



DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



Online at
Yahoo group:
DREAM_PEI

Mail us:
P O Box 123
Crapaud PE
COA 1J0

Annual General

Members Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008

at 7:00 pm

Kelly's Cross Community
Center.

Committee Contacts:

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

Picture the DeSable , Your Watershed Photo Contest

Extended to Tues., Nov. 18/ 08

Share the beauty you see with others , and win a prize too, courtesy of these generous Island businesses:

*Prize #1 \$25. Gift certificate from **bestofpeI Market**
*Prize #2 \$25. Gift Certificate from the **Blue Goose Restaurant**

*People's Choice Award is a \$10. Gift Certificate from the **PEI Photo Lab.**

1) Open to all residents of DeSable Watershed, and 2) Must be of a subject in DeSable Watershed. Please provide a 5"by 7" print, with photo title or description, and when shot, along with name, address, tel. number. Submit up to 3 photos. Drop off to Ron at 658-2566. Please do not send in originals, as return can't be guaranteed. Winning entries may be reproduced by DREAM Inc., with owner consent

Entries will be displayed the evening of Nov.20/ 08, at the Annual Meeting. 1st and 2nd place will be juried by an independent third party.

On Page 2:

- A very busy year
- A Team effort due thanks
- Nitrate tests information
- Bird feeder suggestions

ONE OF PEI'S BUSIEST WATERSHEDS

As we look back on this year, in preparation for planning for 2009 and the upcoming Annual General Members Meeting , even members of the Board are a little surprised at the length of the list; 14 fairly major efforts so far (if you are curious, see page 2), and there are a lot of thanks due for these efforts being so successful (also on pg. 2). In short, a tremendous amount of support was shown by everyone involved, a testament to volunteerism and community spirit. That was certainly the case with most recently completed and the most visible effort, the restoration and opening of what is now known as Linden Hill Pond.

Monica Callaghan (see below right) aided 2 year-old Llew Gorman and the Hon. Valerie Docherty to plant a commemorative maple. She grew up on the property and told her fellow celebrants how pleased she was that the name chosen comes from the same lovely tree her dad planted 80 years ago, thus inspiring fond memories for her and the McQuaid family.

This was a happy culmination of a challenging, but certainly productive and rewarding year. While 2009 may not be quite as busy, undoubtedly it too will bring valuable services and opportunity to the community.



Images of the Oct.18 Opening of Linden Hill Pond. Sharing smiles, sunshine and cake were neighbors, volunteers, owners past & present and the Hon. Valerie Docherty (image to left)

Images on the Newsletter banner: above, from left to right: 2008 summer restoration crew of Kelly, Tanner, Josh and Alex; in August, free well water testing for nitrates in Kelly's Cross; C.A.M.P. estuary research; heavy construction at one of 2 bridges; and the restored Linden Hill Pond. First and last two images courtesy of Ron Arvidson; CAMP image thanks to Kelly Arnold.

Other upcoming happenings:
Nov 29: PEI Watershed Planning Conference. What are the issues to you?
Dec.16: DeSable Mud Rooters Track permit application hearing. What began as a local resident-owned recreation area used 3 or 4 times a summer now literally buzzes with activity that many times a week when mild. It is on regional race circuit. More than a dozen residents are troubled by noise and other pollution and other issues, including rural regulatory issues. For more info, call Mike Reid.

A great start: fish passage on main waterways only is open now up to 2/3 the length of the watershed in 2008, thanks to concerted efforts.

Much of the C.A.M.P. data coming from the 5 months of study is not yet available , but it will be shared with you this winter. Some info we have: DeSable estuary has more life in it than many thought: 1000s of small fish were netted, up to size of flounders. Unfortunately there are also some invaders: quite a number of green crab were seen.

GUIDE DREAM

When DREAM became DREAM Inc. it formally established guiding principles. The foremost of those are to **research** the environmental quality of the area, to **work with neighbors** & communities for improving the environment; to **promote stewardship** through education, engagement and encouragement; to promote and **initiate conservation** and remedial actions by this group and by other groups, and to promote and initiate **publicly accessible green spaces** within the watershed area served by the group. How do you think DREAM Inc. did this year? If you think it did well, join a positive enterprise. If you think it needs help, join and improve it. On Nov. 20/ 08, **DREAM's priorities & master plan for '09** will be made. You, the member, **decide with your vote** at the General Meeting and what goes to the Provincial Conference.

Making a difference: fourteen key areas that significant effort went to this year:

1. DREAM water research, 4 types, January to September*, for nitrates, phosphates, creosote and O₂
2. Rare plant species research & development of I.D. field manual, unique to DeSable Watershed,
3. Estuary research through Community Aquatic Monitoring Program., from May thru September*,
4. Ongoing stream restoration, this year concentrating in Kelly's Cross
5. Community outreach & involvement; 7+ events* plus landowner contact by Term Coordinator,
6. Education, via public meetings*, Garden Show*, tours*, Newsletters* & publications*
7. Linden Hill Pond restoration and green space development*,
8. Greening Spaces tree planting, almost 1000 hardwoods, spruce and shrubs throughout the area*
9. With TPW, improved fish passage at 3 crossings* ,and reduction of silt coming from Green Road,
10. Garbage cleanup, including Annual Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup*, totaling 1.5 tons.
11. Watershed assessment and comprehensive Report (available to public at Crapaud Library),
12. Restructuring and not-for profit incorporation,
13. Strategic plan development,
14. Special equipment acquisition, notably a custom-built equipment trailer *

Birding Observations, and Some Suggestions:

Less than 24 hours after the Pond outflow was opened on Aug. 20, it ran clearly, and adjacent to the Pond was teeming with migrating warblers and robins as well as a pair of kingfishers. That evening, a great blue heron (a regular visitor prior to the restoration) and a flock of least sandpipers were present. During my next few visits, I saw 2 pectoral sandpiper, a pair of American black ducks and a double-crested cormorant. Perhaps it would be interesting to compile a list of birds and animals that are regular Pond visitors.



Speaking of regular visitors, I have not been feeding birds over summer and was reminded of same by a blue jay, screaming to the window, while sitting on the empty Sheppard's hook planted in the garden. Jays were almost invisible over the summer but now are common(and noisy) as are the juncos and chickadees.

Many people attract birds over the winter by offering a variety of bird seed. The seed that is perhaps the most enticing to the widest variety of birds is black-oil sunflower seed. To attract the greatest variety it is best to offer a variety of feeders as well as feeding on the ground. Don't be discouraged if your bird feeding attracts an occasional hawk to your yard. It is exciting to see a sharp-shinned hawk or perhaps a northern shrike. These birds are just trying to cope with winter too. Protection may be provided to your feeder birds by offering shrubs, a brush pile or a cast-off Christmas tree. -R.A.

NITRATES FOUND TO BE MOSTLY LOW

DREAM tested surface water in up to 11 locations over a period of 7 months. Ground water was also tested from samples homeowners took to Kelly's Cross in August. The results are encouraging. In over 60 surface water samples DREAM took from top to bottom of the watershed, including one series after a thaw, only 1 sample was just over 3 mg. per liter. The daily average was 1.6 mg./L. We are told this is an amount considered naturally occurring from the environment, and so offers no clear indication that agricultural or septic contribution of nitrates are occurring. In the results from 97 well samples^ at the August Nitrate Clinic, held in Kelly's Cross, 72% are between 0 and 5 mg./L. Ten samples were near or above 10 mg./L., the limit safe for consumption. Algae has been seen in several sections of our streams, and the estuary has lots of algae, which may still indicate problem amounts of nutrients in flow. ^ = samples are mixed, coming from this watershed's communities as well as surrounding areas.

A TRULY GENEROUS COMMUNITY

Thanks to Dept. of Transportation and Public Works for their dedication, undertaking tremendous effort in 2008 to improve both safety and fish passage, and reduce silt leaving roads and entering local waterways. Island Dredging Services and MacAusland Construction partly rebuilt 2 bridges with care.

Thanks to Hon. Valerie Docherty, and Fr. Paul Egan. They consistently support DREAM endeavors. Thanks to Leo McDonald and his industrial arts class at Bluefield for building DREAM trailer. Thanks to businesses noted who donate prizes. Thanks to Cadets for the valuable help at June tree planting.

Thanks to the volunteers who labored and made work a success & enjoyable at all venues. Thanks to more folks not earlier mentioned for Pond-site success through their donations: MacAusland Construction (4 loads of shale for the parking lot), Jimmy Gorman (for grading same), John Dunsford (hay for mulch), Conway Portable Sawmill (lumber for tables and benches), Jane Thomas (coordinating the Pond Celebration and making pond blessing), and the Parish (plantings, siltfence loan)

Thanks to local farmers, who took and planted hundreds of trees along buffer zones in key areas, and all who steward their land to the benefit of those who live downstream.

Thanks to the membership for support and substantial generosity. Thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors who oversaw what no one could have imagined could have been accomplished in one year, and also for the shoveling, sawing, raking, lugging, cliff-climbing, coaxing,, coordinating, and caring.

DREAM INC.
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JOIN DREAM INC. PLEASE CLIP & MAIL NOW TO

I want to: A) be a member of DREAM Inc. 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 _____

(✓) RECEIPTS
 ISSUED TO
 RETURN
 ADDRESS

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: _____

Please make cheque payable to
 DeSable River
 Enhancement &
 Activity Management
 Inc.
Thank You