



BOREAL CHICKADEE IN ELMIRA, PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HÉLÈNE BLANCHET.

Souris & Area Watershed News

Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

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Top photo: SAB's Camp Coordinator/Project Manager Luke Chaisson shows a young camp participant how to ready his pole for casting.
Bottom photo: McVarish's Pond was the perfect spot to take our young fishers, some for their first-time, fly fishing!

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA MENTORED YOUTH CAMPS

Souris and Area Branch (SAB) of the PEI Wildlife Federation was approved for funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) this past year to be able to host multiple free youth wildlife camps and a mentored waterfowl hunt program in 2021. Wildlife Habitat Canada has been supporting like-minded organizations for over 37 years. One of the programs WHC has created from the proceeds from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp (also known as the duck stamp). The majority of these funds are contributions made by conservationists and primarily waterfowl hunters, and the stamp is attached to and validates the migratory game bird hunting permit. Since 1985, the Conservation Stamp has allowed Wildlife Habitat Canada the ability to provide over \$55 million dollars in grant funding and support over 1,500 conservation projects across Canada. WHC cares about wildlife and wild places – to learn more about Wildlife Habitat Canada, the programs they offer and to purchase a Conservation Stamp (for only \$8.50!) to support projects like ours, you can visit their website at www.whc.org.

In 2021 Souris and Area Wildlife Branch hosted youth wildlife camps centred around fly fishing/angling, and waterfowl hunting. There is a furbearer trapping camp to come in early 2022. We'd like to educate and offer hands-on experience to camp participants through these events. All of these camps will be one full day camps running for about 8 hours with lunch provided.

We hosted our fly fishing/angling camp on June 4th, 2021, and we taught our young, eager future fly fishers fish identification, fly identification, equipment use, and fly casting. Each participant had a chance to try their newly learned fly fishing skills and a chance to try out fly fishing for Brook

trout in McVarish's/Harmony Pond. We had a lot of fun with many prizes and giveaways (provided by our excellent sponsors) given to camp participants! We hope to be able to host this great event again next year.

On September 4th, 2021, we hosted our Waterfowl Hunting Day Camp. This camp included such topics as waterfowl identification and conservation, safe hunter practices, equipment usage, and more. We built wood duck boxes to promote possible nesting sites. We had so many fun activities planned for this program/event and lots of giveaways as well from our funders and donors. This program was put in place to give new or unexperienced waterfowl hunters a chance to get a real hands-on experience and learn from experienced waterfowl hunters.



Participants needed their provincially issued hunting license and their federal migratory bird hunting permit, as well as needed to have completed their hunter safety course. Youth can obtain their hunter safety by completing their online portion at home and by either attending an in-person course or by attending the PEI youth waterfowl workshop day that is hosted by PEI Fish and Wildlife and Delta Waterfowl at the Charlottetown Trap and Skeet Club.

In January 2022 we will host our youth introduction to furbearer trapping camp. This camp will cover and teach such topics as furbearer identification, trap identification and safety, pelt preparation, and fur handling. Participants will also have the opportunity to experience a mock trap line to offer a real to life experience of identifying furbearer habitat and correct traps setup and placement. PEI Fish and Wildlife and the PEI Trapper's Association has also offered to help with the hosting and promoting of this camp. Once we get closer to the dates for these programs, we will post on our social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) posters of the event and how to register. Camps all have had and will continue to have a Covid-19 protocol in place to keep all participants safe. We are extremely excited to have been able to host these youth wildlife camps this year and look forward to seeing lots of people taking advantage of these great programs. We also hope to be able to continue on with these wonderful camps in our area!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DARYL GUIGNION



Our dear friend Daryl Guignon passed away on February 8, 2021. We once again sincerely wanted to send our deepest condolences to his wife Rosie, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

Daryl was PEI's Father of Conservation. His true love of nature and dedication to enhancing the environment made him one of a kind and was so beneficial to our beautiful Island. He worked passionately within our local watersheds here in Souris, especially with regards to our Atlantic salmon populations. He took great satisfaction in knowing that salmon would always be cared for here and that their populations would continue to thrive in northeastern Prince Edward Island.

We miss you dearly Daryl.
We will proudly continue on with your legacy.

"The best way to remember Daryl is to plant a red oak tree."

Daryl Guignon electrofishing in Bear River in 2018.

8th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LOBSTER TAKE-OUT DINNER THANK YOU!!

Our 8th Annual Fundraising Lobster Take-Out Dinner, held on Sunday August 8th, 2021, at the Eastern Kings Sportsplex in Souris, was a huge success! Thank you!!! A sold-out dinner event that we are incredibly happy to have been able to share with you all!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported this amazing fundraising event! To those who purchased take-out dinners; to fishers and buyers in North Lake, Naufrage, 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 Ltd. for shipping and processing our lobster; to ticket selling vendors - Souris Remedy's Rx and Vernon d'Eon Lobster Plugs; to all meal donors; THANK YOU!! This dinner would not have been possible without your support (and year after year) and we are truly thankful for your generosity. All funds from this year's dinner will be used to support many essential environmental initiatives in our Eastern Kings communities; supporting youth camps, helping with habitat loss restoration projects, endangered species monitoring, recreational fishing spot maintenance, shoreline clean-ups, site maintenance of our Legacy Park for past conservation and environmental loved ones, among many other wonderful projects that we are currently involved in.

A big thank you to Sheila Eastman! Thanks for your eternally easy-going, hard-working charisma; we are so very grateful to you for your help with this dinner every year. Thank you Dave Fletcher for treating us once again this year to your tasty homemade seafood chowder. Absolutely delicious!! Thank you to Susan Cheverie for cooking our tasty hams for the dinner...for our non-lobster lovers!

Last but not least, THANK YOU to the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation Board of Directors and staff and all of the wonderful volunteers who came out to help out this year! Without all of your help and support this fundraiser would not be the remarkable success that it is year after year.

We'll see you all next year for our 9th Annual Fundraising Lobster Dinner on Sunday August 7th, 2022!



Top left photo: Maddox Clinton and Tyler Kristiansen filling chowder bowls.

Top middle photo: Nathan Deagle delivering lobster take-out meals.

Top right photo: Drone shot of SAB's take-out dinner.

Bottom left photo: Vehicles lined up to get their take-out meals.

Bottom right photo: L to R – SAB Director Fred Cheverie, SAB volunteer Charlie Flynn, SAB's Fred Ward and Justin McKinnon.

8th Annual Fundraising Lobster Take-out Dinner - continued from page 3

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

We appreciate your kind donations and ongoing support every year!!

North Lake Harbour

Aaron Miller, Allen Coffin, Allen Fay, Bradley MacDonald, Brodie MacDonald, Chris Bruce, Colby Bruce, Craig Bailey, Craig Veld, Danny Fraser, Darren Chaisson, Darren MacKinnon, Darren McLean, David Outhouse, David Steele, David Yeo, Devon & Dimitri Boertien, Donnie MacCormack, Duane Ching, Dustin MacPhee, Dwayne Bailey, Ernest MacPhee, Eric Poole, Francis MacDonald, Francis Stewart, Gary Gallant, Gerard Cheverie, Gerard Holland, James Coffin, James MacDonald, Jamie Bruce, Jason Robertson, Jeff McNeil, Jeremy Harris, J.J. Chaisson, John Whalen, Josh Baker, Kent Bruce, Kevin Bailey, Kurt Harris, Lindsay Rose, Lonnie Robertson, Mark Robertson, Mark Rose, Martin Cheverie, Matthew Clinton, Michael MacDonald, Michael Murphy, Nigel Campbell, Peter Boertien, Robert Hicken, Ronald Dennis McMillan, Scott Bruce, Sheldon Hume, Stephen MacPhee, Terry Harris, Terry Mallard, Tommy Bailey, Tony MacDonald, Travis Gallant, Travis Outhouse, Trent Mallard, Troy Bruce, Tyler Gallant, Victor Campbell, Wayne Campbell, and Winston Baker.

Naufrage Harbour

Scott Milligan, Adam Fraser, Andrew McCormack, Chris Victor, Corey Buote, Daryl Lesperance, Dylan MacNytire, Gerard MacInnis, Greg Norton, Jansen MacKinnon, Jeff Reynolds, Josh O'Hanley, Keith MacDonald, Kenneth MacLeod, Kenny Johnston, Kevin Miller, Mike Gormley, Noel MacDonald, Richard Palmer, Royelle MacKay, Ryan MacLeod, Ryan Martin, Steven Higginbotham, Steven White, Terry Miller, Tim Cheverie, Timmy Lesperance, Trevor Hicken, Troy MacDonald, and Wendell Clinton.

Souris Harbour

Anthony MacPhee, Art MacDonald, Ian MacDonald, Jarrett Ehler, JEG Holdings, John Burke, John MacPhee, Josh O'Keefe, Lavon Paquet, Louie Carter, Mark MacCormack, Matthew Birt, Max MacDonald, Mike MacAulay, Nick Campbell, Peter MacPhee, Randy MacPhee, Ricky MacPhee, Shawn MacPhee, Shayne Clinton, Stephen Carter, Terry Carter, Trent MacPhee, and Tyler Rose.

Fortune Harbour

Alvin Dingwell, Jamie "Skipper" Mallard, Brandyn Creamer, Dennis McNally, Edward Jackson, Edwin MacKie, Jimmy Whitty, Kevin MacKenzie, Layton Manning, Mark Jenkins, Mike Fitzpatrick, Phillip MacDonald, Randy Blaisdell, and Wade Hicken.

Annandale Harbour

Adam Banks, Billy Gillam, Bobby Jenkins, Cody Jenkins, Colin Runighan, Craig Jenkins, Danny Banks, Freeman Throwbridge, Gary Tassell, Glen Tassell, Jeff MacLennan, Johnny Campbell, Joseph Banks, Kirk Jamieson, Larry Victor, Marvin Blackett, Robert Jamieson, Scott Jenkins, Shane Jamieson, Tommy Drake, and Tyler Garlic.



Beautiful Souris Harbour

THANK YOU TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS:

Meal Donors

Shediac Lobster Shop Ltd., Sheila Eastman, Dave Fletcher, Susan Cheverie, Seaside Bakery, Strait Good, Toby's Farm Market, Louise MacDonald, Rollo Bay Holdings Ltd., Arthur Mooney & Sons Ltd., Maritime Pride Eggs, 21 Breakwater Restaurant, Lori White, MacPhee's Market Independent Grocer, Jasper Wyman & Son Canada Inc., Danny Grant, Kelli Miller Kickham, ADL Foods, Perfection Foods Ltd., North Lake Boathouse Harbour Eatery, and Souris CO-OP Ltd.



DAN W. LUFKIN LAND DONATION

The PEI Wildlife Federation recently received a donation of land to be put under management by Souris and Area Wildlife Branch from Dan W. Lufkin who helped found the successful investing firm Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Inc. and who was also a member of the organizing group for the first Earth Day in 1970. The land in which he has donated is located adjacent to the southside of MacVane's Dam in Bothwell and is of important wildlife species and habitat significance. With important wetland habitat for migratory birds, coastal habitat for shorebirds and grass and woodlands for songbirds and mammals. Through the donation of these important parcels of land they will be cared for and remain a natural wildlife habitat for generations to come.



2021 SAB FIELD WORK UPDATE



SAB staff conducting Atlantic salmon stream habitat surveys.

Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation has had a variety of work projects that we've accomplished this year so far. We completed our stream enhancement work in record time, expanded our agri-environmental trials through Living Labs with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and set records for the most invasive Green crab fished out of the Basin Head Marine Protected Area (MPA) and also the number of giant Irish moss clumps planted in the MPA. We've also been engaged in a variety of community outreach activities, wrapped up our Department of Fisheries and Oceans Coastal Restoration project in Souris River, and dedicated the fall to extensive fish monitoring in our various systems. SAB completed over 100 kilometres of stream habitat enhancement this year. Our efforts were predominantly focused on the northside watershed systems which provide excellent habitat for Atlantic salmon. These systems were North Lake Creek, Priest Pond Creek, Cross River, Hay River, Bear River, Naufrage River and Cow River. However, we also did a lot of work in the Souris and Fortune River watersheds to improve Brook trout habitat. This was a good year for several smaller watersheds as well, with many systems like Basin Head Creek, Pat's Brook

2021 SAB Field Work Update - continued from page 5

(Little Harbour Creek), East Lake Creek, Rollo Bay Creek, MacAskill's River, Black Pond Creek, Crooked Creek, and Little River also receiving several kilometres of stream enhancement.

This has been SAB's third year involved in the Living Lab Atlantic program, partnered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as well as numerous conservation groups and agricultural industry groups. We've added a number of new trials to our roster, testing the effects of wind cover (using snow-fence as a temporary stand-in for a hedgerow), a variety of winter cover crops as well as full-season soil building crops, and different styles of tillage. Our constructed wetlands from last year in Bear River Road and Souris West have established very well over the summer, rapidly becoming a home for a rich mix of wetland vegetation, invertebrates, amphibians, birds, and have already shown signs of filtering runoff from nearby fields.

The Basin Head MPA was very busy this year, as SAB staff set records for 3,467 giant Irish moss clumps planted and over 107,000 Green crabs fished over the course of the season. We conducted surveys of the estuary to monitor the endemic giant Irish moss, conducted Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) to monitor invertebrate, fish, plant populations in the lagoon, and monitored the water quality of both the estuary and the numerous tributaries that feed into it.

We've also had a number of outreach activities underway despite the effects of COVID-19, with a fly-fishing day camp held in June and a waterfowl hunting day camp held in September (and a trapping camp planned for January).

Our Coastal Restoration Fund project, funded by DFO, in Souris River has completed its third and final year this summer, with the end result being quite satisfactory. Over the course of the last three years, we've built a series of walls with logs made of coir fibre (made from coconut husks) and used a specially designed "silt gator" which runs off a pair of high-volume water pumps, to remove excess sediment from the bottom of Souris River and fill in the areas behind these walls. The hope of building the marsh up and out to increase flow and reduce sedimentation in the river was achieved over the past few years and we are pleased with the results from this pilot project. The sediment we've moved should accelerate the process, but just by capturing water during high tide, these logs will over time build up the bank on their own.

Finally, our fall season has been predominantly dedicated to walking to look for Atlantic salmon and Brook trout redds, nests in which they lay their eggs, in our various watershed systems. This fall we've dealt with a lot of very heavy and steady precipitation, which reduces visibility (and walkability) of our rivers for up to two to three days after a heavy rainfall or snow melt. We've been able to monitor most of our systems, but more sunny days would have helped us to do more. We also spent a number of days earlier in the fall conducting

fish density surveys in a number of rivers to monitor fish populations, which gave us a good image of how they're doing and how many are present in each system. Our systems have a good mix of Brook trout and Atlantic salmon. SAB staff have had a very busy, but successful field year so far. We have done a number of other various projects, but to cover everything would take up most of this newsletter. Things may be quieting down with the snow, but we'll still be monitoring some of our rivers and wetlands through the winter, so expect to still see our staff out and about. Thank you to all of our staff for their hard work, love of conservation, and ongoing dedication to our organization! We appreciate you all so much!!



Top photo: SAB staff working in our coastal restoration site in Souris River.
Bottom photo: AAFC Living Lab Kickham wetland site in Souris West.





THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2021 FUNDERS

YOU'VE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONTINUE DOING IMPORTANT CONSERVATION WORK IN OUR AREA!
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!!



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada



Wildlife Conservation Fund



Environment and Climate Change Canada

*The Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation
Would like to wish you a very*

Merry Christmas!



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

Now that the snow is starting to fly, we are back to thinking about our Ring-necked pheasant populations! Last year we had reports of pheasants from Bear River all the way to East Point. The Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation Board of Directors will once again this winter provide food for these birds. Please give the office a call at 902-687-4115 or email them at sourisareawildlife@gmail.com if you have any pheasants around your house and you’d like a bag of feed. We will arrange to drop feed off to you. SAB staff will not be distributing any food until there is full snow cover on the ground as it is best to keep these birds as wild as possible. We do not wish for them to become too reliant on people. Although food becomes more difficult to find after the first blanket of snow covers on the once exposed fields, Ring-necked pheasants are rarely in danger of starving to death. Even during the most brutal winters, most pheasant mortality is due to predation and exposure to the elements versus lack of food supply. Predation increases sharply when pheasants must forage for long periods of time in open snow-covered fields, making them very vulnerable to be more easily spotted by predators. Please don’t throw food for pheasants, seed or cracked corn, along the sides of roads or in open areas. We hope to hear of many Ring-necked pheasants thriving and moving around in our management area this winter, please keep us informed!

COORDINATOR’S COMMENTS: KEILA MILLER AND FRANCES BRACELAND

Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation has received many generous donations over the years from numerous people. Some were independently given, and many more donations were in memory of loved ones. We truly appreciate every donation that we receive, and we want to say a heartfelt thank you to anyone who has donated to us and for where we have been the recipient group of memorial donations. Every cent we receive is spent on local projects, from stream rehabilitation work to renovation of our Lodge building on the Souris Line Road for use by the community, and in winter months by the Souris Striders Ski Club. With donation money to our organization, we also always work to maintain our Memorial Park, called Legacy Park. We are working on completely revitalizing Legacy Park, located at the junction of where the PEI Confederation Trail intersects with the Souris Line Road (a path from the parking lot leads one through the park), this coming year so that we can all enjoy the absolute beauty of its location and the take in the real significance of the park. Renewing Souris and Area Wildlife Legacy Park is very important to us and is very dear to our hearts. Legacy Park appreciably encourages stewardship values for current and future members. The Park was developed to honour the accomplishments of past members of the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation. We want to continue doing this for many more years to come. Thank you again for helping us do this, we appreciate your support and donations very much!

ABOUT US:

The Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation is a non-profit, environmental organization dedicated to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of watersheds in northeastern 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 northeastern 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 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 Wildlife Lodge, 1358 Souris Line Road. Covid-19 vax pass, social distancing, and mandatory masks for meetings please. Please call our office if you’d like to attend a meeting.

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

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