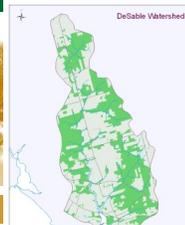


# DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



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

## Annual General

### Members Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 25, 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**

**Ellen Reid 658-2284**

Kelley Arnold recently attended *Living on the Edge: The Atlantic Agricultural Riparian Health Workshop*, held September 28 to 30 in Moncton, NB. This conference encompassed a wide assortment of topics, ranging from the *Why of Riparian* (Lorne Fitch), to *Water Quality Monitoring and Land-Use Planning* (Julianne Sullivan). It was an intensive two days of keynote speakers, information sessions, and discussion among attendees. Guests from various fields of the environmental sector from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland attended this event. It was informative and interesting to discuss one's own watershed issues and successes among fellow enthusiasts, and new insight was gained into programs, funding, and techniques utilized by different watershed groups across the Maritimes. It is anticipated that this workshop will benefit the DeSable watershed in future restorations and endeavors. You can view the speaker's presentations at [www.riparianhealthatlantic.com/speakers/](http://www.riparianhealthatlantic.com/speakers/)

## BUSY OVER ALL FOUR SEASONS

In every one of the five years that watershed work has been done in this area, there has been a bit different emphasis. Some years, very long stretches of stream have been restored and much territory has been evaluated for work planning; one year, hundreds more trees than usual were planted in buffer zones, and a great amount of data via water and sediment sampling was acquired.

This year, no ponds were dredged, no fish ladders built, and no nitrate clinics were hosted, but, wow, lots went on, throughout the year. For a third year DREAM volunteers both co-hosted an information booth at the Garden Show and worked with summer staff and DFO to continue DeSable estuary research within the CAMP Program. In May, Ron again generously hosted *Birding DeSable*, providing all the opportunity to better experience a beautiful aspect of our local environment. In the summer, three able young men from the community, Stephen, Peter and John worked hard in the streams and riparian areas, often battling alder-clogged channels and stout walls of wind-felled trees (more on streams restored on Pg.2). Staff worked cooperatively with West River group, which had certified workers for chain saw use – they helped DREAM for a day; and in turn, DREAM staff helped their crew for a day. In the fall, Environment staff aided locals in both checking trout abundance and transporting spawning fish past the hung culvert in South Melville to add to the trout population within Linden Hill Pond.——>

Yet, 2010 stands out in the extent that input with residents was sought, holding public consultations to establish community-driven strategy and priorities for action. Ron represented DREAM in hosting three public information sessions at Kelly's Cross Community Center. He distributed hundreds of questionnaires and held one-on-one discussions with some residents. In addition, he held early discussions with Tryon Watershed Co-Op on the feasibility of the groups aligning their resources on some level. For more on this, see Page 2.



Biologist Rosanne MacFarlane, aided by Danielle Horne, Maria Horne and Tom Mann electro-capture trout just below Linden Hill Pond

This fall, in October, Rosie MacFarlane and interns from the Department of Environment, came to help move trout from the DeSable River into Linden Hill. The trout, in the process of spawning, were blocked from travelling up the feeder stream into Linden Hill Pond by the hung culvert at the South Melville Road. A number of area residents were on hand to watch the procedure and enjoy the fine day!

## UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

More and more when people are talking, someone will say how neat and fast-flowing they see a stream after DREAM's staff have been working on it, and that is wonderful to hear. If that matters to you, if what you read in this Newsletter that DREAM does is indeed somewhat important to you, **then please renew your annual membership as soon as possible**, still for \$10. 00 per year, by mail or in person at the Nov.25 meeting. Your support through membership really helps. Better yet, come to the meeting and help choose the course DREAM takes for the next year or more. And if you have the time, you may be surprised how enjoyable and rewarding it is being a Board member or volunteer.

## RESTORATION PROGRESS APROX.ON TARGET

In 2010, more sections of DeSable River and Bell's Creek were restored; DeSable to below McKenna Road, and most of Bells Creek. In five years of work, much of the River has now been worked on, except for 2 central sectors, above Sandy Point Rd., and Linden Hill Pond feeder. Greens Brook has not been addressed yet. *The 2008 Work Plan* estimated that it would take up to 10 years, factoring in the need to partly re-do areas after 4 to 5 years.

### Birding DeSable

This past May, a number of birders took part on Birding DeSable. Thanks to Kelley Arnold, we visited a section of the Bonshaw Trail adjacent to the Appin Road. Highlights included eight different of Warbler species, a Brown Creeper and four Woodpecker species as well as many other birds. 2010 marks the final year of the **Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas**. The DeSable Watershed falls within 2 of the MBBS squares, namely Victoria and Kelly's Cross. To date, (data may be submitted until Jan. 31, 2011) there is information indicating 78 species of birds either are possibly or confirmed breeding in the Victoria square and 72 in the Kelly's Cross square. Most of those birds have migrated and **now is the time to be watching** for those birds that may be interested in the feeders that folks may be stocking. Finches, chickadees and jays may be frequent visitors but keep an eye out for some of the less common visitors to our feeders and yards, like Northern Shrike, Sharp-shinned Hawks as well as Crossbills and Grosbeaks and enjoy the birds through the winter. - Ron

### NEWS BUBBLING

The following is a by-no-means-complete list of water-related news items in local, national and international arenas that we will be seeing over the next few months:

- DREAM issues interim Watershed Plan.
- More concerns that a controversial method of drilling for natural gas on PEI called *fracking* ( fracturing) may contaminate groundwater reserves.
- Work beginning on 5 key goals of National Water Strategy, just adopted by Canadian Council of Environment Ministers to ensure safe, sufficient water and stable ecosystems.
- International corporations dependant on volumes of clean water, such as cola companies announce their safeguarding promos/plans; lowering their so-called *water footprints*.

### CHANGING BOARD

This November will see some changes to the watershed's Board of Directors, which was fully represented in 2010. President Ron Arvidson will not be reoffering for that seat, but, - good news- , indicated he is willing to remain on Board as Past President. Directors Ellen Reid, Thomy Nilsson and Cindy Newson have informed the Board they will not be returning for 2011, due to other obligations. However, after six years with DREAM, since early days, Cindy won't give poor folks a break and leave altogether; she will continue to help produce *DeSable Watershed Newsletter* and assist here and there, if needed.



Developing Warbler neck. Participants in Bird DeSable 2010

## EXPANSION PROPOSED

Over the past few years, and particularly since DREAM's November 2009 general meeting, PEI Dept. of Environment, Energy & Forestry (DEEF) has proposed that DREAM dramatically extend the number of hectares it looks after, up to 6 times the current area of 4177 hectares. This is not a proposal originating with DREAM or its volunteers. At the Nov. meeting, DEEF representative Sean Ledgerwood explained that if DREAM chooses to manage or co-manage an area of the South Shore approaching 25,000 hectares, the Province will commit greater funding and for a multi year period. This area borders watersheds of BBEMA and West River, stretches from Lower Bedeque to DeSable, and includes Victoria and Crapaud. Funding will probably ensure that extra staff may be employed, in particular to coordinate the same things that short-term staff and volunteers have done in this watershed to date, but for a very much larger area, with a greater population and more complex land and water issues. DREAM understands that, conversely, if the choice is to not expand, then its future funding from this one source may be expected to reduce from current levels, as DEEF plans to allocate funding to groups like DREAM on the basis of their management area as a percentage of the total of PEI watersheds' land areas, whether under management or not. Over the year, DREAM has sought to inform residents, sought input and discussed possible cooperating scenarios with the other watershed organization, Tryon River Watershed Cooperative, which also operates within the 23,000 hectare area , along with DeSable.

There are a number of considerations, not limited to the more obvious issues of coordinating between existing groups, greater population base and complexity of watersheds needs.

DREAM must now formally respond to the Province with its intent, and since DREAM is a community-based group, the Board seeks direction of the people of DeSable watershed at the annual meeting.

**Thanks for the Streams' Sake:**  
-for a great job to our new stream restoration staff for 2010, Supervisor Stephen Ferguson, John Miller of Crapaud and Peter Malone, of Green Road; -to the following volunteers who donated time, effort, equipment and fuel: Leigh Farrar and Joe Matters, who both provided needed transport for DREAM's equipment trailer, and to Brenton Newson, who again cut and transported tons of fresh spruce boughs.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_)

RECEIPTS  
ISSUED TO  
RETURN  
ADDRESS

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*