



You may ask yourself, "What am I reading?" You could call it a mini-newsletter, I suppose. We still intend to publish a quarterly newsletter with all sorts of interesting stories and NSUC updates, but we realized that with everyone's busy lives there will be periods of silence when we don't have any planned activities, or even very much to post. So, we got to thinking, what if we put out a short one or two pager each month with not only NSUC news, but also short tidbits about local happenings of interest and any other cool news. The intent here is not to write in great detail, but rather create something that is quick and easy to produce, yet still lets you know about what's happening or has recently happened. This is our first crack at it and I am sure changes will be required along the way, but let's see how it goes. Well, let's get started - take a scroll through the page and see if you find something interesting! Spoiler alert: this one spilled over to a third page!

Shorelines Need Love, Too

On September 10 we joined forces with Scotian Shores and hosted an ocean cleanup in Terence Bay River, removing more than 350 pounds (159 kg) of debris from the sea bed and surrounding shoreline. While divers want to see our playground cleared of trash, our treasured coastline also needs attention. Scotian Shores was created in 2020 with the purpose of making our shores cleaner and to raise awareness about the plastics entering our oceans. In less than two and a half years they removed over 350,000 pounds (158,757 kg) of debris from Nova Scotian shorelines! To learn more about Scotian Shores check out their [Facebook Page](#) or visit <https://www.scotianshores.com/>.

Is There Anybody Down There?

(Contribution by Alanna Canaran)

Area 51 we are not, but Nova Scotia does have some otherworldly stories to tell! The [Shag Harbour 2022 UFO XPO](#) was recently held in Yarmouth from October 1 to 2. It is an annual event where UFO experts and eyewitnesses gather to share their experiences, theories and research about UFOs. At this year's XPO, attendees heard about the 1960 Shelburne Incident in which divers participating in a naval minesweeping exercise claim to have come face to face with aliens underwater! Also discussed was the 1967 Shag Harbour encounter where a large UFO was observed crashing into the sea. Local divers and NSUC executive members Alanna Canaran and Jenn Meisner attended this year's XPO. Of particular interest to them was a presentation about Unidentified Sunken Objects (USOs) and underwater contact with extraterrestrials given by Debbie Zieglmeyer, director of Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), PADI OWSI and Underwater UFO/USO Search and Recovery Instructor. Speaking like the diver she is, Alanna says, "She further sparked my curiosity in diving into the unknown. With around 80% of the ocean unexplored, it truly is earth's final frontier. Just imagine what we can find, if we just go looking!". But Alanna and Jenn did not stop at imagining. Inspired by the presentations at the XPO they got to talking with some locals in Shag Harbour and went diving for UFOs. No spoilers here, but if you want to know what they found, watch for their new scuba diving series, "Jump In", coming to Eastlink Cable in the near future!



Paddy's Head Never Disappoints

In mid-October, local snorkeller Elli Ofthenorth encountered a tiny stranger while snorkelling at Paddy's Head. Paddy's Head, a favourite among divers of every stripe, never disappoints and on this day that sentiment could not have been truer: As Elli cruised along, she encountered the small three to five inch-long mystery fish whose fin structure reminded her of a johnny jump up flower (a relative of the pansy). The jury is still out, but some in the know have suggested juvenile monkfish, scorpion fish or some sculpin-type fish. Luckily, she had her camera and was able to snap a few shots. Take a look. What do you think? If you like to snorkel, you can follow [Snorkel Nova Scotia](#) on Facebook to connect with other snorkellers.



Paddy's Head's latest visitor. Photo by Elli Ofthenorth

The Great Nova Scotia Seahorse Hunt

(Wayne Joy)

Mid to late September marks the start of the annual Seahorse hunt in the waters around Nova Scotia. It is believed that late summer storms spin off warm eddies of Gulf Stream water into the bays along the south shore of our Province, dropping off several tropical species. To many, (me included), the tropical Holy Grail is the Lined Seahorse (*Hippocampus erectus*). Pictured here is the first one I saw this year and marks four years running for successfully spotting these visitors each year since moving back home to Nova Scotia in 2019.



Lined Seahorse at Paddy's Head. Photo by Wayne Joy

Prior to that, going back as far as 2008, I had never seen a Nova Scotian seahorse although I remember a single sighting of one at Peggy's Cove in the fall of 2009 by two Shearwater divers. At that time this was a rare sighting but now we can be almost certain of seeing at least one seahorse each year. Some residents claim to have seen seahorses as children swimming near Peggy's Cove, so they are not new to our waters.

To improve your odds of spotting a seahorse



I recommend night diving along the outer edges of eel grass in late September well into November prior to the water temperatures dropping back down below 10° C (50° F). Seahorses feed on Mysids and small shrimp that are more active at night. Look for dark or orange clumps near the bottom of the eel grass along the outer edges. Don't forget to search the smaller clusters of eel grass out in the open areas. Seahorses tend to stay within a very small area so once they are spotted word spreads quickly and they can be easily located.

Good luck with your hunt.

We Have a New Website!

It's still under development but it is out there and available for visitors. We invite you to drop by and have a look. It's light on content but we will be adding more soon. Also, we've been running user tests on it and are aware of several bugs. For now, we ask that you don't send us any issue reports until we have worked out the kinks. We'll let you know when we've addressed everything we can fix. Speaking of web development, do you know anyone with web development experience who would like to help us out? If so, contact as at one of the email addresses listed below.

You can find our website here: <https://www.novascotiaunderwatercouncil.ca/>

We Also Have New Email Addresses

General enquiries:	novascotiaunderwatercouncil@gmail.com
President (Mike Schwinghamer):	presidentnsuc@gmail.com
Vice President (Wayne Joy):	vicePresidentnsuc@gmail.com
Regional Director (Alanna Canaran):	regionalDirectornsuc@gmail.com
Treasurer (Jenn Meisner):	treasurersuc@gmail.com
Secretary (Cliff Andrews):	secretarynsuc@gmail.com