

WATER QUALITY IN A WATERSHED

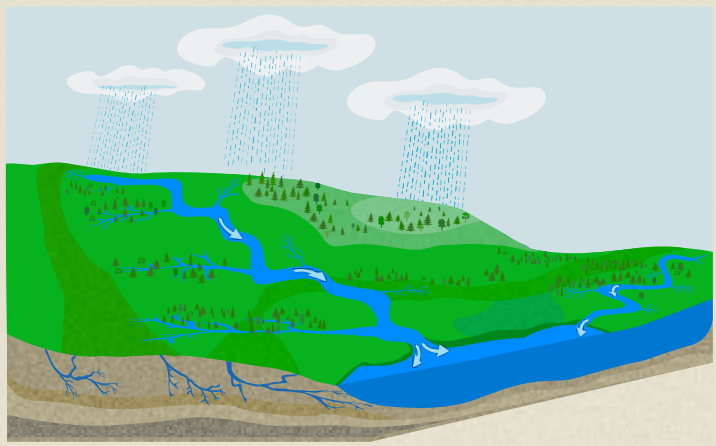
The health of our watershed: Essential for water quality.

A watershed is a region in which rainwater and snowmelt flow toward a common body of water, such as a river, lake, or bay.

Watersheds are home to a wide variety of ecosystems that serve as a habitat to numerous species of animals and plants. Just like them, we all live in a watershed, since our cities and towns are a part of them.

We depend on the water present on its territory for our drinking water, watering for livestock and agriculture. The quality of this water is greatly influenced by activities that take place in the watershed. The health of aquatic ecosystems depends on good environmental practices of its population.

In our watershed, water that runs off the surfaces through farmers' fields, lawns, parking lots, and roads enter the many streams that join with the Shediac and Scoudouc Rivers. These two major rivers flow directly into the Shediac Bay.



In a watershed, precipitation runs along the ground's surfaces towards streams and rivers, following the slopes of the terrain. Part of this water infiltrates into the ground and feeds the groundwater to give us drinking water.



Sustainable Management of Our Watershed

Despite certain challenges to overcome in our region, we are lucky to have a watershed with rivers in relatively good health.

In adopting a common vision, municipalities, citizens, businesses, and groups responsible for the watershed can work together to maintain the water quality.

The following conditions allow to find an equilibrium between ecosystem preservation and economic development in our region:

- Reduction of pollution sources caused by residential, industrial, and agricultural waste
- Improvement of stormwater drainage systems in order to reduce the runoff of pollutants into the rivers
- Protection of aquatic ecosystems, marshes, and wetlands
- Reduction of surface water runoff, by installing rain barrels and building rain gardens
- Prevention of bank erosion and implementation of sediment control measures
- Raising awareness on the effects of driving vehicles through rivers
- Appreciation of biodiversity and respect for sensitive habitats
- Long-term planning of land use management
- Climate change adaptation

Water Quality Monitoring in Our Rivers

Water quality monitoring, conducted by the Shediac Bay Watershed Association (SBWA) since 1999, serves to:

- Detect sources of contamination
- Detect long-term changes in water quality to ensure the health of aquatic life
- Confirm the needs for river remediation
- Measure the effectiveness of the work undertaken

With the support of the community and its partners, the SBWA undertakes several projects that improve the health of the watershed. Visit our website or follow us on our Facebook page to learn more. www.shediabayassociation.org

