



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dartmouth to pilot new stormwater management program

Dartmouth, N.S. – Homeowners in the Central Dartmouth community have been selected to take part in a new program to help them better manage rain water on their property. The program, *RainYards*, empowers participants to implement changes to their homes and yards that help to slow and increase the absorption of rain water that might otherwise contribute to flooding and water pollution.

“This program is a great opportunity for homeowners to do their part to help protect themselves, their homes and their communities from the negative repercussions of heavy rainfall,” says Valerie Francella, Rain Yards program coordinator for Clean Nova Scotia. “Small changes on private properties add up as whole communities begin to take on simple alterations and retrofits that help slow water down and send it back into the earth,” says Francella.

Stormwater is currently a major problem in Nova Scotia. During heavy rainfalls, rainwater picks up pollutants and flows straight into natural waterways or into storm drains. In older parts of the Halifax Regional Municipality, storm drains connect directly to the water treatment facility, which means that all of a municipality’s stormwater and sewage goes to the same place. When there is a lot of rain, those facilities aren’t able to accommodate that the excess of untreated water which can create overflow into the harbour and other areas.

“Our phones have been ringing non-stop with people wanting to get involved with the program and register for a home visit,” says Lisa Privett, program coordinator with Clean Nova Scotia’s water programs. “It’s impressive to hear how many people have a genuine interest in stormwater issues and are excited to be part of a solution,” says Privett.

An inaugural workshop will be held at the Findlay Community Centre from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 23, 2012. The event is free and participants are invited to learn more about the program, sign up for a home visit and paint their own rain barrel.

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RainYards

by Clean Nova Scotia

Backgrounder

About Clean Nova Scotia

Clean Nova Scotia seeks to create a cleaner, healthier environment by informing, enabling and inspiring Nova Scotians to respect and consider the environment in all of their choices. Committed to making our province a better place for ourselves and future generations, CNS programs educate the public on ways of protecting our streams; reduce waste, save energy and more.

About RainYards

RainYards is a stormwater assessment program delivered by Clean Nova Scotia and funded by Halifax Water and the Halifax Port Authority that educates and empowers homeowners to better understand and manage stormwater on their properties. Through landscape changes, community members can better protect their homes and communities from flooding and decrease stormwater runoff into overburdened municipal infrastructure, which can cause overflow events. The program is delivered through one-on-one, property specific assessments that include an evaluation of water flow on the property and potential retrofit options suitable for the site. During the summer of 2012, Clean Nova Scotia will be delivering 100 of these home assessment visits to homeowners in Central Dartmouth. Pre-registration is imperative for participation in the kickoff rainbarrel painting event Saturday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Findley Center.

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