



DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



Online at
Yahoo group:
DREAM_PEI

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

Special Public

Planning Meeting

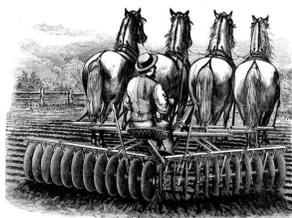
Thursday, Feb 4, 2010

at 7:00 pm

Kelly's Cross Community
Center.

Contacts:

Kelley Arnold 675-4745
Ron Arvidson 658-2566
Darrin Dunsford 658-2103
Angela Larter 658-2516
Ken Nantes 658-2846
Cindy Newson 658-2387
Thomy Nilsson 368-1265
Ellen Reid 658-2284



Banner Images above, from left to right: 2009 DREAM summer crew of (from left) Jake, Alex and Tanner ; Project supervisor James at work; Alex and Jake paddling to explore the condition of the mouth of DeSable River; C.A.M.P. estuary research; and Linden Hill Pond. Last image courtesy Ron Arvidson; CAMP image thanks Kelly Arnold.

Above: Four-horse power, 19th c.

AGM MANDATES CLEARING, MONITORING, AND PLAN

At the annual general meeting of DeSable River Enhancement & Activity Management Inc., held in November, there were discussions and summaries, presentations and decisions, farewells and greetings.

A very productive, extended stream and buffer zone restoration season was described, as was some of the beautiful stream-scapes the staff worked within. Staff said they found the work rewarding and were very fond of River areas near Maplewood Road and Bell's Creek .

DEEF representatives Sean Ledgerwood, and Candace MacDonald spoke on several water-related topics, notably watercourse alteration permit issues and the importance of community-based direction for watershed management plans, for people setting priorities for the watersheds they need.

Treasurer's and Nomination Committee Reports were tabled and approved.

A new Board of Directors now sits for 2010, with five returning Directors and three new members to welcome. Thanks to all who volunteer to serve. This year on the Board is there is probably the most complete representation from the communities of this watershed than in the previous five years it has functioned.

Sadly for DREAM, two dedicated Directors, Joe Matters and Norah Gorman, decided to step down for awhile (more on this on page 2). There was a brief ceremony to offer gratitude to these two community-spirited individuals who will assuredly be missed in 2010.

The membership assembled have directed DREAM by vote to a number of tasks, (in more detail on page 2) but they are, briefly, to continue stream restoration, tree planting and silt management, do some assessment and more re-evaluation of work completed years ago. DREAM will be doing familiar and new monitoring, as well as riparian assessment training involving cooperation and aid of Tryon River Co-op. DREAM has been directed to develop a management plan with public consultations occurring throughout the winter.



Ice chimes formed from spray above DeSable River in Maplewood .



Lots and lots going on this winter. For more on the Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb 12 to 15, or how you can get your counting checklists if you can't download or print, please see page 2

SPECIAL MEETINGS THIS AREA OCCURRING FEBRUARY & MARCH

A series of meetings are occurring this winter for residents and landowners interested in having a direct say in the planning for the long term of DeSable watershed (which involves much of Maplewood, Kelly's Cross, South Melville, DeSable, and part of Hampton, Green Road and Appin Road). This or any management plan is only as good as the input from the people who live in and off the land the plan is for. For the **first meeting** in the series, **a special invitation** is extended **to the agricultural community** to share **your views** of local watershed management issues and priorities, **following a talk** on the **Provincial ALUS program** by Sean Hill, the ALUS Coordinator. The meeting is open to all, and, as noted above also, begins Thursday, Feb. 4, at 7:00 at Kelly's Cross Community Center. We know this may be early for those who have obligations and **cannot attend on time; please do come along when you can –your input is more important than mere punctuality.** For more information on this or any of the upcoming meetings, or if you have input, please call Ron Arvidson, DeSable Watershed Winter Coordinator, at 658-2566.

The following will be focused on by DREAM this year, as directed at a recent general meeting:
 Stream restoration work is to continue at both ends of the watershed, subject to funding
 Further work at Linden Hill Pond, including setting up bird houses and bat condos
 Water monitoring is to take new scope, with benthic analysis and suspended solids metering
 Long-term study at the estuary through the CAMP Program to continue
 Continuation of improvement to fish passage, and tree and shrub planting along buffer zones
 There are exciting new ideas for a local event series in June, 2010, and other venues in the year
 Permission was obtained to begin riparian zone evaluation training,, a limited expense opportunity of sharing information between watersheds on technique and technology use, thanks to Tryon Watershed members, Kelli Lockhart and Miles Lord

Feb 12 to 15 The Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Project is part of research by the National Audubon Society. Last year over 93,000 returned checklists created the largest single day snapshot in history of this continent's bird populations. The "citizen scientists" counted 11.5 million birds of 620 species, indicating what is happening in habitats. For example, great change over one year was clear in data in the distribution of pine siskin much farther south, due to seed crop failures in the north-east. This Count creates scientific data that cannot be obtained any other way. While doing that it provides family with a unique perspective into the natural world as close as out the window. Participants may enter a photo contest, and all participants are eligible for winning prizes of birding -type products. Data collection info is also available. For more information, including birds ID, tally forms, etc. go to www.birdcount.org OR, if you cannot copy tally sheets, they can be obtained from Ron, at 658-2566

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE MISSED

DREAM salutes two valuable members from its Board of Directors, Norah Gorman and Joe Matters, who have chosen to not reoffer last November, both after exemplary terms. Joe has been with DREAM since its earliest meetings in 2005. In 2006, he became President, serving as such until Nov., 2008. His role continued in 2009 as Past President. Norah was on the Board for some time before serving the past two years as Treasurer. For either of them, whenever there was something that needed to be done, or sought, or organized, they made sure the task was done, volunteering very considerable time out of their busy lives. It would take the space of several Newsletters to list all the things they contributed. Each has anchored DREAM, and really toiled to make it relevant to the communities it serves. Also, for years Norah and Jimmy graciously welcomed Board meetings in their home. At any given time, Joe could be found speaking to officials or landowners or staff, fixing or seeking equipment, or handling a saw. During the time Norah and Joe helped guide its activities, DREAM has had its greatest accomplishments, including the establishment of Linden Hill Pond as enhanced natural and public space. Hope to see you getting a skate or two in on the Pond this winter,Guys, now that you may have a little more time.

PEI WATERSHED ALLIANCE SET TO WORK

On Sat., January 17, 2010 representatives of virtually all PEI watershed groups met in New London for a planning day. During the am. the assembly reviewed, amended and eventually approved bylaws for a non-governmental body, the PEI Watershed Alliance that represents all Island watershed groups. It will work with DEEF to develop a PEI strategy, as it's volunteers have done for the past year.

In the afternoon, delegates were asked what their groups felt were the over-riding concerns in their watersheds and discuss in groups what they would like to see realized in PEI in 5 years. Apparently this exercise is one aspect of the process that HRM Consulting Group, employed by the Province, will use to provide a report to DEEF.

Due to factors beyond its control, it was not possible for DREAM to publicly consult before this meeting. Yet, it is felt these are questions you should be answering. Please see to the right...

PLEASE SHARE YOUR VIEWS

DREAM is holding public consultations, to establish community-driven strategy and priorities for action.

What is your opinion and vision for this watershed?

Please describe:

1. **What are the most important issues in this watershed?**
2. **What should DREAM be doing? It's role?**
3. **Bearing in mind your answer to # 1 (issues), supposing there were adequate resources to address those issues, what kind of watershed do you see in 5 years?**
4. **Any comments or concerns are welcome.**

If you can't make it to one of the meetings, please drop a note with your responses to the address to the right. Your input is most valued.

Thanks to: Ron Arvidson, for donating his own beautiful pottery given on behalf of DREAM, in appreciation to recipients at the AGM, Kelly's Cross Community Center for hosting DREAM sponsored meetings, including the recent AGM, and Phillips Feed for door prize donation

In the News:
 CBC, on January 9, 2010 reported that those studying the problem for the past year of collapsing muskrat populations on PEI, think that disease may be part of it. Tyzzers's Disease, previously unknown on PEI causes lethargy and death while leaving few clinical signs. Muskrats had been half of the fur trade, and are food for foxes and birds of prey.

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

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 _____

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: _____

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