns.ednet.ns.ca or for more information call (902) 424-5180

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SKILLS COMPETENCES CANADA NOVA SCOTIA

Welcome New Members...

Landscape Nova Scotia would like to take this opportunity and welcome some new members...

Queensyard Landscaping - www.queensyard.zoomshare.ca

Turf Masters Limited - www.turfmasters.ltd.ca

General Seed Company

Stephanie Appleby-Jones

Lost Art Stonework - www.lostartstonework.ca

Norwood Gardens - www.norwoodgardens.ca

Gale Force Yard Maintenance Services

KH Landscaping

Oreya Canada - www.oreyacanada.com

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LNSHTA Position on the proposed provincial ban on non-essential lawn care pesticides

Prepared by the Plant Health Committee

Recently the province has released a discussion paper on a proposed provincial ban on non-essential lawn care pesticides. Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association (LNS) is pleased to make its submission in response to the Discussion Paper. The use and safety of pesticides is an issue of concern for Nova Scotians and LNS welcomes the opportunity to share its views on this important issue.

LNS recognizes that Nova Scotians want to maintain healthy, beautiful landscapes and its members work hard to assist its customers in achieving this goal. LNS also understands that Nova Scotians want to do this in an environmentally sustainable manner, and in a manner that respects the health and safety of people and animals. LNS shares these goals.

LNS members only use products that are certified as safe for human and animal health by Health Canada. Employees who use these products are fully licensed and trained in the handling, storage and application of these products and follow the label instructions on their proper handling, storage and application. It is important to note that the landscape industry has heard the concerns of Nova Scotians on the use of pesticides.

First and foremost, the landscape industry has developed the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) process for controlling pests. IPM will be discussed further below.

The industry has also developed new plant varieties and technologies. These include plant varieties that are more resistant to disease and insects and the development of bio-pesticides, which control pests using naturally occurring elements or processes.

The Discussion Paper poses three questions for comment; LNS' answers follow.

1. Do you believe that the application of pesticides for lawn maintenance is non-essential? Why or why not?

LNS believes that the properly regulated use of pesticides that are deemed safe are an essential tool in maintaining plant health. Lawn and turf maintenance provides many substantial environmental benefits such as erosion prevention and control, cooling, pollution absorption, noise pollution reduction and carbon capture and sequestration. Well maintained public and private spaces (of which lawns and turf play a major part) make for healthier and happier communities. This includes lawns on private property, and public facilities such as parks and sports fields.

Pesticides protect lawns and other plants from insect, weed and disease infestation. Some cultural practices will help reduce the likelihood of such infestations. However, even the best maintained green spaces will sometimes require the use of pesticides to control infestations.

Uncontrolled insect and disease infestations can very quickly destroy a green space. Early and effective intervention using pesticides approved as safe for use is often required to prevent total loss of a landscape. The effect of weed infestations is more gradual but can be just as severe and can also lead to total loss of the landscape. In addition, uncontrolled weed growth leads to significantly higher pollen amounts in the air,

which causes respiratory problems and discomfort for people with allergies and asthma. Failure to control pests with early intervention with pesticides approved as safe for use can lead to significant costs, as property owners must replace landscapes that are destroyed or significantly degraded.

Unfortunately, these benefits are not fully recognized or are discounted in discussions on pesticides. This is apparent in the use of terms such as "non-essential", "cosmetic" or "aesthetic" when referring to the pesticide use to control lawn/turf pests. For the foregoing reasons, LNS believes that the proper use of approved pesticides is an essential tool for the control of lawn/turf pests.

2. Do you agree with the provincial ban on non-essential lawn care pesticides proposed by the Government of Nova Scotia? Why or why not?

The proposed provincial ban will prohibit the use of properly regulated pesticides that are deemed safe on lawns in Nova Scotia. The Discussion Paper proposes that a list of permitted lawn/turf pesticides will be developed as part of the proposed ban.

LNS believes that there are better alternatives to the proposed ban that should be considered by the Government of Nova Scotia. These alternatives recognize the substantial environmental and community benefits provided by healthy lawns. They also recognize the harm and cost to our environment and health caused by uncontrolled infestations of insects, disease and weeds and the need for properly regulated pesticides that are deemed safe to help control those infestations. One such alternative that LNS strongly advocates is the IPM certification requirement recently adopted by the Province of New Brunswick in its new pesticide rules announced in 2009. Starting in 2010,

New Brunswick lawn care professionals will be required to be IPM accredited and follow IPM practices in maintaining lawns. IPM is a systematic decision making process that takes a preventative approach to controlling pests. It requires proper plant health cultural practices as the first step in controlling pests. IPM considers all available information and treatment methods to reduce (but not completely eliminate) pest levels. Targeted applications of pesticides are only used when necessary to control pests based on monitoring of environmental conditions, pest populations and pest damage. IPM minimizes pest damage while at the same time protecting human health and the environment.

Prince Edward Island also recently announced new rules that take a similar approach to New Brunswick's. LNS recommends that Nova Scotia's new rules be consistent with those adopted by New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island through the adoption of IPM certification as a requirement for lawn care professionals.

3. Do you have any additional comments about the proposed non-essential pesticide ban?

LNS has the following additional comments for the Nova Scotia government to consider:

a. Rules based on peer reviewed science – If the Nova Scotia government proceeds with some form of new

pesticide restrictions, LNS strongly advocates that any rules on which pesticides are restricted or placed on a permitted list be based on scientific principles on health and safety issues, including the principle of peer review. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) completes a rigorous scientific review of health, safety and environmental issues before a pesticide is approved for sale and use. A sound scientific rationale should be provided for any restrictions that may be imposed as a result of this consultation. In addition, the government of Nova Scotia should clearly describe how it intends to measure the benefits, be they health, environmental or other, of any actions they take on this issue.

b. Permitted Products List – If Nova Scotia proceeds with a permitted products list, it is essential that it develop, in conjunction with industry and Health Canada, clear and transparent guidelines and a public process to create the list and to add products to the list in the future. Product manufacturers and lawn care operators need certainty and clarity on whether new products under development will be permitted or restricted from use.

c. Avoid Patchwork Regulation – Any new rules introduced by the Nova Scotia government should avoid patchwork regulation across the province. LNS strongly supports a consistent set of rules that apply to all Nova Scotians. It opposes giving municipalities the authority to regulate pesticides on top of provincial regulation. Patchwork regulation causes confusion among residents, industry and customers. It increases the costs of doing business for LNS members, which leads to higher costs passed on to consumers and potential job losses. LNS advocates that Nova Scotia ensure any new rules override any municipal bylaws on pesticides to create a consistent set of rules for the Province.

d. Appropriate lead time for any Regulatory Changes – If the Nova Scotia government does introduce new restrictions, then it is very important for our industry to have sufficient lead time to adapt to new rules. Our industry is seasonal in nature and the planning for the upcoming season starts in the fall of the preceding year. This planning includes inventory purchasing, capital investments, hiring and pricing decisions, among others. Introduction of new rules in the Fall that come into effect the following spring will not give businesses in our industry time to make the necessary adjustments to prepare for the new rules. The economic impact of insufficient notice will be severe for many in our industry. Therefore, LNS advocates for a notice period of a minimum of eighteen months to allow time for businesses to adapt. Sufficient lead time is also necessary to allow the Nova Scotia government time to educate the public on new rules. Our industry can play an important role in assisting with that educational process and is willing to work with the Nova Scotia government in this regard.

If you agree with the position of LNS on this issue, we encourage you to email the province by typing in the subject line, "*I support the LNS' position*" to policy@gov.ns.ca. Or if you want to give your own comments visit <https://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/comments.asp>

For more information contact Landscape Nova Scotia 902 463-0519 or info@landscapenovascotia.ca

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2010 - LNSHTA IMPORTANT DATES

- **LNS General Membership Meeting**
March 10th, 2010
Location: TBA
- **LNS Annual Golf Tournament**
August 5th, 2010
Sherwood Golf & Country Club
- **HortEast 2010**
November 22-24, 2010
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- **Winter 2010 Training Courses**
January 22 - Instrument, Grading and Drainage
February 19 - Hardscapes - Interlocking Concrete Pavers
March 12 - Pruning Trees and Shrubs
March 19 - Sod and Tree Installation
March 26 - Irrigation Systems
April 9 - Turf Management