



Souris River Watershed News

Issue #27

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Souris River Watershed Committee

www.souriswl.ca

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Souris & Area Branch's Annual Meeting

On March 9th the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (SAB) hosted their annual meeting at the Souris Ski Lodge. This meeting served several purposes including reviewing the successes of the past year and to give insight into the happenings of the year to come. Although staying mostly intact, there were changes to the executive committee for the upcoming year. President Paul Gallant stepped down after a year of great service to the position. Joe Ronnie MacDonald has been elected to serve as president. Adam Fraser will serve as the Vice-President, Kevin Robertson will continue as treasurer for the group for the following year and

Waldron Leard will serve as secretary. The directors of the group are Brian MacDonald, Steve Cheverie, Fred Ward, Jimmy MacDonald, and Justin MacKinnon.

Treasurer, Kevin Robertson gave a briefing of the budget from the previous year laying out all the expenses and profits from events like the Annual Wildlife Dinner. Branch coordinator, Fred Cheverie gave a presentation to the executive committee regarding coastal erosion. The group has partnered with the Southern Gulf Coalition to do coastal erosion monitoring in Little Harbour and East Point. The presentation was very well received.

The executive committee stated they were excited for another

productive season from the staff of the S&A Branch.

North Lake & Priest Pond Watershed Planning

Watershed plans are key tools used in the day-to-day operations of the SAB. With great success from the Basin Head (2010) and Souris River (2006) watershed plans, North Lake and Priest Pond were next on the list. The reason these two watersheds are of high priority for the SAB is due to their annual runs of Atlantic salmon. North Lake and Priest Pond are two of ten watersheds in PEI that have



Priest Pond Watershed

these annual runs.

These watershed plans are being done simultaneously because of the similarities between the two rivers. They both have minimal issues in terms of sedimentation,

very little agriculture, excellent wooded riparian zones, and they are geographically close.

In an attempt to preserve the integrity of the riparian zones and subsequently the rivers, an increased buffer zone has been recommended by the SAB to the EKCC. The current legislation for buffer zones adjacent to watercourses is 15m. The SAB is recommending an extension to 60m within the EKCC's jurisdictional area around these watersheds. This is to be done to ensure the conservation and strengthening of these



North Lake Watershed

excellent watercourses.

The SAB has received the green light from the EKCC and the community members in Eastern Kings to pursue this legislation in

the updating of the EKCC's by-laws.

After a presentation to the EKCC and later to the public, a steering committee was generated with representatives from various sectors and areas around the community. The committee consists of: Ernest MacPhee, Sheila Eastman, Francis Stewart, Robert Baker, Danny Rose, Candy Handrahan, Myles Rose, Bobby Dixon, Richard MacGregor, Garry MacDonald, Tim Brothers and Fred Cheverie. A diverse range of occupations and personalities makes for a steering committee that has different views on different subjects. Meetings will continue on throughout the summer and into the fall between the SAB and the steering committee to have all public concerns and interests incorporated into the management plans.

EKCC's Mosquito Tips

The Eastern Kings Community Council would like to take this opportunity to inform the community about different methods of minimizing the mosquito issues around their homes. A few tips to reduce mosquitoes on your property

include: ensure your gutters are free of debris, empty rain barrels, bird baths & wading pools once a week, eliminate old tires, buckets, empty cans etc.(if it holds water it can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes), ensure all fish pans & tanks are stored upside down (if you plan on leaving them outdoors), keep your grass cut, eliminate any low spots on your property that hold water when it rains, and finally ensure that your drive way culverts are not plugged or collapsed.



Bug Barrel at Vaughan Robertson's in Basin Head

A tool that is being used by a number of residents in the Eastern Kings area is a Bug Barrel. These are inexpensive and effective tools in minimizing the numbers of mosquitoes and many other bugs

on your property. The materials include:

- One 45 gal. white plastic barrel (available at ADL for \$10)
- An old fish pan or wooden stand
- Black light and extension cord or two solar lights
- Two pieces of wood (2" wide and 7" long)

The first step in these Bug Barrels is to cut the barrel down the middle, cutting the two ends and one side open. Then, spread the barrel open 7-8", and screw the two pieces of wood in place to hold the barrel open.

The stand for this device can be made by cutting a semi-circle in a fish pan or a stand can be made out of wood.

The next step is to insert the lights. You can do this by cutting a hole in the top of the barrel and insert either two solar lights or the black light. Then drill a hole in one end of the barrel approximately 1" from the top. Fill with water and 3 oz. of the cheapest dish soap you can buy! It is important to empty and refill the Bug Barrel every three days.

These tools are very useful in minimizing the pesky mosquito!

We encourage everyone to build their own Bug Barrel and not have to deal with those bug bites!

Photo Contest

The SAB presented the awards for the fourth annual photo contest on January 9th, 2011. The event was a tremendous success with over 70 people attending. 3500 photos were entered into the 2010 contest. We are so thrilled by the support and interest in the photo contest; we hope that it continues to grow in popularity in the years to come. The grand prize photograph was shot by Tara Stewart of Chepstow. Ms. Stewart captured the winning photo of a garden snake slithering through the grass in St. Catherines. Adult Category:

1st prize- Jamie Gallagher (Oxford, England) – photo of native plants shot in Basin Head.

2nd prize- Sherry MacDonald (Grant Rd, PE) – photo of an artesian well shot in Harmony Junction.

3rd prize – Emberlee Gillan (Hermanville, PE) – photo of Blue Heron in flight shot in Harmony Junction.

University/College Category:

1st prize- Karon Cole (Queens University) – photo on Earth Day shot in Glencorradale.

2nd prize- David Jagendorf (University of North Carolina) – photo of Marsh Marigolds.

3rd prize- Stephen LaPierre (Mount Allison University) – photo of gull in flight shot in Souris.

High School Category:

1st prize- Jayne Robertson (Kingsboro, PE) - photo of a dragon fly shot at Priest Pond.

2nd prize- Aya Iwashimizu (Tokyo, Japan) – photo of a garden shot in South Lake.

3rd prize- Chloe Campbell (Carol Stream, IL) – photo of a Great Blue Heron shot in Basin Head.

Most Promising Youth Award:

Presented by Hon. Allan Campbell to Andrew MacKenzie of Eglinton, PE.

Elementary School Category:

1st prize- Dominic Ravenello (Quincy, MA)- photo of a sunflower shot in Bothwell, PE.

2nd prize- Daniel MacDonald (Bridgetown, PE)- photo of fall colours shot in Bridgetown, PE.

3rd prize- Robbie Dauphinee (Lunenburg, NS)- photo of Canada geese shot at the Souris Bridge.

Honorable Mentions:

Paul A. Gallant (Souris West, PE)

Maggie Strand (Londonderry, Ireland)

Dolores Jagar (Red Point, PE)

JoAnne Dunphy (Souris, PE)

Melissa MacInnis (Munns Rd, PE)

Shell O'Connor (Wetasikin, AB)

Jo Jennings (Baltimore, MD)

Carolyn Gallant (Souris, PE)

Susan Leard (North Winsloe, PE)

Cameron Ross (Souris West, PE)

Bryanne MacDonald

(Hackensack, NJ)

Lynn Hay (Burbank, CA)

The 2011 contest is now underway. Contest photos already received are not yet available on our website for viewing as we had computer system difficulties, we hope to have them uploaded as soon as possible. Rules and regulations are available on our website www.souriswl.ca.

Family Fishing Day

On Sunday May 29th from 12-4 PM the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation will be hosting their annual Family Fishing Day at the Rollo Bay Pond. This event is a great opportunity for members of the local and surrounding communities to take pleasure in the longstanding sport of fishing.

People of all ages are urged to come out and participate in this free event.



**Heather Maclaren (Cheryl and David)
holding the catch of the day at the 2009
Family Fishing Day**

Over a hundred people attended Family Fishing Day last year. There were many catches throughout the day, with the biggest catch weighing in at 3.2lbs. As in previous years there will also be free hot dogs and refreshments, and staff will be on hand to offer assistance with baiting hooks and untangling fishing lines.

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund

The Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation relies on

funds from a number of different sources in order to continue our efforts in maintaining and enhancing streams to preserve and restore wildlife habitats. This year we received approximately \$7,000 in funding from the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund. This funding is used strictly for stream enhancement in the form of purchase and repairs of equipment such as chainsaws, to supplement employee wages, and mileage reimbursement.

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund is provided through annual contributions by each licensed



angler, hunter, and trapper (the fee varies from \$13-\$20 depending on age). This fund was created in 1998 to provide much needed financial support for the protection

and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

This fund is administered by a committee consisting of 10 members with representatives from angling, hunting, trapping, community watershed groups, non-consumptive users (bikers,hikers,etc.), and the Department of Environment, Energy, and Forestry.

Each application for funding is evaluated based on a proven track record of the applicant, the ability of the applicant to match funds in their budget, and the potential benefits from the applicant's project in the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Funding is dispersed 80% in the beginning of the project and the remaining 20% after a final report is submitted by the recipient and reviewed by the committee.

For more information on the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund visit their website

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/eef/index.php3?number=18642&lang=E>

Coordinator's Comments

SAB has been very fortunate over



the past few years with strong leadership in the president's role from devoted individuals like Steve Cheverie and Paul Gallant. Both of these men have strong leadership skills and a passion for the environment.

This year we had another veteran leader in Joe MacDonald step forward and serve as president. Joe has vast experience with wildlife issues and a passion for Mother Nature.

SAB has lots of experience on their Board of Directors with Waldron Leard, Justin MacKinnon, Fred Ward, and Kevin Robertson who silently get the job done.

SAB is very fortunate to have new blood in Adam Fraser, Brian MacDonald, and Jimmy MacDonald who all have great knowledge about our environment and bring new ideas to the table. This organization continues to prove itself as strong and independent with the great amount of interest and volunteers we have come out on an annual basis.

An organization is only as strong as the individuals that serve as volunteers. SAB's strength is derived from the guidance of their volunteers.

Fred Cheverie
(Souris and Area Watershed Coordinator)

President's Comments



I am pleased to be serving as president of the SAB. I served a number of years ago and have been involved for years. SAB is a great organization and the president's duties have been lightened with the weight our coordinator Fred Cheverie handles. Our last newsletter was November 2010 and it becomes expensive to withstand total costs of each publication. We are thrilled that the EKCC has partnered with us on this issue.

It is very obvious now that our "back roads" are becoming accessible with the amount of garbage that has been roadside during the winter months. It baffles many as to why a person would load an appliance on a truck

and put it roadside when they can take it to the IWMC free of charge. We are paying dearly in our taxes for our roadside pick-up, we should use it since we continue to pay for it and keep our back roads pristine.

Joe MacDonald
(President of the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation)

