



RIPARIAN READS

Newsletter of the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee

FALL 2020



Manager's Message

Brook trout are getting ready to spawn on the Kennebecasis, provided they can find enough water. That means fall has arrived and our field season is starting to wind down and our summer students have returned to school. We want to wish those youth much success in their schooling and future endeavours. Without the help of students, the KWRC would be hard pressed to complete many of the projects we have.

In 2020, Megan Snider worked as our Education Outreach Assistant. She effectively and creatively brought you our “Weekly Watershed Walk” videos. Connor McAlary worked as our Restoration Technician and always came to work with a smile. These students - like the more than 100 students before them - were valuable assets to our project team this year. At the KWRC we firmly believe that one of our roles in the community is to

provide meaningful and rewarding summer employment to youth in our watershed. This work helps develop the skills and experience required to allow the students to find a long term career in the future. It also provides them with insight as to how a healthy watershed should look and they will become the leaders in tomorrow's efforts to conserve and maintain our watershed resources.

We can't truly thank the students without also acknowledging the funding partners who help us support their development. Partners like Canada Summer Jobs, the NB Student Employment Experience Development program, and the Clean Foundation provided us with support to offer 2 student and 3 intern positions through 2020. These jobs have helped us monitor and restore the Kennebecasis River and educate the public. When we have common goals, we can readily work together to make a big difference in our ecological and economic sustainability. Thanks to our students and partners we are continuing to take strides in keeping a healthy waterway. See you on the water!

~ Ben Whalen, KWRC Project Manager

UPCOMING KWRC WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Saturday, Sept 26 – Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
(9:30am-12pm, Burton Park, Sussex NB)

Saturday, Oct. 17– Tree planting event
(9-11am, berm behind Gateway Mall, Sussex NB)

Monitoring invasive Eurasian Water-milfoil and Cyanobacteria

In recent years, the Kennebecasis river has undergone big changes. With the discovery of Eurasian Water-milfoil within the river and the potential presence of cyanobacteria, recreational users of the river must proceed with more caution than ever before. Eurasian Water-milfoil and cyanobacteria present different threats and impacts to our watershed, but nonetheless are equally important to mitigate.

Eurasian Water-milfoil is an invasive aquatic species that is native to Europe, Asia and Northern Africa, and first arrived in Canada in 1961. Since then, this invasive species can be found in many lakes and rivers across the country. The impacts of Eurasian Water-milfoil can be detrimental to the health of our aquatic ecosystem. This invasive plant species out-competes our native vegetation, reduces oxygen levels in the water, creates stagnant water, and can impede recreational activities like swimming, boating and fishing due to the thick mats that form. To learn how to identify and mitigate these impacts please visit [New Brunswick's Invasive Species Council's website:https://www.nbinvasives.ca/species-info](https://www.nbinvasives.ca/species-info)



Our team found many established sites of eurasian water-milfoil and floating fragments like the one above in Darlings Lake, just below Hampton



A surface bloom of cyanobacteria. Sourced from ACAP website

Another upcoming problem is cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria has been around for billions of years and its presence is a natural occurrence in our rivers and lakes. However, when the conditions are right (light, temperature, flow and nutrients) populations of cyanobacteria can grow very quickly and become toxic. The impacts of toxic cyanobacteria can cause harm to animals and humans through contact of the toxins on your skin, and the most frequent and serious health issues are imposed by the ingestion of contaminated water. For more information on cyanobacteria please visit ACAP's Website <http://www.acapsj.org/cyano>

It is important to be educated on both of these topics. Knowing the locations of where there may be a presence of cyanobacteria or Eurasian Water-milfoil can mitigate the impacts they cause and keep our watersheds healthy. The KWRC wants to keep both the river and river users safe.

~Lezley McAlister, Monitoring Coordinator

“Weekly Watershed Walk” and “Youth Angling” Video Series

The spring and summer months are when we host a lot of our KWRC events and workshops. Unfortunately, the uncertainty of COVID put a wrench in many of our education outreach plans this year. As a result, we had to get creative in finding new ways to deliver some of our programming from a distance. Two of our big initiatives were to develop a “Weekly Watershed Walk” and a “Youth Angling” video series.

Our “Weekly Watershed Walk” videos are created and shared weekly through our [Facebook](#) page and also uploaded to a playlist on our Kennebecasis River Watershed [YouTube](#) channel. These videos offer a variety of content that brings attention to unique places in the watershed, some of the challenges and issues that compromise the health of the watershed, and the work the KWRC does to mitigate it. The videos are short (2-5 minutes), educational, and fun to watch!



Our “Youth Angling” Video Series was developed as an alternative to our annual summer [Youth Angling Day Camps](#). Designed for kids aged 7+, these videos focus on the sport of bait fishing within our watershed and cover many topics including safety on the river, fishing technique, fish of the Kennebecasis watershed, identifying and protecting fish habitat and more!



Just like our day camp, the videos teach you how to set up your rod and cast so you can catch the big one! We have also created work sheets to go along with these videos to reinforce the information. These videos, along with a link to the worksheets will be available on our Youtube channel: [Kennebecasis River Watershed](#), in the Winter/Spring of 2021 – just in time for fishing season! Even though we can’t be there in person- we hope to educate our young anglers to make sure they feel comfortable on the water and get “hooked” on this fun sport!

~ Sarah Glinz and Meg Snider
Education Outreach Team

Using restoration techniques to improve watershed health

Damage to riparian zones opens the door to severe stream bank erosion, which impacts the watercourse at the site and often more significantly downstream. The KWRC has a long history of working with landowners to restore degraded streambanks using a variety of techniques that are best suited to the issues at the site and the dynamics of the waterway. One of the most successful and cost effective techniques we have used is bioengineering, which uses living materials and ecologically designed concepts to restore or enhance a degraded section of stream or a riparian zone.



If you have a degraded/eroding streambank on your property, please get in touch with the KWRC (contact details below) and we can come look at it and potentially help you restore it. Depending on the severity of the site and its impacts on the waterway, we may be able to develop a project where we can source funding to cover most of the expenses and also oversee the project to make sure the work is done properly as well.

If you would like to learn more about bioengineering and our restoration efforts in the watershed, please check out the [Restoration](#) page on our website: kennebecasisriver.org and check our September 9, 2020 Weekly Watershed Walk video on a [bioengineering project](#) from this summer on our YouTube channel: Kennebecasis River Watershed.

~ Sarah Glinz, Education Outreach Coordinator

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