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And much, much more!

From the Family Herald cover of July 17, 1961, this photo captured a log sawing competition at the Stillwater Sportsman's Meet. The St. Mary's Fish & Game Association organized the annual event, the first being held at the Sherbrooke wharf in 1944.

The photo is from Bruce & Ruby Weir's collection and shows Bruce on the left handle of the saw. Judge Robert Anderson is standing on the right, and Dan MacIntosh Sr. is at the left wearing a light colored hat and standing in the crowd of spectators.

The St. Mary's River Association

The St. Mary's River Association is a charitable, nonprofit organization providing leadership and engaging partners to enhance, protect and promote the St. Mary's River as a healthy ecosystem for Atlantic salmon and other native animal and plant species as well as a rich community resource.

Our vision is "Health for the river, the Atlantic salmon, and our community."

"SMRA NEWS" is a publication of the St. Mary's River Association as a service to our members.

Editor: Brenda Carpan

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the St. Mary's River Association, the editor, or the publisher.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rivers, like life, have their ups and downs but in the end they keep going. The SMRA over the years has accomplished much, even though it often feels like three steps forward and two steps back. The original reason for our river association was protection of the watershed to provide for a continued strong salmon run. Despite our efforts, in the last 20 years, we have seen a marked decline in salmon returns. Then, encouragingly, last season salmon returned in numbers at their appointed time to a river with excellent water levels through June and July. References to the river being "like the good old days" were often spoken by river veterans.

Have we turned a corner where results from buy-outs of commercial salmon licenses have shown increasing river returns? There are many factors which appear to be beyond our reach and influence like global warming, industrial pollution, acid rain, high seas by-catches. We can still comment on these and lobby those that can impact those issues.

There are ways of acting locally to mitigate our negative impact on our watershed and our community. Each one of us must create efficiency in our lives to reduce energy consumption, reduce what we needlessly throw away and what we deposit on the land and in the water. A lot of small actions add up to a significant impact over time.

We who live in and care about the St. Mary's watershed must do what we can to make the watershed the best it can be for both the humans and nature which inhabit it. For salmon, it means a habitat which provides long-term sustainability through quality water at sufficient levels delivering sufficient opportunities for food, shelter and procreation. When the river is healthy the watershed is healthy.

Many positive steps forward have been realized by the association in the last year. Some of these highlights are:

West Branch

The Adopt-A-Stream habitat restoration project on Archibald/Glencross Brook greatly improved the opportunities for spawning and rearing of salmonids. Remember the Habitat \$5.00 fee paid with your fishing license helped fund this program.

The habitat restoration plan for the West Branch is nearing completion and will be presented to the membership this year at the annual meeting. A couple of test structures are planned for installation this year in an effort to re-establish the thalweg (main current flow) where the stream is over-widened.

Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Last July the family of Sandy Cameron donated 95 acres of river-front land in the Crows Nest/Glenelg area to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. This was a very successful start to their St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Program. The SMRA is partnering with the NSNT to identify ecologically important properties and to aid in their acquisition and ongoing stewardship.

Hook and Release Angling Season

Good water levels and salmon returning in numbers not seen in decades energized the St. Mary's community from mid-June to mid-July. Hopefully this will be repeated in 2007.

Fundraising Dinner

A very successful buffet dinner and auction took place in October at the Greenway Claymore Inn in Antigonish. The event, organized by Gerry Doucet, Terry MacIntyre, Joanne Mailman and Flo Duffy raised almost \$8,000, split between SMRA and the NS Salmon Association.

Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund

In November 2006, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced a \$30 million endowment fund which would benefit Atlantic Salmon populations in the four Atlantic Provinces and Quebec. Interest earned by the fund will be used for habitat restoration, education, research and conservation programs, all aimed at creating sustainable wild salmon populations.

George Eddy Company Lands

The Province of Nova Scotia recently announced it had acquired 442 hectares (1,092 acres) of the George Eddy Co. Ltd lands located on the St. Mary's River. These lands will be added to the province's inventory of Crown Lands. The stated aim is to protect and preserve inland waterways and wildlife habitat to provide recreational and environmental benefits for today and into the future. A majority of the property is located along the West Branch and includes approximately three kilometers of river frontage.

Lotto

The annual SMRA lotto continues to be a win/win for both those supporters who buy tickets and your Association. The lotto pays out \$6,000 to our winners throughout the year and puts \$6,000 in the SMRA bank account. This year we tweaked the format a little and created a large prize for our December draw. The lucky winner was George Archibald who promptly donated \$1,000 back to the Association. *George has challenged our members to step up and match his donation.*

Watershed Project

Although we have not fully launched this project, important aspects of its original plan are still being accomplished, like the West River Project and protection of lands with NSNT. Last fall we felt we had found the perfect vehicle to move the project forward. The St. Mary's River Watershed Project formed part of an application for funding under the Forest Communities Program submitted by Nova Forest Alliance to the Cana-

dian Forest Service. The Forest Communities Program replaces the Model Forests Program which had funded the Nova Forest Alliance and all their valuable work for the last nine years. The proposal deadline was Oct 31, 2006, with announcement of those selected by December 31, 2006. The St. Mary's River project was one of four components of the Nova Forest Alliance project. The terms of reference for the Forest Communities Program meshed exactly with the goals of the watershed project.

The problem is that the proposals have been received and evaluated with no announcement of successful proponents as of April 30, 2007. Funding under the old program ran out March 31, 2007 with no firm commitment beyond that date. A tremendous effort was put forth by Nova Forest Alliance and by the many groups applying for funding to the program. It is very disconcerting for all involved awaiting decisions which affect the livelihood of their staff and future of their long-established organizations that the government agency controlling their destiny appears to have no regard for them.

This is a very short synopsis to a very long story. But... if you have occasion to speak to an elected Federal official you could mention it.

To end on a positive note, I would like to congratulate three of our directors (our 3 star selection) who have been recognized for their excellent work.

George Archibald-recipient of the \$100,000 Indianapolis Prize, an initiative of the Indianapolis Zoo and the largest international monetary award given to an individual for conservation of an animal species.

Mark Pulsifer-recipient of 2006 Nova Scotia Nature Trust Conservation Award.

Bill Carpan-chosen as designer and

tyer of the official Nova Scotia fishing fly by NS Federation of Anglers And Hunters.

Finally, I would like to thank the dedicated core of volunteers I have come to know who love the St. Mary's and do so much for the river and the community. Thank you for making our St. Mary's better.



Dale Archibald, President



President Dale Archibald & past president Murray Anderson hold original watercolor "St. Mary's River, Archibalds Brook" donated by renowned artist Henry E. McDaniel. Henry is now 100 years old.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting of the St. Mary's River Association will be held on **Sunday, May 27th, 2007, 2 pm**, at the Association's Education & Interpretive Center, 8404 Hwy 7, Sherbrooke, NS.

Items on the agenda are:

Guest Speaker
Annual Reports
Financial Report
Review of Past Year
Election of Officers & Directors
Plans for the coming year

All paid up members are eligible to vote at the meeting. Memberships will be available for those wishing to join the association.

Editorial

The cover photo was chosen because of the historical value of life on the river.

The first Sportmen's Meet was held in 1944. It was sponsored by the St. Mary's Fish & Game Association. The first meet was held at the wharf in Sherbrooke. The following year the Meet was moved up to Stillwater to the Sportmen's Meet Grounds, where it was held annually for several years. When it began Dr. Sliver was president of the Fish & Game Association, and Mr. Alex Cameron was secretary.

Events at the Sportmen's Meet were: Fly casting; Log rolling; wood sawing; canoe races; kettle boil; greasy pole.

The log roll, wood sawing, kettle boil and greasy pole were skills a great woodsmen achieved in order to survive long days in the lumber industry.

Logs were cut and then sent to the river where they were held in "booms". When conditions were right the booms were released and thousands of logs crashed down the river system to awaiting sawmills for processing. A huge rock below the Camp at Cumminger's Pool has three holes drilled in it to anchor a log boom. As these logs traveled the river system they contributed to the transformation of the river. Today we at the St. Mary's River Association are diligently working to improve the river system as you will read about in articles contained within.

In trust, may we all enjoy fly casting and canoeing.

Brenda Carpan



Strachan Donnelley fishing the Foot Bridge Pool, West Branch, St. Mary's River

Education and Interpretive Centre News—Joanne Mailman

As I sit by my window and look out at the beautiful St. Mary's River, it's hard to believe it's the middle of January. In my recent memory, by this time the river was frozen over and my kids anxious to skate in front of the house. Today, with the mild winter we have been having, they would be disappointed.

This past summer season was the busiest we have had here at the Centre. Our summer students this year were Duncan Gallant and Mandy Mac Laughlin.

The season began with a bird talk at the Centre by Dr. Hardy Eshbaugh. The turnout was fantastic and Duncan recorded the presentation with our camcorder bought with a Nova Scotia Power Corporation donation. Next we partnered with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for the late Sandy Cameron land dedication. A community BBQ was held at the Duffy residence in Waternish and was hosted by Barb and Hardy Eshbaugh. We were also privileged to have George Archibald do a summer bird walk with a group of enthusiastic birders around the "loop". He was also able to visit at Christmas, where he and 48 other hardy souls ventured the cold for a lovely bird tour. They started at the Duffy residence, had a delicious lunch here at the Centre and continued on to Wine Harbour/Sonora. It was a successful if somewhat cold day.

Again this year we hosted a Magic on the River day camp for local kids. We had a daylong schedule of events and want to thank everyone who took part. We look forward to it every year. There is an article further on in this newsletter. Mark Pulsifer and his "turtle kids" were around and had a very successful season. Our restoration project at Glencross Brook saw 800 meters of tributary restored. Thanks to the fine efforts of our crew and volunteers. In October, SMRA and NSSA organized another banquet, live and silent auction at the Claymore Inn in Antigonish. The funds raised were divided between the Acid Rain Project on the West River in Sheet Harbour and our own St. Mary's River Institute Project. The event was again a great success.

Once again, I want to thank all our volunteers for their on going support of the Centre and all our activities. We are looking forward to another busy summer here

and hope you'll drop in to see us. Our season begins on June 1st but I'll be here week days after April 1st. To all our members, we look forward to seeing you this summer.



Summer in Review by Duncan Gallant

Well, the summer has come to another warm end. As I get ready to leave, the Centre looks ready to handle another summer's worth of interested tourists. I've just mowed the grass and finished up a little painting, hoping that the outside will be as appealing as the inside.

I've lost count of the tourists that come in only looking for a bathroom or directions and have ended up staying a good twenty minutes to explore this stumbled upon educational experience. I've been told many times how beautiful the inside of this fairly new Centre is and how well its exhibits have been put together. I can't take any credit for much of it, if any. The manager here, Joanne Mailman, has done an excellent job of portraying a balance of history, scientific facts, and biographies. I believe it's the combination of these that make it so appealing to the everyday traveler or curious local.

If you've never been to the area the Centre does an excellent job of explaining the geographical layout of the river, as well as its sociological impact. The relationship the area has had with the river in the past and the mutual relationship we now have are very interesting. It's sort of like we're apologizing to a significant other for all the past years of stepping on their feet and blunt insults and now we want them back in our lives and we'll try our best to change.

That's why the Centre is here, I think. It reminds us that nature is our fragile companion and we must do our best to make sure that it stays intact. The river supported the first settlers here; it gave them a means of travel, food, power and it's possible that every function of their daily lives depended

on, initially at least, the river. Now that we settlers are more developed and *knowledgeable*, it's now us who are in control and we have the power to change, to manipulate it how we want – although, we still need this river more than we probably know. So it's comforting to know that we have a Centre dedicated to the river and its inhabitants, testament to remind us of the compassion we need to help the river, so it can help us.

I've worked here three years now and I've met many people. All have impacted upon me in some way. Whether it be my co-workers keeping me on task and helping me develop as we bounced ideas off of each other, the directors and partners of the association who have accomplished so much and stand as guides and resources, or the tourists who I hope we have impressed with the importance and stamina of our river, they have all benefited my experience here at the Centre. I would like to thank them all for that. In my future jobs and experiences that I will have, I will always remember back to my time here and what I have learned.



Deer visiting SMRA Interpretative Centre

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Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekend, Get out for the Fishing!

Nova Scotians and non-residents will have an opportunity to try their hand at sportfishing during the 13th annual Sportfishing Weekend on June 2-3, 2007.

My Department is pleased once again to offer Nova Scotians and new this year, non-residents the chance to head to some of this province's many lakes and rivers to fish for one week-end without needing a licence. Fishing is a life long sport and a healthy, recreational activity that promotes family togetherness and outdoor living.

During these two days, **residents and non-residents** may fish without a general licence. However, if you fish for Atlantic salmon, you will need a salmon fishing licence. Please keep in mind that bag limits and all other sportfishing regulations will still apply.

One objective of this weekend is to introduce young anglers to sportfishing in a fun, safe environment surrounded by family and friends. Nova Scotia's Sportfishing Weekend helps generate awareness of opportunities that provide healthy, family-oriented outdoor activity. Studies show that when people get involved and participate in the outdoors they are more aware of their natural surroundings and are more likely to take an active role protecting and enhancing the resources.

Keep in mind that the angling opportunities are available province wide during this weekend not just the organized sportfishing derbies geared to-

wards families and youth. There are more than 6700 lakes and over 100 rivers province wide open to fish without a general licence. Also, this weekend is an excellent means for people of all ages and skill levels to discover and rediscover the joys of angling.

For more information on Nova Scotia's Sportfishery see the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/ sportfishing or call Inland Fisheries Division at 902-485-5056.

I encourage all Nova Scotians to take advantage of the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekend. This is a great weekend to introduce your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to sportfishing. A little nibble at the end of the line can leave youth with a positive fishing experience and memories to last a lifetime. It is my hope that everyone has a safe and successful fishing season.

Ron Chisholm
 Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture



Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekend, Get out for the Fishing June 2-3 2007

By: Tara Marshall, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Family, friends, beginners, fishing enthusiasts and especially young anglers are encouraged to come out for the fishing on June 2-3, 2007. On those days Nova Scotia residents may fish without a general licence. Sportfishing Weekend provides a great opportunity to introduce youngsters to angling and promote family togetherness and healthy outdoor living.

This weekend is the perfect time for anyone who has ever wanted to fish to give it a try. There are organized fishing derbies throughout the province and prizes to be won. This fishing event is well supported throughout

many communities and many organizers indicated on their surveys that the kids really enjoyed their introduction to fishing.

The main objective of this weekend is to introduce young anglers to sportfishing in a fun environment surrounded by family and friends. Nova Scotia's Sportfishing Weekend helps generate awareness of opportunities that provide healthy, family-oriented outdoor recreational activity. Sportfishing is a healthy activity (see table with calories burned in 1 hour of fishing activity) and fish are good for you to eat.

Keep in mind that the angling opportunities are available province wide during this weekend not just the organized derbies geared towards youth. There are many lakes and rivers province wide open to fish without a general licence. If you fish for Atlantic salmon, you will need a salmon fishing licence. Please keep in mind that bag limits and all other sportfishing regulations will still apply. Also, this weekend is an excellent means for people to discover and rediscover the joys of angling.

Sportfishing is a life-long sport, and historically had been passed from one generation to the next either through a parent, grandparent or older cousin or brother. Recreational sportfishing is a fun activity and one that you actually improve at with age. Studies show that when people get involved in the outdoors they are more aware of their natural surroundings and are more likely to take an active role in protecting and enhancing the resource. Get out fishing this spring and take a youngster with you, by doing this you are providing the social support and mentoring that our youth need to enjoy this past time for years to come.

For more information on stocked lakes in each county, barrier free fishing sites, angling regulations, license requirements, Nova Scotia's Sport fishing Weekend events, family and youth sportfishing events, derbies/tournaments, lake surveys, programs and publications visit our website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing/>

Inland Fisheries Division Fieldwork Update and Aquaculture

Coldwater Sportfish Management

- Creel Surveys (South River, Wallace River, Mooseland)
- Population Assessment (East Taylor Bay Lake, Special Trout Management Area)
- Population Assessment (North East Lake & Acadia Lake, Tangier Grand Wilderness Area)

Warmwater Sportfish Management

- Smallmouth Bass Nest Project (Lakes included in study: Landsdowne, Shortts, Morris or Micmac, Big Mushamush, West Horseshow, Aylesford, Killams, and Second)
- Smallmouth Bass & Chain Pickerel monitoring province wide
- White Perch Sampling
- Lake Survey Program
- Smallmouth Bass Tournament Sampling (4-6)

Fraser's Mills & McGowan Lake Fish Hatcheries¹

Approximately 200 lakes are stocked with speckled (brook) trout and rainbow trout each spring as part of our urban stocking program.

More than 45 sportfishing derbies receive trout from Fraser's Mills & McGowan Lake hatcheries, and this social events are cherished by many organizers and communities as a means of introducing youngsters to the enjoyment and comradery that angling can provide.

An additional 200 lakes are stocked each fall, usually after the angling season closes as part of our fall enhancement program. Brook trout account for most of this effort but brown trout and landlocked salmon populations are also enhanced at this time of year. The hatcheries also stock rainbow trout lakes in late fall to provide fish for the winter rainbow trout fishery.

This past year, as part of the Departments' Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program, Fraser's Mills Hatchery raised sea-run Atlantic Salmon in an

effort to improve Atlantic salmon angling on selected rivers in Nova Scotia.

Some of the Provinces more popular stocked lakes are FRA-1 #20 Dam Pond (Cape Breton Co.), McIntyre Lake (Inverness Co.), RFA-2 Cameron Lake (Antigonish Co.), Gairlock Lake (Pictou Co.), MacPherson Lake (Guysborough Co.), RFA-3 Albrow Lake (Halifax Co.), Sucker Lake (Lunenburg Co.), RFA-4 Everitts Lake (Digby Co.), Christopher Lakes (Queens Co.), RFA-5 Silver Lake (Kings Co.), Meadow Pond (Hants Co.), RFA-6 Angevine Lake (Cumberland Co.), Little Dyke Lake (Colchester Co.).

For a complete list of lakes stocked in Nova Scotia visit our website at: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/sportfishing

Nova Scotia's L2F (Learn to Fish) Program

In 2006, the Sportfish Extension Section of the Inland Fisheries Division launched an Angling Program in the Halifax Regional Municipality to promote and develop the recreational sportfishery.

This program is aimed at youth 12 years old and younger to provide them with the education and skills needed to enjoy sportfishing. Four sportfishing workshops were held throughout Halifax Regional Municipality.

The program had two main components. The classroom presentation consisted of an introduction to sportfish, conservation of freshwater resources, and angling education (fishing basics made easy), while the outdoor lesson consisted of a hands-on sportfishing workshop at a lake nearby. The Angling Education Program recruits the next generation of stewards of aquatic resources, by teaching safe and ethical angling skills to youth.

The Angling Education Program was made possible with the help of partnerships with HRM Community, Culture & Development, Metro Transit, community groups, youth group clubs, sportfishing organizations and teachers.

The program has expanded this spring

and summer to include more sport-fishing workshops throughout the province.

BOW

The Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program offers

- A 3-day workshop for women, 18 years and older
- Classes designed to introduce women to a variety of fishing, hunting and other outdoor experiences
- Instructors willing to share their knowledge and passion in a fun and nurturing environment

This workshop is for you if...

- You are a beginner and want to try something new but didn't know how to get started
- You know how to do some activities and would like to improve on these or try others
- You are looking for fun and fellowship in the great outdoors



Upcoming Workshops

- **Fall 2007 Tim Horton Children's Camp in Tatamagouche, NS Sept. 28-30, 2007**
- **Winter 2008 Gaelic College of Celtic Arts & Crafts St. Ann's, NS Feb. 8-10, 2008**

Cost: \$199.00 for the weekend, including lodging, meals, 4 classes and equipment.

If you would like more information, please call (902) 424-5832, email: bowns@gov.ns.ca or visit us on-line www.gov.ns.ca/natr/outdoor

Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program

2006 heralded the first year of a new program for the Inland Fisheries Division. The Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Program was initiated through a series of planning meetings with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and volunteer stakeholders around the Province.

The objective of the program is simple: To provide increased angling opportunities to angle Atlantic salmon. Three conditions for candidate rivers were established 1) there exists (or the program creates the conditions for) an angling fishery, either catch and release or grilse retention, 2) there is a local volunteer group (NSSA affiliate, River Association, watershed stewardship organization etc.) 3) the river is small enough to make an impact.

In 2005, the Minister announced that the Province would provide \$50,000 per year for five years to help the Aquatic Development Association of the Margaree (ADAM) operate the hatchery which stocks Atlantic salmon in the Margaree River. Wild Broodstock were collected on four other rivers in 2006. A total of 44 adult salmon were captured during October from River Phillip, West River (Pictou), Mabou River and the St. Francis Harbour River. The Mushamush River was also stocked with fall fingerlings as part of the Program.

Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund

The Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund was established in 2005 in response to a request by organized angling groups to provide financial support to volunteers working on the protection of fish habitat and improvement of public access to the sportfishing resource.

Each year, the Fund Committee allocates a budget for the Fund based on projected revenue from fishing licence sales. The \$5.00 Habitat Fund fee added to General and Salmon li-

censes provided approximately \$244,000 for projects in 2006. Any revenues in excess of forecasts are carried over to the following year.

Group	Funding
ACAP Cape Breton	\$9,000
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation	\$4,500
Cheticamp River Salmon	\$7,500
Clean Annapolis River Project	\$9,000
Cobequid Salmon Associa-	\$8,500
Cumberland County Rivers Enhancement Association	\$19,000
Habitat Unlimited	\$16,000
Lahave River Salmon Asso-	\$3,700
Lake Ainslie Development	\$9,500
Mabou & District Community	\$12,000
Margaree Salmon Associa-	\$16,000
Mulgrave & Area Lakes En-	\$18,500
North Colchester River Restoration Project	\$15,000
Port Morien Wildlife Asso-	\$970
Richmond Wildlife Associa-	\$9,910
Sackville River Association	\$6,000
Salmon River Association	\$12,000
St. Mary's River Association	\$9,500
Stewards of River Denys	\$10,000
Trout Nova Scotia	\$13,200
Total Revenues	\$209,780
Total Sportfish Fund com-	\$205,000
Carried over from 2005	\$4,780

River Stabilization Report Glencross/Archibald Brook Project

This year we were able to rework the stream to a natural meander between pools by making defined channels and placing digger logs as required and removing rocks to deepen pools. Three digger logs were installed between Highway 347 and West River St. Mary's. Sixteen pools formed. Three hired workers, Wayne Croft, Donald MacIntosh and Ben Myers, carried out all work by hand. Total length of stream restored was 800 meters.

SMRA Smolt Wheel Project

This year we had one smolt wheel at the Glenelg Bridge. Volunteers collected data, which in turn was sent back to DFO. This project could not have taken place without the support of the Department of Fisheries, the Turtle Kids and volunteer members of the SMRA. Thanks to all who helped out.

Funding Partners

We were very grateful to receive funding from the following:
Human Resources Development Canada – Summer Career Placement Program
Provincial Employment Program - PEP
Habitat Stewardship Program – Government of Canada's Species at Risk Fund
NS Conservation Fund
World Wildlife Foundation
The David & Faye Sobey Foundation
The Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation
NS Power Corporation
Shell Environmental Fund
Exxon Mobile
StoraEnso Port Hawkesbury
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Without funding, much of the work of the St. Mary's River Association could not be undertaken. To all those who supported us in the past...a great big thank you!

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What is birding all about? By Hardy Eshbaugh

The St. Mary's River serves as a corridor for neo-tropical warblers that migrate from Mexico, Central, and South America to the boreal forest of the Maritime Provinces each spring seeking to find a place to breed and safely raise their young. This is a cycle that has been going on for millennia. With a little effort one can expect to see and list no fewer than 22 species and if you go to the coast a 23rd species, the Blackpoll Warbler, can be found and it has journeyed north from the Amazon.

One summer I had my class on the Natural History of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland birding on the west side of the St Mary's River just south of David and Faye Sobey's home when we spotted a Black-throated Green Warbler. It was carrying small larval insects to the side of a spruce tree. As we watched and looked very carefully we noticed a bump no larger than a loonie on the side of the spruce 15 feet off the ground. On closer examination with binoculars the bump turned out to be a nest with four young that had not yet fledged. The parents were engaged in providing a gravy train to these young birds as they flew back and forth every 2 to 3 minutes with some kind of food offering. The nest made of lichens was so beautifully camouflaged that it was really a miracle that it was even spotted.

Later a little further down the river we stopped the van and the class got out

and lined up next to a very wet depression surrounded by alders. I told the class that "all birds are not as easy to see as others." Adding, "sometimes we have to try and call the birds to us." I had brought a small tape recorder and told the students "look about a foot off the ground and see if you notice any birds in the area responding to the tape." Playing the tape a small drab bird flew to within six feet of us. It was soon joined by a more spectacular male Mourning Warbler. The class observed just how secretive Mourning warblers are and learned that their preferred habitat is in very wet places.

What I was trying to get the class to understand was that warblers sort themselves out on the landscape in very different ways. Some species like the Blackburnian Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler prefer coniferous forests, while others like the American Redstart, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Ovenbird prefer deciduous forests. Some can best be found by running water including the Canada Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. Each of these species has its own unique behavior, its own song, and its own place on the landscape.

I reminded the students it is relatively easy to identify a warbler once you hear or see it. Lists are easy! It is quite another thing to know about the warbler which reminds me of a story told by the late Nobel Laureate Richard Feynman. Fathers and sons often walked together on summer weekends in the Catskill Mountains of New York and one day a boy said to Richard, "See that bird? What kind of bird was that?" he said "I haven't the slightest idea what kind of bird it is." He says, "It's a brown-throated thrush. Your father doesn't teach you anything."

But it was the opposite. He had already taught me: "See that bird?" he says. "It's a Spencer's warbler." (I knew he didn't know the real name.) "Well, in Italian, it's a *Chutto Lapittida*. In Portuguese, it's a *Bom da Peida*. In Chinese, it's a *Chung-long-tah*, and in

Japanese, it's a *Katano Tekeda*. You can know the name of that bird in all the languages of the world, but when you're finished you'll know absolutely nothing whatever about the bird. You'll only know about humans in different places and what they call the bird. So let's look at the bird and see what it's *doing* – that's what counts" (from James Gleick. 1992. *Genius* - on the life of Richard Feynman).

This was the very essence of our shared experience that late June morning, not only did we learn the names of these warblers we now knew a lot about the bird and its behavior, more than can be found in most field guides. That is what true birding is all about. So get out along the river and see what birds are there and what they are doing.

If you want to learn more about birding in Nova Scotia and in particular Guysborough County get a copy of *Breeding Sites of Nova Scotia* by Blake Maybank published by Nimbus in 2005. It has an excellent section on the West River of the St. Mary's and lists it as a premier three star destination from May through July.

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Magic on the River Report By Duncan Gallant

On August 15th, 2006, the St. Mary's River Association had our annual Magic on the River day camp. This year's camp had 11 youngsters eager to learn and have fun.

The day started off with the kids decorating their fish-shaped name tags and they participated in a round of get to know you games.

Duncan Gallant took them on a tour around the Centre, showing them all the various exhibits and artifacts. As always, the stuffed birds were very popular, along with our antique reels and the 31¼-pound Salmon caught by Ray Buckland, now preserved through the magic of taxidermy.

When the children were acquainted with the museum they teamed up in pairs and were sent on a hunt to find answers to clues given to them about the various displays in the museum. Such questions as: "What were the different stages that a salmon goes through to become an adult?" "What was the hook shaped tool called?" and "What were five colors on the Sherbrooke Fly?" Luckily, if they were stuck on a question there were plenty of leaders around to help. Everyone was awarded with cookies and juice from the Museum Manager, Joanne Mailman.

Next, the kids got to try their hand at Fly Casting. Local pro, Donnie Barnes, showed them the proper way to

cast while they practiced on their own miniature fly rods and fishing line made of orange yarn. A few tangles were expected at the start but they soon got the knack for it.

After a small lunch, the children went on a nature hike with

Jocelyn Ellis up behind the centre in the Stone Wall Municipal Park. While in the park, they searched for various aquatic insects in a small brook, examined a salamander found under a log and finished off with a scavenger hunt.

After their expedition had ended, the children came back to the Centre for a presentation from Marchell Coulombe; a biology student studying wood turtles along the St. Mary's River this summer. The children were briefed on the life style and behavior of these small colorful turtles; they got to see two real live wood turtles, which Marchell and the project manger, Mark Pulsifer, had brought in.

Mandy Mac Laughlin showed the kids how to make Japanese Hanging Fish. This fun craft allowed them to put their own creative spin on this fishy wall decoration and put it up in the Centre. The day came to a quiet end when they children were read The Hatchlings journey. They listened intently to a short narrative that told the story of



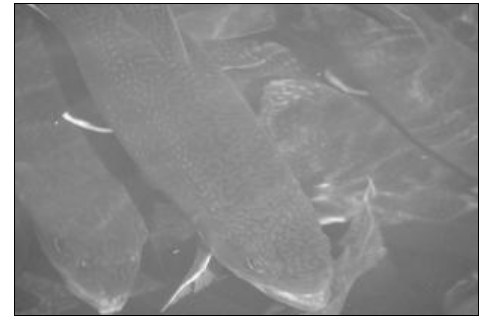
The Municipality of The District of St. Mary's Welcome!

Warden, Councillors and Staff

a young girl who wanted to help the local turtle species on Kejimikujik Lake.

Good times were had by all, as the children left still wearing their name-tags and their minds still full of the day's events. We hope to see them all next year to have an even better adventure.

• • • • •



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Salmon Assessments on the St. Mary's River, Nova Scotia, in 2006
By Jamie Gibson

Another year of salmon assessment projects have been completed on the St. Mary's River with the help of the St. Mary's River Association. As in previous years, projects in 2006 included the spring kelt survey and smolt migration monitoring program run by SMRA. Supplementing these activities were two projects run by the Population Ecology Division at DFO: an electrofishing survey to monitor juvenile density in the river and a seining project to estimate the number of returning adults.

The smolt monitoring program run by SMRA in 2006 was again quite successful. This year only one wheel was deployed at Glenelg Bridge on the West Branch of the St. Mary's River. The second wheel that was used in 2005 was deployed this year on the Stewiacke River to aid in the monitoring and Live Gene Banking of this endangered population. On the St. Mary's River, the wheel was deployed on April 28th and was fished until May 30th. Low flows prevented the wheel from turning properly from May 2nd to May 4th, and again from May 15th to May 17th. Good smolt catches were obtained when the wheel was operating properly, with the highest catch being 106 smolts, recorded on May 8th. The majority of smolts appeared to be migrating in mid-May, from the 6th to the 22nd. In total, 536 smolts were captured. These fish were marked and released back upriver, and of these fish, 16 were captured a second time. However, it's likely that some of the marked smolts moved downstream when the wheel wasn't working. Because the wheel wasn't operating every day, some assumptions have to be made in order to estimate the size of the smolt run, and as a result there is some additional uncertainty in the estimate. First, we assumed that the number of fish that would have been captured on days when the wheel wasn't working was

the average of the previous and next day. Second we assumed that the recapture rate on these days would be similar to the days when the wheel was working. Based on these assumptions, the numbers suggest that the smolt wheel was catching about 3.3% of the smolts and that 20,300 (14,300 to 31,100) smolt migrated down the West Branch in 2006. This estimate is more than twice the estimate of the number of smolt in 2005 (7,350 smolt), but caution should be taken when interpreting the numbers given the uncertainty in estimating the numbers on days when the wheel wasn't working.

Eric Jefferson (DFO – Dartmouth) read the scales taken from these smolt and determined that approximately 93 % of the population were age-2 and 7 % were age-3. The average fork length of the smolts was 14.3 cm, slightly smaller than in 2005 (14.9 cm). However, a larger proportion of the smolt population was older in 2005, when 17% were age-3. These differences likely reflect the year-to-year variability in year class size that is common in salmon populations.

The data from this smolt monitoring project are quite valuable. When combined with the adult surveys and electrofishing data, it should become possible to monitor survival rates in the ocean as well as within the river, which in turn will help us understand why the abundance of salmon in this river is presently low.

In 2006, 11 sites along the St. Mary's River were electrofished for juvenile salmon. The 2006 estimates for fry (age-0) and parr (age-1 and age-2+) density were approximately half of those recorded for 2005, but were similar to the densities observed the previous three years. It is interesting to note that the electrofishing densities are consistent with the smolt estimates the last two years. In 2004, the density of age-1 parr was less than half the density in 2005. Most of these fish would migrate as smolts at age-2, and the difference in densities is simi-

lar to the difference in the number of smolts between 2005 and 2006 (one year later).

River conditions were good for seining during the fall of 2006, so it was possible to do a full mark-recapture seining operation for adults on the St. Mary's River. The Sutherlands, Indian Man, and Cumming's pools were seined on September 26th and 27th, and 142 adults were captured and marked. These pools were seined again on October 10th and 11th, and 50 adults (30 marked and 20 unmarked) were captured. Therefore, the estimated seining efficiency was 59 % in 2006, which was higher than in previous years, likely as a result of the low water levels. Based on these numbers, only 240 salmon were estimated to be in the West Branch of the St. Mary's River in 2006. Of these, all but 18 were grilse. The 2006 estimate represents a slight increase from 2005, when 198 salmon were estimated to be in the West Branch.

Due to concerns about the low abundance of salmon in the St. Mary's River, DFO, in consultation with SMRA, initiated a Live Gene Bank Program for this river in 2006. This program differs from traditional hatchery programs (which are targeted towards fisheries enhancement) in that its purpose is to help maintain the genetic diversity of the population if its abundance continues to decline. A total of 289 parr were captured at seven sites within the West Branch of the river, and are being held at DFO's Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility. The decision to collect parr instead of adults was made to minimise the impact on natural reproduction in the river. Because only a small percentage of parr survive to the adult stage in the wild, the removal of these parr is numerically the equivalent to removing only a few adults from the population, while still providing a broad sampling of the genetic diversity from many families throughout the river. The parr will be grown to the adult stage at Coldbrook, and a decision about the fate of these fish will be

made in the future as they mature. This decision will be based largely on the status of the salmon population in the West Branch during the next couple of years and the desire to minimise the deleterious genetic and population effects at times associated with hatchery programs. Some of the options are to release them as adults to spawn naturally in the river, spawning them in captivity and releasing their offspring, and continuing to maintain them in captivity.

We at DFO are looking forward to another year of successful cooperation with the SMRA for salmon assessments in 2007. As always, we welcome your feedback and insights into the monitoring programs being run on the St. Mary's River.



FALL SEINING 2006

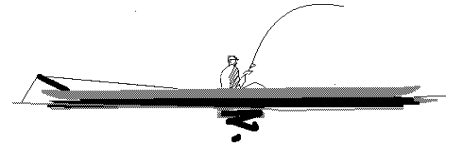
By Allan MacDonald

Seining started the last week of September, 2006, in the West Branch. Numbers were up from the last few years, due in part to more favorable water conditions during the summer. We seined the same three pools as we do each year and captured one hundred and forty two salmon and grilse and five trout. Grilse were higher in numbers than bigger salmon.

On the second seine, the next week, we caught fifty salmon and grilse, of which thirty were recaptures from the previous week. This is a significant increase from the last number of years although still not sufficient to sustain the population. During this same period the DFO approached the St. Mary's River Association and recommended that now was the time to gene bank parr from the West Branch to insure this strain survived into the future. We agreed with DFO and they collected fifty parr to determine that the stock in the West Branch were healthy and disease free. This proved successful so a collection was started. DFO collected two hundred and eighty

nine parr and transported them to the Coldbrook Hatchery. These parr were collected from tributaries and the main stem of the West Branch. At last report in early spring of 2007, the parr were doing very well with very little mortality.

Many thanks, once again, to all the people who helped with the seining. Without these volunteers this work would not be possible.



Below—Fall Seining at Cumminger's Pool, West Branch, St. Mary's River.. in foreground is Don Barnes, with Paul d'Entremont next.



Seining Crew at Cumminger's Pool, West Branch, St. Mary's River

Canadian Model Forest Network Future Uncertain By Bob Bancroft

Despite the success of this program in developing forest stewardship policy, Federal funding for 2007 and beyond is still uncertain. This National program has the support of 400 plus agencies, including 60 or so in Nova Scotia who are involved and committed to this objective.

The SMRA has applied for a large project under this program. A selection panel convened by the CFS has completed a review of all applications made to the Forest Communities Program but the results will not be reviewed by the CFS until Treasury Board makes a final decision to approve the Forest Communities Program, likely not until early April.

The NFA Management Committee and a strategic working group of the Committee are continuing to manage the NFA's transition through this uncertain period. If the SMRA application is successful, we will begin our work with the forest communities as described in our application. If unsuccessful, the strategic working group will prepare a report and recommendations for Management Committee and Partnership regarding future potential for the NFA.

We received word last week that we may be eligible for three additional months (April, May, June) of bare-minimum funding that will "keep the lights on in the office at Stewiacke" until they tell us if we are included in the new program. We have to submit a new proposal with deliverables to obtain this money. Employees in other model forests are heading out the door. I do not know how long ours will stay, as no one wants to only tread water.

This communique is to inform the staff and partners of the Canadian Model Forests of the current status of the Network. The Canadian Model Forest

Network Board of Directors met in Ottawa on March 1, 2007 with the General Managers and Secretariat staff to:

- Review progress on the launch of the new Forest Communities Program
- Confirm the short-term transition strategy
- Provide direction on the 2007/08 Network work plan
- Start the process for developing future strategic initiatives

The meeting, chaired by Dave MacLean, President of the Canadian Model Forest Network, provided the forum to outline the short and long term direction of the Model Forest program.

Following discussions with Natural Resources Canada and Canadian Forest Service officials it has been determined that:

- Canadian Forest Service continues to wait for a Treasury Board decision for approval of the new Forest Communities Program. This decision is unlikely before the end of March, 2007
- CFS has asked Minister Lunn of Natural Resources Canada to approve a 3 month extension of the current Model Forest program
- The Selection Panel has completed its work in reviewing the Forest Communities Program proposals submitted on October 31, 2006. However their report will not be made public until Treasury Board approves the new program, at which time the Canadian Forest Service will review the results of the panel and make their recommendations to the Minister.

Directors and General Managers from the Network outlined the immediate consequences of the on-going delays to the announcement and the failure to provide funding. Staff layoffs and

MF office closures are imminent. The Directors' immediate response was:

- To urge the Minister to immediately decide on the funding extension request. The support of several local MP's was sought to add further to the sense of urgency.
- To brief the Chairman of Treasury Board to ask him to ensure the FCP is on their agenda

Over the next two weeks the Board will seek to arrange a meeting with Minister Lunn of NRCAN to outline the Canadian Model Forest program and their two years of frustration with the CFS renewal process.

The partners of each Model Forest are requested to brief their MP's and urge them to contact Minister Lunn over the next two weeks to ensure that the funding request is approved and implemented. If this doesn't happen within two weeks the Model Forest community will prepare a coordinated media campaign across the country reporting on their individual status and declaring their future intentions.

While the lack of CFS support was disappointing, the Network meeting continued with a review of the Strategic Plan, workplan and budget. This included staffing requirements, selection process, office location and a communications strategy for the network. This was followed by a review of the current Strategic Initiatives and a discussion of new ones. Clearly the strength of the Network will depend on the development of funding partnerships with CFS and other agencies.

Please contact your President or General Manager for additional information. The Board and Directors have stiffened their resolve to shape our Model Forest Network future.



THE NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST: PROTECTING THE LEGENDARY ST. MARY'S

On a glorious, summer day, next to the sparkling St. Mary's River, the community gathered at the home of the Eshbaugh's to celebrate the first major success of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's *St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign*.

On July 15th 2006, the Nature Trust was thrilled to announce the protection of the A.M. "Sandy" Cameron Conservation Lands. Over 100 people joined Nature Trust staff and board members to honour and celebrate the late Alex "Sandy" Cameron, his wife Shirley and their family, for their donation of conservation land. Consisting of two separate sites, these lands protect 95 acres of Acadian floodplain and old-growth Hemlock forests, significant wetland and shoreline areas, providing valuable habitat for the Wood turtle. The Nature Trust is extremely grateful to the Cameron family for their wonderful contribution to protecting our province's rich natural heritage.

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust is a private land conservation organization, focused exclusively on protecting the places Nova Scotians love. Our mission is to work with private landowners to protect the natural environments that have graced our province for centuries. With over 70% per cent of the province's land in private ownership, the work of the Nature Trust has never been so important. Since 1994, over 2,800 acres of priority conservation land has been set aside by the Nature Trust for the benefit of future generations.

The *St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign* was launched by the Nature Trust in May 2006, with the aim of permanently protecting some of the most outstanding areas along the river's shores. The protection of the A.M. "Sandy" Cameron Conservation Lands was the first major success of the campaign and over the course of the project, the Nature Trust aims to protect many more important lands, helping to ensure the natural values of

the St. Mary's watershed are preserved, forever.

The St. Mary's River Association is our vital, local partner in ensuring the conservation of the watershed. The Nature Trust has the expertise in conservation easements and conservation land ownership and management, which are critical complements to the watershed planning, salmon conservation, and education efforts of the Association. Typically land conservation efforts focus on terrestrial habitats and species. Many salmon and watershed conservation efforts focus specifically on "in-stream" conservation measures, from water quality to species monitoring. This project brings the two approaches together. What is happening along the shoreline of the river has major impacts on the river and its inhabitants. For example, where shorelines are devoid of trees from logging or agriculture, the loss of shade boosts water temperatures. Increased run-off and sedimentation from the loss of vegetation, results in shallowing of the river, which also increases water temperatures. This increase causes declining salmon populations. These types of land-water habitat connec-

tions are a major part of the science driving the *St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign*.

The Nature Trust is excited to meet many more members of the St. Mary's River community over the coming months and years. We will be hosting an open house in Sherbrooke in May – we'd welcome you to come and learn more about the Nature Trust and the St. Mary's River project. We are also looking for volunteers to take part in our Property Guardian program, to be local stewards for the properties that we protect. As a Property Guardian, you are part of a network of volunteers and Nature Trust staff who monitor properties owned or legally protected by the Nature Trust. All Property Guardians receive training and guidance from the Nature Trust, fully preparing you to take on the role. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact us!

For more details about the Nature Trust, the *St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Project* or upcoming events, see www.nsnt.ca or call 1-888-434-LAND.



Dale Smith, President of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust Board of Directors, and Shirley Cameron, wife of the late Alex "Sandy" Cameron accepting the presentation.

Turtle Project Continues to be a Success!

Building on the successes of previous years, the 2006 turtle project continued to promote the conservation of wood turtles through community stewardship, science, and education. Last year was the project's busiest so far with eight students from two countries and four universities taking part.

The "Turtle Crew" spent much of the spring and summer traipsing about the watershed meeting landowners, counting and following turtles, organizing volunteers, and leading fieldtrips for students, teachers, and anyone who wished to know more the lives of these species at risk. Each of the students had at least one special project that they were responsible for that described aspects of wood turtle ecology such as nesting and reproduction, frequency and type of injuries, movements and habitat choices, and population size and structure.

There were several stewardship highlights last year but one stands out. For the second year in a row private and industrial landowners voluntarily agreed to informal "turtle-friendly" land use plans to protect wood turtles and habitats on their properties. These non-binding plans are actually "pledges of intent" and suggest ideas such as preserving green belts along the river, picking up garbage, keeping ATVs off nesting beaches, and encouraging the growth of favourite

wood turtle foods such as blueberries and strawberries. Since 2005, over 60 km of river frontage owned by 37 landowners has become part of this program.

One of my personal highlights in 2006 stemming from the project was the opportunity to travel to Victoria, BC to deliver a paper on the project at the annual meeting of the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network. It was a great meeting, the paper was well received, and the reputation of the St. Mary's River's beauty and importance to Nova Scotia continues to grow.

The turtle project will continue in 2007 with more new ideas. A new "Turtle Crew" comprised of new and returning students will be out there again, stomping through the alders and talking to landowners. Look for new turtle displays at the interpretive center this summer. We are hoping to encourage community members to participate in surveys, volunteering, and our new nesting beach program. If anyone wishes to help us with any aspect of the project they are welcome to contact us at the St. Mary's River Association.



ciation.

As always, the project could not happen without the generous support of many groups, individuals, and organizations. The "Turtle Crew" would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to: The St. Mary's River Association and its Board of Directors, Jack and Flo Duffy, Hardy and Barb Eshbaugh, the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation, the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the Endangered Species Recovery Fund, the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund, Nova Forest Alliance, St. Francis Xavier University, Acadia University, Neenah Paper, and Stora Enso Port Hawkesbury.



St. Mary's District Lions Club

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*We serve our community, our province,
our country, the world.*

New Members Welcome

Mandy MacLaughlin– Summer in Review

Summer has come and gone, and the tourist season will soon be winding down. It has been a huge summer here at the St. Mary's River Association Education and Interpretive Centre, we have had a record number of tourists visit this year and with them comes revenue, we sold lots of hats, shirts, books, jewellery and pictures. Joanne will be busy over the winter ordering new things to fill up the gift shop so you can check that out next year.

Days here at the Centre are very exciting, we are always busy creating new displays or organizing day camps, yard sales or bird walks, and in between all that we inform tourists and residents about the river and how the river association protects it and what they are doing to preserve the salmon and wildlife in the area. This year has been a fantastic fishing season, the water levels are high and the water temperatures are low. Fishermen and women were in from all over telling us about their day fishing and how many fish they had seen.

I have met a lot of hardworking people over the summer. The members of this Association are great! They do so much for the river to preserve and protect it to benefit local citizens and tourists alike. Joanne Mailman is another hardworker, she does so much for the Association, she is one of the

most capable people I have ever met. I would have not asked for a better boss. And Florence Duffy, she is an incredible lady! She is always on the go volunteering for anything and everything and she can sure make a mean batch of squares. The River Association is lucky to have her and her husband Jack as members.

Before I go I would like to thank all the members of the Association for making me feel welcome. You are all a great bunch of people and I am glad I had the pleasure of working with you.



The St. Mary's Estuary By George Archibald

When sediments carried swiftly downstream meet reduced flow in the estuary they sink. Other substances carried in solution in the fresh water precipitate as solids when mixed with salty ocean waters. That's how deltas form.

So why doesn't the St. Mary's River have a delta? Perhaps turbulence and deep water just off the coast from Sonora carry away the sediments. However just above Sonora where the river basin widens, sediments have collected to form hundreds of acres of fertile mudflats. The mud is filled with invertebrate life from microscopic organisms to delicious clams. That's

likely why the clam factory borders the flats.

In spring and autumn these mudflats provide food for hundreds of attractive shorebirds that migrate from breeding areas as far north as the arctic to wintering sites as far south as Argentina. They include Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semi-

palmed plovers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlin, Sanderlings, White-rumped, Least, Semipalmated, Spotted and Solitary sandpipers. In summer the mudflats offer breeding habitat for noisy Willets that display large patches of contrasting black and white in flight.

When I was a youth in the Sherbrooke area in the 1950s and early 1960s, Canada Geese were sometimes seen during their spring and autumn migration. They were absent in winter and summer. However in recent decades, they have colonized the eastern shore and have become common residents throughout the year. In winter when the streams and lakes freeze, about 500 Canadas gather on the mudflats near Sonora where they feed on eel grass that is exposed at low tide.

The evidence of large numbers of fish in the estuary is indicated by the abundance of fish-eating birds including Osprey, Bald Eagles, Double-crested Cormorants and Common Mergansers.

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George Archibald with an enthusiastic group of birders.

The Hon. Ron Chisholm

Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture

Constituency Day in Sherbrooke on Monday, April 16.

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Report from the Atlantic Salmon Federation ASF

Sue Scott, VP Communications
Lewis Hinks, Regional Director for Nova Scotia

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you an update of some of the conservation programs that ASF has undertaken. Many of our programs are carried out in cooperation with our Regional Councils.

Greenland Conservation Agreement

In 2001, the Greenland Conservation Agreement suspended commercial salmon fishing at Greenland for five years. The 2006 season was the last year of the agreement which has resulted in a significant increase in large salmon returning to North American rivers. The Agreement, funded by the U.S. Department of State, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North Atlantic Salmon Fund and ASF, stipulated that we invest annually in a fund for economic development programs.

Greenland salmon fishermen have moved to alternative activities, such as fishing for lumpfish, snow crab and cod, boat building and eco-tourism. The program provided for decommissioning and disposal of salmon fishing nets, which helped discourage the resumption of the salmon fishery. Greenland fishermen indicated that they would welcome another agreement. We worked with the North Atlantic Salmon Fund and the Greenland fishermen to develop and raise the funds, a challenging and important task that is continuing in 2007.

Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund became a reality in 2006, passing through Parliament in December, thanks to the leadership of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Loyola Hearn. On January 23, 2007, the Minister of Veterans Affairs on behalf of the Minister of DFO presented the \$30 million cheque to the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

(ASCF). The ASCF is made up of six members, one from each of the Atlantic Provinces, one from Quebec and one First Nations representative and is responsible for investing and administering the fund. The Board of Directors operates at arms length from government and is made up of volunteers who have the skills necessary to operate a major public trust fund. In the coming weeks, the ASCF will create advisory committees in each province to develop program guidelines and criteria, and to consult widely on plans and priorities, while working with community-based conservation organizations, federal and provincial governments and First Nations. The ASCF plans to open an office in Fredericton in February. Thanks to all who worked hard to achieve the Endowment Fund.

Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy

Unlike the Endowment Fund, a new policy on the direction for conserving wild Atlantic salmon did not materialize in 2006. In April 2005, DFO issued a policy framework for the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon, promising a draft policy for public consultation. ASF and our Regional Councils responded, emphasizing the need to ensure there is funding to support policy initiatives. Despite constant urging by ASF and Regional Councils, the draft policy and public consultation had not occurred by the end of January 2007.

Acid Rain Mitigation, West River Sheet Harbour

In Canada, Nova Scotia suffers the most from acid rain. Acid precipitation has destroyed and damaged salmon habitat in 54 rivers. In Norway, liming rivers has restored salmon runs. In 2005, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) and ASF began utilizing Norwegian-built technology to restore the West River, Sheet Harbour. A 40-foot high and 8-foot wide steel structure called a lime "doser" has operated for more than a year now, and resulted in dramatic water quality improvement in 2006.

The target is to raise pH readings to 5.4 - 5.5 the level that supports salmon production. By November of 2006, the readings above the doser on West River Sheet Harbour, were 4.5 - 4.7. One hundred meters below the doser, pH values were 6.5 and, at the river mouth, pH values had reached our goal of 5.4 - 5.5.

In May of 2006, ASF, with help from NSSA and others, organized a 2 day acid rain mitigation workshop to look at liming techniques, their applicability to various situations, cost benefit analysis and results of current liming projects. Proceedings of this workshop are almost complete and will be available upon request.

ASF's investment in research on mortality at sea

ASF is a leader in tracking salmon at sea. For ten years, at a cost of more than \$3 million, we developed innovative sonic telemetry technology and tracked migrating salmon downstream into the estuaries of the Miramichi, Restigouche, York, Grand Cascadepedia, and St-Jean (North Shore Quebec) rivers, and into the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine. In 2006, we extended our monitoring to the Strait of Belle Isle off the coast of Labrador, the salmon's northern exit from the Gulf of St. Lawrence into the Atlantic Ocean.

ASF coordinated marine research activities with SALSEA, a program investigating mortality of salmon at sea that is run by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). At a cost of \$350,000, our smolt tracking research was a direct and valuable contribution to SALSEA in 2006.

In River Protection

The Greenland Conservation Agreement, live release, and ASF restoration projects help ensure that more salmon and grilse return to our rivers to spawn. The challenge is to make sure they are not killed in the rivers by poachers, especially during a period of government budget cuts in

the crucial area of enforcement officers.

In 2006, through our education and public awareness programs, we appealed to the public to report poaching. Using various media, ASF made it clear that it is illegal to purchase wild Atlantic salmon.

Similarly, ASF promoted live release as an effective conservation tool, and encouraged and helped anglers to learn proper techniques and to refrain from angling when water temperatures rise to unsafe levels. ASF's Live Release and Recognition Program has rewarded 25 outfitters and private camps for actions that demonstrate their commitment to live release.



St. Mary's River Association is pleased to nominate Jocelyn Ellis as our Municipal Volunteer Member

Pursuing her husband Earle's interest in fishing and her own love of

native plants and animals, they purchased property overlooking the St. Mary's River. While in Nova Scotia, Jocelyn enjoys volunteering at the St. Mary's River Association furthering her interest in the natural history of the river and surrounding areas. She also enjoys attending concerts and other events in Sherbrooke Village and the community.

Jocelyn is an active member of the board of directors and assists with the Environmental programs at the Interpretive Center. She was employed by the York County Department of Parks and Recreation as a part-time Naturalist. As a Naturalist, she participated in Environmental Education Programs at Nixon County Park Nature Center.

Jocelyn enjoys birding, botany, photography and exploring the great outdoors around the St. Mary's and throughout Nova Scotia as well as cataloging wildflowers on a computer database.

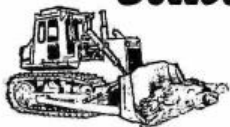
Earle and Jocelyn spend the winter months in York, Pennsylvania sharing their love of nature with granddaughters, Ainsley and Chesley.



**SMRA Municipal Volunteer
of the Year
Jocelyn Ellis**



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Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation Opens for Business

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation will become a reality with Tuesday's announcement of the \$30-million Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund Grant by the Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Member of Parliament for New Brunswick Southwest. The federal funding will be invested in a trust fund by the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, and the income earned on the investment will be used to fund projects that contribute to salmon restoration and conservation in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation President Remi Bujold said, "I would like to commend both Fisheries and Oceans Minister Loyola Hearn and the federal government for taking the steps to make this long-awaited fund a reality for wild Atlantic salmon across Atlantic Canada and Quebec," Mr. Bujold said. "The realization of this goal is the work of many people." He expressed special thanks to the many local and grassroots salmon conservation organizations for their dedication to pressing for the trust fund.

The volunteer board of directors for the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation represents the skills necessary to operate a major public trust fund. Board members were nominated by the grassroots conservation groups as people who could guide this much-needed program.

Board members include:

Brenda Gideon-Miller, Listuguj, QC
 Alan Ledgerwood, Charlottetown, PEI
 Dr. Larry Felt, St. John's, NL (Vice-President)
 Henry Hicks, Halls Harbour, NS
 Richard Oland, Saint John, NB
 Rémi Bujold, St. Jules de Cascapedia, QC (President)

Bujold noted that over the past two years the board had worked closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to negotiate the funding agreement with

the federal government that will guide the structure and operations of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation.

"We intend to respond to the minister's goal that we foster partnership among community groups, First Nations, federal and provincial governments to improve conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and salmon habitat at the watershed level," he said.

In the coming weeks, the new conservation organization will create advisory committees in each province to develop program guidelines and criteria, as well as to consult widely on plans and priorities. In order to do this, they will work closely with community-based conservation organizations, federal and provincial governments and First Nations. The organization plans to open an office in February in Fredericton, NB.

Adopt-A-Stream By Amy Weston NSSA Adopt-A-Stream Program Manager

During the summer of 2006, the St. Mary's River Association was among the 22 community groups involved in the Adopt-A-Stream program, receiving technical support and project funding to carry out fish habitat restoration work. The Adopt-A-Stream program, administered by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, distributes project funding from the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund. Last year the Fund contributed \$205,000 to Adopt-



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A-Stream projects. Community groups matched this amount almost 2:1 in cash and in-kind donations, stretching anglers' dollars to get the maximum amount of work done in the field. The result was more than 151,000 square meters of habitat restored in 2006.

Over the years the SMRA has worked on a number of tributaries in the St. Mary's. Last year's project focused on Archibald (Glencross) Brook on the West Branch. Although the area is mostly wooded now, the impact of centuries-old land clearing is still reflected in the over-wide channel shape. An even more significant impact on the brook is the location and placement of the bridge on the Hwy 348.

Stream dynamics are rarely taken into consideration when roads are built. As a result crossings tend to disrupt stream flow patterns, and the effects are felt both down and upstream. Over time, meander patterns shift and the thalweg (i.e. main flow) often be



Pictured left to right are: Ben Myers, Wayne Croft, Dale Archibald, and behind Ben is Donald MacIntosh working on Glencross Brook project.

comes less distinct. The channel becomes wider and flatter, pool frequency is reduced, and at low flow conditions, water is spread very thin across the entire channel.

Archibald Brook has quite heavy substrate (lots of small boulders), a fair bit of bedrock, and areas of steeper gradient. The lower 600-metre stretch of the brook is wide and flat with few pools. The standard techniques used in gravel/cobble streams to narrow and deepen channels and improve the pool-to-riffle ratio, such as digger logs and deflectors, would not be very effective here. So an alternative method was prescribed to try to encourage the development of a distinct thalweg.

Working by hand and pry bar, volunteers and crew members rearranged the stream bed material to allow the water to switch from side to side in a meander pattern. Pool areas were dug out to a depth of about 50 cm. The goal was to encourage the flow, not force it, so the work was low in profile. An assessment this spring will determine whether this method will be used elsewhere. Next on the SMRA's list is Indian Man Brook.

Adopt-A-Stream continues to work on a habitat plan for the West Branch St. Mary's. Field measurements at low flow were taken this past summer.

Details of the plan will be brought to the SMRA later this spring.

THANKSGIVING

We return thanks to our mother,
The earth, which sustains us.

We return thanks to the rivers and
streams, which supply us with water.

We return thanks to all herbs, which
furnish medicines for the cure of our
diseases.

We return thanks to the moon and
stars, which have given to us their
light when the sun was gone.

We return thanks to the sun, that has
looked upon the earth with a benefi-
cent eye.

Lastly, we return thanks to the Great
Spirit, in Whom is embodied all good-
ness, and Who directs all things for
the good of Her children.

-Iroquois
(copied from Prevention, April 2007)
Brenda Carpan

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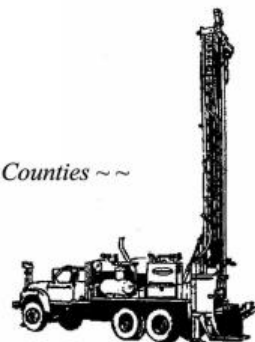
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- Indicates proceeds given back to SMRA
- Grand Draw Winner \$1200.00 George Archibald..

December 2006
 150.00 Dave & Patricia Clark
 100.00 Gerry Doucet
 50.00 Ron Clark
 25.00 Frank Walford
 25.00 Dale Archibald
 25.00 George Newell
 25.00 Bob Bancroft

November 2006
 150.00 Charles Widgery
 100.00 John MacPherson
 50.00 MacGillvary Fuels
 25.00 Gary Baudoux
 25.00 Flo Duffy
 25.00 George Archibald
 25.00 George Newell

October 2006
 150.00 Frank Walford
 100.00 Brian McMillan
 50.00 Ron Clark
 25.00 Barb Crosby
 25.00 Dan MacDonald
 25.00 George Newell
 25.00 Owen Beaver

September 2006
 150.00 Allan MacDonald
 100.00 John Silver
 50.00 George Archibald
 25.00 Dave & Patricia Clark
 25.00 Barb Eshbaugh*
 25.00 John MacPherson
 25.00 Gordon MacIntosh

August 2006
 150.00 Charles Widgery
 100.00 N S Salmon Association
 50.00 Dale Archibald
 25.00 Karen Green
 25.00 Willy Wong
 25.00 Allan MacDonald
 25.00 Wayne MacDonald

July 2006
 150.00 Mark/ Elizabeth Pulsifer
 100.00 Hardy Eshbaugh *
 50.00 Ron Clark
 50.00 Brian McMillan
 25.00 Jim & Dee Dee Barrett
 25.00 George Sutherland
 25.00 Ken Silver

June 2006
 150.00 Wayne MacDonald
 100.00 Terry Croft
 50.00 Bill Fraser
 25.00 Frank Walford
 25.00 George Archibald
 25.00 Parker Wong
 25.00 Bob & Lois Kelly

May 2006
 150.00 David Sobey
 100.00 George Sutherland
 50.00 Barb Crosby
 25.00 Sandy Barnhill
 25.00 Colin MacDonald
 25.00 Irene Hodder
 25.00 Patricia Dorthwright

April 2006
 150.00 Eric Pineault
 100.00 Wayne MacDonald
 50.00 Joanne & Brian Mailman
 25.00 Sandy MacLeod
 25.00 Hardy Eshbaugh *
 25.00 Colin MacDonald
 25.00 Parker Wong

March 2006
 150.00 Wayne MacDonald
 100.00 Gordon MacIntosh
 50.00 Robert Sidler
 25.00 MacGillvary Fuels
 25.00 Aleah Lomas Anderson
 25.00 Jack Duffy
 25.00 Owen & Linda Duffy

February 2006
 150.00 Dan Smith
 100.00 John Silver
 50.00 Owen McCarron
 25.00 John Hamilton
 25.00 Paul D'Entremont
 25.00 Dan MacDonald
 25.00 Colin Coady

January 2006
 150.00 Cliff Sherman
 100.00 John Cameron
 50.00 Aleah Lomas Anderson
 25.00 Dave & Patricia Clark
 25.00 Jim & Dee Dee Barrett
 25.00 Steve Eshbaugh*
 25.00 Sandy Barnhill

Tickets will once again be on sale at our Annual General Meeting on May 2007. The cost is \$120.00 each, payable up front or 12 post-dated cheques. There are 85 chances to win with 7 draws every month. 1st prize \$150.00, 2nd prize \$100.00, 3rd prize \$50.00, 4th-7th prize \$25.00. Grand Prize \$1200.00 in December. Total \$6000.00 in prizes.

This is a great fundraiser for the Association and helps us defray the costs of our Education & Interpretive Centre. The next lottery starts January 2008.
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In Memoriam

With the words of Virgil, written over 2000 years ago, we remember...

"May the countryside and the gliding valley streams content me. Lost to fame, let me love river and woodland."

Stan Harpell
Dick Steel
Joel Beaver

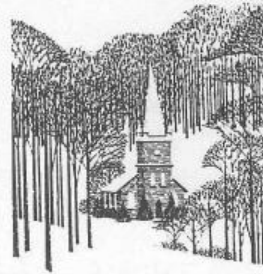
Patricia Ritacco
Bill Redmond
Paul Davis

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The Still waters of the St. Mary's River looking up river .
White house in the distance is the Walford property.

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From the shallow end of the pool

When you live at the shallow end of the pool you get a lot of time to think - think about the way life along the river used to be, how it is, and how it might be. Because it's shallow, you not only get to see what's going on, but on a good day you get to hear what's going on or, as young smolt are fond of saying, "What's going down!"

I recently overheard someone from the Alberta Stewardship Resource Centre talking about Land Stewardship. As I listened, I thought, this is the kind of information that the good folk at the St. Mary's River Association need to hear. First of all they defined land stewardship as a practice of carefully managing land usage to ensure natural systems are maintained or enhanced for future generations. Then I heard them articulate Three Guiding Principles of carefully managing land usage:

1. Caring for the system as a whole - understanding the fundamental roles and values of natural systems, building up biological fertility in the soil, incorporating an understanding of the ecological cycles on the landscape (water, energy, nutrients) and how land-use practices can either benefit, be in harmony, or negatively impact these cycles and other land-users, flora and fauna.

2. Resource conservation - maxi-

mizing efficiency and striving to reduce the one-time consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources; aiming for long-term optimization versus short-term maximization of production.

3. Maintaining, building and enhancing stability in Nature - maintain and encourage natural biological diversity and complexity; maintaining natural areas and functions on the land (a.k.a. wildlife habitat conservation) .

these are great Guiding Principles!

But what do they mean in practical terms? It means that there must be zero tolerance of any activity that might further threaten habitat destruction. It means that if the forestry or the agriculture industry are engaging in land-use practices that may be harmful to 'natural systems' they will not be tolerated!!

Let me close with the words of a great American naturalist and conservationist, Aldo Leopold, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a commodity to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

That's the view from

the shallow end of the pool!
'Ole Hook Bill'

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Guysborough
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Flytying – The Green Highlander
by Stillwater Slim

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Fly tying is another example, a satisfying and rewarding hobby for many of us. The hobby is growing, following the rapid growth of fly fishing around the globe. Most flies are tied to fish with, but for some, there is no greater joy in fly tying than to lose ourselves in the past for a day or so – tying an artistic classic Atlantic Salmon fly.



Recently Bob MacDonald of Mulgrave and I took such a day to each tie a Green Highlander, a highly praised wet salmon fly from the latter part of the 19th century. This dressing is adapted from the pattern presented in Dr. T. E. Pryce-Tannatt’s book “How to Dress Salmon Flies” (1914). The photo shows my Green Highlander, still in the vice, almost completed. The fly is on display at River Magic in Stillwater.

Green Highlander

Tag	Silver Tinsel
Tail	A topping (golden pheasant crest) and barred summer duck (wood duck)
Butt	Black ostrich herl
Body	First quarter, golden yellow floss, remainder bright green seal fur (or floss silk)
Ribs	Oval silver tinsel
Hackle	A grass-green cock’s hackle (palmered over the green part of the body)
Throat	A lemon cock’s hackle (we preferred a soft hen hackle)

Wings Golden pheasant tippets as an underwing, married sections of yellow, orange and green swan, floricane, peacock wing and golden pheasant tail; outside of this, married sections of teal flank and barred summer duck; narrow sections of brown mallard over and a topping.

Sides	Jungle cock
Cheeks	Indian crow substitute
Horns	Blue & Yellow macaw
Head	Black

John Warren Duncan
(1948 – 2007)

“Dunc” as his friends called him, left us on February 10, 2007 while tying a fly in his Saint John NB fly shop. He tied thousands of salmon flies each year, once showing me an order from L.L. Bean in Maine for 15,000 flies. Like most artists, he took pride in his work, knowing that his customers were assured of highest quality, appearance, and durability. His fly Picture Province was proclaimed the official fly of New Brunswick.

Dunc was probably the fastest fly tier that ever lived, once tying a perfect Rusty Rat



in 1 minute, 13 seconds to win a speed fly tying match. His knack for entertaining people came through in his popular fly tying demonstrations and classes, such as his session at the ASF 1992 Conclave hosted by the St. Mary’s River Association in Sherbrooke. But it was his generosity that I will always remember him for - his willingness to help fly tiers like myself improve their skills at the vice. His positive attitude toward life was so upbeat that I found it startling, a great inspiration.

His wife Anne, son John and daughters Catherine and Christine, sister Joan and grandson Duncan survive Dunc. He was an exceptional man, a family man, a true artist, genius at the vice, and a “real good guy”.

Bill Carpan

From the Frankie Walford Collection—1948 NS Angling Regulations

Highlights include an open season for salmon Apr 16—Sept 14, maximum bag limit for salmon of 5 per person per day and 20 per person per week, minimum size limit 3 lbs, round weight.

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F. A. Hanlon, Guysborough
F. Swaine, Canso
W. J. N. Duggan, Goldborough
M. M. Manson, Sherbrooke
E. C. Pushie, Sherbrooke



Guysborough County

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F. A. Hanlon, Guysborough
F. Swaine, Canso
W. J. N. Duggan, Goldborough
M. M. Manson, Sherbrooke
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H. W. MacDonald, Musquodchuik Harbour
D. R. Neish, Halifax
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E. J. Laiter, Indian Harbour

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Kings County

H. C. Kuhn, Kestville

Lunenburg County

J. P. Buchanan, Lunenburg
J. A. MacDuff, Chester
S. W. French, Lunenburg
C. L. Manning, Chester

19

4. Lawful hours for Angling are (i) In Cape Breton Highlands Park: From one hour before sunset to two hours after sunset; (ii) Elsewhere: From two hours before sunset to two hours after sunset (except as otherwise provided for a few small areas.)

5. Jugging of sport fish is prohibited.
6. Lengths of fish are measured from end of nose to center of tail.

7. Not more than one line and not more than three separate hooks may be used; provided that in fly fishing a double-hooked fly may be used.

II—SALMON

1. OPEN SEASONS

- Cape Breton Highlands Park—June 1 to September 10.
- Bathurst and Middle Rivers, Cape Breton Island—June 1 to October 14.
- Cape Breton Island (except "a" and "b" above) and mainland streams flowing into the Strait of Canso and Chedabucto Bay—June 1 to September 10.
- Hants, Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties, except streams flowing into the Strait of Canso and Chedabucto Bay—April 16 to September 14.
- Halifax County—May 1 to September 14.
- Elsewhere—April 1 to August 31.

2. MAXIMUM BAG LIMITS

- Cape Breton Highlands Park—20 per person per week.
- Cape Breton Island (except "a" above)—3 per person per day.
- Elsewhere—5 per person per day and 20 per person per week.

2

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To access the plan, click on the Woodlands Unit link while visiting: www.storaenso.com/porthawkesbury

*For more information contact:
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Member of the Year - Bob Bancroft

Recognizing wildlife biologist Bob Bancroft's contribution to SMRA over almost thirty years, we express our thanks by choosing him as SMRA's Member of the Year.

Although Bob retired from Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources several years ago, his commitment remains helping Nova Scotians make our home a better place. Through magazines such as the Atlantic Salmon Journal, Saltscapes, and Woods & Waters, his articles have helped educate readers about wildlife and related land use and development issues. He is also a popular guest on CBC's Radio Noon program, discussing wildlife comments and questions posed by callers.



Bald Eagle photo by Bob Bancroft

Bob lives in rural Antigonish County with his wife, artist Alice Reed. There they experience the peace, purpose and inspiration that nature provides.

We are very fortunate to have Bob as an honorary director. He is always willing to lend his very practical advice and support to our work and we thank him.

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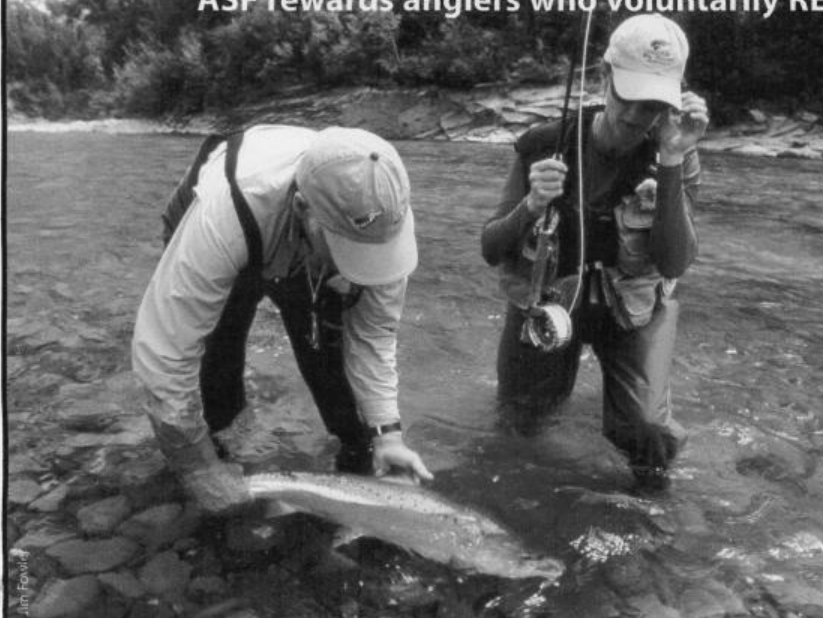
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