



Upcoming events

- May 26** Our Annual General Meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Corran Ban Hall. Our guest speaker for the evening will be John Jamieson, Executive Director of the PEI Federation of Agriculture, who will discuss "Engaging Farmers, Empowering Watersheds." Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. You can also pick up a sample collection bottle to use for the June 10 nitrate testing event.
- June 6** Let's hike the Winter River Trail. Don't forget your camera! The trail is home to some great areas of Lady's Slipper plants, which we hope to see in bloom. Meet at the trail head (end of the East Suffolk Road) at 10am.
- June 10** Workshop on Nutrient Management for homeowners and aquaculture operators: 7pm at York Community Centre. Learn how you can help prevent problems associated with too much nitrate in the environment, such as techniques for maintenance of your septic system and lawn management. For Aquaculture operators, how does the nutrient loading of our groundwater effect your operations? What is the current situation in Tracadie Bay with the new opening to the bay? We will be offering free nitrate testing of your water. Sample collection bottles are available at our May 26th AGM, any Access PEI location, or by calling 902-314-9293.
- June 13** Let's plant trees in the watershed to make our public spaces more beautiful. Meet us at the Brackley Commons at 10 a.m. to plant native Acadian Forest tree species in the park.
- June 20** Next, let's meet at Grand Tracadie Park at 10 a.m. to more plant trees.
At both planting events, we will be giving away trees to plant in other important areas of the watershed. Major project funding for these two events from the Walmart Evergreen Foundation.
- All Summer** Staff and volunteers will be continuing with our door-to-door campaign to meet our watershed residents.
- TBA** Shoreline cleanup around Tracadie Bay.

Check WinterTracadie.ca and [Facebook.com/WRTBWA](https://www.facebook.com/WRTBWA) for updates and information about more events.

Buffer Zones

Buffer zones slow the flow of water, trapping sediment, organic matter, nutrients and pesticides, which improves water quality.

Waterfront property owners have a duty to maintain the integrity of their buffer zones.

(Ref: Environmental Protection Act - Watercourse and wetland protection regulations)

Planting grass, trees and shrubs (using only hand tools), cutting grass, and pruning trees/shrubs is allowed.

You must create a plan and request a permit for extensive alterations.

Violations of the buffer zone rules can carry a hefty fine for farmers or other landowners.

Planning to expand or improve your buffer zone are? We can help!

More information: WinterTracadie.ca/buffer



Clockwise from top left: our red sandstone cliffs on Tracadie Bay are beautiful (1), but we don't like it when that red soil enters the water (2). To help prevent this, we should all plant more trees (3) and protect existing trees (4).



Left: Most of the crew building bird boxes. Right (top to bottom): main work area; established brush mats along stream; Blue heron at Corran Ban in April.

2014 Field work

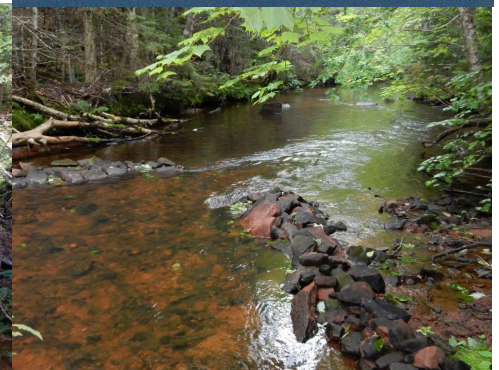
Last summer your watershed staff worked hard to improve the watershed. Their main focus was a 1.6 km section of the lower portion of the main branch of the Winter River. The crew included Derian Vessey, Joe Ready, Janelle Cheverie, Jared Vriends, Carter McQuaid, Steve Bruce, Matt Costain, supervisor Luke Peters, and watershed coordinator Bruce Smith.

Early in the field work season, the crew planted the area along both sides of the river (also called the riparian zone) in a diverse array of native tree and shrub species. We planted 2300 trees and shrubs in total over the summer.

Next, they added fish cover, particularly for brook trout. They added a variety of wooden structures (e.g. slab cover logs, cover rafts), conifer trees, repositioned debris blockages, flipped boulders, and created rock piles. They also added rock features to enhance fish spawning in some areas, and brushmats to collect silt from the river.

They also conducted tree surveys, hosted elementary school field trips, participated in shoreline garbage clean ups, and began a door-to-door information campaign throughout the watershed.

More detailed information is available at WinterTracadie.ca/field-work



Left: Artificial fish spawning beds. Centre: Work crew taking a break to pose. Right: Rock weir to create deeper pools for fish.

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW)

Proper storage, use, and disposal of hazardous material is important for the health of the watershed. Improper handling may cause these materials to enter the river or groundwater, potentially causing problems for your neighbors (including human, animal, and plant neighbors). Look for these symbols:



Flammable



Corrosive



Reactive
(Explosive)



Toxic

Examples of HHW:

- acetone
- ant/wasp spray
- barbecue starters
- antifreeze
- car waxes & polishes
- glues
- hair colouring
- aerosol hair spray
- lye
- nail polish remover
- paint thinners
- rechargeable batteries
- shoe polish
- pool chemicals
- weed killers
- windshield washer solution

Hazardous Cleaners :

- abrasive cleaners
- aerosol air fresheners,
- all purpose cleaners
- ammonia, bleach,
- disinfectants
- drain cleaners
- fabric softeners
- glass cleaners
- laundry stain removers
- mildew removers
- oven cleaners
- upholstery cleaners
- toilet cleaners
- tub and tile cleaner

HHW is accepted free of charge at any household hazardous waste depot located at Waste Watch Drop-off Centers across PEI. The closest to our watershed is Green Isle in Charlottetown, at 8 Superior Crescent.

Have a business? Businesses must make arrangements with a hazardous waste carrier, because their hazardous waste is **not accepted** at IWMC disposal sites.

For more information go to WinterTracadie.ca/HHW

Blue Dot

The campaign for Environmental Rights is active on PEI. A local group of citizens has organized to help bring voice to Islanders' desire for the right to a healthy environment. **Blue Dot PEI** is aimed at:

- 1) encouraging local municipalities to declare the right to a healthy environment;
- 2) having provincial legislators adopt an Environmental Bill of Rights; and
- 3) ultimately, the right to a healthy environment in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

For more information, go to www.bluedotpei.com or the Blue Dot PEI Facebook page.



Throwback photo: The Peter Hughes family of Corran Ban harvesting ice from Winter River in the early 1950s.

The ice was being packed in layers in the ice house, using sawdust as insulation. This ice was mainly used the next fall for transporting smelts by train to Boston.

Water Conservation

Most things in life that we think we "need" are really just "wants". But we can't live without water. When there is a shortage of freshwater, people realize how precious it is.

We often discuss the issue of water use by Charlottetown because City water use has a bigger impact on the quality and quantity of water in our watershed than water use by local residents. Especially because municipal water does not return to the watershed. We encourage all users of the watershed, municipal or rural, to use water wisely.

Want to make a difference but don't have much time? Install a low flow shower head. It is quick, easy, and if you attend our AGM—free! We still have some shower heads to give away to Charlottetown or watershed residents.

Want to do more? Enter our draw for a Home Hardware gift certificate towards a new low flow toilet. Email info@wintertracadie.ca telling us:

- A) 3 things you have done to reduce your household water use, or
- B) 5 ideas you have to help people or businesses conserve water.

More information, including some of our favorite tips, is available at WinterTracadie.ca/water-conservation

Contact Us

info@WinterTracadie.ca

www.WinterTracadie.ca/contact

Facebook.com/WRTBWA

(902) 314-9293

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Watershed Coordinator

Our long time watershed coordinator Bruce Smith has decided to retire from his position with our group, and slow down—just a little!

You might still see Bruce around the watershed as a volunteer when he is not vacationing with his wife. Thank-you for your dedication and service to the watershed, Bruce!

Welcome to Sarah Wheatley who will be taking over the role. Sarah is a long time board member, and a resident of Suffolk.

Become a supporter

The more supporters on our list, the stronger our group will be and the more seriously we will be seen. Just send us your information using this handy link: WinterTracadie.ca/Support

We will also keep you informed about fun events, group updates, and what we are working on in the field.



Flowers in the field (left to right): Wood sorrel, Water lily, Blue Flag Iris, Lady's slipper, Buttercup, Virginia Rose.



- Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program
- EcoAction
- Canada Summer Jobs



- Greening Spaces Program
- Jobs for Youth
- Special Projects Program
- Wildlife Conservation Fund

We would like to thank our funding partners for their support of our work in 2014.

