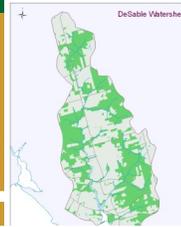


DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



Be Online on
Yahoo group:
DREAM_PEI

Public Meeting

Winter Project Update Changes to DREAM

Thursday, Mar. 27, 2008

at 7:00 pm

Kelly's Cross Community
Center

For More Information,

Committee Contacts:

Ron Arvidson 658-2566
Norah Gorman 658-2535
Angela Larter 658-2516
Joe Matters 658-2843
Cindy Newson 658-2387

The humble alder is not all bad when found around streams. It can hold fragile stream banks from collapse until other species establish. Research also says it improves soil by fixing nitrogen, like legumes do. But it overgrows and clogs channels. Stream restoration often means "conservative" removal.

On Page 2:

- **Summer Employment Opportunities in River Restoration**
- **Alternative Land Use Program provides land-owner incentives**
- **Birds of Winter here**
- **Greening Spaces Trees**
- **Major US water study implications for everyone**

Watch for/ Involve Yourself in:

- **Birding Walk in May**
- **Greening Spaces Trees for buffer zone addition**
- **Seminar**
- **Announcement of 2 great new programs!**

The Busiest Winter Yet Planning for Spring and Summer

Over winter, great progress has been made in four main areas: better understanding the requirements of the watershed for years to come; understanding concerns of watershed residents, improving organization and building capacity. DREAM Committee made representation of various watershed concerns on 4 different occasions to Gov. officials in the last 2 months, and at least two more meetings are pending.

Winter Project: Assessment will be presented by coordinator Eric Rieber on March 27. It will cover observations from Maplewood to DeSable. Despite bad weather, which limited assessor Dan Buell's access to tributaries, Dan and Eric have compiled valuable information which will serve several purposes, including the basis of planning for several years. Eric will be tabling two recommended work plans, a 1 year plan and a long-term plan.

Nitrate Tests: have been taken throughout the watershed, as the public requested. Results tabled on 27th. Funding for follow-up tests has been sought for this summer.

Landowner contact occurred to a much greater extent than ever before. Up to one-third of Eric's schedule involved contacting and communicating with landowners. This input has influenced his recommendations.

Educational Resources After Dan finished site assessments, he researched both a **rare species identification booklet specifically for plants this watershed has**, and a PowerPoint-aided **seminar**, both for airing this Spring. There is a link on **DREAM_PEI** for an online **watershed educational module from EPA**.

Organization: DREAM has made administrative improvements in 8 areas, involving policy development, streamlining and refining reporting procedures, communicating progress status, protecting privacy and staff safety, and made a further 5 improvements to communication. The really significant changes to organization involve the much appreciated efforts of Matt MacFarlane and Jane Thomas, respectively to guiding DREAM into **not-for profit incorporation** and through **strategic planning** process.

Looking Ahead: The basic funding strategy is now in place for 2008, again thanks to Jane, to staff for several kilometers of stream restoration and other projects. In May, DREAM expects to receive several hundred potted trees and shrubs and hopefully a good turnout of volunteers to plant many of them in selected important sites. Many will also be available to the public (see page 2). Dept. of Transportation and Public Works promised to enter discussions shortly to develop a multi-year work strategy for addressing problems DREAM reported earlier with roads, culverts and ditches. By the next Newsletter, there should be further information related to beginning community-driven estuary research, an exciting step in the process of remedying the estuary problems near, but not limited to DeSable Bridge. Did we mention that we may be leading the way among watersheds this season because we will be replacing plastic twine to hold brush mats together, with natural fiber, which will break down after mats stabilize?



Winter Ice breaking up in DeSable Estuary, looking upriver.

DREAM BYLAWS TO BE SET

Members, please plan to attend the meeting on March 27, 2008 at St Joseph's Community Center in Kelly's Cross, to set corporate bylaws for your watershed group. In January, members of DREAM voted to direct DREAM to incorporate, with aid from local lawyer Mathew MacFarlane. **Everyone:** at the March 27 meeting, Winter Project Coordinator, Eric Rieber, provides his final report on the winter watershed assessment, with conclusions and recommendations. State any concerns you wish taken to the first Province-wide meeting of Watershed groups, to be held 2 days later, on Sat., March 29, 2008.

GREENING SPACES PROGRAM: TREES & SHRUBS '08

In 2007, DREAM received 500 hardwood and softwood trees and shrubs from Greening Spaces Program of Dept of Energy, Environment and Forestry. These were planted by DREAM volunteers and individual landowners to build up and enhance buffer zones. This was so successful that DREAM has reapplied for 2008, on a somewhat expanded level. By mid-May DREAM hopes to have available: white spruce, white pine, red oak, yellow birch, black ash, red osier dogwood, wild rose, and high bush cranberry, as well as planting supplies, tree collars, and site selection mini-guides. If you have streams or springs on your property and would like to place stock streamside, please call or write DREAM early to place your requests. This season, working with landowners, DREAM has selected several sites based on need, for volunteer mass planting. Depending on the site, planting will restore treed buffer where there is field, stabilize steep slopes, reinforce thinly treed areas, and gradually replace alders by limiting their sunlight.

DRUGS IN U.S. DRINKING WATER

On March 9, 2008, the Associated Press announced that after exhaustive study done across the nation, they found the drinking water of over 41 million Americans contains an unpredictable mix of prescription and medicinal drugs, like antibiotics, hormones, mood stabilizers and anti-convulsants. AP reviewed hundreds of reports, interviewed 230 experts and visited water providers in all 50 States, as well as Canadian information sources. The big concern: there is almost no information on what trace amounts of random combinations of drugs, designed to work in small amounts, taken over long term can do to humans, especially children, as well as wildlife. Early research is disturbing. **The report states that people with their own wells also need to be aware.** When we take meds, our bodies do not use all of the drugs before they leave our systems. The same goes for farm animals, many of whom are routinely given meds to increase growth rate and reduce herd infections. If getting water filters or bottled water seems an alternative: the researchers checked and bottlers and makers of home filtration systems do not usually test for medica-

~THANK YOU~

As the Winter Project 2007-08 wraps up, DREAM would like to thank the following for making it such a success:
Funding: Dept. Environment, Energy and Forestry, W.M.F.;
Meeting space: St Joseph's and Fr. Paul Egan;
Stepping up: Jane Thomas, Bonnie Rieber, Darcy Gorman; South Shore Pharmacy, Marion MacDonald;
Advice/aid: Shawn Hill, Bruce Raymond, and Cindy Crane
Services: Eric Rieber, Dan Buell, Matt MacFarlane, Tracy

cations. Some bottlers merely repackage tap water, which may or may not be as healthy as your well water.
What can you do?
*Never flush unused medications. Take them back to your pharmacy for proper disposal;
*Make sure your septic system is working properly;
*When your septic tank is cleaned, try to ensure the contents will be taken to a waste treatment facility, not afield
*If you are very concerned about your own drinking water, have it tested. AP says research centers often test for caffeine in drinking water, as an indicator of other meds.

The Birds of Winter

The recent Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 15 to 19, has provided us with a snapshot of the Birds in and around the DeSable River Watershed. We see a lot of the common year around birds - Crows, Blue jays, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Dark-eyed Juncos. Any one feeding birds may have also noted some of the Winter Finches. That includes birds that are seen less frequently such as Bohemian Waxwings (right), White-winged Crossbills, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Snow



Buntings and Common Redpolls. Keep your eyes peeled for some of the more rare birds. Among the Common Redpolls were 3 or 4 Hoary Redpolls. These are birds that are similar to the Common, but tend to be more white overall; have less streaking on the chest and sides and are completely white under the tail. Another uncommon bird recently reported in our area is a Rusty Blackbird. Two Winters ago, we had a female Northern Cardinal over winter in our area and one was seen this Fall past. And listening to the calls of Jays may alert you to other visitors - this winter the feeder birds attracted a Northern Shrike, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Northern Goshawk to the yard. And soon the Spring migration will be underway. We have already seen Canada Geese at the mouth of the DeSable. The next to be seen might be Robins and Common Grackles. But watch for an early Yellow-rumped Warbler or Song and Fox Sparrows! Again listening may produce the Spring song of the Chickadee or the ringing of a Junco. Maybe, the end of this long winter may be in sight! -R.A.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION

This year, DREAM will again be seeking both seasonal staff and volunteers to meet its river restoration, research and evaluation goals. **In order to be considered for watershed supervisory position, apply to DREAM (see below). Workers should apply with at least one or both (recommended) DREAM and Jobs for Youth, as soon as possible: Jobs for Youth, Central Jobs Registry,** forms at Employment Development Agency, 1st floor, Sullivan Building, 16 Fitzroy St., Charlottetown or complete online or download at www.gov.pe.ca, or Google "Central Jobs Registry PEI" **Or :** send **resume to DREAM Summer Jobs, PO Box 123, Crapaud PE C0A1J0.** Please state which position applied for. *Projects other than waterway work, such as estuary species cataloguing, events preparation and web presence will be ongoing, and well suited to volunteers, of all ages. Returning students in Grades 11 and 12 are reminded that not only is volunteering good for mentioning on resumes, but also, for tuition dollars for your time commitment. The Provincial Community Service Bursary Program funds post-secondary training at \$5.00 for each hour of volunteer effort, minimum \$150. Information is available online. Please call or write DREAM if this interests you.

"ALUS" MAY SOON LIVE HERE- AT LEAST VISIT

Alternative Land Use Program is a brand new Provincial program running until Mar. 31, 2009, designed to provide incentives to landowners who have buffer zones. Coordinator, Shawn Hill will very likely meet DeSable Watershed at a public meeting later in the season. Interested persons may also wish to be more involved in policy development.

JOIN DREAM. PLEASE CLIP & MAIL TODAY TO

DREAM
P. O. BOX 123
CRAPAUD PE
C0A 1J0

I want to: A) become a member of DREAM. Enclosed is my annual membership fee \$ 10.00__ (✓)
B) donate the following amount to this worthy cause \$ _____ = Total\$ _____
C) donate my time by volunteering for _____

I would like to be invited to join DREAM_PEI online group (my e-mail is below) ____ (✓)
I may be interested in having plantings on my property, and would like to know more ____ (✓)

Name _____ Phone No. _____ or _____
Mailing Address _____ Postal Code _____
If you prefer, e-mail address: _____

RECEIPTS
ISSUED TO
RETURN
ADDRESS

Please make
cheque
payable to
DREAM
Thank You