

waterlines

COVEHEAD-BRACKLEY WATERSHED NEWS

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Enhancement Work Completed 2017

- ◇ Cleared 5 streams from estuaries to springs (60km)
- ◇ Constructed 25 brush mats to collect silt
- ◇ Planted 1000 native trees and shrubs with rabbit protection
- ◇ Tested stream and surface water weekly at 10 locations
- ◇ Canada Day Educational Booth
- ◇ Measured shoreline erosion at 10 worst spots
- ◇ Cleaned Covehead & Brackley Bay shorelines
- ◇ Displayed activities on website and Facebook
- ◇ Monthly fish sampling at 6 sites in Covehead and Brackley Bays (CAMP Program)
- ◇ Cooperated with Farmers on Nutrient Management Planning
- ◇ Measured oxygen and temperatures hourly in Black River estuary
- ◇ Monitored bays and estuaries for anoxic events
- ◇ Constructed 9 rock dams in field drainage ditch
- ◇ Collected sea lettuce for composting
- ◇ Purchased new Nitrate Testing Photometer
- ◇ Replaced alders with native trees and food shrubs
- ◇ Completed annual spring runoff and redd surveys
- ◇ Negotiated with the Province and Winter River Tracadie Bay Watershed Group to acquire new territory in the Dalvay watershed



Summer 2017 crew: Justin Walsh, CJ Misener, Hassaan Abbisi, Chet MacLean



@ Friends of Covehead-Brackley Bays

Visit our Web Page:

www.fcbbwatershed.ca

The Province Needs Your Help Tracking Bat Populations

Bat populations across Eastern North America have experienced drastic declines in the past decade due to the onset of white-nose syndrome. This disease afflicts bats during hibernation, causing them to emerge during the winter months when adequate food resources are unavailable. Until recently, it was thought that the majority of PEI's summer bat population over-wintered in caves and mines in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. However, we now know that abandoned hand-dug wells on PEI are used as hibernacula by relatively small groups of bats. To date we have identified 2 such features, but there may be many more active and important sites that we are currently unaware of. Knowing where these over-wintering sites occur is extremely important for the long term conservation of bats on PEI.

If you are aware of any open wells, in any landscape but especially in or around abandoned homesteads, we ask that you please contact Fish and Wildlife (902-569-7595, ggregory@gov.pe.ca) or your

local watershed coordinator to let us know about it. With your help, we can do our part to ensure that bats remain an integral part of our wildlife



Photo Credit: Nancy Heaslip

Our Photo Contest Is Back!

Eligibility:

- Only amateur photographers may enter the contest.
- The photographers must be residents of the watershed or summer residents of the watershed with a valid civic address.
- The photographs must have been taken in the watershed. This area includes Covehead Road, West Covehead, Stanhope, Union Road, North Milton, Brackley Beach and Brackley Point, Harrington and Winsloe North.

Time Period:

All photos must have been taken within the period from July 1st 2017 to June 30th 2018.

Categories:

Photographs must be designated into one of four categories when submitted, no more than 5 per category.

Wildlife.

The Four Seasons, including landscapes, activities, people.

The Maritime connection, photographs of the water, harbours, rivers, bays, boats etc., *with a special emphasis on the creeks and streams within the watershed.*

Design in Nature, for example a spider web, close-ups of flowers, rock formations, patterns on water, patterns of all types.

Prizes:

Prizes are offered for the winner in each category, senior and junior (18 years and under) as well as two memberships for 2019 offered by the Stanhope Golf and Country Club, one for the best junior entry, and the other for the best adult entry. The golf club membership may be transferred, but cannot be transferred to a person with a current Stanhope Golf and Country Club membership.

For more info on the contest and how to enter please follow the link below.

www.fcbbwatershed.ca/photo-contest/



2016 Photo Contest Winners, & FCBB Board Members

New Area Acquired by FCBB

FCBB has expanded to include part of the Dalvay Watershed from the Dalvay road entrance to the Park then west to Covehead Harbour. (area in green on the attached map).

The eastern part is managed by the Winter River Tracadie Bay Watershed Association. Thus the two neighbour Watershed groups will operate in co-operation with each other and Parks Canada in this area



Remembering Lorne Kielly

Lorne Kielly passed away on Friday 2 June 2017. He was a founding member of the Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays and was our longest serving Director ever from 2001 to 2014.

Lorne's intimate knowledge of local fish, bird and wild-life made him the "go-to" guy for advice on restoration projects involving silt, ponds, wetlands, fish spawning sites, spring releases, etc. He was also a living version of the 1880 Atlas since he knew every property owner and their history. His invariably sunny disposition made it a joy to be with him. Our community will miss him, his legacy is all around us.





Beaver dam in Bell's Creek blocking 15 km of essential spawning habitat

Friends of Covehead-Brackley Bay Inc. (FCBB) is a community-based volunteer organization established in 2000, incorporated in 2001. It was formed by a group of community members concerned with the health and sustainability of the Covehead-Brackley watershed area. Its mandate is to create a watershed area that is healthy: one which nourishes the land and water, one which is sustainable to native flora and fauna, and also balances the interests of residents, including those working in aquaculture, forestry, agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

Harmful Effects of Beaver Colonies

Beavers when located in appropriate locations can provide benefits to watershed health, but when located in upper and middle sections of rivers they can block essential spawning habitat, they can also cause major damage to stream banks and can cause severe flooding to occur. If you have a nuisance beaver colony please contact FCBB.

(Below Left) One year of Beaver stream bank damage



(Below Right) FCBB's corrective measures to repair the damage



Funding Partners 2017

FCBB wish to thank the following funding partners and volunteers without whom very little could be accomplished:

- PEI Department of Environment, Labour & Justice
- Stanhope Golf Course & Country Club
- PEI Department of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Environment Canada Eco-Action
- Hon. Wade MacLauchlan MLA York-Oyster Bed
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Insurance Bureau of Canada
- PEI Jobs For Youth
- PEI Greening Spaces Program
- Parks Canada
- North Shore Community Council
- J Frank Gaudet Provincial Tree Nursery
- Robert Vessey, former MLA & Minister of PEI TIR
- Agriculture & Agri-Foods Canada
- FCBB Board of Directors & volunteers
- PEI Watershed Management Fund
- PEI Employment Development Agency

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