

# GREEN BOATING WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR WASTES? PROGRAM



Prepared for:  
**EcoAction Community Funding Program**

By:  
**The Shediac Bay Watershed Association Inc.**  
Dominique Audet, M.Sc. Biology  
Caroline Caissie, Env. Tech.

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- Parlee Beach Provincial Park
- Shediac Rotary Club
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Description of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association (SBWA) was founded in 1999 as a result of growing concerns from local community residents over the ecological health of Shediac Bay. In order to establish a long-term water quality-monitoring program, a community-based association was established.

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association vision and mission statements are as follows:

**Vision** – Communities working together to foster a healthy ecosystem that will sustain the quality and quantity of water for future generations.

**Mission** – The Shediac Bay Watershed Association will accomplish its vision through education and community stewardship.

A Board of Directors consisting of sixteen members representing the various regions and interest groups of the watershed manages the Shediac Bay Watershed Association. The Board of Directors meets on a bi-monthly basis and includes the following members:

Mr. Bill Murray, President	Ms. Odette Babineau	Ms. Janelle LeBlanc
Mr. Victorin Mallet, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Mr. Eugene Bridges	Mr. Louis LeBlanc
Mr. Clarence Jeffrey, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Mr. Joe Caissie	Mr. Neil LeBlanc
Ms. Michelle Marcil, Treasurer	Ms. Connie Doyle	Mr. Martin Mallet
Ms. Francis Kelly, Secretary	Mr. Bob Ford	Mr. Terry Melanson
Mr. Pierre Landry, Past president	Ms. Helen Hall	Mr. Greg Nickerson
Mr. Andy Caissie, Town Councilor	Mr. Emery Landry	Mr. Jamie Storey

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association gratefully receives guidance, donations and in-kind support from various organizations and interest groups. SBWA has a database of over 300 stakeholders consisting of business-owners, industry, foresters, farmers, local residents, cottage owners, recreation boaters and swimmers, conservation groups and community organizations within the Shediac Bay Watershed.

## 1.2 Past Projects

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association has been involved with numerous projects and initiatives over the past six years including water quality monitoring and remediation projects. Educational material such as newsletters, brochures, and leaflets are continuously distributed throughout the watershed's communities and events such as public info sessions, World Oceans Day activities and presentations in schools occur on a regular basis. Projects undertaken to date include stream restoration, water quality monitoring, benthic sampling, beach sweeps, stream surveys, an oyster habitat study, information kiosks, and

many more. The SBWA has been working with farmers and homeowners to help minimize their impact on our coastal waters by addressing cattle fencing issues and faulty septic systems. Oyster restoration efforts were also undertaken in Shediac Bay to help increase their population thus consequently increasing their eutrophication minimizing capacities (i.e. oysters filter great amounts of water).

This past summer's activities related to the remediation of water quality and public outreach efforts are described in this report. A more detailed description of the Association's past projects can be found on the website [www.sbwa-abvbs.net](http://www.sbwa-abvbs.net).

### **1.3 Overview of the Shediac Bay Watershed's Region**

The Shediac Bay Watershed covers 400 km<sup>2</sup> of land area and stretches along 36 km of coastline, from Cap Bîmet to Cap de Cocagne (Fig. 1). The Shediac and the Scoudouc Rivers are characterized by dendritic patterns of small tributaries covering a watershed of 201.8 and 143.3 km<sup>2</sup>, respectively. The Shediac River is composed of two major water arms. The northern water arm is created by the convergence of the McQuade Brook, the Weisner and the Calhoon Brooks. The southern large water arm of the Shediac River is the continuation of the Batemans Brook. Water velocity in both rivers is weak due to the gentle regional elevation. The Watershed also reaches inland as far as Lutes Mountain near Moncton. The Shediac Bay Watershed is composed of two major river systems: the Shediac River and the Scoudouc River. Both rivers empty into Shediac Bay. The watershed also has many smaller tributaries that empty either into one of the two major rivers or directly into the bay. The watershed boundaries stretch into both Kent and Westmorland County and cross into both the Shediac and Moncton Parish. The Watershed region consists of a population of approximately 15,000 people.

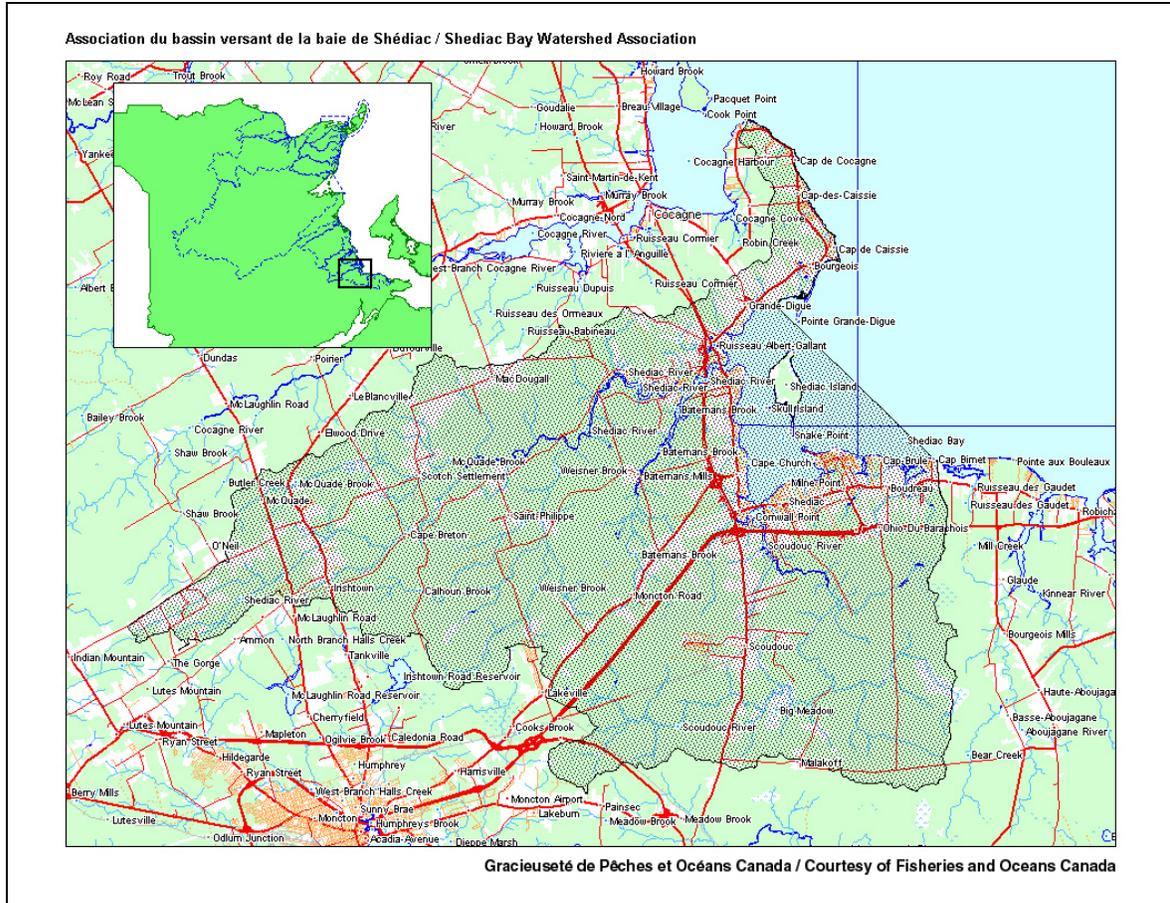


Figure 1. Map of Shediac Bay watershed boundaries

The Shediac Bay watershed is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Forestry, agriculture, industry and tourism are examples of important activities that take place within the watershed region. The area is rich in culture and history. The well-known summer destination, Parlee Beach Provincial Park is found within the watershed boundaries. The tributaries of the watershed flow through a kaleidoscope of different areas such as wetlands, forested, residential, industrial and agricultural land.

## 1.4 Green Boating

Clean water for residents of the Shediac Bay Watershed is important for social, economical, and environmental reasons. At the moment, a large section of Shediac Bay, as is part of the east coast of New Brunswick, is closed to shellfish harvesting because of poor water quality. The increase of anthropogenic activities in coastal regions has contributed to reduce the water quality. As such, with a mandate of improving water quality and promoting ecosystem stability, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association (SBWA) would like to work to promote better navigable practices.

For the past 6 years, the SBWA has been working with farmers and homeowners to help minimize their impact on our coastal waters by addressing cattle fencing issues and faulty septic systems. Oyster restoration efforts were undertaken in Shediac Bay to help increase their population thus consequently increasing their eutrophication minimizing capacities (i.e. oysters filter great amounts of water). This past summer, with financial assistance from the Shell Environmental Fund, the SBWA was able to target another source of water pollution – Pleasure boaters. A presentation, pamphlets and signs to promote Green Boating in our Bay were created.

Along with other sources of pollution in our Bay, boats also have a negative impact. It was identified that only a certain proportion of boaters were equipped with holding tanks and that best practices were not always performed. Green Boating implies minimizing negative boating activities (e.g. sewage discharge, grey water discharge, petroleum spills) in our coastal ecosystem. More aware recreational boaters can certainly contribute to the enhancement of the water quality in Shediac Bay. By addressing this other source of impact, the SBWA will continue its ongoing mandate to improve water quality for future generations.

## 2 WATER REMEDIATION PROGRAM

### 2.1 Project Objectives

Some boating activities might have negative impacts on our environment. For example, sewage discharge and the use of chemical products may pollute our waters. With funds from the EcoAction Community Funding Program, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association (SBWA) is promoting green boating practices to Shediac Bay users.

Most of Shediac Bay waters are closed to shellfish harvesting as a result of poor water quality. As such, improving water quality is of outmost importance to the SBWA for environmental, health, economical and historical reasons. The SBWA's mandate is to improve water quality for future generations.

This project is the first step of a long term program aiming to protect the water quality in Shediac Bay by increasing awareness among boaters about best boating practices. The objectives for this project were to initially conduct a survey among boaters to better understand their actual practices and to perform multiple awareness activities. The awareness program was engaged by holding a hazardous waste collection for boaters. A pamphlet and a sign were produced to promote best management practices of wastes. A information session was organised and the SBWA participated at the Moncton Boat Show to distribute awareness material and directly reach recreational boaters. Moreover, a webpage was created for local boaters as part of the program.

### 2.2 Methodology

#### 2.2.1 Boater's Survey

#### 2.2.2 Hazardous Waste Collection

### 2.2.3 Green Boating Awareness

In order to achieve the objectives of the Green Boating – What’s up with your wastes? Program, the SBWA organized and managed many activities. Here’s the list of activities for the 2005 and 2006 season:

Hazardous waste collection for boaters;

- press release to promote all of our 2005 projects including the Green Boating Program;
- Boaters’ survey
- Information session for boaters
- order of 200 copies of the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation booklet for distribution to local boaters;
- production of a pamphlet focusing on best waste management practices when boating to be distribute at the 2006 Moncton Boat Show;
- creation of a sign to be post at local marinas to promote the use of pump-out stations;
- logging sheets to record all pump-out activities in the three local marinas;
- gathering of green boating reading materials to add to the SBWA’s library;
- creation of a green boating web page, posted on [www.sbwa/abvbs.net](http://www.sbwa/abvbs.net);
- participation at the 2006 Moncton Boat Show.

## 3 RESULTS OF THE GREEN BOATING PROGRAM

### 3.1 Hazardous waste collection

On May 25, 2005, the first Green Boating event of the season took place in Shediac. The activity was advertised in local newspapers -paid ads and press releases. The SBWA in partnership with the Westmorland-Albert Solid Waste Commission, held a hazardous waste collection for boaters. The event drew 34 carloads of hazardous waste including 130 cans of paint, 17 car batteries and 125 litres of oil. This event was considered a success as its main goal was to keep waste out of Shediac Bay and to promote good hazardous waste management.



**Hazardous waste collection for boaters in Shediac, NB.**

### 3.2 Boaters survey

A survey (see Appendix A) was distributed to all local boaters in order to learn more about their boat maintenance practices. This survey allows us to provide a better support to boaters regarding best maintenance practices. The survey was distributed on each boat by the local marinas staff. An identified box was placed at each marina to collect the completed surveys. The completion of the survey was voluntary and confidential. The survey was distributed on August 12, 2005 and collected for analysis by August 26, 2005.

The survey was distributed to boaters from the three marinas located in Shediac Bay: Shediac Marina (155 surveys), Pointe-du-Chene Marina (150 surveys), and Cocagne Cape Marina (65 surveys). The SBWA coordinator was present at each marina for a half day to promote the project.

Most of the boaters that completed the survey own a sail boat, the others possess power boats. The majority go out over 15 times during the boating season for day use with occasional overnight trips. The results of the survey are summarized in Appendix B.

### 3.3 Information session

An information session was held on August 30, 2005 in Shediac for all boaters of the area. A Power Point presentation was developed and presented at this session. Bilingual copies of this presentation were distributed to marina's managers, different associations and any other interested groups or individuals.



**Getting ready for the information session on August 30, 2005.**

### 3.4 Creation of pamphlet, sign and web page

As part of the Green Boating Program, the SBWA produced a bilingual pamphlet, a 2 X 3 feet sign and a new web page on Green Boating ([www.sbwa-abvbs.net](http://www.sbwa-abvbs.net)). The pamphlet emphasizes on best waste management when boating. It gives information on pump-out facilities, hazardous waste and garbage management as well as holding tank maintenance.

This pamphlet is available for viewing in Appendix C. The sign, in Appendix D, gives information on sewage and its effects on the environment and instructions about pump-out stations.

### 3.1.1 Water Quality Remediation Action Plan

#### 3.1.1.1 Remediation Activities

##### **The Green Boating program is back and we need your help!**

Some boating activities can have negative impacts on our environment. For example, sewage discharge and use of chemical products may pollute our waters.

With funds from the EcoAction Community Funding Program, the SBWA is promoting green boating practices to users of Shediac Bay.

Most of Shediac Bay waters are closed to shellfish harvesting as a result of poor water quality. As such, improving water quality is of outmost importance to the SBWA for environmental, health, economical and historical reasons. The objectives of the **Green Boating – What’s up with your wastes?** program are to 1) investigate marine vessel waste disposal strategies to develop ways in which the SBWA can assist boaters with best boating practices, 2) increase the awareness of ecologically sensitive practices to maintain and enhance the water quality in our bay, 3) organize hazardous waste collections for pleasure craft wastes, and 4) create a webpage on the for local boaters on green boating practices. The webpage will be posted on the SBWA’s website ([www.sbwa-abvbs.net](http://www.sbwa-abvbs.net)).

The SBWA’s mandate is to improve water quality for future generations. Therefore, we are conducting a survey among boaters to identify their boat maintenance practices. This will allow us to provide a better support to boaters regarding best maintenance practices. Further, all boaters will be invited to participate in an **information session** that will take place **Saturday August 27, 2005**.

The survey was distributed on your boat by the staff at your marina. An identified box will be placed at your marina to collect the completed surveys. This survey can be completed on a voluntary basis and will remain confidential.

As a boater, you can play your part to ensure your continued enjoyment of the waterways you use and value. We are asking for your support to help this great cause. We would like to have a high participation rate to make this project a success!

The **Green Boating – What’s up with your wastes? Project** was conducted in 2005 with assistance from Environment Canada’s EcoAction Community Funding Program. This project aimed once again to promote better boating practices.

On May 25, 2005, the first Green Boating event for the season took place. The SBWA along with the Westmorland-Albert Solid Waste Corporation, held a hazardous waste collection for boaters (Fig. 10-B). The event drew 34 carloads of hazardous waste and included among others 130 cans of paint, 17 car batteries and 125 litres of oil. This event was considered a success as it served to potentially keep waste out of Shediac Bay.

Several other aspects of this project include a survey that was distributed among boaters to identify their boat maintenance practices. The purpose of this survey is to determine if local and visiting boaters are equipped with holding tanks or portable toilets and the frequency of use of the pump-out stations. This will allow us to provide a better support to boaters regarding best maintenance practices. For those not equipped with holding tanks, the SBWA would like to assist boaters acquire these by offering information on installers, costs and types available for their boat. The survey was done on a voluntary basis and kept anonymous to ensure a realistic estimation of the actual situation. Other waste management strategies such as engine maintenance, cleaning methods and products used, hazardous waste spill control and disposal, was questioned. The data were recorded and preliminary results were analyzed, revealing that nearly 50% of boaters did not have a holding tank.

The SBWA is once again aiming to increase awareness of ecologically sensitive practices through public presentations. The Green Boating info session was scheduled on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The presentation is available at the SBWA’s office for those who would like to learn more about best boating practices. The importance of healthy marine ecosystems as well as green boating strategies is addressed.

The SBWA also produced pamphlets and signs promoting the use of the pump-out stations. The pamphlets were distributed at the Moncton’s Boat Show at the end of March 2006 (Fig. 10-A). Finally, an online library and webpage on green boating practices will be created for local boaters. This webpage will allow boaters to access and share green boating information, provide access to a reference library on green boating and finally to increase green boating awareness to the public at large. The website was consequently refreshed and the contained information was updated.

It is envisaged that the long-term benefits of this project, in conjunction with our other efforts, will be the improvement of water quality in our watershed and awareness of the importance of healthy coastal ecosystems.



**Figure 2. A) Green Boating public awareness event at the Moncton Boat Show in March 2005. B) Hazardous waste collection event organised for boaters at the Shediac Bay Marina in May 2005.**

### 3.1.2 Other Activities of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association

## 4 DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the acting Coordinator, Dominique Audet, was the only full time employee working towards the development of the *Water Quality Remediation and Public Outreach Program*. With the support of HRDC Summer Career Program, the SBWA hired a Biology student for an 8 week period. Also, a part-time field technician was hired to conduct the Freshwater Mussel Inventory Project. An intern from CCNB-Miramichi studying in environmental studies was trained with the SBWA from May to early June 2005.

The work performed during the development of the project included different activities related to water remediation planning and public outreach. Objectives were attained by initiating remediation plans with stakeholders; by gathering water quality information; by updating the action plan; and by developing public outreach events and publications. Therefore a large variety of activities and events were accomplished, as such leading to the success of this project.

The project's objectives were effectively fulfilled as per the revised goals set in June 2005. However, the amount received did not allow us to perform the initially proposed range of action for the remediation plan section of this project. For that reason, we comprehensive remediation plan for the management of the Watershed, and we are planning to start implementing the action plans during the next season.

The different partnerships created and maintained formed a large network of experts and stakeholders. All parties brought input from their sector to understand and monitor the global status of the watershed. The combined information received from all will allow the implementation of the action plans. The actions involved in the remediation plan for these tributaries are detailed in the 2006-2007 ETF proposal of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association.

In order maintain the previous efforts made toward the amelioration of the water quality in the watershed, we participated in large projects (Shellfish Restoration, species inventory) and developed public relations. Continuing to perform water quality monitoring and adopt new methods of doing so is of the utmost importance in making sure our watershed is properly managed. Such activities complement remediation work by determining not only where this work is needed most, but also if such work is properly accomplished. All these efforts should be distributed on a long period of time in order to produce accurate indicators of water quality and habitat integrity.

Public outreach within our watershed took many different forms throughout the year. To reach residents of the watershed by installing information kiosks at events and distributing our newsletters has proven to be very successful. The newsletter has gained momentum throughout the past few years and is becoming more and more recognized by residents. The future goal will be to send the newsletter to every resident threw a mail out event. The local media also plays a huge role in enhancing the association's profile. With various articles being published in prominent local newspapers and local radio stations on

announcing our project and events, the SBWA has built a name among the community. Every time we have projects going on in the area, we take this opportunity to make interviews with different media. This way, the public can refer to us as a complete group performing many projects to aiming to maintain the water quality. Please refer to Appendix C for examples of recent newspaper publications featuring the SBWA.

Furthermore, developing and implementing an annual environmental education program with local schools has proven especially useful in sensitizing our youth on watershed issues and the importance of our protecting our waterways. The children respond very well to our presentations and the schools greatly appreciate our efforts. The awareness of the Association and its purpose has been greatly enhanced through this ongoing project. As well, hosting events such as the beach sweeps also served to enhance the awareness of the association while helping members of the community realize that their participation can have an enormous positive impact on our watershed.

Targeting specific key stakeholders for outreach sessions is becoming increasingly important in order to accomplish particular action items recommended in the Provisional Water Classification report. The 2006-2007 ETF proposal submitted by the Shediac Bay Watershed Association focuses on this with the proposed activities contained therein.

Directly working with various government agencies has helped in reaching many stakeholders. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fisheries and Aquaculture, for example has assisted the SBWA in organizing different projects such as the Beach Sweep and the Shediac Bay Health Committee. Increasing our visibility among those government agencies is crucial for the long-term development of a watershed group. We believe that we can greatly contribute at multiple levels for the management of bays and watersheds.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Finally, the *Water Quality Remediation and Public Outreach Program* was very successful and we accomplished many activities and events over the past year. Many endeavors remain to be completed due to the magnitude and scope of the remediation work left to be tackled.

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association is definitively making a difference. Our work needs to be performed on a long-term basis in order to obtain positive results. However, we are confident that our group can enhance and maintain the water quality for future years since action taken at a watershed scale has proven to be successful.

## 6 APPENDIX A – STAKEHOLDERS MEETING MINUTES



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**Boating Survey**

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**Part 2: Awareness**

**On a scale from 1 to 5 (for questions 15 to 20)**

- 1) Please rate the quality of the water where your boating activities are taking place:  
 poor            1        2        3        4        5        excellent
  
- 2) To what extent does encountering pollution (water, noise, trash, etc.) reduce your boating enjoyment?  
 none            1        2        3        4        5        very much
  
- 3) To what extent do you feel boating activities decrease the quality of the marine environment?  
 not at all      1        2        3        4        5        a lot
  
- 4) To what extent is your choice of cleaning and maintenance products, such as bilge cleaners, boat soap, paints, odor treatment and others, is influenced by their environmental impacts?  
 none            1        2        3        4        5        very much
  
- 5) Does your marina have a place to dispose of used oil and filters, paint, batteries and other hazardous wastes safely?  
 yes\_\_\_        no\_\_\_
  
- 6) Do you know if your marina is equipped to handle spills or other pollution incidents?  
 yes\_\_\_        no\_\_\_
  
- 7) Do you know where to find the closest sewage pumpout station in your boating area?  
 yes\_\_\_        no\_\_\_
  
- 17) How often in the past 12 months have you done each of the following? (indicate 0 if you haven't done it)
  - \_\_\_ used oil-absorbent bilge pads
  - \_\_\_ recycled used oil/filters
  - \_\_\_ used a sewage and gray water pumpout station
  - \_\_\_ discharged sewage into the environment
  - \_\_\_ spilled fuel (any amount)
  - \_\_\_ scrubbed your hull in the water
  - \_\_\_ discharged oily bilge water into the aquatic environment
  
- 18) On a scale from 1 to 5, how knowledgeable would you say you are about:
  - a. Regulations prohibiting the discharge of pollution?  
 not at all      1        2        3        4        5        a lot
  - b. Environmental impacts caused by sewage and other waste discharges?  
 not at all      1        2        3        4        5        a lot
  - c. The different varieties of marine sanitation devices?  
 not at all      1        2        3        4        5        a lot
  - d. The different varieties of ecologic and more environmentally responsible products available?  
 not at all      1        2        3        4        5        a lot

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**Boating Survey**

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**Part 3: Attitude**

19) In priority order (from 1-9, or n/a if not applicable), what items do you think would most help boaters to protect the water quality of the bay?

- increased environmental awareness by boaters of their impacts on the waters they enjoy
- more pump-out stations
- practical instruction on boat maintenance
- more shore toilet facilities
- more garbage and recycling facilities
- more locations to dispose of hazardous products
- better services and facilities provided by marinas and boatyards
- grants and or technical assistance to install holding tanks
- other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

20) Ontario has an environmentally-conscious certification program for marinas. If there were such an operation here, on a scale from 1 to 5, how much would that certification influence your choice of marinas?

not at all      1      2      3      4      5      very much

21) Would you support a green boating program in this area?

- yes\_\_\_      no\_\_\_      If yes, how?
- becoming a committee member
  - financial help or fundraising campaigns
  - other : \_\_\_\_\_

22) Does a webpage informing local boaters about green boating practices appears useful to you?

yes\_\_\_      no\_\_\_

23) Do you plan on participating at the SBWA information session on green boating practices in late August 2005 :

yes\_\_\_      no\_\_\_

Comments / Questions (to be addressed during the information session):

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**Please bring back the survey to the identified collection box at your marina. Thank you!**

For more information or questions,  
**Please contact the Shediac Bay Watershed Association**  
164-A Pleasant St., Shediac, N.B. E4P 2L8  
(506) 533-8880 or [sbwa@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:sbwa@nbnet.nb.ca)

## APPENDIX B – MEDIA COVERAGE

## L'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac vous invite à son AGA

**SHÉDIAC** - La 4<sup>e</sup> assemblée générale annuelle (AGA) de l'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac aura lieu le lundi 30 mai à 19h au Centre d'interprétation, de la baie de Shédiac, située au 164, rue Pleasant, à côté du Port de plaisance. L'Association fait la promotion de la navigation écologique auprès des utilisateurs de la baie de Shédiac, et a pour mandat d'améliorer la qualité de l'eau pour les générations futures.

Lors de la réunion annuelle, on discutera des réalisations

pendant la dernière année et des objectifs pour la nouvelle année fiscale. Ernest Ferguson de Pêches et Océans Canada, Gestion de l'habitat, sera le conférencier invité et il parlera de la gestion intégrée de nos baies.

### Collecte de déchets dangereux

L'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac organise par ailleurs une collecte de déchets dangereux pour les propriétaires de bateaux. La collecte aura lieu le mercredi 25 mai entre 10h et

14h au Port de plaisance de Shédiac.

Cet événement est organisé en collaboration avec la Corporation des déchets solides Westmorland-Albert et on ramassera les canettes en aérosol (avec contenu), la peinture, la teinture, le vernis, les produits de nettoyage, l'huile à moteur, les batteries (12 volts) et piles.

Pour plus de renseignements sur ces activités, veuillez composer le 533-8880 ou consulter le site à [www.sbwa-abvbs.net](http://www.sbwa-abvbs.net).



**Assemblée générale annuelle de l'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac**

L'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac tiendra sa 4<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée générale annuelle le lundi 30 mai 2005. L'événement débutera à 19 h (7 pm) au centre d'interprétation de la baie de Shédiac, à côté de la marina de Shédiac. M. Ernest Ferguson, de Pêches et Océans Canada, sera le conférencier invité pour cet événement. Tous les résidents sont invités à assister à notre AGA pour en apprendre davantage à propos de l'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac et des projets que nous entreprenons.

Pour plus d'information : 533-8880



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Pour plus d'informations : 533-8880



**Collecte de déchets dangereux pour propriétaires de bateaux**

L'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac organise une collecte de déchets dangereux pour propriétaires de bateaux. La collecte se fera en collaboration avec la Corporation des déchets solides Westmorland-Albert. Cet événement aura lieu le **mercredi 25 mai 2005 entre 10 h et 14 h au Port de plaisance de Shédiac**. Le type d'articles qui pourront être ramassés sont les canettes en aérosol (avec contenu), peinture, teinture et vernis, produits de nettoyage, huile à moteur, batteries (12 volt) et piles.

Grâce au soutien du programme de financement communautaire ÉcoAction d'Environnement Canada, l'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac fait la promotion de la navigation écologique auprès des utilisateurs de la baie Shédiac.

Pour plus d'information : 533-8880

*Le Mercredi matin 25 mai 2005*

*Éric Savoie 21 mai 2005*



## Green boating good for land, sea

**Shediac Bay Watershed Assoc. wants to teach people to keep pollution out of water**

BY KATE WRIGHT  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

In an increasingly environmentally conscious world, Dominique Audet is attempting to spread the green message, one boater at a time.

Audet, co-ordinator with the Shediac Bay Watershed Association, will host an information session to promote green boating on Aug. 30 at the Shediac Bay marina.

What's up with your waste?, which begins at 7 p.m., looks to promote awareness among area boaters about using holding tanks and pumping stations.

"It's a new project and we're eager to raise awareness," she said. "We want to encourage people to not discard their waste. It's not a bigger problem here than it is anywhere else, but it could be a bigger problem if it's not addressed."

Audet said the session will provide boaters with alternatives to using traditional chemical toilets on their vessels.

"We'll discuss natural products that can be used," she said. "We'll also tell them what products they really shouldn't be using and explain the impact of what those things can have on the environment."

Earlier this spring, the first green boating event of the season took place at the marina where the Watershed Association, along with

the Westmorland-Albert Solid Waste Corporation, held a hazardous waste collection for boaters.

The event drew 34 carloads of hazardous waste and included 130 cans of paint, 17 car batteries and 125 litres of oil.

"This activity was considered a success as it served to potentially keep waste out of Shediac Bay," said Audet. "But we still want boaters to be educated when it comes to the environment."

The association recently distributed a survey to 350 boaters at three marinas in the area, which quizzed them on their environmental practices.

"The purpose of this survey is to determine if local and visiting boaters are equipped with holding tanks or portable toilets and the frequency of use of the pump out stations," she said.

"This will allow us to provide better support to boaters regarding best maintenance practices. Some boaters just have a straight pipe from their boat to the water, so for those not equipped with holding tanks, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association wants to help boaters acquire these by offering information on installers, costs and types available for their boat."

Audet said the group is in the process of collecting the survey data and will know more about Metro Monctonian's waste habits in the coming weeks.

She said it's important to continue to promote environmentally safe marine practices because of the effect ignoring the problem could have.







## Session d'information sur la navigation écologique à Shédiac

**SHÉDIAC** - Le projet de navigation écologique est de retour cet été! Cette année, le thème est «Navigation écologique - La gestion de vos déchets, ça vous dit?». Ayant pour mandat d'améliorer la qualité de l'eau et de promouvoir la stabilité de l'écosystème, l'Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac (ABVBS), avec l'assistance du programme de Financement communautaire EcoAction d'Environnement Canada, travaille de nouveau à promouvoir de meilleures pratiques lors de la navigation en mer.

Le premier événement de navigation écologique a eu lieu le 25 mai dernier alors que l'ABVBS, en collaboration avec la Corporation des déchets solides Westmorland-Alberta, a organisé une collecte de déchets dangereux pour les propriétaires de bateaux. Lors de cet événement, 34 charges de déchets dangereux, incluant entre autres 130 boîtes de peinture, 17 batteries d'automobiles et 125 litres d'huile, ont été ramassés.

Plusieurs autres projets sont prévus pour les mois à venir incluant un sondage qui sera distribué aux propriétaires de bateaux pour identifier les méthodes d'entretien de leurs bateaux. Le but de ce sondage est de déterminer si les bateaux des propriétaires locaux et visiteurs sont équipés de réservoirs d'entreposage des eaux usées, et la fréquence à laquelle ils utilisent les stations de vidange.

Ceci permettra d'apporter un meilleur soutien aux propriétaires de bateaux qui ne sont pas équipés de réservoirs d'entreposage en offrant de l'information sur les installateurs, les coûts et les différents types de réservoirs disponibles pour leurs bateaux. Le sondage sera anonyme afin d'assurer une estimation réaliste de la situation. Il y aura également des questions sur d'autres stratégies de gestion des déchets tel que l'entretien des moteurs, les méthodes de nettoyage et les produits utilisés, le contrôle du déversement de matières dangereuses et leur élimination.

L'ABVBS produira également des dépliants et des affiches pour promouvoir l'utilisation des stations de vidange.

Enfin, une bibliothèque en ligne et une page web sur les méthodes de navigation écologique seront créées pour les propriétaires de bateaux locaux.

Cette page web permettra aux propriétaires de bateaux d'avoir accès à de l'information sur la navigation écologique et de partager leur expérience pour ainsi augmenter la sensibilisation du grand public à la navigation écologique. Il est à souhaiter que les bénéfices à long terme de ce projet, conjugués à nos autres

efforts, permettront l'amélioration de la qualité de l'eau dans notre bassin versant et la prise de conscience de l'importance d'un écosystème côtier en bonne santé.

Une session d'information publique sur la navigation écologique sera aussi offerte par l'ABVBS pour sensibiliser les plaisanciers face aux pratiques de

navigation plus respectueuses de l'environnement. La session d'information publique aura lieu le mardi 30 août à 19h au centre d'interprétation à côté du port de plaisance de Shédiac (164, rue Plaisant). Tous les plaisanciers locaux et visiteurs ainsi que les personnes intéressées par les activités maritimes sont invitées à

assister à cette présentation. L'importance des écosystèmes marins en bonne santé ainsi qu des stratégies de navigation écologique seront abordées.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, composez le 533-8880 ou communiquez à sbwa@nbnet.nb.ca.



**Green Boating:  
What's up with your waste?**

**Information Session**  
The Green Boating project is back again this summer! A Green Boating Information session, organized by the Shédiac Bay Watershed Association, will take place on Tuesday August 20th at 7:00 pm at the Nature Center next to the Shédiac Bay Marina (164 Plaisant St., Shédiac). Boaters and marina visitors are invited to participate at the information session. The importance of healthy marine ecosystems as well as Green Boating strategies will be addressed. **For more information: 533-8880**

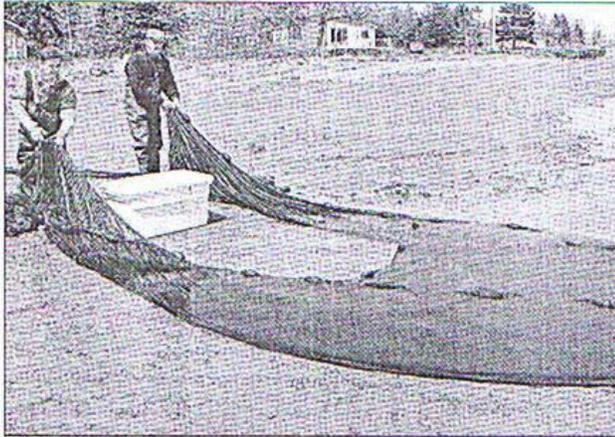
# The power of the minnow

We New Brunswickers do love our rivers and coastlines and we often take this beautiful attribute of eastern N.B. far too much for granted. However, a trip away to other areas will often soon make us aware just how special these rivers and coastline really are. Today, let's pay a visit to that special area in between the flowing freshwater rivers and the salt-water ocean, the estuaries with special attention to some of the significant residents of the estuaries.

Often we tend to refer to the outer part of river estuaries as bays, with such examples we know so well as Baie Verte, Shediac Bay, Miramichi Bay, Bay du Vin, and all those other special areas along our coast where freshwater meets salt and provides that area of a blend of the two where the water is termed brackish forming the estuary environment we will visit today.

In early times before the days of railways, airports, and roadways, it was indeed the rivers that were the real highways. It is no accident that almost all of our large cities throughout the world are on a river and most often on an estuary. That is simply where the first "highways" led, food sources from the water and land were nearby, and settlement logically started there and simply continued to expand to the present day.

Yes, humans favoured the estuaries to live for these special reasons, however that is exactly where many members of the underwater (aquatic) community favour to be as well. Fish from the rivers come down to the estuaries to restock their larders and fish and sea life from the sea come to the estuaries as well to gather food. The estuaries are nothing less than giant food hampers and extremely significant to life as we know it. Over time, we have had a tendency to neglect our estuaries, using them as dumping grounds for our wastes. This may not have been significant



This image shows some of the "citizen scientists" sampling an estuary shoreline along our N.B. coast to see just who is there in the minnow community and how they're doing, then to be quickly released.

when the human population was sparse however now that is no longer the case. The health of our estuaries is of extreme importance to the human population as well as the health of the aquatic community that lives and feeds there. This community is that very important link in the food chain that will feed the many birds, fish, and mammals that will ultimately feed us.

Let's today salute one of the very important parts of that estuarine community, the minnows. Minnow tends to be that collective name for many different species of fish and will include important little fish like the Sticklebacks (four types), Sand Lance, Silversides, Mummichogs, Banded Killifish, Fallfish, and more. This group will stay in the estuaries however, there is that whole other set of fish that will spend their juvenile and teenage periods with the minnows such as Striped Bass, Gaspereau, Shad, Salmon, Trout, and again, lots more.

Yes indeed, the minnow community is one very important group of residents. In the past, research, monitoring, and study tended to concen-

trate on those species such as lobster, crab, Haddock, Halibut, Shad, and yes, that one in so much difficulty today, the Cod. However, we did little to learn more about the life and times of the myriad of minnows that feed all these "food fish". The very middle of the food pyramid was being overlooked. This is fortunately now getting attention and is a result of the close cooperation of two groups, the Federal Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the citizens of New Brunswick. Yes, we as individuals and groups can indeed make a real difference in monitoring and improving the health of our precious estuary waters.

Today, groups of citizens living along our rivers and estuaries are banding together to form Watershed Groups. These Watershed Groups get guidance from provincial and federal government departments, universities, and industry to make these groups the most effective caretakers that anyone could ask for, the people that live there.

One significant program that is now in its second year of activity along our Gulf of St. Lawrence coastline that has been an astounding suc-



cess is called CAMP (Community Aquatic Monitoring Program). CAMP is actively learning more about our minnows by finding out exactly what minnows are present, what the population is, and in doing so monitoring the very health of each estuary. This monitoring effort (CAMP) is being done once a month every month from May until September and is indeed groups of individual

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**B**  
**A**

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