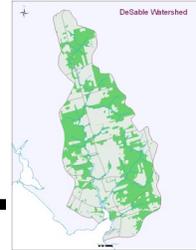


# DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



## Continuing & New Members Meeting

### Information Session for Structural Changes to DREAM

Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008

at 7:00 pm

Kelly's Cross Community  
Center

For More Information,

#### Committee contacts

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

#### Be on the lookout for Announcements for upcoming

- **Public Meeting,**
- **Seminars on  
Watershed Restoration  
for Our Residents**

#### Contacting DREAM Now

As Easy As 1-2-3

New mailing address:

DREAM

P.O.Box 123, Crapaud PE

COA 1J0

New Online Group Message Site: "DREAM\_PEI" is currently under construction, and will permit much easier information sharing between members, volunteers and staff. More soon.

## RIVER & STREAM ASSESSMENT CONTINUES WHERE IT LEFT OFF IN SUMMER

2007 was the second year for DREAM, your volunteer- based watershed group. Its key goal was to continue river clean-up, restoring healthy flow. With aid from several sources, DREAM was able to hire 4 summer employees, who restored several kilometers of DeSable River, assessed and documented several more kilometers, and produced a really fascinating slide show of the summer's work, that was presented to the community at the Public Meeting in October. As usual, the guys cut and cleared debris, built brush mats to reinforce banks and catch silt, and this time, dismantled an abandoned beaver dam in South Melville, stabilizing tons of silt captured in the pond, and preventing it from re-entering the River. Young Environmentalists lent a hand again, this time restoring a section of the River just north of Rte 13.

Fun was again the name of the game during Volunteer Days. More stream was cleared and at the first Shore Clean-up and barbeque at the TCH Bridge, our MLA, the Hon. Valerie Docherty was on hand to help. Many thanks to her as well as all the folks who helped. Thanks too to the guest speakers and attendees at public meetings, in March, May and October who shared lots of information, covering topics ranging from the best trees for the right riverside spots to trespassing law, to trails at Brookvale for us all to enjoy. A tip of the hat to Ron Arvidson for conducting what all said was a very interesting inaugural DeSable Watershed birding session in May, where 3 dozen species were seen or heard. In October, DREAM said a heartfelt thanks the Shaw family, to outgoing Vice-Chair Neil Shaw, and outgoing Treasurer Dawn Lambert, and to other dedicated family members, Gloria ( past Treasurer), Sherri ( past Fundraiser/ Researcher), and Morgan, who have all been tireless, active supporters of DREAM since earliest days.

**Winter Project;; The Assessment Continues:** In the summer, assessment of our waterways began, with an interim report by Eric Rieber tabled in October. Thanks to funding provided by the Watershed Management Fund of the Dept. of Environment, Energy and Forestry, DREAM was able to continue the Assessment in late November. Many of you will already have seen Daniel Buell, a professional watershed Assessor, inspecting and documenting problems at road/river crossings and watercourses from Maplewood to DeSable. He was the guy slogging through the river in all weather conditions, in what happened to be the snowiest December in 40 years. Thanks to cooperation of landowners, he has been able to inspect main sections of all three: river brook and creek.

Despite adverse weather, Dan and Eric have compiled valuable information which will serve several purposes, including the basis of planning for several years. Research conducted on road and water-



Photos : Fr. Paul Egan

Neil Shaw (right) receiving Dedicated Service Award, presented to the Shaw family from Chair of DREAM, Joe Matters (left).

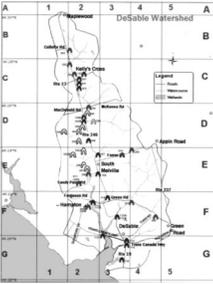
*Inset:* Dawn Lambert, who also received this Award

## DREAM SEEKS GUIDANCE FROM MEMBERS

In January, members and those wishing to become members of DREAM are being asked to state their view on whether they wish the group be incorporated or another type. There are certain advantages to formalizing this type of organization, which prompted this exercise. For example, some funding sources DREAM is currently ineligible to apply for. On January 24, (see above) local lawyer Mathew MacFarlane has agreed to join us and offer assistance. Please plan to attend to determine the best course of action.

RIVER AND STREAM ASSESSMENT CONTINUED FROM PG 1

...intersections was the foundation of a letter just sent to the Dept. of Transportation and Public Works, pointing to problems of silt and blockage of fish migration. Study points to at least half the public road crossings in the watershed fail to allow fish to travel upstream to spawn. DREAM is developing a plan to work with TPW as soon as possible in 2008 and beyond to remedy this, and for DREAM to maintain structures and devices



Public and Private Crossings of Rivers and Streams Documented to 01/10/08

once they are in place. A letter has also been sent to the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, requesting analysis and advice, to begin to reverse the odor problem at DeSable Bridge and area. As landowners last year asked to have, a series of in-river water tests are being conducted over a period of months throughout the watershed to determine base-line levels for nitrates, as well as other limited testing.

DREAM's own strategies and objectives are being reviewed on a number of levels, some major and some minor. For example, the twine that is needed to build brush mats is under review for replacement with another strong natural material that will more quickly decompose when the mat has done its job. Methods of communication are being improved, and new ways to support public outreach are in the works. Strategic planning process has begun at the organizational level, which will make for a more resource-efficient, volunteer-conducive community group. All of the above prepares for Watershed Management Plan development. Finally, over the next two and a half months, DREAM will be continuing to contact as many landowners as may be reached, to obtain your perspective. We'll say "Hi".

FISH PASSAGE NOT ONLY FISHERS CONCERN

Because the watercourses in this watershed are small, it is not always clear what is a brook or river tributary and what is a drainage ditch. For example, tributaries of DeSable River flow alongside South Melville and Mill Roads, looking like roadside ditches. Both types usually have culverts to allow vehicles to cross over. A culvert that is sitting "perched" above the downstream level in a ditch creates little more problem than some extra silt creation. Yet the same situation in a stream may mean that mature spawning trout will be blocked from any further upstream travel, where conditions are preferable to lay eggs. Passage will be one way only, with fewer and fewer fish developing in upper areas, numbers swimming downstream to grow, then unable to return to complete their natural cycle. Trout found here are not as large as they can be, and much of their habitat is limited. If you want to see healthy trout throughout this watershed, you really can make a difference. Find out what is a living watercourse system, and what is merely drainage (watershed maps are online at gov.pe). Help build a fish passage in a key area this spring, and or "adopt" a crossing to see that passage created is maintained after storms and similar events.

NOT SO-SECRET DREAM; FACT & FICTION

**Fiction:** DREAM is an agency of Government

**Fact:** DREAM has always been a group of neighbors attempting to help neighbors. Its Steering Committee has always been made up of volunteers who donate hundreds of hour per year free of charge, and none are watershed professionals. DREAM members belong to most usual professions in rural PEI, including agriculture. DREAM obtains funding for community projects from both government and private sources.

**Fiction:** DREAM wants to govern landowners, and what they can do on their own land.

**Fact:** DREAM is structured and authorized by its members, the community, to act in a supportive, not regulatory manner. It offers information, restoration support, and other resources to the communities of this watershed, not demands. DREAM only works directly with landowners who wish to work with DREAM. Its staff and volunteers are restricted by DREAM to be on private property only with owner permission, irrespective of current Trespass Law.

**Fiction:** Nature will heal itself, if left alone, and so DREAM does not serve a useful purpose.

**Fact:** After 250 years of all the factors past and present that affect this watershed's fragile waterways, nature would maybe restore itself, but without a hand, it will take a very long time, and first, we would all have to move away, and not interfere. Instead, why not speed things up a little, unclog some streams, protect banks from falling in and ending up in the bay, re-introduce hardwoods the streamside hasn't seen in decades, work to permit unblocked fish migration and healthy habitat from bottom to top of the watershed? And add jobs to the area while doing so. Give people who feel they have something to offer to their community and their environment a tangible way to do it.

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 may be able to help with the watershed history collection, and I want to know more (✓)

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*

**Attn. Birders & Others**  
Anecdotal evidence has indicated that birds help to maintain the health of our trees. For example, a few years ago, the Pine trees in our yard were infected by a bud worm. We were advised to spray them. However, before we were able to do that a flock of Evening Grosbeak arrived and the problem was solved. Recent studies have substantiated the importance of birds to health of trees and thus the environment. Cornell Lab of Ornithology is interested in the health of bird populations and has organized a fun, public annual birding event - The Great Backyard Bird Count.- Feb. 16-18, 2008. For more information to participate in the event contact Ron Arvidson at 658-2566 or check on-line at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).



When **snow-mobiling**, you may be causing harm you do not realize. Young trees, shrubs and overwintering crops may all be damaged or destroyed and fences damaged as well, when riding over unfamiliar land. This is through both cutting forces of the machine, and its sheer weight, and the "freezer bur n" effect on plants from the compacted snow tracks turning to ice. Enjoy being outside, but know, and respect.  
-from *After You, A Guide to Etiquette in the Out-of-Doors*, by K MacQuarrie, and J Waddell