

# DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



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

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 24 2011

at 7:00 pm

Blue Goose Restaurant, DeSable

For More Information,

### Contacts:

**Kelley Arnold 628-7522**

**Ron Arvidson 658-2566**

**Darrin Dunsford 658-2103**

**Norah Gorman 658-2535**

**Angela Larter 658-2516**

**Harry Smith**

**Guest speaker Nov. 24:**  
**Megan Harris**, of Central Queens Wildlife Federation. Her presentation will give a brief overview of the challenges facing watershed groups on the Island, the key issues identified in the West River watershed, their strategy in addressing those issues in manageable, 'bite-sized' work projects on the ground, and the progress made by Central Queens Wildlife Federation in the watershed over the past two summers of targeted, intensive restoration work..

## WATERCOURSES COMPLETED AND NEARLY SO

Stream restoration is completed for now in Bell's Creek , as it is in the river tributary upstream of Linden Hill Pond. According to the 2011 final reporting, in the Pond area, a good number of fish as well as frogs and toads, salamanders and herons were spotted, which is a positive indication for the health of the area. The crew began the last section of DeSable River to receive work, down river from Linden Hill Pond and upriver of Sandy Point Road. Restoration completion of the main channel of DeSable River may be expected in 2012. Maintenance of areas earlier completed will have to continue and let's not forget work has yet to occur significantly in Green's Brook, which drains into Holm's Pond.

Overall, work consisted of removal of vegetation overgrowth, blockages and man-made debris, and brush mat construction. The crew also aided in one of three CAMP ( Community Aquatic Monitoring Program) sessions in DeSable estuary. They aided Tryon watershed crew in the installation of estuary brush mats which are part of an exciting pilot program for Tryon.

This year DeSable watershed benefitted from the efforts of three locally- based workers, crew supervisor Stephan Ferguson, returning for a second year, Jordan Johnston, and Zachary Bell. In addition, because this watershed is now in a cooperative work arrangement with others in the South Shore Watershed Association area, supervisor/ coordinator Kellie Lockhart , chain-saw operator Tyler Bernard and the Tryon-based crew also aided dramatically in this area's stream restoration.

Field Coordinator Lockhart has met with officials of Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to improve things at Black Bridge, on Green Road. A great deal of silt from road runoff enters Green's Brook and Holm's Pond from this point and the crossing is elevated, preventing fish migration upstream. This is a key crossing of Greens Brook, which drains the central and eastern part of this watershed. TIR crews have made several sediment catches and runoff redirects, but the problem of culvert perching remains, for now.



**Sandpiper at Linden Hill Pond**

**See Page 2 for Urgent Open Letter to Residents**

DREAM activities follow several threads. Stream restoration and maintenance, habitat enhancement, public engagement and information-sharing, assessment and research have been central threads, accomplished with the efforts of local community. Some has been pretty exciting, like bucket-brigading to move fish upstream past culvert obstructions to replenish spawning areas, to establishing good news that the surface water nitrates flowing into DeSable estuary measure pretty low level over time, to restoring a beautiful pond site for people and animal communities. Some work, especially administratively, has been less fun but needed in order that the rest could happen. With changes to administrative structure over the past year, more tasks have been taken on at a regional staff level. This reduces the burden on volunteers, especially at the local Board Director level. It also invites examination of what we in the community want to continue to maintain or determine at a local level and what at a regional one, or in other words, what role DREAM is to have. What do you think? Let's talk. See you Nov. 24 !

### AN URGENT OPEN LETTER TO RESIDENTS

As many watershed residents are aware, DREAM had a difficult time recruiting new board members in 2010 after the resignation of several directors; these dedicated directors retired after serving up to 6 years. We were, however, fortunate to gain Harry Smith and (re)gain Norah Gorman. Nevertheless, it has come to the attention of DREAM that at the end of 2011, three directors will be stepping down to pursue other avenues.

This will leave the board with only 3 active directors, short of a voting quorum and far below the required number of members according to DREAM's by-laws. The watershed group is at a crossroads, looking at two directions: 1) the addition of several new board members from the DeSable, Hampton, South Melville, Appin Road, Kelly's Cross and/or Argyle Shore communities; or 2) possible dissolution.

Work in the DeSable watershed will continue to some degree, thanks to the newly formed South Shore Watershed Association, which includes watersheds from DeSable to Seven Mile Bay. However, if new directors are not found, there will be no governing board within the DeSable area. This is an unsettling thought, as for over 6 years, DeSable River Enhancement and Activity Management Inc. has worked towards the restoration and enhancement of its local rivers, streams, and estuary. We are proud of the work that has been accomplished since the group's incorporation, and are saddened at the possibility of no longer having a Board to call our own.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the DREAM Board of Directors, please feel free to contact any executive listed in this newsletter. It is a worthwhile and rewarding experience!



*Photo Courtesy of Ron Arvidson*

**Eastern Kingbird at Mill Rd. seen during Bird DeSable**

### SEA LETTUCE A HARVEST? AN AID FOR ESTUARIES?

This summer heralded a project that may reduce sea lettuce problems in many Island estuaries, including DeSable's. After considerable public outcry this year supporting it ( see the last issue), an experimental harvest of sea lettuce began in 2 sites, Mill River and Covehead Bay. This was a pilot project by three PEI departments, PEI Watershed Alliance, PEI Shellfish Assoc. and those watershed groups maintaining the sites. Robert Terrill brought his specially equipped barge from Florida. The barge cuts and hauls the algae onboard. According to an interview with CBC on June 24, Terrill said that back home, the lettuce is added to orange groves as a supplement. Here, potato fields benefitted.

According to PEI Watershed Alliance website, the focus is on immediate sea lettuce reduction by physically removing it and taking nutrients contained out of the estuary and thus out of the growth cycle. It is a short term solution that is not to permanently solve the problem unless nutrient inputs are better controlled. Yet, harvesting may improve the rate of recovery for estuaries. Harvesting has potential benefits: it may reduce the likelihood and severity of anoxic events; it may improve the inshore shell fishing industry, the estuary appearance, and migratory channels for aquatic animals; and it may create economic value (fertilizer, feedstock, energy source, etc.).

Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bay, one of 2 watershed groups involved, announced that the harvester very efficiently collected 68 tons of wet algae, that farmers seemed happy to use to amend fields. PEI Watershed Alliance will release results of the pilot project within 2 weeks.

**Our Many Thanks to Long-Serving DREAM Executive Directors Angela Larter, Kelley Arnold, and Chairperson, Ron Arvidson,** who are not re-offering for 2012. Their commitment to DREAM totals well over 10 years. Their expertise, insight and dedication will surely be missed. Fortunately, we will not totally lose Kelley's capable self in that she will be working with South Shore Watershed Association. To all, along with gratitude, we wish you much fulfillment in your future pursuits.

**Would you prefer an E-copy of this newsletter? Call Cindy at 658-2387 today.**

**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*