

EAC - maintaining an environmental vigilance

by Boris Nikolovsky

The busy walls of the Ecology Action Centre are plastered with pamphlets, posters and an-

nouncements, which attest to the Centre's involvement in environmental issues. Next year marks the twentieth year since the E.A.C. first opened its doors as a chari-

table non-profit organization to promote environmental awareness about issues in Nova Scotia, Canada and the globe.

The E.A.C. relies primarily on

private donations to finance its programs and a dedicated staff of three. Laura Barkhouse of the E.A.C. said, "There is so much for us to do but the biggest strug-

gle is finding the funds to do it." Much of the input into the centre must come from volunteers in the community.

Maintaining a continuous awareness program means that the E.A.C. is engaged in long term and short term projects. Standing committees, such as the Harbour Committee, monitor the progress of the Halifax Harbour clean-up and are vital in leading efforts to attract attention to the issue, locally and nationwide. As well, the Committee on Wilderness deals primarily with locally endangered animals. Most recently, the E.A.C. organized the Hazardous Waste Disposal Day, on October 13 in Halifax.

The E.A.C. has been outspoken on the Point Aconi Power Plant Project, a construction effort that will have major impact on the environment of Cape Breton Island and the surrounding area. The Centre stresses the need for Nova Scotians to be fully aware of how this project would affect them and is endeavoring to provide all relevant information to the public.

Anne Corbin has recently been continued on page 6



Alexander Keith started brewing fine ale at a time when getting to the top required patience, dedication and a mule.

Even as a young man living in Scotland, Alexander Keith knew that someday he would make the long voyage to Halifax. But first he placed himself under the instruction of his uncle to learn the art of brewing fine ale.

Only when his apprenticeship was complete did he go to the shipping agent to book his passage. For it was part of Alexander's character not to take action until the time was right.

Upon his arrival in Halifax in 1817, Alexander knew he could make a name for himself if he brought determination to the task. Indeed, it wasn't long until young Alexander's determination became the stuff of legend.

In Alexander's day, the roads of Halifax were nearly impassable in certain weather. Come winter, delivery routes were difficult to negotiate even with sturdy wagons.

Alexander realized that the distribution of his new India Pale Ale would require extraordinary care and patience.

Alexander began a careful search for beasts of burden and eventually he assembled a stable of strong animals. The most difficult delivery route was reserved for a mule that Alexander named Halkirk, after his own birthplace on Scotland's River Thurso.

The wagons of Keith's Brewery became a familiar sight as they made their weekly rounds. And Alexander gained a reputation as a man who worked slowly and carefully, taking the time to get things right.

The merits of his philosophy were confirmed by the taste of his India Pale Ale. Nova Scotians came to understand that Alexander's name on a bottle of ale was assurance of a quality brew.

Today, we still brew Alexander Keith's India Pale Ale his way.



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