



RIPARIAN READS

Newsletter of the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee

Spring 2021



Bohemian Waxwing photographed by Robert Shortall

Manager's Message

The past 12 months have been challenging for many people and most of us are looking forward to this spring like no other before it. With the pandemic appearing to be under control, sunshine and warm temperatures on the rise, and the crocus starting to bloom, everyone is excited for what this spring will bring. Here at the KWRC we are excited too. We sat down a few weeks ago and developed our 2021 motto and are excited to work with our partners to #protectandconnect.

This motto will guide a great deal of our work in 2021 as we strive to protect people, habitats, and wildlife while we connect them all together. We plan to think a bit outside the box and seek opportunities to connect with local businesses and organizations and provide them opportunities to help with our restoration, education, and monitoring opportunities. We hope to include local businesses in some of our weekly watershed walk videos, and in the process connect those small businesses to our followers and show everyone how they connect to the health of the watershed.

Our projects for 2021 are well into the planning stages. We have site maintenance and follow up to complete on Moosehorn and Passekeag Creeks and we'll begin new work on Trout Creek and Millstream River. If you're a landowner within these two watersheds and have an interest in improving your riparian zone and stream bank health, we encourage you to connect with us. We are seeking landowners who are interested in having trees planted along their river front property to protect the riparian habitats from potential impacts of climate change or flooding.

We are also excited to soon be releasing an online version of our "Youth Angling Day Camp." With the challenges posed by the pandemic last year, the KWRC decided to try to create an online youth angling activity. We will be releasing it for the 2021 recreational fishing season, and youth can complete the various worksheets and receive some great KWRC swag. Participants will become part of the local angling community and be able to connect to others to share your fish stories.

This season will also see the KWRC look at how our lakes connect to the health of the rest of the watershed. Our monitoring team, for the first time, will assess lake health and water quality in our lakes so we are better positioned to protect them in the future. Don't forget to connect with us for lots more. See you on the water!

~ Ben Whalen

Project Manager



Restoration & Habitat Connectivity



The KWRC has been working to restore riparian habitat in the Kennebecasis Watershed since 1994. We now have more than 44 restoration sites in our portfolio and plan to add even more through our 2021 efforts.

There are many benefits associated with restoring riparian zones. Vegetation next to water helps to stabilize streambanks, filter nutrients and sediments, mitigate flooding impacts, decrease water temperatures, and increase habitat connectivity for wildlife. With our 2021 vision being to “Protect & Connect” within the Kennebecasis Watershed, we will be focusing on the importance of habitat connectivity and connecting to the community this year!

Habitat for wildlife can become fragmented in many ways. Activities such as land-clearing and road construction can make it difficult for wildlife to find habitat with the food, shelter, and space they need. The ability for wildlife to disperse and migrate is important during seasonal changes, and breeding and nesting periods; it also increases their resilience in areas of degraded habitat and is becoming increasingly important as the climate changes. Proper riparian setbacks provide vital food and shelter and make it easier for wildlife to travel between habitat patches. For these reasons, riparian zones can act as “corridors” for wildlife, as shown in the image on the next page.

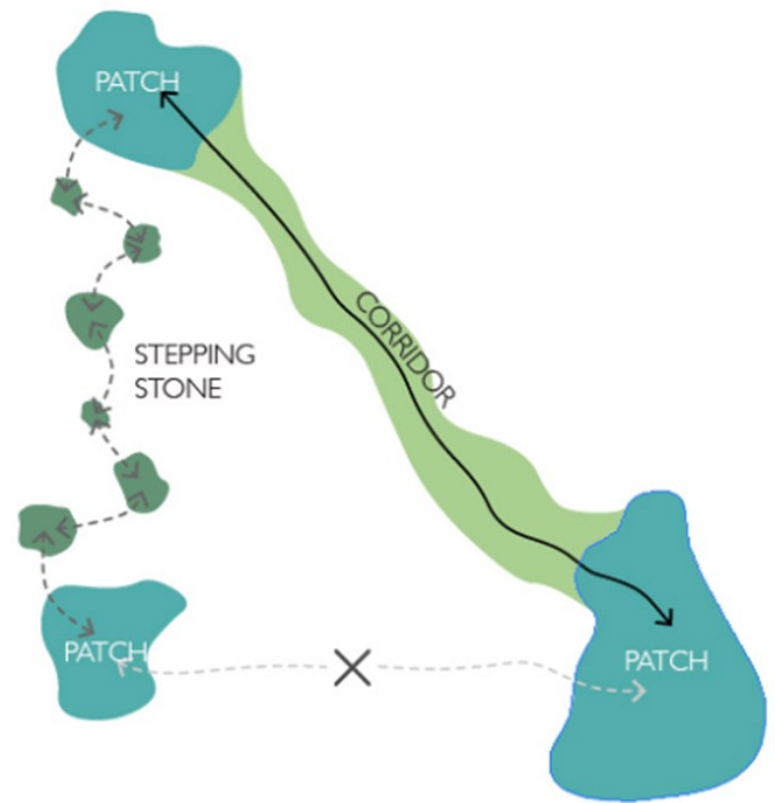


Wood Duck, photographed by Hazel Dean

The KWRC's restoration work is made possible thanks to our wonderful connections within the community! We regularly host public outreach events and partner with different schools and community groups; we are currently working with Sussex Middle School to build duck nest boxes! Additionally, our riparian restoration projects typically take place on private property, meaning our partnerships with landowners are essential for our work to take place.

If you are interested in helping us to protect and connect riparian habitat this year, contact us!

~Rachael Moran



Retrieved from: <https://content.yardmap.org/learn/habitat-connection/>

Monitoring for Spring Floods In New Brunswick

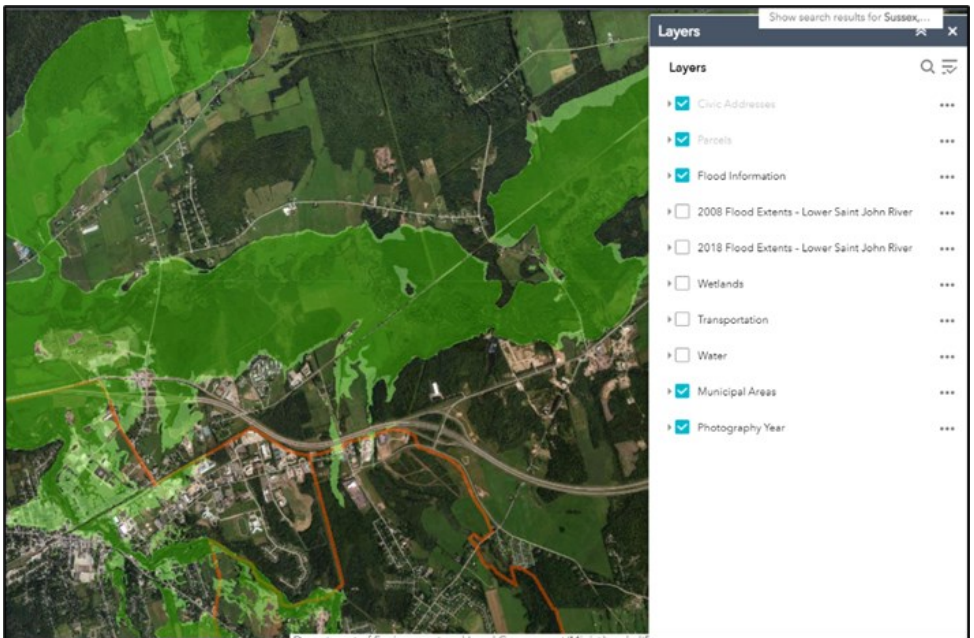


Photo of road damage along Trout Creek after the December 2nd 2020 flooding event in the Sussex area. Some areas in the region received over 100 millimetres of rainfall, resulting in streams flowing over capacity and spilling over banks, onto properties, into houses, over parking lots and roads.

With the arrival of spring and warmer weather, New Brunswick residents often feel concerned over the possibility of flooding in the region. Historically, Sussex is a flood-prone area and affected by major flooding events. The KWRC has partnered with the Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG) to help New Brunswick residents prepare for floods. Through this partnership, the KWRC collects data that helps scientists predict the impacts of flooding for the spring.

During the winter, KWRC staff have been hard at work monitoring snowpack and ice jams in the Kennebecasis watershed. Staff measure depth and the snow water equivalent (SWE) to estimate how much water will run off into rivers as the snow melts. The public can find snow surveys for snow depth and snow water equivalent on the Government of New Brunswick's River Watch website. For river observations, staff observe the Kennebecasis River and other tributaries for ice jams that could also contribute to flooding. DELG receives our notes and will use them to estimate the impacts of flooding for the spring. River observation data is also online for New Brunswickers to view if there are any ice jams occurring near them.

Some residents in Sussex are affected more significantly than others. Due to proximity to the river and elevation, specific properties may be at greater risk of flooding. The GeoNB website enables users to identify where flooding will occur in their community. The “Flood Information” highlighted in green shows neighborhoods at risk during high water or flooding events. By providing the public with this data and information, residents can better prepare for flooding events in the spring. If you want to learn more about what you can do to prepare for a flood, check out our flooding preparedness video on our YouTube channel!



~Ashton Howe

Mapping & Data
Technician

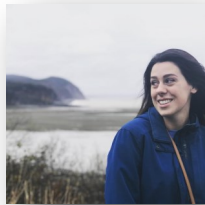


Photo of a map available on the GeoNB website which highlights flood prone areas. Visit <http://www.snb.ca/geonb1/> and click GeoNB Map Viewer to access the map and map layers.

Youth Angling Day Camp Series



We are excited to announce that our Youth Angling Day Camp series will be available this April on our website! This series is designed for kids aged 7+, focusing on the sport of bait fishing within our watershed. This series covers many topics including safety on the river, fishing technique, fish of the Kennebecasis watershed, identifying and protecting fish habitat and more! Best of all, if you watch all the videos and complete the accompanying worksheets, we will hook you up with a free FREE KWRC crewneck sweater!

Visit kennebecasisriver.org to get started today!



Your free crewneck reads “I caught a big one on the Kennebecasis... and I let it go!” to celebrate catch and release fishing

Lake Monitoring

Lakes are a unique ecosystem and can be defined as a very slow-moving body of open water which occupies a land depression. Healthy lakes provide many environmental benefits such as easing the impacts of flooding, replenishing groundwater, improving water quality of downstream water-courses and enhancing biodiversity and overall habitat of the area. Lakes are also very important in preserving wildlife. They serve as migration stops and breeding grounds for many birds, and provide homes to many species of plants, fish, and semi-aquatic animals.

Since lakes provide so many environmental benefits, the KWRC plans to expand our monitoring programs to various lakes within the watershed. This monitoring program will assess the health of the lakes and determine which areas are prone to eutrophication. Eutrophication is when a lake has excess nutrients that cause large algal blooms. Algal blooms can cause a depletion in oxygen levels, change the pH of the water and make the lake inhabitable for most species.

By monitoring the oxygen levels, pH, temperature and nutrients in the water, we will gain a better understanding of the water quality issues that our lakes are facing. We can utilize this data to create different management strategies to protect these water bodies and enhance our watershed as a whole!

~Lezley McAllister

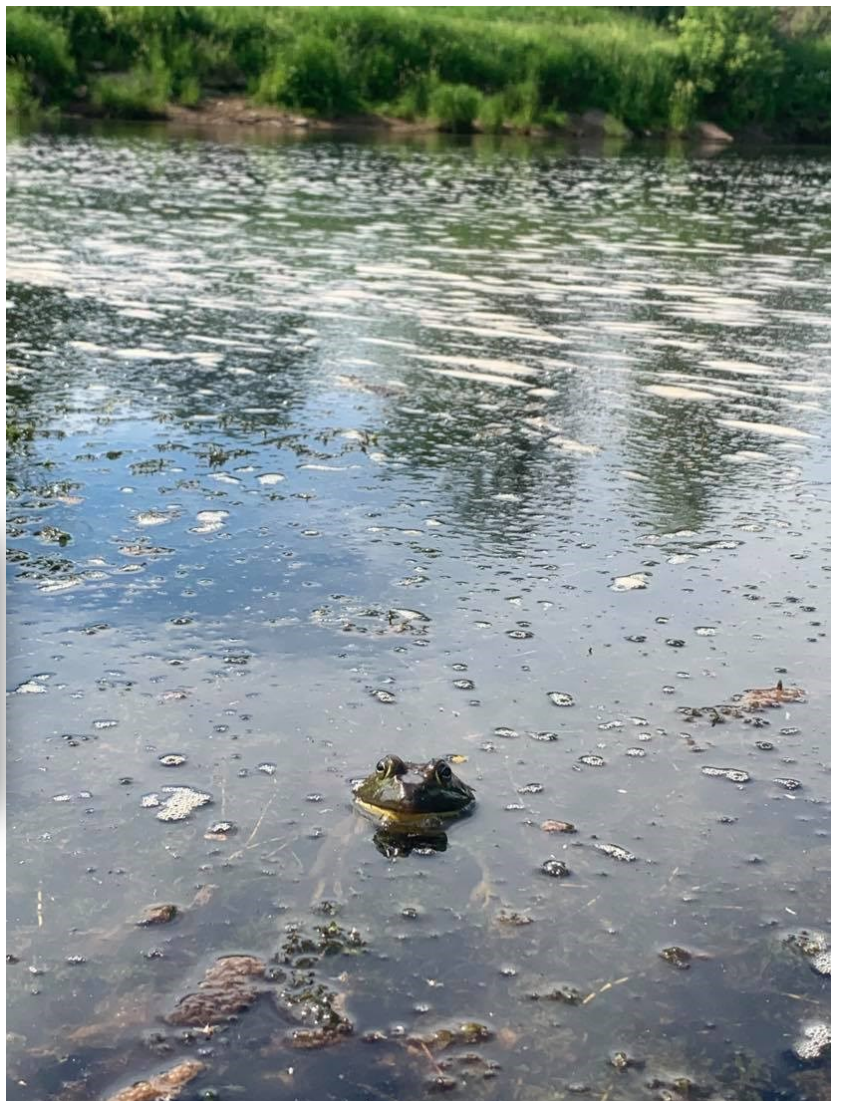
Monitoring Coordinator



A green frog relaxing in our watershed. Our waterways provide habitat for a variety of species, which is why it is so important to monitor our watershed to ensure these habitats stay protected and connected.



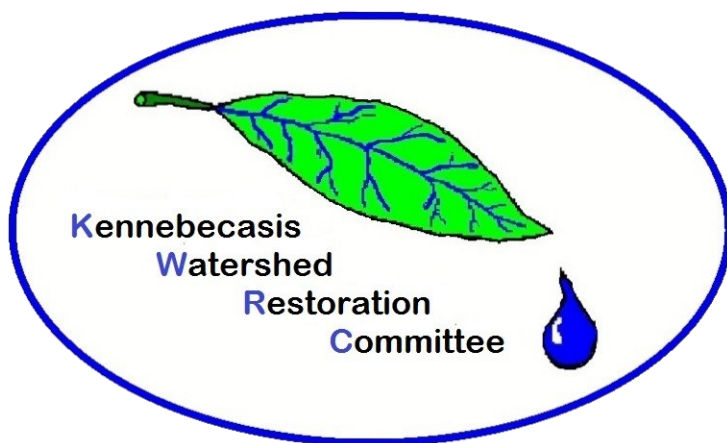
A photo at Darlings lake during our invasive species float. The KWRC and a team of volunteers carefully inspected this area for Eurasian Water Milfoil, and invasive aquatic plant.



Thank You



American Wigeon, photographed by Shawn Chapman



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Thank you to members of the Birding NB Oiseau NB Facebook group who generously provided us with wildlife photos featured in this newsletter.



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