



SOUTH BRANCH OF EAST LAKE CREEK - TAKEN BY SANDRA MEADE

# Souris & Area Watershed News

Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

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## All about fishin'

### Extended Angling Season for Rainbow Trout

An extended angling season for Rainbow trout is open from September 16<sup>th</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup> on Prince Edward Island. Two rivers in the local area are open for the extended season; Souris River (all that section of the main river downstream from the Gowan Brae Bridge on Souris River Road (Route 358) and Fortune River (downstream from the Fortune River Road). Souris River had an extended season in 2013 with an extended season added in Fortune River this year.

Rules & Regulations for the 2014 Extended Season for Rainbow Trout:

- There is no special license required, however all anglers must be in possession of a PEI Angling License
- All anglers are required to register and receive a log book before participating in the extended season. Anglers can register at any Access PEI office, online at [gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling](http://gov.pe.ca/forestry/angling) or at the Forests, Fish & Wildlife Office
- Log books are available at Access PEI or for download online

- Artificial fly or lure - single barbless hooks only
- Daily creel limit of 3 Rainbow trout/day

Angler are strongly encouraged to submit their log books to the PEI Forests, Fish & Wildlife Division upon completion of the season. This is critical to formulating regulations for the next year's season.

Consult the 2014 Angling Summary for the complete rules & regulations.

### 2013 Extended Angling Season Quick Facts (Extended Season for Rainbow Trout on PEI & Atlantic Salmon on Morell River):

- 265 anglers registered, 81 log books returned
- Souris River & Morell River were the most popular fishing spots in terms of hours fished
- 424 Rainbow trout reported caught; 60 were retained
- Souris River was the most successful river with 207 Rainbow trout reported caught; 47 were retained
- The largest Rainbow trout caught was 61 cm caught on the Valleyfield River

### Potential Catch & Release Atlantic Salmon Fishery for 2015

With the number of Atlantic salmon increasing in rivers in Eastern Kings County in recent years, there is the potential for a catch and release Atlantic salmon fishery for 2015. This extended season, from September 16<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, could see the lower portions of North Lake Creek, Naufrage River & Cross River open to catch & release fishing only with single, barbless fly. Forests, Fish & Wildlife are interested in hearing your thoughts. Feel free to send your comments to [anglingideas@gov.pe.ca](mailto:anglingideas@gov.pe.ca)



Trout caught by local angler Curtis Sorrey on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The largest trout was 17 inches long and weighed 2 ½ lbs.

# PEI 2014: Nature Tours

## Bike Adventure & Discover Basin Head

### YOU SAID IT!

"Absolutely one of the best experiences we've had on the Island!"

*Discover Basin Head Participant*

In partnership with the PEI 2014 Fund, this summer we offered guided nature tours; *Discover Basin Head & Bike Adventure*. These tours were free of charge and were offered Monday to Friday from June 20<sup>th</sup> to September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

During the *Discover Basin Head* tour, adventurers embarked on a guided beach trek to discover the unique sand dune system, beach and lagoon ecosystem, and learn why Basin Head is designated as one of Canada's Marine Protected Areas as well as Canada's top beach. The tour highlighted some unique flora, some of which are only known to exist in Basin Head and a select few places in North America. The history of the inshore fishery

was explored and participants were able to try their luck at fishing by pulling a seine net in the lagoon.

The Confederation Trail provided the ideal setting for our *Bike Adventure* as cyclists experienced the history while pedaling along the old railway tracks. Pedaling through woodlands, wetlands and agricultural areas, cyclists were on the lookout for wildlife such as grouse, pheasants, osprey and foxes. The Brook Trout Nursery and Fountain Head springs were some of the highlights along the way.

Having the opportunity to showcase our natural areas proved popular among local and tourists, young and old. Over the course of the summer, we had over 500 participants join us on tour with approximately 70% of them coming from off-island. People were in awe of our natural resources with locals and visitors alike remarking that they learnt much on



our tours. Following our tours, each participant was asked to complete a questionnaire evaluating their tour experience. Common comments on our tours included: "Loved the tour – very informative!", "Great adventure!", "Great mix of ecosystem and stories that gave context!"

Overwhelming support and feedback indicates a niche market for eco-tourism in our region. During the upcoming months, we will investigate ways to offer these tours and other eco-tourism initiatives in 2015.



## Project Partners

*Many thanks to all the partners who made the tours possible:*

- Eastern Kings Community Council
- Town of Souris
- Community of St. Catherines
- Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- PEI Wildlife Federation
- PEI Department of Tourism and Culture: Confederation Trail (Ruth DeLong) and Basin Head Fisheries Museum (Anne Garrett and Staff)
- PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry: Rosemary Curley
- Basin Head Provincial Park - Laura Robertson and Staff
- BasinHead.com (Wallace Rose)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraising Lobster Dinner



On August 10, 2014, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Fundraising Lobster Dinner" at the Eastern Kings Sportsplex in Souris. Upon arrival, guests were treated to smoked salmon & mackerel, homemade seafood chowder and Colville Bay Oysters. The main course included shelled lobster, homemade potato salad, fresh rolls and all the trimmings. To finish, guests were treated to homemade blueberry sauce drizzled over shortcake. Everyone left very pleased and with a full stomach.

The evening also featured a silent auction, 50/50 draw, door prizes and lobster meat auction. Local fishing guide Cameron Ross, of "On The Fly PEI", came to showcase some of his wood carvings as well as his guiding business. Local amateur photographer Joanne Dunphy showcased her photographs which capture the true natural essence of our area through wildlife and landscapes photographs.

All proceeds from this event go directly towards environmental initiatives in our local area. Projects directly supported by this event include garbage cans at popular fishing areas, feeding pheasants over the winter, public meetings, educational outreach, special presentations, and most recently, the establishment of a memorial tree sanctuary and public picnic grounds in New Harmony.



### THANK YOU TO THE FISHERS FOR DONATING THE LIVE LOBSTER

#### North Lake Harbour

Allan Fay  
Allen Coffin  
Charlie MacDonald  
Craig Veld  
Curtis MacKenzie  
Darren MacKinnon  
Darren MacLean  
David Outhouse  
Donnie MacCormack  
Donnie Robertson  
Donnie Rose  
Dwayne Ching  
Elmer MacDonald  
Eric Poole

Ernie Gallant  
Francis MacDonald  
Garry Gallant  
Glen Cameron  
James Coffin  
James R MacDonald  
Jamie Bruce  
JJ Chaisson  
John Whalen  
Kent Poole  
Kevin Robertson  
Kurt Harris  
Lindsay Rose  
Lonnie Robertson  
Marc Sutherland

Mark Rose  
Michael MacDonald  
Nigel Campbell  
Patrick Eastman  
Peter Boertien  
Richard Boertien  
Ronald MacMillan  
Travis Gallant  
Troy Bruce  
Wayne Campbell  
Wayne MacIntyre  
Winston Baker

#### Naufrage Harbour

Andrew O'Hanley  
Archie McInnis  
Bobby Martin  
Boyd Munn  
Donald P MacDonald  
Gerard Whalen  
Ian Kennedy  
Ian MacKinnon  
James Fraser  
Jansen MacKinnon  
Jeff Reynolds  
John MacKay  
Keith MacDonald  
Kenneth Sorrey  
Kennedy Johnston

Michael Palmer  
Mike Cheverie  
Mike Gormley  
Patrick Cheverie  
Ray Shields  
Richard Palmer  
Roland Gormley  
Ross Keus  
Scott R Bell  
Scott Bruce  
Tim L'Esperance  
Trent Jamieson

#### Souris Harbour

Brian MacPhee  
Chris Victor  
Colin LaVie  
Danny Ehler  
Francie MacPhee  
Ian MacDonald  
John Burke  
John MacPhee  
Josh O'Keefe  
Michael MacAulay  
Peter MacPhee  
Shawn MacPhee  
Shayne Clinton  
Terry Carter

### THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS

#### Meal Donors

Colville Bay Oyster Company  
Egg Farmers of PEI  
Fred Ward  
Jasper Wyman & Sons Ltd.  
Lavon Paquet  
Louise MacDonald  
MacPhee's Market Save Easy  
Purity Dairy  
Rollo Bay Holdings Ltd.  
Sheltered Harbour Café  
Souris Co-op

#### Door Prize & Silent Auction Donors

ADL  
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation  
Confederation Center of the Arts  
Delta Prince Edward  
Fire & Water Creations  
Fly Fishing 4 Fun  
Jill & Brian Burridge  
Kenmac Energy  
Mae MacKinnon  
Main Street Home Hardware

Main Street Pharmasave  
Myraid View Distillery  
On the Fly PEI  
Prompt Plumbing  
Remedy's RX  
The Cooperators: Jansen MacKinnon & Associates  
Tim Hortons  
Trout Unlimited Canada  
Vernon d'Eon Fishing Supplies Ltd.

**THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR SETTING UP, CLEANING UP, PREPARING & SERVING THE MEAL, WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!**

## Guest Opinion: Glossy Ibis on PEI

By Dan McAskill, Editor, *Island Naturalist*



Photo by Lois Kilburn

The Glossy Ibis found by Lois Kilburn on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Priest Pond is a most unusual bird find for PEI. Very few people, including those birders who keep records by province, have recorded this species on the Island. In the past 25 years, there have only been 14 recorded on PEI. Glen and Mary Beaton discovered one at Alexandra in April, 2012. Tom Duffy found four at Glenfinnan in April, 2007. Various people reported one or two being seen during a ten day period in April, 2004 at East Point and, in August of that year, Rachel Cheverie found one at East Point beach. Gerald MacDonald, Paul and Arlene McGuigan, and Jean Watts discovered one at Little Harbour in May, 2001 and Vernon Laux found one at St. Peters in 2000.

This species is a rare vagrant to Prince Edward Island but has been recorded irregularly here since at least the 1970's. These sightings are mostly during spring migration but sometimes they can be found during the autumn migration. Often their arrival here is related to a major wind storm from the southwest. Historically in the Atlantic Provinces, W. Earl Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* indicates that there was a Glossy Ibis specimen taken in Pictou County, Nova Scotia in 1865 and there were two taken from a small group in Pictou in 1910. The earliest record Godfrey noted for New Brunswick was in 1965 at St. Andrews although Erskine indicated the species was seen in 1952. Godfrey noted the earliest record for Newfoundland was 1956.

The Glossy Ibis occurs in tropical regions of North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia. Historically in North America, their breeding range was mostly from the Carolinas southward. However, they have been expanding their breeding range northward in eastern North America

and, by 1972, they had reached Maine. By 1978-83, 100 pairs were reported in that state. The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritimes* by Anthony J. Erskine showed a confirmed breeding record for Glossy Ibis in New Brunswick in 1986 in southern New Brunswick but it was an unsuccessful attempt. There were no confirmed breeding records reported for this species in the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas (2006-2010) project.

In autumn and winter, telling adult and juvenile Glossy Ibis apart is difficult as the juvenile looks like a winter adult. However, adults often retain few chestnut feathers while juveniles have no chestnut feathers.

One of the goals established in 1969 by the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island (now known as Nature PEI) is the collection and retention of bird records for the Island. In 1974, the Society commenced publishing its newsletter. Since then, it has been maintaining bird records in its newsletter the *Island Naturalist*. Anyone seeing rare or unusual bird sightings or other natural history events on PEI is encouraged to send their sightings to Nature PEI at [jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca). Those seeing rare birds can post their sightings on the UPEI Bird ListServer or eBird Canada. For those who like to use Facebook, sightings and pictures can be posted to the Birding on PEI or NaturePEI Facebook sites. For information on birding or other natural history events check out [www.naturepei.ca](http://www.naturepei.ca). If you wish information on what birds are found on PEI in the various seasons, the latest *Field Checklist of Birds of PEI* is now available on line at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/birds/index.php3>

### References:

- Anthony J. Erskine. 1992. *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritimes*. Nimbus Publishing and Nova Scotia Museum.  
 John Farrand, Jr. 1983. *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding: 1 Loons to Sandpipers*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York  
 W. Earl Godfrey. 1986. *Birds of Canada*. National Museum of Natural Sciences.  
 David Allen Sibley. 2000. *National Audubon Society The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York

### New, Rare Sightings in Eastern Kings!

- Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Campbell's Cove
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at East Point

# Snapshots from the Stream!

Each field season we encounter lots of interesting wildlife, plants, fish and invertebrates. Our field work takes us deep into areas of the woods, which are not readily accessible to the general public, as we follow meandering streams to enhance fish & invertebrate habitat. Frequently, we encounter large schools of fish, and have even been lucky enough to have Atlantic salmon, over 40 inches long, swimming at our feet. We would like to share a glimpse of some of our the neat plants and animals we have seen this summer.



Red Spotted Newt near the Bull Creek Road in Priest Pond



Wood Duck near McInnis' Dam in Cross River



Duck near the Grove Pine Road in Fortune River



Berry of a Nodding Trillium near the Windmill Road in East Lake



Red Baneberry in Campbell's Creek



Eggs in a nest near the Glen Road in Priest Pond



Garter Snake in a tree in the West Branch of the Naufrage River



Damselfly in the West Branch of the Naufrage River

# PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund



The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund provides funding for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat. The fund is generated from the annual license fees from anglers, hunters, and trappers.

Proposals are submitted twice annually, for spring projects and fall projects. The Island Nature Trust acts as the administrator for this fund under the direction of the Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee. This committee is comprised of ten members: three representatives from the angling community; three representatives from the hunting community; one representative from the trapping community; one representative from community watershed groups; one representative from non-consumptive users such as birdwatchers and hikers; one representative from the PEI

Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Each proposal is evaluated by this committee and funding is awarded accordingly.

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund has been a valued partner for the last number of years. Our most recent project goal is aimed at meeting a benchmark of 100km of in stream habitat restoration along with riparian enhancement activities, mainly tree planting.

Since 2010, we have received approximately \$48,000 in funding for projects such as in stream habitat rehabilitation, riparian enhancement, bald eagle perches, Atlantic salmon redd surveys, electro fishing assessments, fish trap monitoring, and beaver assessments. The PEIWCF has a proven track record of supporting worthwhile environmental projects across Prince Edward Island. Your conservation dollars are truly being put towards just causes.

## Development of a Legacy Park in New Harmony

*Canon's Take Root Program presented by Evergreen*



With funding provided by Canon's Take Root Program, presented by Evergreen, we are excited to announce the construction of a Legacy Park in New Harmony. The Legacy Park will be situated on a two acre property adjacent to the Souris Line Road, Confederation Trail & New Harmony junction. This property was acquired as a donation from the McVarish family. This park will serve to highlight the accomplishments of past Souris & Area Wildlife Branch members while encouraging and fostering environmental stewardship for current and future members. The park includes planting tree species from the native Acadian forest, planting memorial trees in honor of deceased supporters, development of a community picnic area and the installation of interpretative signage. This park will provide the opportunity for community members to connect with nature, see local wildlife, and learn about conservation practices and natural resource management.

The first step in this project is the planting of native trees and shrubs later this fall. Shrubs to be planted will include species known to attract wildlife such as song birds, grouse, pheasants, snowshoe hare and fox, to name a few. Bird boxes will be placed on trees to promote nesting and provide opportunities for the public to see birds up close.

Large interpretive signs will be installed around the park to educate users on local flora and fauna and ways in which the community can help to minimize negative impacts locally.

A portion of the property will be reserved for planting Red Oak trees in memoriam of deceased community members who have devoted considerable time and effort to environmental betterment in our community. As the provincial tree of PEI, this is a fitting tribute to such community members. Each tree includes a plaque naming the community and a brief synopsis about their contributions.

Later this fall, we will be hosting a tree planting day where we will plant 400 trees on the property. We would like to invite the community to participate. All equipment will be provided however you are encouraged to bring your own gloves and shovel if you prefer. The date will be posted on our website and advertised on local community bulletin boards. If you would like to sign up for more information give us a call at (902) 687-4115. Many hands make light work. An official opening and dedication will take place later this fall as well.

We would like to thank Canon for providing major funding for this project as well as the Department of Agriculture & Forestry and the Frank J. Gaudet Tree Nursery for the contributions.

# Community Volunteers Receive PEIWF Honorary Memberships



**From left to right: Director Justin McKinnon, Director Fred Ward, Director Fan MacIntyre & Watershed Coordinator Fred Cheverie**

As an affiliate of the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Federation (PEIWF), our branch requested honoring three long-standing community volunteers with PEIWF Honorary Memberships. An Honorary Membership “may be conferred upon any person by a unanimous resolution of Executive Council in recognition of distinguished service in relation to any of the objects of the Federation”.

John “Fan” MacIntyre, Justin McKinnon & Fred Ward, have been active members in varying capacities for decades. At our Fundraising Lobster Dinner on August 10<sup>th</sup>, these three directors were bestowed PEIWF Honorary Memberships for their years of service and most importantly, are still active members as they hold director positions on the Souris & Area Wildlife Branch Executive.

Fan was among the founding members of the Souris & Area Wildlife Branch. Fan is an avid hunter and trout fishermen, and still enjoys his time streamside with a fishing pole and storytelling. On many days, especially

during the extended Rainbow trout season, he can be found at Gowan Brae. He is a huge advocate in promoting recreational angling and hunting, particularly to the youth in the community. Fan has a strong interest in the betterment of the local environment and had a long career as a Fishery Officer in Souris. He has been a dedicated member of the executive and currently holds a director position.

Justin has been an active member for over 35 years in various capacities, and continues to hold a director position on the executive. Justin has been instrumental in managing ticket sales for the past fall Wildlife Dinner and more recently has been the driving force behind our Fundraising Lobster Dinner. His ideals truly reflect that of a conservationist as he truly believes in the workings of “Mother Nature” and the importance of the native species within our ecosystems. His background as a commercial fisherman has instilled strong beliefs in looking after the environment so his generations’ grandchildren will have the same pleasures he enjoys.

Fred Ward has also been involved in the branch for over 35 years in various capacities and continues to hold a director position on the executive. Fred is a “jack of all trades” and can be depended upon to volunteer for or complete any task requested of him. Fred has been instrumental in managing the fundraising events, particularly at the wildlife dinners. Fred is one of our most active promoters helping to share local good news stories from our management area.

We thank Fan, Justin & Fred for their dedication and commitment to the betterment of our local community, and are happy they remain active members within our organization.

## *Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation Membership & Donation Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Payment**

*Please check one or both:*

- Membership (\$10)  
 Donations

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: An official tax receipt can only be issued for the value of the donation and will not include the \$10 membership fee)

**PRESIDENTS COMMENTS: BRIAN MACDONALD**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fundraising Lobster Dinner was a great success; this event was a true community effort. Many hours were spent peeling potatoes, cutting vegetables, setting up and cleaning up to serving the wonderful meal. Thank you to Sheila Eastman for overseeing the kitchen activities. We want to send a special thank you to all the businesses and individuals for their donations and all who volunteered; we know your time is valuable and appreciate your help greatly. Thank you to Donnie Robertson for smoking the mackerel. Guests raved over the flavor of the mackerel. Another key volunteer we cannot thank enough is Dave Fletcher. Dave conjured up a most popular seafood chowder using lots of locally grown flavours and fish. Thanks to the EKSP, and especially Kenny Birt, for being so accommodating and helping with all the fine details. Finally, thank you to all who attended. We hope you enjoyed your meal as many hours were spend to prepare it. Watch for this event again next year!

**COORDINATORS COMMENTS: FRED CHEVERIE**

The Souris & Area Wildlife Branch has been working towards supporting sustainable fish populations in our management area in hopes of meeting our goal of becoming a top recreational angling destination on Prince Edward Island. As Atlantic salmon continue to mark a return to many of our rivers, we are continuously seeking new and diverse projects so these populations continue to thrive. Upon researching this summer, we stumbled upon preliminary results of a unique study led by Laval University studying the genetic differences among Atlantic salmon in the Western Atlantic.

In the summer of 2012, our staff assisted the PEI Fish & Wildlife Division to fin clip Atlantic salmon, in North Lake Creek and Cross River, to collect specimens for DNA testing. This study included 150 salmon populations and saw the collection of 9000 specimens from Eastern USA through the Maritimes to Northern Quebec and Labrador. Samples were also collected in other rivers on PEI including Mill River, West River, and Morell River

Preliminary results from this study indicate similar genetic characteristics between all salmon populations throughout the Maritimes with the exception of North Lake and Cross River populations. Fish from these rivers appeared to be genetically unique from Atlantic salmon throughout the rest of Gulf Region.

This leads us to many unanswered questions. To our knowledge, neither of these rivers have ever been stocked so are these Atlantic salmon representative of true native populations? If so, could this be a factor as to why our Atlantic salmon populations have been increasing in recent years, while many other areas in the region are experiencing a decline? Does this strain of Atlantic salmon follow the same migratory route as other Atlantic salmon in the region? Furthermore, are populations in our other northside rivers (Naufrage River, Hay River, Cow River & Bear Rivers) of the same genetic strain? The questions go on and on.

We are currently in the process of collaborating with potential partners to explore these questions. Stay tuned for new informations in the near future!

**About Us**

The Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation is a non-profit, environmental organization dedicated to the conservation, protection and enhancement of watersheds in north eastern Kings County. Our management area accounts for approximately 62, 000 hectares representing about 12% of PEI, including 24 individual watersheds.

The goals of our organization include:

1. To establish North Eastern Kings County as the “Sports Fishing Capital” of Prince Edward Island
2. The management of natural resources and enhancement of fish, wildlife and their habitat through watershed planning, protection and restoration initiatives
3. To become the model watershed group on Prince Edward Island
4. To bring unprecedented environmental awareness to our stake holders to create a more informed general public capable of eliciting progressive environmental action
5. To promote our management area as one of the most pristine natural areas in Prince Edward Island through ecotourism ventures to attract visitors to the local area

**Contact Information**

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Facebook: Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation