



DESABLE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



Online at
Yahoo group:
DREAM_PEI

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

Annual General

Members Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009

at 7:00 pm

Kelly's Cross Community
Center.

Contacts:

Kelley Arnold 675-4745
Ron Arvidson 658-2566
Norah Gorman 658-2566
Angela Larter 658-2516
Joe Matters 658-2843
Cindy Newson 658-2387
Thomy Nilsson 368-1265

C.A.M.P. 2009

C.A.M.P. continued in DeSable Estuary for the second year. Thanks to those who donned rubber boots and a sense of adventure and helped out. This is an ongoing research project to evaluate bay health in our area that you are welcome to join into next year. More on this year's data when it is available over the winter.

Images on the Newsletter

banner: 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.

WORK IN YOUR WATERSHED IN 2009

Efforts got underway in late May, when up to 2 dozen volunteers got together one Saturday morning and finished so many projects at Linden Hill Pond, including the spreading of hundreds of feet of mulched pathways, ending with a great barbeque.

This work season was focused on restoring two areas of the watershed. This is not usually the case, since for three years, staff have worked in the upper areas of DeSable River only, and we can now happily report that almost 2/3 of the River has had restoration completed for now *. Sensitive fish spawning headwaters were completed this year by our great team. But DeSable River is only the largest of 3 watercourses in this watershed area, and one of the smaller ones at the opposite end of the watershed, Bell's Creek, was evaluated as requiring emergency attention. Throughout September, it received a lot of work (see page 2) and it will need more, for the sake of the creek and for the estuary's as well.



Some things are surely worth saving; Bell's Creek, in DeSable as mists lift in the early morning.

After meeting with various community members and groups, including DREAM, Transportation and Public Works again set to try to lessen the amount of silt entering waterways, this time from 2 clay roads, Maplewood and Todd.

For another year, DREAM distributed or planted a variety of 500 native trees and shrubs into the area, including red oak and sugar maple. This annual planting could not be made without a lot of community cooperation.

At the spring public meeting, our guest speaker was Fred Cheverie, Coordinator for Souris Watershed. Fred gave insight to the good turn-out of our residents what creative and useful things his group is doing to improve estuary health and fish stocks.

***Restoration is an Ongoing Process:**

We say that river restoration is completed in a given area "for now" because restoration has to be renewed. Events like alder growth, tree falls, and beaver damming can block or redirect channel flow into unstable banks. Tons of sediments can suddenly appear in streams after rains. Fish ladders can wash out. This and more creates the need for periodic inspection and maintenance.

FOCUS AND GUIDE DIRECTION IN 2010

Fish habitat improvement, public green space development and maintenance, public forums, history assembly, materials and events to provide information and involvement in action and decision-making, bird and bat house installation. From big to small, it seems DREAM has been doing it all in the past 4 years, in addition to clearing and restoring streams. In the last months, the Province has leveled more responsibility on Island watershed groups to maintain and enhance waterways, through changes to watercourse/wetland protection regulations. At the same time, as our regulator and one of our funders, it is preparing to make dramatic changes to how groups can work with DEEF. This is partly associated with PEI refundable deposit revenue pool. For over a year, groups have been working to be heard in the planning. Some feel it may be the time for DREAM to work in a larger geographic area. These are important times to be involved in your watershed on PEI, and in your own group.

Please join DREAM, or renew your membership either by mail or at the General Meeting on Thursday. Come and help decide what you believe this community organization should be doing in the next year. Better yet, lend a hand. There's always room4U

Making a difference: key areas of effort this year:

1. DREAM water monitoring research, for nitrates, phosphates, and O₂
2. Estuary research through Community Aquatic Monitoring Program., from May to September,
3. Ongoing stream restoration, this year concentrating in Kelly's Cross, emergency work in DeSable
4. Community outreach & involvement
5. Education, via public meetings, Garden Show, tours, Newsletters & publications
6. Linden Hill Pond green space development coordinating volunteers, brochure development
7. Greening Spaces tree planting, 500 hardwoods, spruce and shrubs throughout the area
8. With TPW, reduction of silt coming from Maplewood and Todd Roads
9. Developing a comprehensive watershed management plan, with public consultation (ongoing)

FEDERAL FUNDING AWARDED FOR CREEK

DREAM was awarded the only funding in PEI in 2009 under the Federal Environmental Damages Fund to perform emergency restoration on part of Bell's Creek. Two experienced staff, James and Tanner worked over 4 weeks to clear, stabilize and to reduce the impact of heavy siltation on the Creek and nearby estuary. Volunteers provided their labor, equipment and materials from up and down the watershed to enable staff to create dozens of brush mats, some 100 meters long, some 5 meters wide, with an estimated 10 tons of spruce boughs and almost 600 stakes. At completion, federal officials reviewing commented upon the extensive amount of work completed. This is a credit to all involved. This was not standard stream restoration. This is scheduled for the future. Before 2009, work to protect Bells Creek was performed farther downstream. It included tree planting and fish enhancement. Under request, TPW installed ditch dry dams and rebuilt part of Rte 19 Bridge.

WITH GRATITUDE

Thanks to DREAM's major funders in 2009: Provincial Dept of Energy, Environment and Forestry, Watershed Management and Forestry Divisions (Greening Spaces Program), Provincial Employment Development Agency, Wildlife Conservation Fund, Federal Environmental Damages Fund, Canada Summer Jobs.

Thanks to Dept. of Transportation and Public Works for undertaking continued reduction of silt leaving roads and entering local waterways. Again this year, there was considerable effort in this area.

Much gratitude to those who toiled in this watershed's waters: DREAM staffers: Tanner, Alex, Jake and supervisor James; Young Environmentalists, summer staff of TPW Environmental Division, Fisheries and Oceans and Southern Gulf Coalition on Sustainability, and fresh water tester Angela Larter.

Thanks to local residents, farmers and other landowners who graciously permitted DREAM personnel on their property to work at streams and buffer zones. Such permission is critical to do work.

Thanks to these individuals: Hon. Valerie Docherty and Fr. Paul Egan for continued support, to Jane Thomas for a second year of fund-raising, budgeting and planning aid, to Fred Cheverie for guest speaking, to Ron Arvidson for again guiding us in May with *Birding DeSable* and designing a Linden Hill Pond logo, and to Eric Reiber, who aided and supported staff throughout the summer.

Thanks to those who provided large quantities of brush mat construction materials, St Joseph's Prayer Garden, Brenton Newson, Joe Matters and Phillips Feed. Kelley, Ron and Cindy donated labor.

Kelly's Cross Community Center again kindly held our public meetings - thanks to all responsible.

Thanks to the many volunteers who labored so effectively May 23 to mulch paths and detail Linden Hill Pond, and provide a welcome barbeque at labor's end. At one time there was a continual train of folks with loaded wheelbarrows, taking mulch to where it was needed for improving paths.

Our gratitude to Norah Gorman and Cathy Schapp, who made the October get together at Linden Hill Pond so enjoyable and the many who braved a cool day and came to have a hotdog and a chat.

Why Birds?

Over the past few years, while I have participated in the watershed activities, I have been asked from time to time how this activity relates to my interest in birding. The best answer comes from the information provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas. "Birds can tell us a lot about the environment in which we live. Because they are sensitive to environmental stressors and occupy virtually all terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats, knowing where birds are and what habitats they use can help us assess ecosystem health."

For most of us the most familiar birds is the American Crow. These birds may not be everyone's favorite, but according to author Lyanda Lynn Haupt, in her book, *Crow Planet*, "for the majority of people on the face of the earth, the crow will be the single most oft-encountered native wild animal in their lives." According to her, there are more crows now than there may have ever been. Crows tolerate human habitations and they benefit. They may be an emblem of habitat destruction but also a suggestion of hope. According to author Irene Pepperberg, Ph D in her book "Haupt creates an amalgam of ornithology, philosophy, and advice on how to engage with - and some warnings about our effects on - nature; the results an engaging book-long essay on the interconnectedness of life." - R.A.

Breaking News:

CBC, on Nov. 5, 2009 reported that DFO has issued an Inspector's Direction to PEI Mudrooters to reduce the amount of sediment that continues to run off its property into Bells Creek. It said DFO has made 3 inspections at Bell's Creek this fall and also determined that there are problems with the estuary. Deadline for owners' work completion is Nov. 30.

Correction: In Newsletter v3;4, it should have been Maritime Dredging Services, mistakenly called Island Dredging, which was thanked for doing such a great job rebuilding Rte. 19 Bridge. Sincerest apologies.

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: _____

(✓) RECEIPTS
ISSUED TO
RETURN
ADDRESS

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