



Sightings of invasive goldfish in P.E.I. pond spark worries they're breeding there Summary of article published by Sheehan Desjardins · CBC News , May 29, 2025

In the Hardy Mill Pond in Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.), there are concerns about the growing population of invasive goldfish. These fish can grow quite large, up to nearly a kilogram, and reproduce quickly.

In 2021, volunteers removed hundreds of goldfish from the pond. Still, recent reports indicate the population is rebounding, with sightings of schools of these brightly coloured fish. This increase raises alarms because goldfish are invasive species that threaten the local ecosystem.



Raena Parent says the watershed group has been worried about Hardy's Pond for a few years. 'The goldfish being here, it's not helping at all.' (Ken Linton/CBC News)

Goldfish thrive in calm freshwater bodies like Hardy Mill Pond, and their presence can be harmful. They are bottom feeders that eat vegetation, other fish, eggs, and insects, which disturbs the natural balance. Their feeding behaviour stirs up silt from the pond's bottom, reducing water clarity and inhibiting plant growth. This, in turn, affects other wildlife that depends on healthy aquatic plants and clean water. Despite previous efforts to dredge the pond, the remaining silt continues to be an issue.

Many of these goldfish are believed to have originated from pet owners who either released their fish into the pond or nearby streams when they could no longer care for them. This practice is problematic because once released, goldfish can survive and reproduce prolifically, making them difficult to control or remove. Experts strongly advise against releasing these unwanted pets into the wild. Instead, if someone no longer wants their goldfish, the recommended options are to rehome the fish or humanely euthanize them.

Fortunately, current assessments show the goldfish are mostly confined to Hardy Mill Pond and haven't spread to nearby waterways like the Winter River, which is home to some of P.E.I.'s best trout fishing. The Winter River - Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA) and the provincial Department of Forests, Fish and Wildlife are working together to continue monitoring the situation closely and exploring management options to control the population.

The situation outlines the importance of preventing invasive species from disrupting natural ecosystems. By taking precautions and making informed choices, residents can help protect P.E.I.'s waterways and native wildlife from the impacts of invasive goldfish.

The original CBC News story can be found at:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-gold-fish-hardys-pond-1.7545924>

You can donate to support our work at:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/winter-river-tracadie-bay-watershed-association-inc/>

Collaborating With Other Groups

This summer, we had the chance to support several local organizations with their important projects, and we were also fortunate to receive support for some of the projects we've been working on throughout the field season!

Our crew helped the PEI Invasive Species Council with a new method of surveying, the Ellens Creek Watershed Group remove bittersweet nightshade from a pond within their watershed, and the Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group with tarping off a large Japanese Knotweed Removal site. We also contributed to Water School programming led by the City of Charlottetown and the Town of Stratford, and joined the Island Nature Trust for a Bioblitz, helping take inventory of the biodiversity at their newest property.

We were especially grateful for the support of the staff from the Forest Fish & Wildlife Division, who worked with us on tree swallow monitoring and banding, and also included our staff in electrofishing at Hardy Mill Pond to track the population of invasive goldfish. Their expertise and collaboration added value to our monitoring efforts, and we look forward to continuing this partnership.

Lending a hand not only strengthens relationships but also gives our staff valuable opportunities to learn new skills and contribute to the broader watershed community across the island. As we move into the fall, we look forward to carrying on these collaborations and exploring new ways to support each other's work!

Thank You to Our Staff of 2024-25

Field Crew: Nik N., Em W., Cole M., Will I.,
Jehaan C., Pooja K., & Jess D.

Watershed Coordinator: Raena P.



From left to right (starting with top row): staff members Nik N., Em W., Raena P., Jess D. Bottom row: Cole M., Pooja K., and Will I. Missing from the photo is Jehaan C.

Take a look at our scorecard below to see everything they accomplished last year!



WINTER RIVER - TRACADIE BAY
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Watershed Management Plan: 2024-25 Fiscal Year Scorecard

	LAND			WETLANDS/RIVERS			WATER QUANTITY			COMMUNITY		
Activities	Improve			Improve/protect			Reduce			❖ Increase watershed knowledge		
	❖ Buffer zones			❖ Surface water quality			❖ Water extraction			➢ Youth field trips		
Objectives	❖ Forest management			➢ Brush mats, blockage removal			➢ Increase water conservation			➢ Senior's College		
	➢ Planting, patch cuts, thinning, seed collection/monitoring			❖ Groundwater quality			➢ Track Charlottetown pumping data			➢ Watershed workshop at schools		
❖	❖ Post Fiona cleanup continued			❖ Bay, estuary & freshwater ecosystems			Increase			➢ Social media posts, newsletters, etc.		
	❖ Watershed health indicators			➢ Fishing line only garbage disposal			❖ Public policy influence			❖ Outdoor activities that promote watershed		
Metrics	➢ Soil health testing			➢ Estuary watch			➢ Gov of PEI, City of Charlottetown			➢ Lady's Slipper hike		
	❖ Wildlife habitat			❖ Habitat connectivity			❖ Groundwater infiltration			➢ Birds of Glenaladale events		
Notes	➢ Brush piles, insect hotels, amphibian boards, bird boxes, bat boxes			➢ Replace/repair culverts			➢ Tree planting			➢ Creating trail at WRTBWA owned land		
	❖ Reduce									➢ Shoreline cleanup event		
	❖ Soil erosion (roads & farms)									➢ Winter hike		
	➢ Survey with watershed farmers											
	❖ Invasive species											
	➢ Glossy Buckthorn & Japanese Knotweed											
	Goal		Done	Goal		Done	Goal		Done	Goal		Done
	Trees planted	3,600	3,684	Brush mats built	6	7	Meetings with Government	2	2	Events hosted	4	5
	Brush piles	13	15	River enhanced (km)	8	5.66	Sites monitored	14	11	Media articles	2	2
	Total area improved (ha)	20	20.59	Waste collected (kg)	500	700	Charlottetown Water Extraction vs PEI Gov policy Using loose recommendations. % by wellfield (100% meets policy) 2023 calendar year > Suffolk very low, Brackley too high	M: 90 S: 60 U: 100 B: 100	125 96 132 142	Social media posts	50	58
	Invasive species removed (kg)	150	260	Stream Assessed (km)	20	20.43				Volunteer hours	75	382
	Wildlife habitat structures	12	45	Estuary Watch surveys	6	3				Youth involvement hours	25	155
	Rain & pollinator gardens	3	3	Fishing line only disposal	5	5						
	Last updated: 2025-03-10											
	Goal achieved Goal not achieved											
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Thank You Staff of 2025-26!



Jehaan C.

Jehaan returned for his second field season as a restoration technician with WRTBWA. This fall, he is entering his final year in the Environmental Studies Program at UPEI.



Cole M.

Cole acted as a field supervisor and lead chainsaw operator this summer. It was his third year with WRTBWA. He holds a Bachelor of Science from UPEI.



Nik N.

Nik worked as a restoration technician this summer, completing his second field season with WRTBWA. This fall, he is entering his first year in the Welding Program at Holland College.



Raena P.

This is Raena's sixth year with WRTBWA and her third field season as Watershed Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Environmental Studies from UPEI.



Maddy J.

Maddy joined us for her first season as a restoration technician. She will be entering her second year in the Wildlife Conservation Technology Program at Holland College this fall.



Shane M.

Shane worked as assistant field supervisor and chainsaw operator this summer, which was his first season with WRTBWA. He is entering his second year in the Wildlife Conservation Technology Program at Holland College this fall.



Alexa M.

Alexa served as Project Manager this season, her first with WRTBWA. She has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from UPEI.

Upcoming Event

Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place at the Glenaladale School House (257 Blooming Point Rd) on **Wednesday, October 22nd at 7pm**. The agenda features a presentation by guest speaker Bob Harding, who will be presenting on PEI's dragonflies and damselflies, drawing on over 30 years of experience as a lifelong naturalist. Bob is Parks Canada's Public Education Outreach Officer on PEI and an active member of Nature PEI.

Contact Us

Mail PO Box 87, York, PE , C0A 1P0
Office 13977 St Peters Rd, Marshfield
Phone 782-377-8806
Email info@WinterTracadie.ca

Web WinterTracadie.ca
Facebook Facebook.com/WRTBWA
Instagram instagram.com/wrtbwa

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WINTER RIVER - TRACADIE BAY
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 87, York PE C0A 1P0

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our Board of Directors.

To inquire, see contact information below.

We would like to thank our funding partners
for their support of our work in 2024.

Canada

- Employment and Social Development Canada: Canada Summer Jobs
- Environment and Climate Change Canada: EcoAction Community Funding Program
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Youth Employment and Skills Program



- Skills PEI: Post Secondary Program
- Watershed Management Fund



City of Charlottetown: Water & Sewer Utility



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

