



Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2024 Newsletter UPCOMING/TRAINING

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Tree Planting Event

Mark your calendars! We are planning on hosting a volunteer planting event at our Salt Springs Brook restoration for October 20th! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details to follow soon!

Annual Redd Count

Our ever-popular volunteer-based redd count survey is also in the works for November 3rd! Join us at the Conservation Center at 1pm, head out the river for redd counts, and then back to the Center for some delicious Chili!

Fly-Tying at the HRAA

Fly-Tying at the HRAA is starting up again in October on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We will post when we have decided on the exact start date! Ages 12+. All skills welcome!

HRAA Member Potluck

Mark your calendars for December 15th! We have our annual member potluck scheduled for December 15th from 4-6pm.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

We've got some new, exciting projects that are just starting up! We have recently been approved for funding through the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund to begin a project titled "Redds & Beds", which will explore a potential correlation between Atlantic salmon spawning redds and the overlap of freshwater mussel beds and include some riparian restoration in areas that contain both salmon redds and mussel beds! We have also been recently approved to partner with the Hammond River Valley Elementary School to assist them in "Wilding Out", and the creation of an outdoor classroom area this upcoming fall! Stay tuned for our Winter Newsletter to learn more on these new projects!

TRAINING UPDATES

Our team is always looking to further our education, training, and outreach! This past summer, one of our field staff, Sophie, was able to join the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance for a 2-day training session on hydro-geomorphological assessments, and we are currently putting everything she learned into action! Ryan and Sarah have also been hard at work learning everything there is to know about benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs), and both have now successfully passed their field certification through the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN). We will be putting this training to good use in the upcoming weeks as we begin to collect CABIN samples, which will increase our understanding of water quality within a variety of our index sites! We are also pleased to announce that our Project Manager, Sarah, is now the Co-Chair of the New Brunswick Watershed Caucus, and we are excited to increase our collaborative efforts with watershed groups across the province!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2024 Newsletter MEET THE TEAM

MEET THE CAMP TEAM

Sam Bohan

I am going into my first year of University at Dalhousie. My favorite thing about camp is being able to get the kids interested and excited about science & the environment. A fun fact about me is that I got accepted into the Integrated Science Program for next year.

Evin Bonnell

I'm 17 years old and going into my first year of University! My favorite thing about camp is all of the fun water activities we have such as swimming, kayaking or paddle-boarding. A fun fact about me is that I swam onto an iceberg in Alaska!

Chloe Dobson

I'm 18 years old and going into my first year at UNBSJ, pursuing education. My favorite thing about camp is creating fun crafts for the kids. A fun fact about me is that I love painting and once completed a 10x10 foot mural at KVHS!

Colin Downey

I am attending my 3rd year at St. Thomas University. My favorite thing about camp is swimming and paddle-boarding. A fun fact about me is that I love basketball!

Lauryn Isbill

I am 20 years old and going into my 4th year of University. My favorite thing about camp is exploring nature through both a fun and educational aspect. A funfact about me is that I have never been on a plane!

Sarah Knox

I am going into my first year of University at UNBSJ Fredericton to study Environmental Management. My favorite thing about camp is having fun out on the paddle-boards with the kids. A fun fact about me is that my favorite animals are cows!

Eric Marshall

I'm 17 years old and going into 12th grade at Hampton High School. My favorite thing about camp is all the water activities and seeing all of the kids having fun! A fun fact about me is that I used to race dirt bikes and came top 5 for New Brunswick!

Sam McIntosh

I'm 16 years old and going into the 11th grade at Samuel de Champlain. My favorite thing about camp is hanging out with friends at camp. A fun fact about me is that the compost bin at my house gets raided by raccoons every night.

Abby Wear

I am 18 years old and am starting business in the fall at UNBSJ. My favorite thing about camp is getting to know each and every kid. A fun fact is that I love photography & videography and once got a photo published in a National Geographic Magazine.

Rick Aningaak (NYA Student)

My name is Rick Aningaak and I am participating in the Northern Youth Abroad Program for part of the summer. My hometown is Baker Lake, Nunavut. My favorite thing about camp is working with kids. An interesting fact about me is that I am an Inuit throat singer.





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2024 Newsletter NATURE CAMP

NATURE CAMP

Nature Camp has been sooo amazing this summer! We are coming close to the end of the season after 9 fun-filled weeks of camp! We sold out of every week, with a long waiting list! Thank you to our guest speakers, volunteers and everyone who supported us this summer!

HRAA field staff have also partnered with the Central Kings Recreation Center (CKRC) in Upham and their Summer Fun program to increase youth educational opportunities in a rural setting. Our team visited Summer Fun each week through the summer, and helped get the kids involved with creating pollinator habitat, learning about birds, fish, and other wildlife, tree planting, and fly tying!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2024 Newsletter PROJECTS

PROJECTS

1) Wild Wetland Wards

In partnership with Wildlife Habitat Canada, we designed and installed 15 beautiful graphic signs throughout our Conservation Center property to educate the public on the important role wetlands play in our environment! The HRAA Conservation Center is nestled within a Provincially Significant Wetland Area, which gives us ample natural resources to use as reference for wetland education! Not only are these vibrant, informative signs- they also contain QR codes that when scanned, link to further information on our website, including videos and sound clips of wetland critters! These signs have come in handy throughout Nature Camp, educating youth as they wander along our trails towards the pond. At the pond, we have installed various decoy ducks in the water, helping the kids to learn all about duck species of New Brunswick in a fun, interactive way! We also installed duck boxes and nesting boxes, as well as tree swallow houses, creating additional habitat within our beautiful wetland area!

2) Suckers Don't Suck

In partnership with the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, we are continuing to change the mythology behind white suckers being a 'trash fish' or 'garbage fish'- these fish are a natural part of our riverine setting and perform very valuable ecosystem services by helping to filter the water! This project includes public education through our various social media platforms focusing on "Sucker Saturday", in which we are highlighting all the wonderful things that white suckers do, in an effort to change public perception of this fish species and to decrease the notion of "throw them in the bushes". White suckers are a native fish species in the Hammond River, and they deserve more recognition and appreciation. Throughout the field season, we have been tracking white sucker abundance and distribution throughout the watershed. As we move into electrofishing season, we will use our juvenile white sucker data presence in comparison with our water quality results to determine if there is a correlation between healthy water and white sucker presence.

3) Accountable Anglers

In partnership with the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, we have built 10 additional monofilament bins, and they have been distributed to other watershed organizations across the province, bringing our total up to 97 bins throughout New Brunswick! We are happy to report that the bins along the Hammond River are once again being put to excellent use- it is amazing how much fishing line these bins collect! Initially launched in 2021, these monofilament recycling bins have been one of the most high-impact projects that we have undertaken, and it has inspired other groups in both PEI, Nova Scotia, and across the border in the St. Croix watershed to undertake similar monofilament recycling! The overarching goal of this project is to promote angler responsibility- not only with the proper disposal of used fishing line, but to encourage following fishing regulations. After July 15th, the vast majority of the watershed becomes fly-fishing only- as such, we have installed educational signage throughout the watershed informing the public of these regulations. In order to encourage the public to adhere to these fly-fishing regulations, we have installed FlyBrary Bins with these signs, with the concept of "need a fly, take a fly; have a fly, leave a fly!" to help provide the public with single barbless flies!



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3) Accountable Anglers Continued

We launched these FlyBrary Bins in 2023 with great success, and this year we have expanded this project! With a generous donation of lumber from JD Irving, we were able to construct a total of 60 FlyBrary Bins, when our initial target was to only build 15! Once these bins were built, we needed to fill them! We had a wonderful donation of flies from HRAA's very own fly-tying club and our Board of Director, Jack Cole. Our field staff also learned how to tie flies to fill these extra bins- our summer student, Logan Shea, blew us away with his natural tying skills- this was his first foray into tying, and he demonstrated a natural aptitude and finesse on the vice, and he plans on continuing to hone his skills while he is away at school this fall! Once all 60 bins were filled with flies, we delivered the bins to organizations throughout New Brunswick, and we are excited hear how these work out for other areas!

4) Water Quality Monitoring

With funding from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, our field staff have been very busy over the past few months! We have collected and analyzed water samples from 12 index sites throughout the watershed for June, July, and August, with only September sampling left to go! Our field team also installed 11 HOBO temperature loggers throughout the Hammond River watershed, which collect water temperatures every 30 minutes. This data is extremely valuable, and will highlight cold water refugia, or indicate which sites are lacking in riparian vegetation for prioritization of restoration work in the future. In addition to collecting water quality samples, our staff have been performing fish habitat surveys. These surveys are done over a 600m stretch, in which at every 100m data is collected on general water chemistry, riparian aspects, substrate analysis, flow velocity, stream measurements and characteristics, and anthropogenic stressors. To date, our field staff have performed fish habitat surveys in 20 tributaries of the Hammond River, equivalent to collecting valuable data along a total of 12 kilometers! During these fish habitat surveys, our wonderful Environmental Scientist, Ryan Farrell, initiated a bird survey, effectively creating HRAA's largest bird database! Our field team has also acquired a drone, which is allowing us to collect valuable aerial data in all of our sites! With Ryan at the helm, our field team are now fully trained on being able to operate the drone- thanks Ryan for your training and giving us wings!

Speaking of fish and fish habitat, our smallmouth bass tagging project continues for its 3rd consecutive year! In addition to tagging over 45 smallmouth bass, we have also had several recaptures- including multiple recaptures from our first year of tagging! Not only is this contributing to valuable data collection, it confirms that this tagging process does indeed work over a longer time period. We are collecting valuable data highlighting that Hammond River smallmouth bass do indeed have a seasonal migration pattern, entering the river system to spawn in almost identical timeframes and locations each year, with minimal overlap with salmonids. We would like to thank our volunteer smallmouth bass taggers, and we are looking forward to continuing this tagging project in 2025- if you would like to participate as a volunteer tagger, reach out to our Project Manager, Sarah, and she will add you to the list for training and equipment for the Spring of 2025!



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4) Water Quality Monitoring Continued

Each year, we set a goal to expand our understanding of the watershed and attempt to further characterize its assets. This year, our goal was to locate Chantalle's Cave- the 7th longest cave in New Brunswick, and it is within our watershed! Situated on Upham Mountain, Chantalle's Cave is adjacent to an unnamed tributary of the Hammond River. Locating Chantalle's Cave has been a "bucket list" goal for our Project Manager, Sarah, and we are pleased to report that Sarah, Logan, Sophie, and Ryan were indeed able to locate and document Chantalle's Cave! In 2021, JD Irving, with some slight persuasion from HRAA, included Chantalle's Cave as part of their "Unique Areas Program", and we are thrilled that we have been able to (finally) document it for HRAA's database!

In addition to water sampling, fish habitat assessments, and watershed exploration, our field team has been hard at work performing culvert assessments. To date, we have performed 30 culvert assessments, expanding our knowledge on HRAA's 2020 Culvert Assessment report. During these culvert assessments, we collect data on general water chemistry at the inlet and outlet, physical road attributes, flow velocity at the inlet and outlet, riparian and substrate characteristics, culvert measurements, and recording issues with rust, blockages, erosion, and overall safety assessments. In 2020, we listed one specific culvert in Upham as the #2 culvert for repair and/or replacement, as it posed not only safety concerns, but it did not allow fish passage. Since 2020, we have been actively advocating to both the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as well as the Department of Environment and Local Government, to address our concerns for this particular culvert.

On August 6th work began on replacing this problematic culvert on Route 820 in Upham. Unfortunately, there was little notification regarding the culvert replacement and its subsequent road closure- many in the surrounding community felt quite blindsided to leave for work that morning, only to be met with a road closure. Our HRAA team immediately sprang into action and released a map outlining the location of the road closure, as well as two potential detour routes. The following week, we heard that there may be a delay in the hired subcontractor obtaining a permit to remove the fish in Twin Brook in the work zone- our team once gain sprung into action under our own permit and performed a fish rescue to help ensure no further delays would occur! We installed barrier nets above and below the culvert and removed a total of 258 fish of 7 different species, including 71 salmonids! Once a flume was installed, and the plunge pool was sumped to safe level, our team returned to the site to complete the fish removal- we are happy to report that we found even more juvenile salmon in this stretch that were then relocated a safe distance below the work zone! The overall abundance of fish, as well as the presence of juvenile salmon, demonstrate the suitable habitat of this tributary, and we are thrilled that this culvert replacement project will finally allow for fish passage to access an upstream habitat of approximately 4,000m²! While this is not an HRAA project, our field team remains on standby to continue to assist in the project's activities, as well as share project updates with the surrounding community.



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5) Glyphosate Monitoring

We are pleased to announce that we have formed a new relationship and partnership with the McLean Foundation! The McLean Foundation provided HRAA with funding that has allowed us to purchase equipment that will enable us to collect water samples and process the results in-house to determine presence/absence of glyphosate in the water column! For 3 decades, the HRAA has been collecting and analyzing water quality samples to help protect and restore the watershed. From examining general chemistry, trace metals, fecal coliforms, e.coli, brine line spills, mine effluent discharge monitoring, cyanotoxins and more- we have continued to expand our water monitoring strategies - testing for glyphosate presence/absence in watercourses should be no different.

For many, the word "glyphosate" immediately invokes the word "forestry"; however, there are many other applications, including power lines, rail lines, roadways, residential uses, and agriculture- ultimately, there are several avenues for glyphosate to potentially enter watercourses. In 2023, our field crew initiated the organization's first foray into glyphosate testing- we collected 2 water samples, both of which tested negative for glyphosate presence. We recognized that 2 samples is but a "drop in the bucket", so one of our goals for 2024 was to expand this sampling program.

Our new testing equipment will allow us to process our own water samples in-house to determine presence/absence of glyphosate in water, with detection limits ranging from 0.002mg/L to 0.5mg/L. The current Canadian Guidelines for glyphosate in freshwater have a maximum allowable limit of 0.28mg/L for drinking water, and 0.8mg/L for the longterm protection of aquatic life.

Over the next 3 months, our goal is to collect and analyze a total of 125 water samples for glyphosate presence using our new equipment. Additionally, 10 tests that result in elevated glyphosate presence will have replicate samples sent for certified laboratory analysis- given this is new testing equipment, having duplicate samples sent to a certified laboratory will increase our confidence for our in-house test results. Our secondary goal is to decrease the stigma and knowledge gaps surrounding testing for glyphosate in freshwater resources. Glyphosate, in general, is a very politicized hot topic; however, we should treat its sampling as we do any other water quality parameter we are currently monitoring. As we begin this new sampling program, we will publish our findings to keep the data openly accessible and transparent. At the end of the sampling season, we will use our results to frame our next steps.

On August 7th, the Canadian National Railway Company began its annual vegetation control program. Our field staff plotted a course following the rail line that was adjacent to waterbodies from Sussex to Rothesay. After the first rain, our team collected water samples downstream of the train tracks. In total, we collected 10 samples to be processed with our new equipment- 70% of the sites were positive for the presence of glyphosate; however, all results were below guideline limits for both drinking water quality and protection of aquatic life. 30% of the sites contained no detectable levels of glyphosate presence. No duplicate samples were sent for laboratory analysis during this initial survey.



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5) Glyphosate Monitoring continued

We invite members of the public to suggest future sampling sites- while we cannot sample them all, if there are common areas of interest, we shall do our best to accommodate. Additionally, we welcome all interested watershed organizations across New Brunswick to participate. We will provide you with sample bottles, gloves, instructions, and pre-stamped return packages to ship your samples to our office for analysis. All results will be provided to your organization within a 24hr turn-around time upon receiving your sample. Additionally, we may cover the cost of laboratory analysis fees if our in-house results demonstrate elevated levels of glyphosate presence.

We are grateful to the McLean Foundation for their financial support in allowing us to expand on our water monitoring program, and we look forward to partnering with other watersheds across the province to determine the degree of glyphosate presence/absence in our watercourses!

6) Cyanobacteria Monitoring

Our work monitoring for cyanobacteria blooms and cyanotoxins continues, with support from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund. 2024 marks the third year of our AlgaeTracker deployment, collecting real-time data on the triggering parameters of cyanobacteria blooms. This year, we have been able to expand our Tracker deployment- we now have two units in Darlings Lake and one in Meenan's Cove, and we have been able to provide a unit to the Belleisle Watershed Coalition for deployment in Belleisle Bay; a unit to ACAP Saint John for deployment in Robertson Lake, a unit to the St. John River Society for deployment at Gerow's Wharf; a unit to Eastern Charlotte Waterways for deployment in Lake Utopia; a unit for Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association for deployment in Grand Lake, and we are happy to report that the City of Saint John has purchased a unit of their own for deployment in Latimer Lake, a drinking water reservoir! These devices collect an immense amount of real-time data, and a cross-watershed approach is allowing us to examine bloom formation trends across multiple waterbodies.

We are thrilled that this project continues to expand, and we are happy to announce that we have added a new piece of equipment to our cyanobacteria monitoring toolbox- BloomOptix AI! With this new technology, we are able to collect water samples and run them under new microscopes, which then connect to the BloomOptix interface, which provides us with real-time cyanobacteria genera identification! Identifying the genus of cyanobacteria in the water provides us with new insight into what is forming these blooms, as well as the potential for toxin production. One of the best things about this new equipment is there are no limitations on how much you can use it! We have been busy collecting samples from a variety of waterbodies within Hampton, Hammond River, and Quispamsis!



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6) Cyanobacteria Monitoring continued

We are pleased to report that a cyanobacteria bloom has yet to occur within Darlings Lake; however, this makes our job a bit more difficult- why has it bloomed over the past three consecutive years, and not this year, when conditions and nutrients have been comparable? It will take us a while to review and compare all of the data; however, our current working hypothesis is that the cyanobacteria bloom in Darlings Lake over the past 3 years has depleted the excess nutrients (phosphates and nitrates) that have accumulated in the sediment within the lake, and it may take some time for these nutrients to re-deposit, in excess, to once again feed a bloom. Sediment sampling is not currently part of our cyanobacteria monitoring strategy; however, our goal for 2025 will be to explore the interactions between sediment nutrient accumulation and bloom formation!

We have two little hints of exciting things on the horizon for cyanobacteria monitoring- the first being that we currently have a scientific paper regarding our partnership with MERIDIAN and Dalhousie University that is under peer review- hopefully by the Winter Newsletter, we will have successfully published our research paper on cyanobacteria! And keep an eye out for that Winter Newsletter- we are currently in contract negotiations, and we will have some BIG news coming up very soon on expanding our cyanobacteria research!

7) Reel Naturals

In partnership with the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, our third year of our Fishing Club is well underway! Once we opened registration, the Fishing Club filled to its maximum capacity in under 48 hours! So far, our Fishing Club has had adventures throughout the Hammond River watershed, but we have been exploring other fishing hotspots outside of our area too! Our Fishing Club got to wet our lines in the Kennebecasis River with a fishing expedition in Hampton at the Lighthouse Center. We then travelled up to Gagetown to try their Fish Farm- while we love fishing in rivers, it is a nice change of pace for the kids to practice their skills in an area that is guaranteed to catch fish! We caught several monster-sized rainbow trout, and we definitely recommend the Gagetown Fish Farm as an excellent family outing! We then dipped our toes in the Belleisle watershed, with a fishing trip at Camp Pascobac! Exposing our youth to a variety of fishing opportunities has been wonderful- from stocked ponds, to rivers, to bays- they are getting a great education in fishing in a variety of settings! Throughout the season, our members have learned all about fish identification, proper gear selection, fish handling and how to identify fish habitat and 'read the stream', and we have been teaching them the basics of fly fishing! Up next, we have adventures planned for Camp Glenburn and McCrea's fishing farm!

One of our goals for 2024 is to make fly-fishing more inclusive, so we started up an adult-based fly fishing workshop for beginners called "FlyCasters". We were fortunate to have Robin Doull, a local fly-fishing expert, lead this workshop. We started off with an in-class session to discuss the basics of fly-fishing and fly-casting before our group moved on to the river! We had several meetings with hands-on fly fishing instruction at French Village. This was a wonderful opportunity to introduce many people to the joys of fly fishing. Thank you, Robin, for all of your assistance!



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8) Riparian Restoration

We are delighted to announce that work is well underway for multi-partner, multi-funder, large-scale restoration activities! Working alongside project partners with the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, Belleisle Watershed Coalition, and ACAP Saint John, the HRAA will be undertaking a 2-year project through the Atlantic Ecosystem Restoration Fund (AERF) to help improve and restore aquatic habitats along the Wolastoq-Saint John River watershed!

Our work began earlier this year in partnership with Kennebecasis Valley High School. We were invited to the school to present on the importance of riparian vegetation, soil characteristics, and native tree selection. KVHS had a vision of creating a Miyawaki Forest, which is tightly planting native tree species in an area and encouraging competition between the trees, allowing them to grow faster than when spaced out. With student assistance, the HRAA planted our very first Miyawaki Forest!

Next up was our continued effort to replant Palmer Brook. Palmer Brook offers critical cold water refugia and acts as a critical Atlantic salmon staging platform, and restoring this tributary is essential to protecting aquatic species at risk. Our field team carefully selected native shrubs which propagate via root systems- this helps to ensure that even if there is significant ice sheering, these species will regenerate and continue to spread.

For years, the HRAA has tried to secure funding to properly restore Crowley's Pool; however, we have yet to be successful in securing the necessary funds to rehabilitate this area. Instead of sitting idly by while the pool continues to deteriorate, we decided to undertake an intensive replanting of this site and planted over 2,000 willow stakes along the eroding banks. These willow stakes will help to hold the erosion in place while we continue to seek out funding for a full-scale restoration initiative. We are happy to report that approximately 90% of our willow stakes have taken root, and we have another 1,000 willow stakes currently propagating, which we will add to this site in the fall!

Our big restoration project for 2024 focuses on Salt Springs Brook. In addition to our partnership through the AERF, we have secured financial support from the Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in our "Redd-y, Set, Grow" project, which focuses on riparian restoration along critical salmon spawning habitat. Additionally, we formed a new partnership with the ECHO Foundation to assist in the Salt Springs Brook restoration project- this new fund has allowed the HRAA to distribute \$5,000 to the Belleisle, Kennebecasis, and ACAP Saint John to boost their own restoration efforts- a whopping donation of \$15,000 dollars to help restore riparian buffers!

With support from AERF, FCAS, and ECHO Foundation, our work in Salt Springs Brook is well underway, marking the largest restoration project for HRAA in the past decade!



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8) Riparian Restoration continued

Salt Springs Brook is approximately 22.5 kilometers in length with an average bankfull width of 12m and is the longest tributary in the Hammond River watershed. The Hammond River is a direct tributary to the Kennebecasis River, which in turn feeds into the Wolastoq-Saint John River and ultimately the Bay of Fundy. Salt Springs Brook contains the highest juvenile Atlantic salmon densities and second highest adult salmon redd densities, in the entire Hammond River watershed. The 2008 Watershed Management Plan determined that on the whole, Salt Springs Brook received a Class B Water Classification, according to New Brunswick's Provincial Water Classification Strategy, and noted that *E. coli* had a tendency to spike during peak summer months and has the third highest agricultural impact density within the watershed. These findings are further supported in HRAA's 2020 Watershed Management Plan, which ranked Salt Springs Brook to be the top priority brook for restoration activities in the watershed, due to the erosion that is occurring in the lower reach of the brook in critical salmon spawning and juvenile habitat. Years of agricultural pressure has led to eroding streambanks, vastly increasing sediment loading and decreasing suitable aquatic life habitat and freshwater quality.

Salt Springs Brook provides critical nursery, juvenile, and spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon—should sedimentation continue, there will be a drastic shift in substrate and water quality, which will have a direct, negative impact on the Atlantic salmon population, as well as all other aquatic life therein. As outlined in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans report, "Recovery Potential of the Outer Bay of Fundy Salmon", the Hammond River is one of the few remaining rivers that supports Outer Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon and contains one of the highest mean densities in the Wolastoq-Saint John River system. "The short-term abundance target for the OBoF DU is to annually achieve the conservation egg requirement in all the seven priority rivers selected for distribution targets" (DFO, 2014); however, the Hammond River shall not continue to produce the target egg requirement, should its top spawning and rearing area become negatively impacted by erosion and sedimentation. If Salt Springs Brook is not remediated posthaste, this may lead to the extirpation of Atlantic salmon in the Hammond River, subsequently impacting population densities on a broader scale.

The landowner has provided verbal and written confirmation to allow extensive work to be performed on this property. Fortunately, the landowner is also more than willing to accommodate the creation of a very large riparian buffer, in excess of 30 m-50 m away from the water's edge. This area has been subject to agriculture for decades; however, the property is now leased to a farmer by the landowner. The landowner is more than willing to decrease the amount of land provided to the farmer for haying purposes, as she has expressed grave concern on the amount of land that is being lost due to annual ongoing erosion.



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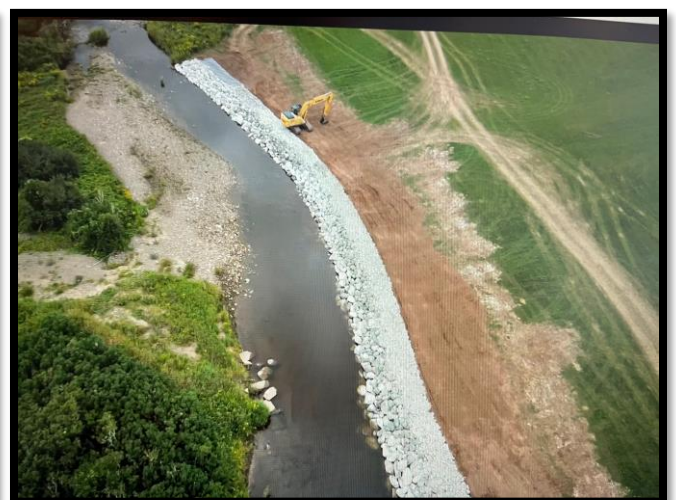
PROJECTS

8) Riparian Restoration continued

There exists ease of access throughout the property, so heavy equipment access will not be an issue. There are 6 priority areas for remediation that are greater than 100m in length that will require engineering permits, heavy equipment for re-sloping the banks, installing rock toe, and geotextile. The area of focus is 2.7 kilometers in total length, with an average bankful width of 12m (or 32,400m²) that will benefit from riparian planting, as most of this stretch is completely void of any riparian buffer.

Phase 1 of Salt Springs Brook began in the Spring of 2024, in which we successfully completed preliminary assessments and hired a consulting company to perform the engineering assessment and site drawings. With these detailed drawings in hand, we were able to secure a Wetland and Watercourse Alteration Permit for the remediation of approximately 100m length of Salt Springs Brook. We then consulted with numerous contractors, and we selected Tony Langstroth to perform the construction work of restabilizing the banks of Salt Springs Brook. Hammond River Holdings provided a generous donation of large boulders to help create a rock toe and stabilize the banks, and we purchased additional rock of various size grades from Hammond River Aggregates. The eroded banks have now been re-sloped and a rock retaining wall has been placed, including geotextile fabric to help keep everything secure. Our next steps are to perform intensive replanting along this site—we firmly believe in a combination of gray and green infrastructure to help rehabilitate this area—check out the “Upcoming Events” section to learn more on how you can get involved in this historic undertaking!

So far this year, we have planted 2,440 native trees and 2,000 willow stakes, with 1,000 more willow stakes currently rooting, and plans to plant an additional 1,000+ native trees! This is going to be the most intensive tree planting program that the HRAA has taken on in over 5 years! We are delighted with the progress of Salt Springs Brook, and we are looking forward to continuing this restoration project in the upcoming 2025 season when we undertake “Phase 2” and continue to work our way down this critical salmon tributary!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2024 Newsletter OPERATIONS / SPONSORS

OPERATIONS

Rentals

We offer hall rentals at the Hammond River Conversation Center! Call Melissa at 506-645-1698 to book your rental today! Members receive 20% off all rentals!!

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