

## Habitat Restoration – July 2017 President's Report

Another year is upon us and work is well under way at the St. Mary's River Association. My name is Scott Beaver and I am the President of the Association. As I did last summer, I'd like to give you a bit of an update as to what's on the go under our roof.

Our West Branch Habitat Restoration Project is still going strong. This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> summer of river restoration and at the end of this summer we will have spent approximately a total of 900,000 dollars. This price tag gets you about 11 km of restored river. That seems like a lot of money and it is! But we believe that if our work contributes to more salmon in the St. Mary's River then it is worth it. You can view the restored areas taken from a drone at these youtube links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91KdiGPTRc0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLOCqAZAeMs>

We are happy to report that as a result of our restoration efforts, we are seeing increased signs of salmon in the restored locations. To assess this, we do redd counts before and after the restoration work. (Remember redds are the spots salmon make in the river beds for their eggs.) For us, the increased number of redds is very exciting and helps motivate us to continue with this project. The majority of funds raised for this project are coming from government and private grants. Anyone out there wishing to contribute can do so by dropping in at our Interpretive Center or you can do so from the following web page:

<http://www.stmarysriverassociation.com/donations.html>

There are other initiatives we are investigating such as: lime dosing, culvert restoration and a more accurate method of counting salmon travelling the river. We are a volunteer organization with a hardworking, innovative group at the helm, so I'm optimistic we can accomplish at least one of these initiatives in the near future. Anyone interesting in volunteering, please contact us, we would love to have you.

Our Annual General Meeting is held every year on the last Sunday of May. This year we had three guests: Darryl Murrant from Inland Fisheries, local boy Donnelly Archibald from St. FX and Charlie MacInnis of MacInnis Natural Resource Services. The Inland Fisheries team at the Fraser Mills Hatchery partnered with us on our Sea Trout Enhancement Project, details of which were presented at the AGM and will follow in a future newsletter. Donnelly has his doctorate in Geology and he talked about our local landforms and how they affect our river. Charlie is leading our West Branch Habitat Enhancement Project and talked about the work completed and the projected work for this summer.

If you are interested in more information about topics like these you are very welcome to become a member of our association and attend our AGM every May. Besides our association's business, we like to have guest speakers and snacks for everyone and this all happens right in your back yard! Please come on in.

Thank you for reading and you can look forward to hearing about our Stock Enhancement projects and our Paddling initiatives in a future article. Enjoy your beautiful river!

St. Mary's River Association,  
Scott Beaver

<http://www.stmarysriverassociation.com>