

Current News



Issue 12 • Summer 2014



President's Message

15 Years of Environmental Stewardship

It is both my pleasure and privilege to serve as President of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association as we enter our 15th year of operation. As demonstrated in our newly updated website, much has been done over these past years toward our vision of fostering healthy ecosystems. However, we need to remain vigilant in both monitoring environmental health and guiding sustainable development in the Shediac watershed.

One cold and blustering Saturday morning last January, Directors of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association met at the new Multipurpose Centre to review our strategic plan. In particular, we focused on a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

Of utmost importance for continuing the work of the Association is the strong sense of environmental stewardship that prevails throughout the Shediac area. Also, we have been extremely fortunate to establish core funding for staff and an office, with a combination of grants from various government programs (most notably the NB Environmental Trust Fund) as well as the Town of Shediac, corporations such as Encorp Atlantic and Shell Canada, community groups like the Rotary Club, the Shediac Yacht Club, and the Coop, as well as numerous other smaller donations of money or in-kind materials and services.

This year, the Association is continuing with its traditional role of monitoring water quality, and is renewing efforts to restore depleted aquatic habitat. We are also introducing initiatives to restore our resident trout and salmon populations.

However, maintaining programs will remain a challenge until we acquire stable longer term funding and a broader membership base. To this end, Directors resolved to establish an independent fund raising mechanism in time for the 2015 season. Work is well underway to develop this program.

Equally important is the active participation of area residents (permanent and seasonal) in the Association. This can be done by becoming a member, participating in any of our programs or contributing financially.

Please visit our website and contact the Association's office to see how you can help.

David Dunn - President
Shediac Bay Watershed Association

Shediac Market



We will be present at the Shediac Market again this year to talk about our projects and the environment around Shediac Bay. Come learn about different environmental issues in the Shediac Bay area and the work that the Shediac Bay Watershed Association is doing to protect and restore the environment. We'll have various handouts as well as information on upcoming presentations and events.

Eco-Centre at Pointe-du-Chêne



The Homarus Eco-Center is located at the Pointe-du-Chêne wharf. The SBWA works in partnership with Homarus to provide presentations and educational activities throughout the summer. The center has aquariums with live lobsters and other creatures from the bay. The centre will be opening on June 7th.

The Shediac Bay Watershed will be holding weekly presentations on different topics. Visit the Homarus website www.ecocentrehomarus.org or our Facebook page for schedules.

CAMP Program



Since 2005, the Shediac Bay Watershed has been participating in the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This program aims to evaluate the health of all estuaries in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

The program uses a beach seine (fishing net) to capture and release live fish. The variety and quantities of these fish are then analyzed to determine the bay's health. The Shediac Bay is considered to be moderately impacted by human activities compared to other bays in the southern Gulf of Saint-Lawrence.

Fish Friends

Fish Friends is an educational program aimed at local fish population conservation for elementary schools managed by the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Shediac Bay Watershed Association.

Students observe and care for young Brook trouts that hatch from eggs and grow right in the classroom before being released into our rivers. Each class is provided with a large aquarium as well as accessories, a filter, a cooling unit and fertilized fish eggs. The Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre provides the eggs to the schools. Students, parents, volunteers and teachers can go on a field trip to release the young fish in our rivers in Shediac and Scoudouc at the end of the program.

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association delivers the Fish Friends Educational Program to one class at Shediac Cape School and one class at Monseigneur-François-Bourgeois School.

Fresh water mussel surveys



Mussels found in fresh water are an indicator of good water quality. They are found in rivers with good flowing waters and clean substrate and are sensitive to pollution and habitat degradation.

The Shediac Bay Association will specifically be looking for the Brook Floater, a rare species of mussel found on the East Coast of North America. This mussel has only been found in 14 rivers in New Brunswick and this includes the Scoudouc River, Shediac river and Weisner brook. The habitat of the mussel will be evaluated and we will be implementing restoration or protection of this habitat in the coming year.

This program is sponsored by the NB Wildlife Trust Fund and Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program.

Common Tern Colony Nesting Platform

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association has received money from Environment Canada's Environmental damages fund to install an experimental floating platform in the hope that terns will use it for nesting. The platform was installed in Pointe-du-Chêne near the walking trail. Decoys and sound will be used to attract birds to the site.

This project received technical support from the Canadian Wildlife Service. We would also like to thank others partners who supported us in this project: Pointe-du-Chêne Harbour Authority for letting us use its boat for the launch, Brunswick Smelter for giving us the decoys and Phoenix Agritech for lending equipment to attract the birds.



Beach Sweeps



The Shediac Bay Watershed Association held its annual beach sweep June 7th. Twenty-six people braved the cold and cleaned up several kilometers of shoreline around Shediac. Over 30 bags of garbage were picked up.

A special thanks to the employees of the town of Shediac for picking up some bigger pieces of debris and for their contribution to the success of this activity.



Green Crab Survey

The Shell Environmental Fund sponsors a program to evaluate the number of green crabs in the bay. The green crab is an invasive species from Europe. It's a fast and aggressive predator that consumes large quantities of clams, mussels, quahogs, oysters and scallops.

Ten traps were purchased and a scientific fishing license was used to catch and remove green crabs. The fishing area covered approximately 20 km² in the bay. We estimate there could be over 700 000 green crabs in the bay. We hope to continue this sampling in years to come to determine if the population will continue to rise or if it will stabilize.

There's some interest in fishing green crab in Nova Scotia. The department of Fisheries and Oceans are issuing fishing licenses for this species. The crabs could be used in several ways: human consumption, food for aquaculture, baits for lobster fishing or seasoning or crab meal (fertilizer).



Contact Info

Shediac Bay Watershed Association

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For more information and pictures, please visit our website at

www.shediacbaywatershed.com



www.facebook.com/shediacbaywatershedassociation



Current News

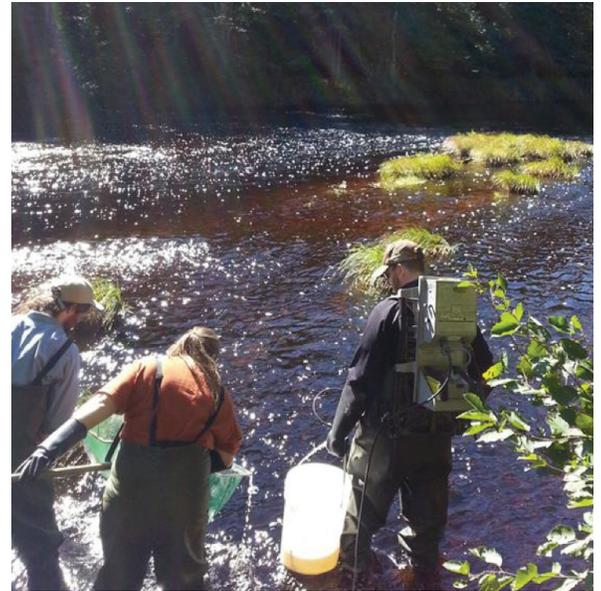
Contributors:

Rémi Donelle
Dave Dunn
Johanne Paquette

Stream restoration for salmon and trout

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association will be working this year to improve stream habitat for Atlantic Salmon and Brook trout. We will be stabilizing stream banks and removing obstacles to fish migration. This project is supported by the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program and the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund.

We will also be examining Salmon and trout populations in the Shediac and Scoudouc rivers. The last study on fish populations was done in 2005. A new study will help us determine any changes in the amount of fish found in the rivers. This information will serve to develop a fisheries strategy for the rivers in the Shediac Bay and may eventually help us develop a trout-stocking program.



Tree planting and biodiversity with the town of Shediac

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association has received funding from Environment Canada's EcoAction program to plant native trees and shrubs in partnership with the Town of Shediac. For the next two years, we aim to plant more than 500 species of trees and shrubs on town lands. There will be a public planting organized with the Town of Shediac to celebrate National Tree Day in September.

Furthermore, in order to help biodiversity, we will be building nest boxes for different bird species that will be installed around the town. More details to come.

Membership

Yes, I want to help protect the Shediac Bay and rivers!

Mail to: Shediac Bay Watershed Association
612D Main St., Shediac, NB, E4P 2H3

Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Method Of Payment: Cheque Cash Money Order

I would like to make a contribution of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 Other