

Water is virtually all around the eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia -- quite literally. Its inhabitants clamour over equal and free access to the peninsula's coastline. Called "Canada's Ocean playground", a shared appreciation of the coastline's beauty unites everyone who calls Nova Scotia home.

But as a former city dweller, I witnessed a separation between water, as scenic nature -- and water as a resource. While hot water ran cold far too often during busy morning shower time, cold water seemed to flow endlessly from household taps. Water was used freely to clean anything that may be dirty -- and the idea of turning off the tap to conserve water never occurred to me. Growing up, I didn't know where the water from my tap came from, and I never questioned whether it was safe to drink, unfiltered. Bottled water tasted better to drink -- but mainly because it was just that much colder.

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30

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