



Photograph taken along the Confederation Trail near Souris; courtesy of Wanda Bailey

Souris & Area Watershed News

Souris and Area Branch
of the PEI Wildlife Federation

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IN MEMORIAM - KEVIN ROBERTSON

The staff and Board of Directors of Souris & Area Wildlife Branch (SAB) were deeply saddened by the tragic death of Kevin Robertson this past summer. Kevin was very actively involved with SAB over the past decade. He assumed many executive positions, including Treasurer, Vice President, President and was currently serving as Past President at the time of his death.

It became very evident early in Kevin's attendance at our meetings that Kevin had a deep passion for the environment. He was always willing to kick in and put forward volunteer hours to assist with the development of various projects.

Kevin was a strong voice for SAB at Department of Fisheries and Oceans meetings in relation to the development of policies relating to regional recreational fisheries. He knew this subject area well as his experience and knowledge from attending commercial fishery meetings aided him in discussions

Kevin was a driving force in the establishment of our annual Lobster Fundraiser Dinner. He always dedicated a huge amount of time and effort to the event and he had suggestions for improvements to ensure that the dinner was a total success.



Kevin at our 4th Annual Lobster Fundraising Dinner in 2016

We pass on our condolences to Kevin's family and friends; the environment has lost a true ambassador.

STREAM ENHANCEMENT 2019

This year, our summer crew consisted of old and new faces, from supervisors who have been with Souris Wildlife for over 10 years to new students fresh out of the classroom, and everyone was eager to get going once our permits allowed us to start work. Our management area consists of approximately 10% of PEI and for our WWF-Canada and Loblaw's Water Fund project, we had agreed to restore and enhance 12 of our 27 watersheds. The crews were fast out of the starting gate and they cracked on with the work, out in the streams by 6am every morning so they could avoid the worse of the heat and the insects – though they still experienced plenty of warm, buggy conditions! By the end of August we only had one small watershed left and we were all feeling pretty proud of the work we'd achieved, with all of the streams clear and ready to welcome returning fish in the fall for spawning.



Hurricane Dorian storm damage in Hay River

Then BAM! Hurricane Dorian rolls through the Province, with the eye of the storm passing overhead of eastern PEI i.e. our area. Perfect timing too as it hit once our summer students had left, leaving only a few workers around to clear up the damage. From initial assessments, there seemed to be mixed results on how bad the damage actually was. East Lake, the one watershed that hadn't been walked prior to the storm, wasn't too bad at all and only took a day to clear. Other spots, such as Hay River, seemed to be worse. Luckily, the Province of PEI extended stream enhancement permits by a couple of weeks which gave us time to clear most of the major blockages so that our Atlantic salmon and Brook trout are still able to make it up our streams to spawn in late October/November. However, we know it could have been a lot worse and we're thankful that the storm had lost some of its power before it reached us.

Completed sections:

East Lake was totally completed in both branches reaching back as far as Elmira. No beaver activity.

North Lake was completed on the main vein to the West Tarantum near Fountain Head. The branches of Alder Brook, Mill Creek and Joe Fay's were also completed. Beavers removed from below Fountain Head.

Campbells Creek was done from pond to Northside Road. Beaver free.

Priest Pond completed to Dixon's Dam in Glencoradale and the south branch at Anne MacPhee's was also completed. Beaver free.

Cross River was completed from Northside Rd to just south of Matt Leslie's and west branch was completed to New Zealand. Beaver activity on the west branch.

Hay River was completed from tidal into the headwaters in New Zealand. Beavers removed from just above tidal area.

Bear River was completed from pond to Mickle Macum Road.

Naufage's main system was completed from tidal to the Line of the Lot Road and Church Road intersection. The west branch below Bert Conahan's was also cleared for a good stretch. Beavers are prevalent in the pond and are usually problematic in this watershed.

Cow River was completed from tidal to about 1km from Goose River Rd. Beavers found above Selkirk.

MacAskill's was cleared from tidal to Northside Rd. This is a new stretch that hadn't been done since 2011.



Fortune watershed is massive with the main branch cleared from tidal including Big Brook to approximately 500m past Little River Road. Above Shaw Creek cleared to blueberry fields. Johnny Belinda Creek cleared to St. Charles Pond (Lester Johnston's Pond). Beavers are always an issue in this watershed.

Souris River has two branches (east & west). East branch cleared to McVarish Pond Souris Line Rd. West Branch cleared to the 400m west of Manning rd.

Black Pond has two main branches (Greenvale & East). Greenvale branch cleared from Greenvale Rd. to pond.

Basin Head cleared from Snake Rd. downstream of Ching's Warehouse. Beaver free.

Pat's Brook (Little Harbour) cleared from Longaphie Road to the south side then down to tidal.

BASIN HEAD

Another successful field season working with DFO at Basin Head has wrapped up for the year. Our activities at Basin Head included Irish Moss restoration and maintenance with Dr. Irene Novaczek; nutrient, sea lettuce, and eelgrass monitoring; and Green crab removal.

This year we planted 2970 moss/mussel clumps throughout the three focused Irish Moss beds. Each year, the moss beds are surveyed to record the number of clumps and compared to the number of clumps planted the previous year to determine the winter survival rate. By continuing to plant clumps year after year, we are increasing the biomass of Irish Moss in the Basin Head MPA, that was once below 2 metres².



Our Ulva (commonly known as Sea Lettuce) monitoring protocol involves taking monthly panoramic pictures at two lookout locations around the Basin Head Estuary. These pictures can then be used to track the Ulva growth throughout the field season.

In our last newsletter, we talked about the changes to our nutrient monitoring protocol, which has been working great! We sampled for the months of May-November, and we completed our dry-period opportunistic sampling in August and wet-period opportunistic sampling in October. The water samples will soon be sent to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography for analysis.

Souris Wildlife planted 3 eelgrass beds between 2017-2018 and this year have been monitoring their growth. Wading surveys were conducted and pictures taken at each quadrat for each transect completed. This year there is a lot more eelgrass at Basin Head than in previous year which will help with the overall biodiversity of the ecosystem.

Since the last Green Crab update in the previous newsletter the amount of days that we are trapping for this year has increased! For 2 weeks in both July and August trapping occurred, going up to 3 weeks of trapping in September, and then we fished for the entire month of October. This year, the focus has been to standardize the trapping method to provide better statistically sound data, so while we have caught less crab this year, the data will be more useful to scientists. Overall, a total of 15,415 Green crab were trapped and removed from Basin Head MPA over 49 days of fishing in 2019.



7th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LOBSTER DINNER

Our 7th Annual Fundraising Lobster Dinner, held on August 11th at the Eastern Kings Sportsplex, was again this year a remarkable success! We are so overjoyed that it was another sold out dinner and that everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed a delicious meal!

Thank you kindly to everyone who supported this amazing fundraising event! To those who dined in or did take out; to fishers and buyers in North Lake, Souris, Fortune and Annandale harbours who donated and collected live lobster in May and June; to the Flynn's (The Lobster Shack) for housing all donated lobster in their pound; to Shediac Lobster Shop for shipping and processing our lobster; to all ticket selling vendors - Souris Remedy's RX & Seaside Medical Center, The Co-operators Insurance - Jansen McKinnon & Associates Inc., Vernon d'Eon Lobster Plugs; to all meal and silent auction donors; to all event vendors who set up fantastic displays - Kiki's Creations, OH Fudge PEI Potato Fudge, On The Fly PEI and Joanne Dunphy...THANK YOU!! This dinner would not be possible without your support year after year, we are truly thankful for your generosity. All funds from this year's dinner will be used to support essential environmental initiatives in our Eastern Kings communities.

Thank you to Sheila Eastman for your easy-going, hard-working charisma; we are so grateful for your help with this dinner every year. Thanks so much to Karen MacKinnon for decorating the event site so brilliantly again this year, every little detail looked so lovely!

Thank you to Dave Fletcher for treating us to his tasty homemade seafood chowder and to Mae Mc Kinnon for making her very flavourful blueberry sauce for our desserts. Thank you also to Susan Cheverie for cooking delicious hams for the dinner as well as Anne Stewart, Barbara Pinto, Kelli Miller Kickham and Joan Miller for cooking chickens and a turkey to add to the ham plates...for us non-lobster lovers!

Last but not least, THANK YOU to the Souris and Area Branch of the P.E.I. Wildlife Federation Board of Directors and staff and to all of the wonderful volunteers who came out to help! Without all of your help and support this fundraiser would not be the great success that it is year after year. We'll see you all next year for our 8th Annual Fundraising Lobster Dinner on Sunday, August 2nd, 2019!



SAB Watershed Coordinator Fred Cheverie greeting guests as they arrived at the dinner.



7th Annual Fundraising Lobster Dinner - continued from page 4

THANK YOU TO ALL FISHERS AND BUYERS WHO DONATED LIVE LOBSTER THIS YEAR:

Annandale Harbour

Larry Victor, Paul Blackett, Glenn Tassell, Garry Tassell, Marvin Blackett, Edward Campbell, Bobby Jenkins, Joseph Banks, Craig Jenkins, Barry Blackett, Freeman Throwbridge, Kevin Jenkins, Scott Jenkins, Ivan Jenkins, Kirk Jamieson, Robert Jamieson, Cody Jenkins, Gordon Perry, Tommy Drake, Johnny Campbell, Adam Banks, Greg Runighan, Billy Gilliam and Tyler Blackett.

Fortune Harbour

Jimmy Townshend, Alvin Dingwell, Mike Fitzpatrick, Jamie 'Skipper' Mallard, Dennis McNally, Wade Hicken, Jeremy MacPhee and Robbie Jenkins.

Souris Harbour

Shayne Clinton, Max MacDonald, Sept MacPhee, Colin LaVie, David Perry, Jamie Carter, Nick Campbell, Shawn MacPhee, Josh O'Keefe, Ian MacDonald, Troy MacPhee, Ryan and Matthew Birt, Brian MacPhee, John MacPhee, Lavon Paquet, Mark McCormack, Terry Carter, Trent MacPhee, Stephen Carter, Mike MacAulay, Randy MacPhee, Art MacDonald, Louie Carter, John Burke and Danny Ehler.

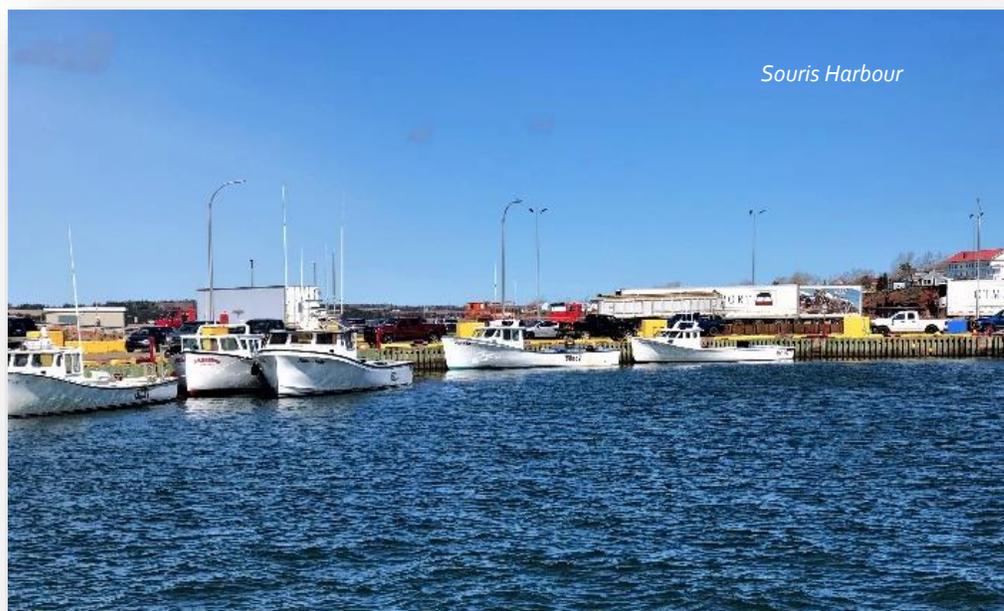
North Lake Harbour

Paul Steele, Shay Coffin, Darren MacKinnon, Steven MacLean, Francis Stewart, Tyler MacDonald, Frances MacDonald, Mark Sutherland, Kevin Robertson, Jamie Bruce, Terry Mallard, Bernard MacPhee, Trent Mallard, Winston Baker, Matthew Clinton, Colby Bruce, Dustin MacPhee, William Bailey, Peter Boertien, Arnold Bailey, Walter Bruce, Mark Robertson, Kevin Bailey, Lonnie Robertson, Glen Cameron, Brodie MacDonald, Terry Harris, David Outhouse, Jeremy Harris, Bruce Keus, James Coffin, Michael MacDonald, Martin Rose, Lindsay Rose, Tyler Gallant, Craig Bailey, Travis Gallant, Allen Coffin, Michael Murphy, Ernest MacPhee, Jimmy MacDonald, J.J. Chaisson, Troy Bruce, Curtis MacKenzie, Kurt Harris, Elmer MacDonald, Tony MacDonald, Dwayne Bailey, Kent Poole, Jeff MacNeill, Mark Rose, Nigel Campbell, Martin Cheverie, Patrick Eastman, Darren MacLean, Gerard Cheverie, Allan Fay, Paul Murray, Eric Poole, Sheldon Hume, Victor Campbell, Chris Bruce, Steven Rose, Stephen MacPhee, Donald McCormack, Darren Chaisson, William Baker, Darren Fraser, Travis Outhouse, Donnie Rose, David Steele, W&G Fishing Ltd. and D&G Fisheries.

THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS:

Meal Donors

Shediac Lobster Shop Ltd., Sheila Eastman, Dave Fletcher, Susan Cheverie, Mae McKinnon, Joan Miller, Rollo Bay Holdings Ltd., Egg Farmers of Prince Edward Island/Maritime Pride, Omega Holdings, Jasper Wyman & Son Canada Inc., John MacDonald Blueberries, Seaside Bakery, MacPhee's Market Independent Grocer, Souris CO-OP Ltd., D.P. Murphy Inc. – Souris Tim Hortons, Souris Robin's Donuts, Louise MacDonald, Kelli Miller Kickham, ADL Foods, Kevin Robertson, Bonsai Restaurant/Lewis Tung, Roland MacDonald, Wayne and Sheila Peters, Pat O'Connor, Barb Pinto, Perfection Foods Ltd. and Anne Stewart.



Silent Auction Donors

Atlantic Salmon Federation, PEI Salmon Council, East Coast Paddle Adventures, The Poke Shack, Luke Chaisson, Messy Crow Studio, JoAnne Dunphy, Souris CO-OP Ltd., Vernon d'Eon Lobster Plugs Inc., Mama B's Spice Blends, Cameron Ross – On the Fly PEI, The Myriad View Artisan Distillery, PEI Seaglass, Confederation Centre of the Arts, The Johnson Shore Inn, Canada Tuna Cup, Kiki's Creations, Roland MacDonald, Montague Things to Rent, Colville Bay Oyster Co. Ltd., Elliot's General Store, Jill and Brian Burridge, Jasper Wyman & Son Canada Inc., Remedy's RX, Amelda MacPhee, Rollo Bay Holdings Ltd. and Souris and Area Branch of the P.E.I. Wildlife Federation.

CANADIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The Canadian Conservation Corps (CCC) is a government program through the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), which was created to get Canadians between the ages of 18 to 30 involved in conservation. The program is broken up into three stages and is completed over nine months. Stage one involves forming a strong conservation network through team building exercises, obtaining important certifications for safety and wilderness education, and completing an Outward-Bound (non-profit education organization) course on outdoor and guiding practices. For stage two, the participants are sent to volunteer at different placements across Canada to gain skills and experience in conservation. Finally, for stage three the participants go back home and complete a conservation project in their community.

Nelson Perks is a recent biology honours with distinction graduate from the University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada. He is 23 years old and has been involved with four academic research projects, is a musician, and loves conservation. Sophia Brosnan is 20 years old and is from the Falkland, BC, Canada. Being raised around nature her entire life, Sophia has always been passionate about helping the environment. She will be attending university in the fall to study environmental chemistry. They are both from the 12 membered cohort called the "Moun10eers." For stage one of the program, they backpacked 60 km in and around the Rocky Mountains of Alberta with this group. Taking in the amazing sights of the giant mountains and wildlife, while also learning many useful conservation skills.



Tyler, Nelson and Sophia on the Polar Express



Out walking for redds in North Lake

For their stage two placement, Sophia and Nelson were stationed with the Souris Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (Souris Wildlife). Tyler Kristiansen, who is a CCC member from a previous group and was hired on at Souris Wildlife after his volunteer placement, became an additional roommate, co-worker, and friend. The group lived in a small cabin by Souris river, and spent the three months going on many adventures together. The Souris Wildlife staff were very welcoming and provided many opportunities to learn and grow. Invasive Green Crab removal, propagation of the endangered Irish Moss, and monitoring of Atlantic Salmon populations via electrofishing, fyke nets, and walking for Redds, were some of the major projects the three assisted with. In addition, the team of three were involved in designing and making the "Polar Express" Christmas float for the Souris Christmas Parade, a highlight during their placement, for which Souris Wildlife was awarded "Best Christmas Spirit" entry.

After completing their fall work with Souris Wildlife, Sophia, Tyler, and Nelson, will go back home and begin stage three of the CCC program. If you want to learn more about the CCC and the CWF, check out their website: <http://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/conservation-corps/>



2019 FUNDERS

We'd like to kindly thank the following funders; you have made our work over the past year possible! Thank you!!



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

Wildlife Conservation Fund



Agriculture and Fisheries



Souris and 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.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: NATHAN CHEVERIE

I'm very pleased to announce that the "Community Wildlife Sessions" organised by Souris and Area Wildlife Branch and the Eastern Kings Senior Neighbour's Club will be held again this winter at Eastern Kings Community Centre, beginning in mid-January. Schedules will be released early in the new year, so keep an eye out for posters, church bulletins, and posts on our Souris Wildlife Facebook page. If you have any ideas on some new sessions you would like to see offered feel free to contact our office at 902-687-4115.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS: FRED CHEVERIE

We've had a lot of feedback on Ring-necked pheasant populations and it looks like they are doing very well! In our area, we have them from Dingwell Mill's getting all the way up to East Point. We are going to look into opportunities to introduce more pheasants from the mainland into the Annandale/Fortune area to increase the population and to diversify the genetic stock. Our Board of Directors will provide food for the birds again this winter so if you have any around your house then please give us a phone and we'll drop a bag off to you. We won't be distributing any food until there is full snow cover on the ground as we want to keep the birds as wild as possible and we do not wish for them to become too reliant on people.

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 9.6% of PEI, including 27 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

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Souris Striders Ski Lodge.

Meetings start at 7 pm and all are welcome to attend.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Twitter: @SourisWildlife

Instagram: @SourisWildlife

