

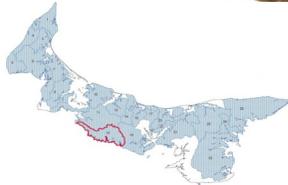
# South Shore Watershed Association (SSWA)

September,  
2012

Volume 1,  
Issue 4

SSWA is online :  
[www.sswa.ca](http://www.sswa.ca)

Email:  
[sswa@sswa.ca](mailto:sswa@sswa.ca)



## The Importance of Our Watersheds

### Inside this issue:

<i>Watersheds</i>	1
<i>Dry Summer</i>	1
<i>Crapaud Exhibition</i>	2
<i>DREAM</i>	2
<i>Tryon</i>	2
<i>Augustine Cove</i>	2
<i>WRWG</i>	2
<i>Summer Students</i>	2

### Save the Date!

*AC-CT and Tryon are  
hosting a public infor-  
mation session!*

**DATE: Thursday,  
November 22**

**TIME: 7pm**

#### LOCATION:

*South Shore United  
Church, #85 Rte 10,  
Tryon*

The concept of a watershed is very important. Why? The answer is that no matter where you live on Prince Edward Island (or anywhere for that matter!), you live in a watershed. The South Shore Watershed Association has been active since 2011; however, we still get residents asking “but what IS a watershed?”

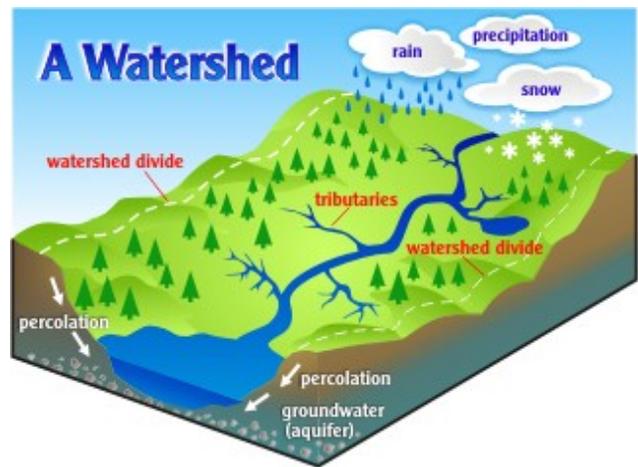


Diagram of a Simplified Watershed

Think of an upside-down umbrella; precipitation hits the higher elevations and runs down into the lower portion of the region. This is where a creek, stream or river is located. Some of this water eventually filters through the soil and into our valuable groundwater supply. As water flows downhill, streams will often join to form larger rivers. Although there are different types of systems, on PEI a river will eventually make its way to an estuary, pond or

lake.

Why are they valuable? Watersheds are directly related to water and water quality on Prince Edward Island. As Islanders rely solely on groundwater for their drinking water supply, the health of our watersheds is of the utmost importance. However, the health of a watershed does not only impact hu-

mans; wildlife rely on them for their water and habitat.

Birds, mammals, fish and insects depend on their environment for survival. The more we can do to improve our watershed ecosystems, the more ALL life will benefit.

Help SSWA protect our wonderful watersheds!

Did you know that only 1% of the world's total water supply is drinkable? Use it wisely!

## Dry Summer a Concern for Many Watersheds

Most Islanders have been pleasantly surprised with the sunny hot weather this summer; however, the plentiful beach days and BBQ's came with a heavy price.

High temperatures and low rainfall have made 2012 the driest year since 1965 (CBC, 2012). Average rainfall from May-July is approximately 240mm; this year only 106.3mm was

recorded for the same period of time.

Although quite a few rivers and streams normally dry up throughout the summer months, Prince Edward Island has seen the Brackley branch of the Winter River run dry a month earlier than in 2011. Lack of rain and overuse of water resources has left this watershed group concerned for the future of their river.

The ecology of an area can be seriously damaged by low-flow periods. Many rivers on PEI have demonstrated disturbingly high water temperatures, low oxygen levels, and anoxic conditions. These factors are detrimental to fish and other aquatic wildlife, and are often difficult to reverse once these conditions have been reached.

Education is the key to a solution!

2012-2013 SSWA  
Board of Directors:

Martha Howatt, August-  
ine Cove

Peter Bower, West-  
moreland

Dina Blot, West-  
moreland

Barb Clement, Tryon  
River

Harry Smith, DeSable

## 2012 Crapaud Exhibition



*SSWA Booth at Exhibition*

For the second year running, sheds and protection of our rivers, streams and estuaries. All four active watershed groups were represented, and handouts and past issues of SSWA Tidings were available to the general public. visitors the importance of

Congratulations to Skye Monaghan and John Huggins for winning the draw for a free birdhouse and bathouse!

SSWA looks forward to being at this event in 2013.

The South Shore Watershed Association has a place to call our own! We now have an office space, located above the post office in Victoria. This is an exciting move forward!

## DeSable River Enhancement and Activity Management (DREAM)

It was a busy summer for the DeSable watershed! A much anticipated large-scale project was completed this year: the re-excavation of Linden Hill Pond. Originally excavated in 2008, this pond had filled in over the years, and after redirecting the water into a hand-dug trench and implementing silt booms and fencing, it was dredged and the spoils spread directly adjacent to the pond. The spoils were then covered with hay and seeded to prevent run-off into the pond. Tree planting was undertaken around Linden Hill to improve the existing buffer zone. Stream restoration began in Sector 5 (Germaine's); and the hanging culvert was replaced on the Green Road (Black Bridge). The C.A.M.P. program continued in the DeSable estuary this year, led by former DREAM summer employee, Alex MacDonald. Way to go Alex! DREAM is still seeking one more board member; contact Cindy Newson if you are interested.

## Tryon River Watershed Cooperative

The summer crew revisited the estuary project, originally completed in 2011, to conduct repairs and maintenance; they also added a second layer to Sites 1. They tackled invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and mustard around Lord's Pond, and Craig's Pond was re-excavated and deepened to provide better habitat for fish and wildlife. Trees and shrubs were planted along the Tryon walking trail, as well as on several landowner properties to improve the diversity of the Acadian Forest. Stream restoration occurred above and below Craig's Pond, where two beaver dams were located and noted for future assessment. Tryon (and SSWA) want to extend a special thank you to Kellie Lockhart, who acted as both Watershed Manager and summer supervisor!

Our website has undergone a complete makeover! Visit [www.sswa.ca](http://www.sswa.ca) and see for yourself!

## Augustine Cove-Cape Traverse Watershed Group

Augustine Cove-Cape Traverse (AC-CT) watershed group have been very active in their watershed since the creation of their group in late 2011. The summer staff began an extensive River Assessment, in order to identify areas in need of restoration and enhancement. The assessment located streams that have been heavily silted or overgrown with grasses, beaver dams and ineffective rock structures. The crew also revisited streams that had been previously restored. AC-CT and Tryon are hosting a public information session on Thursday, November 22, at the South Shore United Church. Come out and listen to talks on the ALUS program (Shawn Hill, Watershed Alliance) and improving your buffer zones with native trees and shrubs (Megan Harris and Daryl Guignon, West River). Visit the website to learn more! Contact Martha Howatt or Ralph Dawson if you would like to become a member of AC-CT.

### Want to Become a

### Member of SSWA?

Please make \$10 cheque payable to South Shore Watershed Association (SSWA):

PO Box 123

Crapaud, PE C0A 1J0

Include Your Name, Phone Number, Address, Postal Code and email (optional).

Let us know if you have interest in having plantings on your property.

## Westmoreland River Watershed Group

WRWG had many activities on the go this summer! Frenchy's Pond was excavated and deepened to provide more suitable fish and wildlife habitat. Thanks to the Dept of Transportation and the landowner who allowed this project to be accomplished, the Collette Road had a sediment basin and check dams installed to prevent sediment from entering the adjacent waterway. Hemlock and wild berries were planted on the Collette Road, and tree planting occurred in a variety of locations throughout Westmoreland. A detailed River Assessment took place, and dozens of areas were identified for tree planting, stream restoration, culvert repair and alder removal. Interested in joining this active group? Contact Dina for more details!

### SSWA Thanks 2012 Summer Crew for a Great Season

What a busy and successful summer for SSWA's seasonal crew members! Brandon Kingman, Melissa MacDonald, Logan Inman, and PEI Watershed Technician Tyler Bernard worked tirelessly throughout the four watersheds to ac-

complish a wide variety of projects. Thanks for a great 2012 season!

Visit the crew's blog at <http://southshorewatershedsummerblog.wordpress.com>