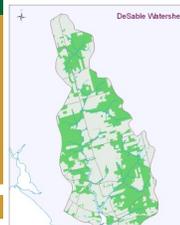


DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



Are you hearing more spring peepers this year?

Be Online on

Public Meeting

Summer Restoration Trees, Volunteers

Thursday, May 29, 2008

at 7:00 pm

Kelly's Cross Community
Center

For More Information,

Committee Contacts:

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

The importance of fish passage

Brook Trout and salmon belong to the same family, typically beginning life in upper areas of streams, where spring-fed waters create stable water temperatures and there are fewer life threatening "events" to eggs and young. As they grow, young typically head downstream to seek greater food supplies to grow more rapidly. The life cycle completes as mature fish return from deep water and travel upstream to spawn. **Hung culverts** are stream crossings forming barriers, with the culvert outflow high above the stream level. These culverts limit the size and number of trout **continued on pg. 2**

On Page 2:

- **Summer Employment Opportunities Reminder**
- **Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)**
- **Pileated Woodpecker is rare here; annual trek 'round the watershed**
- **Trees for thee**
- **Hazelnuts live well in this PEI environment**

The Birds and the Trees and the Bridges and the Streams

So much to cover, and the restoration season has not yet begun. Hope you stopped and said "hi" at the **DREAM booth** at the **Garden Show**. On May 6, 2008, DREAM applied to the Province to become a non-profit corporation, DeSable River Enhancement & Activity Management Inc. Way to go, **DREAM Inc.**

In early March, DREAM reps met with the Dept. of Environment, Energy and Forestry about what may be started to resolve **aroma problems with the estuary** (the tidal area at Trans-Canada Hwy. bridge, DeSable). Apparently, considerable study of the estuary is involved to determine clearer understanding of current status and trends of changes occurring before a recovery strategy can be formed and approved. Follow-ups with other officials, including DFO, have provided **the community the opportunity** to do some of this **research** through the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program of DFO, beginning this month, **if there are adequate volunteer numbers**. So far the response is good. **For more on CAMP, see page 2** and look online.

Speaking of bridges, this summer, Dept of **Transportation & Public Works** will be doing major **structural repairs to two bridges**, (on Rte 19 and Sandy Point Rd.) and minor changes to another, attempting to improve fish passage at Sandy Point Rd., and will be working with DREAM to improve fish passage at two badly **hung culverts** that together, drain over 40% of the watershed. Similar plans are for 2009. TPW will be using several techniques to reduce silt running off Maplewood Rd.

Forestry Division has granted DREAM many more trees, shrubs and materials in May. Come lend a hand with others to plant 'em on June 7.

Let's be all work and no play, Ron is again kindly offering to introduce all interested to **birds of DeSable Watershed Sunday morning, May 18**. See if you can spot North America's biggest woodpecker, above.

Soon the stream **restoration crew will be selected** and again be in the water, so get your applications in. This year will be the most productive because of experience gained and new strategies to be put in action.

May 18: **Birding DeSable**, call Ron for details, time, meeting area (Rain date May 25)

May 22 (tentative): **Volunteer training for CAMP estuary field research**, call Cindy

May 29: **Public Meeting**, Kelly's Cross Community Center

May 31: **Public Tree Pick-up**, location to be announced

June 7: **Volunteer Day/ Tree-Planting**, Kelly's Cross area sites, call Ron if interested



Photo © Dwayne Oakley, N.B.

Have you seen this bird? Pileated Woodpecker is uncommon but recently sighted here. **More on Page 2**

DO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS IN DREAM

Please join DREAM Inc. Your membership counts. Together, we can present a more unified voice when presenting issues of concern and can more easily get grants of various kinds to do work in communities DREAM Inc. serves. Your membership helps get kilometers of local stream restored every year, and prevents tons of silt from traveling downstream, so it cannot further clog the estuary, or do damage to aquatic habitat. Without DREAM Inc., (or a group like it) thousands of trees would not be planted without cost to area residents, and no widespread work could be done to increase and improve fish habitat. Many of the local problems now being worked on by the Dept. of Transportation and Public Works were reported by DREAM in January, and TPW listened, and wishes to work with the group more to help fish passage. This and more need DREAM to happen, and without you and your neighbors, there is no DREAM.

GREENING SPACES PROGRAM IN MAY

Do you have a stream bank or slope that you would like to plant some trees or shrubs along? In late May, DREAM is again receiving native trees and shrubs from the Greening Spaces Program of the Provincial Dept. of Environment, Energy and Forestry, for mass planting and community distribution. The intention is to improve buffer zones, reduce erosion, and gradually reintroduce species and genetic stock similar to the original Acadian Forest. While the plan is to plant several hundred at designated sites on Volunteer Day, June 7, there will be plants for you too. If you are interested in receiving some plants, or helping, even with food, information will be available at the Public Meeting on May 29/08.

C.A.M.P. DESABLE

Everyone has their own opinion of what has gone wrong in the Bay. In order to get to a resolution of the problem of a pungent-smelling estuary, research that can be done by the community probably ought to be done by community. That involves making measurements and observations over time, including taking photos from the exact same sites over the year, and documenting bottom sediment and flora composition. The Federal program, Community Aquatic Monitoring Program provides volunteers training, equipment, support and interpretation of data. A small group is needed to typically measure temperature, oxygen and other values in water, take sediment and water samples, count and examine flora and fauna at 6 sites within the estuary, one day per month, from May to September. Six other PEI communities have undertaken CAMP the last few years, and DFO is adding the data to that from other groups throughout the Gulf area. **Care to help with this important research?**

SUMMER JOBS

Don't forget to send in your applications to the address below if you want to work restoring DeSable River this summer !

If you are curious about an **unusual plant** you saw , or you want to help list type and location of **rare or significant species in the watershed** while they are still there (example below; beaked hazelnut), then maybe DREAM can help. This March, Dan Buell developed a Guide of 21 rare plants, likely to be found in **this watershed**, with help from DEEF. If you 'd like to **borrow** a Guide or **begin an important local plant survey**, please call Cindy.

Thanks to all the landowners contacted over the past months, and the vast majority, who have agreed to permit DREAM on their properties for 1 to 3 years. Your cooperation makes restoration possible.

..(fish passage continued) in a waterway, because if fish cannot travel upstream where it is preferable to spawn, there will be higher mortality rates for the young that do hatch in less favorable downstream areas. The upper waterway resident population that is not swept or swims downstream may eventually diminish, without fresh, healthy stocks. DREAM is now working to improve fish passage at 12 hung crossings.

BEAKED HAZELNUT IS P.E.I.'S ONLY NUT-

bearing shrub. They are found in **DeSable watershed** in at least 2 locations, and we hope more may be found, as they are good plants for a wide variety of conditions, and the favorite food of squirrel, chipmunk, jay, grouse, pheasant, woodpecker, woodcock and hare, and **in the recent past, people.** Its leaves are rich in calcium and manganese , so it is important to fertilize neighboring plants. It is very versatile, and although it likes sun best, it lives in fairly heavy shade. It is found at the edge of forests, in clearings and in the forest understory. It works very well on stream banks where it is protected from wind (macphailwoods.org). Unfortunately, **plants may be easily confused with alders and cut unintentionally.** The leaves, shrubby shape, and catkins of the male plants all are similar to alders. It is easier to correctly identify when one spots the **tiny little red flowers of the female plant that appear in April or May** and mature into nuts in late August or Sept. (from borealforest.org) Several agro-forestry trials connected to the PEISCA have begun the last 2 and 3 years to evaluate PEI hazelnuts, including for commercial food production.

JOIN DREAM INC. PLEASE CLIP & MAIL NOW TO

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

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: _____

BIRDING DESABLE

Recent bird sighting reports from the DeSable area have included a sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker. These birds are certainly **not as common** in Prince Edward Island as in other areas of the Maritimes and a report of their presence is a highlight for most Island Birders. As well, currently the Maritimes is compiling a Breeding Bird Atlas and any evidence of the bird nesting or raising young in the area would be significant.

The Pileated Woodpecker is crow-sized, with a large red crest on the head and a black body. It is the largest woodpecker in most of North America. The Pileated may indicate it's presence in your



Photo © Dwayne Oakley

woods with it's loud calls and **large, rectangular holes in trees.** The Pileated Woodpecker prefers a habitat of mature, large trees that are required for nesting.

If you're interested in looking for this bird and others, as well as finding out more about the birds in the DeSable Watershed, **you are invited to Birding DeSable on May 18** (Rain Date May 25). **Please contact Ron Arvidson - 658-2566** for further information.

✂

↓
 RECEIPTS
 ISSUED TO
 RETURN
 ADDRESS

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