

Current News



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Environmental Sustainability Is A Long Term Commitment

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association has just completed its 15th season of operations as an incorporated body.

Our projects this year have ranged from assessing water quality, to maintaining bird colonies, to controlling invasive species and searching for endangered ones, to opening fish passage, to restoring fish stocks and habitat. We have also hosted beach sweeps, open houses, seminars, and school initiatives. In short, as this newsletter explains, it's been a busy year.

As we move forward, we recognize the need to be vigilante in seeking sound environmental planning for activities that affect our region. Providing information on these processes is also an important part of the SBWA role.

Our volunteer Board of Directors and dedicated professional staff have indeed been fortunate to sustain operations over such a long period. More importantly, it is a testament to the importance residents of the greater Shediac area place on a sustainable environment.

Maintaining our programs has not been without challenges. The SBWA has always had invaluable community partnerships. However, the SBWA owes its longevity in large part to the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund: the fund created from monies generated by the recycling program for beverage containers. It is therefore welcome news that a commitment was made in the recent provincial election to ensure that the Environmental Trust Fund is used for grassroots and multi-year projects.

With your support and that of the various levels of government, we look forward to another 15 years serving the Shediac area.

David Dunn - President
Shediac Bay Watershed Association

Shediac Market



The group was present at the Shediac Market on Sundays in the summer to talk about our project activities to the local people of Shediac and to tourists. We spoke with over 300 people during the summer. We distributed copies of our newsletter and information pamphlets. We also gave away small native trees to people wishing to add greenery to their properties. We will be at the market next summer, come visit us!

Homarus Eco-centre at Pointe-du-Chêne



The SBWA works in partnership with Homarus Eco-Center, located at the Pointe-du-Chêne wharf. We shared two of our summer students with the Eco-Center, to lend a helping hand in providing presentations and educational activities throughout the summer. The center was very busy, attracting local people, tourists and summer camp groups. There were approximately 3 000 visitors throughout the summer months.

Tree planting with the Town of Shediac for Biodiversity



The SBWA has entered a partnership with the Town of Shediac in a native tree planting project, funded by Environment Canada's EcoAction program. The project has a goal to plant more than 500 trees and shrubs that are native to our region, and to build and place at least 60 bird houses within Shediac town limits.

The work began in October, starting with the Millennium Trail, where we planted 30 hemlocks along both sides of the trail to create a corridor of conifers. We also planted a row of shrubs (15 highbush cranberries) along a walking trail in the Centennial Park as well as a few rows of white ash trees. Also in this area, we planted some shrubs around the fence of the dog park, a mix of elderberry and alternate leaved dogwood. We will continue to plant trees and shrubs in other parks and trails within the town limits next year. We will also be partnering with the MFB School in their learning garden project "Jardin Pédagogique", in which we will be contributing approximately 1500\$ in trees and shrubs as part of our biodiversity project.

The bird houses will be built this winter, by partnering with local anglophone and francophone schools and with the general public in the form of an evening seminar. Watch our web site www.shediabaywatershed.com or our Facebook page for an invitation!

CAMP Program



The SBWA continues to work in partnership with the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program, a program managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. For the last 10 years staff and volunteers have sampled the same 12 locations around the mouth of the estuaries of the Scoudouc and Shediac rivers, as maintaining continuity for sampling protocols enhances the validity of scientific information. Identifying, counting and releasing the contents of each fish net provide a snap shot of the biodiversity that lies close to the shoreline. We observed minimal change this year, which indicates the basic health of the estuaries and waters of the bay remained fairly stable compared to previous years.

Electrofishing



Another important part of our stream restoration work is a partnership with the Friends of Kouchibouguac to do electrofishing surveys to determine salmon and trout populations in our watershed (see funding partnerships in Stream Restoration). We found brook trout and Atlantic salmon parrs in the Shediac River, and will continue studying the populations to eventually determine a proper salmonid restocking plan.

Freshwater Mussel Surveys

Freshwater mussels are a part of the composition of a river's ecosystem; they provide a filtering service that improves water quality and are also food for certain animals. They are a good bio-indicator of water quality, as their reproductive cycle depends on the fish populations in a river. In 2014, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association completed surveys in the Shediac and Scoudouc Rivers to look for a specific rare species called the Brook Floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*). The population of this mussel was not abundant, representing only 1-5% of total freshwater mussel populations in the areas where it was found. In 2009, it was given the status of Special Concern by COSEWIC when the species disappeared from 2 historical sites and approximately half of its known locations in the USA, leaving the Canadian populations to represent the majority of the remaining global populations of the Brook Floater. After searching a total of 7.3 km of river bed divided in 13 different sites, the Brook Floater was never found. The Association will continue searching for this rare mussel in the summer of 2015.



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



Beach Sweeps

After partnering with the Town of Shediac for the annual beach sweep in June, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association organized another beach sweep on September 16th, for the National Beach Cleanup Week. Working with a group of 2nd graders from the MFB School, it was held at the Shediac Bay Yacht Club. The 47 children attended a presentation on the various sources of garbage in the environment and the damage it causes to wildlife. With great enthusiasm, they were grouped in teams with teachers and volunteering parents and collected trash along the coast of the marina. After collecting approximately 10 garbage bags of trash, they came back to a well-deserved BBQ lunch of hot dogs and juice that was generously donated by the of Shediac Co-op.

We would like to thank all of our contributors: the Shediac Bay Yacht Club for their accommodation, the Shediac Co-op for the food and beverages, and Gestion H2O in Caraquet for sponsoring the activity. We also want to thank everyone who participated; the teachers from MFB School, the volunteering parents and of course, the children of the second grade for all their hard work!



Green Crab Survey

The second year of our standardized green crab survey was carried out from May to September. The green crab numbers have not decreased; rather catches were a bit higher later in the season than last year. The same 10 sites were fished exactly as last year with identical scientific protocols; traps are in the water for 24 hours, sardines used as bait, and sampling done at the end of each month. Boating and other expenses were made available from the second year funds from a Shell Canada grant. The full report on results will be available this fall on our website at www.Shediacbawatershed.com. The invasive green crab is known to be very detrimental to local shellfish populations and in extreme population explosions circumstances, can result in very severe damage to local eel grass habitat.



Contact Info

Shediac Bay Watershed Association

612 D Main Street
Shediac, NB, E4P2H3
(506)533-8880

For more information and pictures, please visit our website at

www.shediacbaywatershed.com

 www.facebook.com/shediacbaywatershedassociation



Current News

Contributors:

Jolyne Hébert
Jim Weldon
David Dunn
Rémi Donelle
Helen Hall



Barrier Removal and Stream Restoration

Staff and students worked to restore four stream locations damaged by flooding from beaver dam activity. We removed all debris that causes blockages, which harms fish migration. Subsequent planting of native trees and shrubs was carried out all summer and fall. This procedure will result in significant improvements in the local stream habitat ecology. The more improvements we make, the better the stream ecology transforms to being improved habitat for local fish species. Next year's SBWA strategic plan will continue this valuable stream restoration work.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their assistance: Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (DFO-RFCPP), the NB Wildlife Trust Fund (NBWTF) and the NB Environmental Trust Fund (NBETF).



Common Tern Colony Nesting Platform

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association received money from Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund to install an experimental floating platform in the hope that terns would use it for nesting. The platform was placed near Pointe-du-Chêne wharf, close to where the colony was previously found. The platform was equipped with tern decoys and a sound machine playing tern calls to attract the birds to the site. This project was successful as one couple made a nest and had three chicks. We believe all three chicks survived to the stage of flight and left the nesting site with their parents. The presence of the chicks attracted a group of terns to the platform who did their part in protecting them, as the team quickly discovered when approaching to check on the platform!

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