

The Rivers

Cascumpec Bay Watershed
Association Inc.

January 2021
Volume 5 Issue 6
By: Nora Harper

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

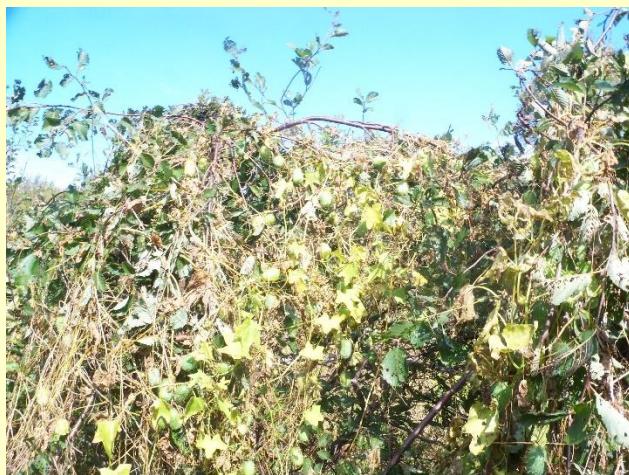
In spite of the threat of Covid-19 and the “New Normal”, CBWA is proud to say we have had a successful season. Our staff attended various training sessions, including First Aid, Tree pruning and Planting, and Tree/Shrub maintenance. It is unfortunate that we were unable to orchestrate our yearly fundraising events, but we would like to showcase the highlights of our season in this special “Year in Review” Newsletter.



Removal of Wild Cucumber Vines

CBWA has successfully removed a dense area of Wild Cucumber Vines from Elmsdale to the Rails to Trails in Huntley, and all along the Oliver road in Huntley. We have devoted close to 400 manhours to this project. Wild cucumber vines are an invasive plant that will do considerable damage to trees, shrubs and undergrowth by blocking sunlight. Wild cucumber spreads very rapidly. We are making progress battling this invasive vine and will closely monitor the growth again next summer with the hope that removal of these vines will be a step closer to eradicating the problem.

For more information please contact
CBWA at 902-856-1200
cascumpecbayWS@hotmail.com



CBWA would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board director - Craig Wallace. We also want to send a sincere thank-you to Christina Blanchard for her years of support as a CBWA director. Thank you to our 2020 staff: Nora, Grace, Aubin, Chett, Faith, Spencer - and to all our dedicated volunteers.

Board Members for 2020/21

- Paul Arsenault (President)
- Gerard Gaudet (Vice-President)
- Rhonda Arsenault (Secretary/Treasurer)
- David Lane
- David Crocker
- Craig Wallace
- Ashton Perry
- Chad Smallman
- Garth Davey

Maintenance at Long Creek

We performed extensive maintenance along Long Creek this season, including alder patch cuts, replanting the riparian zone, and removing blockages. We also installed silt capturing brushmatts. CBWA was quite busy in beaver-management this year.



Beach Clean-Up



We conducted two beach clean-up events this summer - removing truckloads of garbage from the area between Jacques Cartier park and Alberton Harbour - the trash consisted mostly of plastic, styrofoam, and rope. CBWA takes great pride in keeping this beach clean and beautiful.

American Eel Project

CBWA, in partnership with The Abeqweit Conservation Society is conducting research on the American Eel



(population and size) in various locations along the Mill River. CBWA has secured a glass-bottomed boat and a skiff to conduct the research on this project.

Re-stocking Brook Trout

After the unfortunate fish kill in late August, CBWA released 3700 brook trout in 2 locations along the Montrose river. We also released 400 full-grown trout at Profits pond, and 300 trout in the town pond in Alberton.



Tree Planting 2020

This season CBWA planted over 1400 trees and shrubs at various locations throughout our jurisdiction. We planted Spruce, Pine, Oak, Ash, White and Yellow Birch, Bayberries, and Milkweed.



Species at Risk

The Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Act includes provisions for the protection of species at risk and their habitats. Species at risk include plants, animals or other organisms that are considered to be endangered, threatened or of special concern because of sensitivity to human activities or natural events. In support of the PEI Species at Risk, CBWA participated in a Barn Swallow survey and Bank Swallow survey. We also built and placed 8 garbage cans at various public locations within our jurisdiction.

Special Thank You To WCF

CBWA would like to thank the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund. The WCF has helped us on so many important projects - some of which are: the portable winch, the foraging walls, silt trap maintenance, and the purchase of a YSI Water Quality testing meter.

Drone Survey

We have been and will continue to conduct a drone survey over the Hills River, Huntley River, and Montrose River in order to plan future maintenance in these areas. The drone has proven to be an important asset in CBWA identifying problem areas on our watersheds.



YSI Water Quality Testing Meter

CBWA has purchased a YSI Water Quality Testing Meter. This meter will allow us to observe the ph levels, salinity, dissolved oxygen, TDS and alkalinity within our watersheds. It will also allow us to test for e-coli, nitrate levels, aluminum, and sulfate levels - which could be extremely toxic to aquatic life.

Repairs at Matties and Marchbanks

CBWA repaired spillways at both Matties pond and Marchbanks pond by moving rocks and reinforcing areas where erosion was occurring.



Meggison's and Finn's Creek

This season we installed a hanging culvert and fish ladder at both Meggison's creek and Finn's creek. These fish ladders will allow the trout to swim through the culvert and travel upstream.



Cascumpec Bay Watershed Assn. Inc.

Contact John Lane 902-856-1200

cascumpecbayWS@hotmail.com