

North Lake/Priest Pond Watershed Management Plan



Photo by Jane Hazton



Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

www.souriswl.ca

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North Lake & Priest Pond Watershed Management Plan

The Souris & Area Branch (SAB) published its third watershed management plan for North Lake Creek & Priest Pond in March 2012. Similar to previous watershed plans, this plan was entirely community based and sanctioned. The plan outlines goals, strategies and objectives (both short and long term) which provide a guide for the proper management of natural resources.

Former SAB employee Timothy Brothers took the lead on this plan as he used it to complete his master's program in Environmental Management, at the University of New Brunswick. After an initial meeting with the Eastern Kings Community Council (EKCC), permission was granted to begin the planning process and move forward to the community at large. A final public meeting on November 28, 2011 was held to present the draft plan. Fifty five stakeholders attended, and the plan was given approval.

A steering committee was formed, from a diverse group of stakeholders, to ensure the community views were voiced. The "summer residents" in Priest Pond also provided key information and suggestions which are included in this plan. It was rewarding to see both long term and short term residents take such an interest in protecting the environment.

The EKCC boundary encompasses the entire North Lake Watershed and the majority of the Priest Pond watershed. One of most crucial aspects of this plan is to extend the buffer zone from 15 to 60 meters in both watersheds. The EKCC is updating their municipal by-laws this year and this change will be proposed.

If you would like to read this watershed management plan, copies have been made available at the Souris Library. The plan will also be made available on our website in June.

2012 Family Fishing Day at Rollo Bay Pond

Family Fishing Day at Rollo Bay Pond is an annual event sponsored by the Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation for almost 25 years. This year it will be held on Sunday, June 3rd from 12PM – 4PM. It is a day of free fishing for the whole family!

This is a great opportunity to get the whole family out for some great, free, sport fishing, and with the pond stocked with thousands of trout there's guaranteed to be some great catches. Last year, the largest fish caught weighed in at 3lbs, and measured 21 inches long! The pond is privately owned, so no fishing licenses will be required for the day.

As in previous years, there will be a free barbeque on throughout the afternoon. As well there will be staff on hand to help with baiting of hooks and untangling of lines. Come on out on June 3rd to the Rollo Bay Pond from 12-4pm. Bring your rod, your bait, and the whole family for some fishing fun.

Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation encourages you take to take your children and grandchildren out to enjoy this positive learning experience, enjoy the outdoors, and have fun fishing with the family.



Photography by Joanne Dunphy

Interested in Becoming a Member of Souris & Area Wildlife?

2010 Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation Memberships are now available. Membership fees are \$10 and were included with the purchase of a ticket to the 2011 Souris Wildlife Fundraising Dinner.

There are many benefits of becoming a member:

- Participate free of charge in SAB activities
- Free catch and release fishing at Rollo Bay Pond (in season)
- Receive electronic color copies of recent newsletter
- Voting privileges on resolutions at annual meetings
- Enhance and preserve the environment in Eastern Kings through community support

Memberships may be purchased at our office at the Souris Striders Ski Club or by mailing payment to:

Souris & Area Wildlife Branch
PO Box 692
Souris, PEI
C0A 2B0

Local Resident Chris Collier Donates a Trail Camera to SAB

A special thank you to SAB member Chris Collier, who donated a Tasco Trail Camera to our organization this spring. Chris has always been a strong supporter of SAB and has donated prizes to our Annual Wildlife Fundraising Dinner over the past number of years.

The uses for this trail camera are practically unlimited. The camera will monitor wildlife areas where poaching or garbage dumping is occurring in an attempt to stop these illegal activities. In the past, we have experienced major problems with such activities and this will aid us in monitoring problematic sites within our management area. As well, it may be used to obtain photos of wildlife in their natural habitat.

The camera utilizes infrared technology to take photos, day or night, silently and without a flash. These photographs can then be downloaded and printed for their appropriate usage.



SAB Coordinator Fred Cheverie (left) accepts a Trail Camera donated by SAB member Chris Collier (right)



Tree Swallow Boxes Available to the Public

SAB is pleased to announce that Tree swallow boxes will be available for pickup, free, at the SAB office at the Souris Ski Lodge, as well as at Elliot's General Store.

Tree Swallows are a small, migratory songbird that can be identified by a shiny/ iridescent blue upper body and head with a white underside. They are very agile birds and feed mostly on insects that are caught in flight. They consume a large amount of insects daily, making them ideal around homes for controlling insects.

Tree Swallow boxes should be placed approximately 50 - 100 feet apart and no more than 12 feet off the ground. The boxes should not be placed on trees as squirrels and other animals will eat the eggs. After the Tree Swallows have migrated south, in late autumn, the boxes should be cleaned out to allow for a new nest to be built in the coming year. This can be done by simply removing the side and scooping out the old nest.

The boxes were created through a partnership between SAB and Souris Consolidated School. SAB provided the lumber for the boxes and Graham Townshend's Industrial Arts class constructed the boxes, learning woodworking skills in the process.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop to be held in Souris

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is a workshop aimed towards women, and is an opportunity for anyone 18 years of age or older to learn outdoors skills. These skills are usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.

This workshop is for you if:

1. You are a beginner and hope to improve your skills
2. You know how to do some of these activities but would like to try new ones
3. You are looking for camaraderie of like-minded individuals
4. You have never tried these activities, but are seeking an opportunity to learn

The workshop will take place Friday, June 8 in the evening to Saturday, June 9 in the evening at the Souris Striders Ski Lodge. This event is sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Fund in conjunction with the Forest, Fish and Wildlife Division and the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation.

Activities include: canoeing, fly fishing, bait fishing, fish species identification, nature walk with plant identification along the New Harmony trail, outdoor yoga, bonfire and live entertainment.

We encourage women of all ages to take part in this free of charge event. There will be a maximum of 40 participants accepted so be sure to register early. You can pre-register by contacting Tracy MacDonald at tlmacdonald@gov.pe.ca or by phone at (902) 368-6080.

All participants are asked to bring a sleeping bag, mattress, proper outdoor attire and, if you have it, your own fishing rod and gear.

BOW Workshop Agenda June 8 – 9, 2012 Souris Striders Ski Lodge



Friday, June 8, 2012

5:00 pm: Meet at Souris Ski Lodge for registration

6:00pm: Supper catered by `Team Boobalicious` (All proceeds go towards Breast Cancer Research)

7:00 – 9:00 pm: Yoga and Bonfire

9:00 – 11:00pm: Live Entertainment by Peggy Clinton and Lester Stubbert

Saturday, June 9, 2012

6:30 am: Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 11:45 am: Fishing Session (Group 1)

8:00 – 9:30 am: Nature Walk (Group 2)

9:45 – 11:45 am: Canoeing (Group 2)

12:00 – 1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 – 4:45 pm: Fishing (Group 2)

1:00 – 2:30 pm: Nature Walk (Group 1)

2:45 – 4:45 pm: Canoeing (Group 1)

Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial of Management Practices (WEBs): Latest News

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Souris & Area Wildlife Branch has partnered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), Nova Scotia Agriculture College (NSAC), Canadian Rivers Institute, PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and PEI Department Of Environment Labor and Justice in an agricultural project in determining nitrate leaching as it relates to spring and fall ploughing. Usually research studies of this type are done within plot situations but this project is done on farms at a watershed scale level.

Kyle Knysh, an entomology Masters student at UPEI, is doing a study on insects within springs adjacent to agricultural settings and those that are located distances from an agricultural setting. He is finding unique specimens, some of which have never being documented on Prince Edward Island. He has agreed to supply us with an article to update some of his findings in a future newsletter.

Souris & Area Branch staff continues to collect water samples from strategic streams, springs, field tile drains, and by the pumping of assigned wells in our producer`s fields. This sampling is done on a regular basis.

Soil samples were collected this spring to determine the amount of nutrients available in the soil. All three producer`s fields were sampled.

Townshend Potato Company has purchased the property formerly owned by Lily Pond Farms which is a study area for this project. This field will be in a potato rotation in 2012. Rollo Bay Holdings and Arthur Mooney & Sons will be in a grain rotation in 2012.

Souris & Area Wildlife Branch hosted a tour in conjunction with the Canadian Water Network Conference on “The Origin, Occurrence and Fate of Nitrate in Sedimentary Bedrock in Groundwater in the Maritimes”. Approximately 20 scientists from various locations in Canada made a site visit to our WEB’s fields, which was led by Yefang Jiang, a Hydrogeologist from Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada.



A group of scientists who toured our WEB’s site at Mooney’s field on May 18



SAB Coordinator Fred Cheverie collecting soil samples this spring at Mooney’s field

Coordinator's Comments

Attaining funding for staff for stream enhancement work appears to be very difficult this summer; both federal and provincial dollars allocated to this endeavors are at its lowest point in recent years. Programs such as "Community Internship Program", which gave an opportunity for recent university graduates to attain training and mentorship with non-profit organizations has been scrapped. A similar program for these students has been implemented with industry. A program entitled "Post-Secondary Education" from which we traditionally received two university/college students, has unfortunately been downsized and we will only receive one. We have had a rich history working with Employment Development Agency as they have enabled us to obtain staff and as we enter our first week of our season we have none.

We have made applications to Environment Canada for various projects that include stream enhancement, which was submitted in December 2011. As of yet we have no indication if we have been successful.

These delays make it very difficult to plan work in our watersheds and for us to meet contractual obligations with other agencies. It appears that many of our watersheds will probably not get the attention that they deserve in 2012.

In consultation with other watershed groups across PEI, the issues that I have pointed out appear to be the trend.



Fred Cheverie – Watershed Coordinator of the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

President's Comments

The Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation will be hosting its annual meeting on **Tuesday, May 29 at 7:30pm at the Souris Striders Ski Club**. We are fortunate to have as a guest speaker Mary Finch (Stephen Flynn's wife), an Aquatic Biologist with Trout Unlimited Canada, who presently resides in Guelph, Ontario. Mary has worked in the Ontario region for a number of years and has vast experience with fish and fish habitat, both in Ontario and Northern Canada. Mary's presentation title is still undetermined but it will relate to recreational fishing and fish habitat

The Souris & Area Branch would like to pass on their condolences to the family of the late Dave Chisholm. Dave was an avid sports fisherman, hunter and a strong supporter of the activities of the Souris & Area Wildlife Branch.



Joe MacDonald – President of the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

Interested in making a donation to the Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation?

Simply fill out this form and mail it to us:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Cheques may be made payable to the PEI Wildlife Federation. This is important for charitable tax purposes.

Cheques may be mailed to: PO Box 692
Souris, PEI
COA 2B0