



St. Mary's River Association

by Scott Beaver, June 2016

Hello friends of the St. Mary's River,

My name is Scott Beaver and I live in St. Mary's on the Waternish Road. Some of you may know my parents, Rene and Carol Beaver. They owned and operated the Sherbrooke Village Inn, Eastern Valley Outfitters and the Clover Farm grocery & hardware store for many years. I was raised in Sherbrooke, moved away, and then returned to raise my family. My wife Beth Tate and I have 3 beautiful children who attend the St. Mary's Education/Academy Centre and enjoy the banks of the St. Mary's River daily.

I am currently the President of our St. Mary's River Association, which you may be quite surprised to know has many local projects revolving around our majestic river system. Our association wants to communicate more and strengthen our relationship with our community and members. Although our board of directors are mostly from our area, the majority of members are not. I feel it's possible that our local inhabitants aren't fully aware of what the St. Mary's River has to offer and just what your local river association is up to. I'm going to write a series of messages for our community newsletter to highlight some of our projects and to show just what we have on the go. I think it may surprise you.



Our museum is located at 8404 Hwy 7 at the north side of Sherbrooke. If you haven't visited recently, please stop in and have a look around. Maybe pack a lunch and have a picnic across the road at the riverside provincial park. Our museum highlights a long history of Atlantic salmon on our river, but to know more you will have to stop by and say hi to our museum manager Joanne Mailman. I don't want to spoil it!

Some projects we are currently working on:

1. Habitat restoration project (Restoring the river bottom & river banks after years of damage by floods, ice, logging and lack of proper forestry management)
2. Kelt rejuvenation project (giving the salmon going out to sea the best possible chance of survival, then returning them to the river of their birth)
3. River signage project (signs providing information for paddling and angling)
4. River data logging project (streamside pH, water level, temperature and rainfall monitoring)
5. Grade 12 Biology field trip Project (partnership with the St. Mary's Education/Academy Centre)
6. New website (QR coded sign information and the data logger info are found here)
7. Sea-trout enhancement project (working with Inland Fisheries and the Frasers Mills hatchery)

We currently work as 8 different committees focusing on very different issues that are relevant to the success of our Association. Our executive has identified reports done in the past which have stressed the need to diversify our role contributing to a stronger healthier community based organization. (Ann Camozzi's strategic plan from 2002 and Peter Dowd's Recreation plan from 2009.) Both can be found on our new website (see below) under EDUCATION/REPORTS. The photo opposite was taken in Silver's Pool, St. Mary's River by Gilbert van Ryckevorsel.



Please stay tuned for my next message which will provide more detail on our projects. Remember we are a community based organization and we welcome and encourage membership and participation. You can become a member by dropping by our museum or you can sign up on our website. Members enjoy our annual newsletter, you can join a committee of interest and volunteer or you can just stay informed about our many projects we have on the go. Remember, as a member you have a vote at our Annual General meeting, held in late May.

Signing off from the banks of the St. Mary's River,

Scott Beaver
President, SMRA
<http://www.stmarysriverassociation.com>