



Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2024 Newsletter EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebration of Life for Jim Gillespie July 20th 1-5pm

Please join us at the Conservation Center on July 20th from 1-5pm as we celebrate the life of an amazing person, Jim Gillespie. The word "legend" simply does not come close enough to describe the impact that Jim Gillespie has had on the fishing and conservation community, or the indelible mark he has left on our organization.

Jim had a true passion for engaging youth in angling, and for promoting responsible stewardship over our natural resources. His charismatic personality, exceptional salmon knowledge, and sheer passion and zeal for angling will truly be missed. Our hearts are with the Gillespie family, and we would like to say the sincerest thank you to Jim- our river would not be the same without you.

RECENT EVENTS

Annual Dinner & Auction 2024

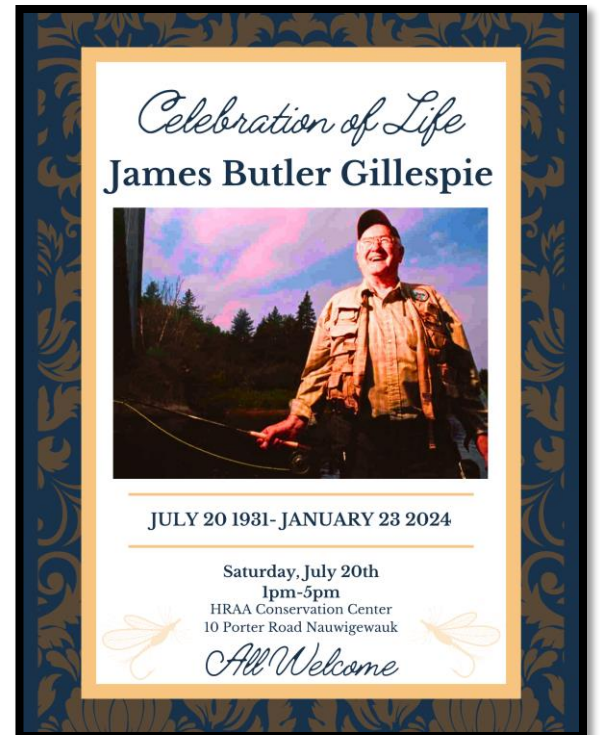
This year's Annual Dinner & Auction proved to be an extraordinary success, drawing in a crowd of over 180 attendees who eagerly embraced the Night at the Oscars festivities. From the moment guests arrived, they were greeted with an ambiance of excitement and anticipation, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the delectable feast that awaited our guests. A sumptuous hip of beef dinner, expertly prepared to tantalize the taste buds, was complemented by an abundance of smoked salmon. Each bite was savored amidst the lively chatter and laughter that filled the room.

What truly made the evening unforgettable was the sense of camaraderie and community spirit that permeated throughout. It was heartwarming to witness smiles adorning the faces of all who attended, their hearts filled with joy and goodwill.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our volunteers, whose tireless commitment and unwavering support ensured the smooth execution of this event. Their hard work behind the scenes did not go unnoticed, and we extend our sincerest gratitude to each and every one of them.

As the night drew to a close, and guests departed with prizes in hand and memories to cherish, it was evident that this year's Annual Dinner & Auction had left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to be a part of it. Here's to many more years of success and celebration!"





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RECENT EVENTS

Family Fishing Derby 2024

This year's fishing derby surpassed all expectations, drawing an impressive turnout of over 410 enthusiastic participants eager to cast their lines and reel in the big catch. The weather smiled upon us, providing the perfect backdrop for an exhilarating day of angling adventure.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, whose unwavering commitment to our cause helped make this event a resounding success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Hammond River Holdings, Dominos, Doiron Sports Excellence, Canadian Tire, Cabela's, Minnow Tackle Shop, Conservation officers of NB, It's Aboat Time River Adventures, and Maritime Worm for their invaluable support and partnership.

As the day ended on another successful fishing derby, participants departed with memories to last a lifetime and a renewed appreciation for the beauty of nature and the camaraderie of fellow anglers. Here's to many more years of casting lines, reeling in big catches, and creating cherished memories together!"

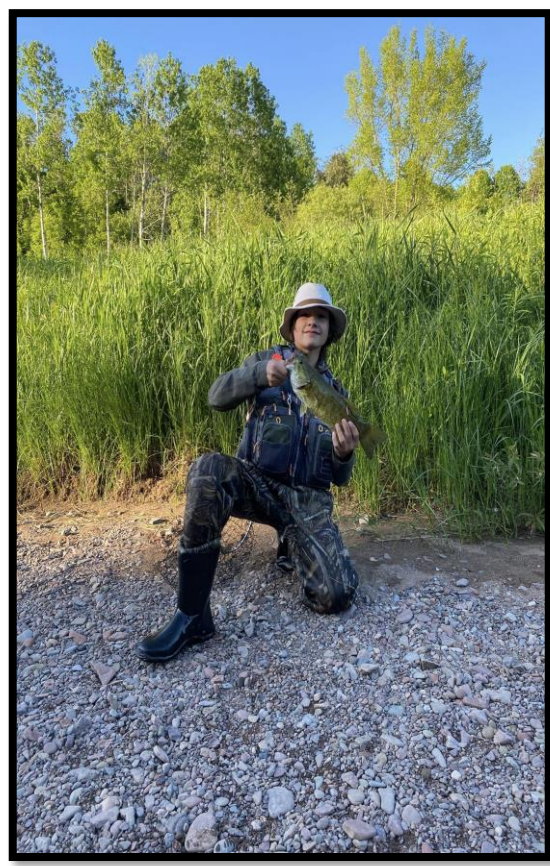




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Family Fishing Derby 2024





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Family Fishing Derby Winners 2024

Senior Biggest Fish: Susan Marr- 19.5" chain pickerel
Senior Most Species: Susan Marr- 7 species

Adult Biggest Fish: Phil Walsworth- 19.5" chain pickerel
Adult Most Fish: James Mitchell- 9 species

1st Place Youth Biggest Fish: Evan Doyle- 21" shad
2nd Place Youth Biggest Fish: Liam Geroux- 19.5" shad
3rd Place Youth Biggest Fish: Zane Crawmer- 18 sm. mouth bass

1st Place Youth Most Species: Evan Doyle- 9 species
2nd Place Youth Most Species: Weston MacNutt- 8 species
3rd Place Youth Most Species: Liam Geroux- 7 species

1st Place Child Biggest Fish: John Walsworth- 21.5" pickerel
2nd Place Child Biggest Fish: Carly Garland- 19" pickerel
3rd Place Child Biggest Fish: Sam Walsworth- 18.75" pickerel

1st Place Child Most Fish: Jasper Mitchell- 10 species
2nd Place Child Most Fish: Sam Walsworth- 9 species
3rd Place Child Most Fish: William McDevitt- 8 species

Best Fish From Shore: Graham MacFarlane

Best Fish from Boat Top: Carly Garland
Best Fish From Boat Runner Up: Ben and Fred Woodhouse

Best Fish Handling: Isaac Lunchi

Best Fish on Fly Top: Jasper Mitchell
Best Fish on Fly Runner Up: Sadie Whittle

Best Family Fun Top: Samantha MacDonald and Family
Best Family Fun Runner Up: McDevitt Family

Best Snag Top: Lane Whittle
Best Snag Runner Up: Brantley Boudreau

Best Action Shot Top: Jeremy McLean and Family
Best Action Shot Runner Up: Blair Flower and Family

Smallest Fish Top: Finley Family
Smallest Fish Runner Up: Stephanie Lorrenco

Celebrating Suckers Top: Jack Swan
Celebrating Suckers Runner Up: Brenda Gogan

Best Tagged Bas Top: Liam Geroux
Best Tagged Bas Runner Up: Phil Walsworth

Jim Gillespie Angler Achievement Award: Jack Swan

JIM GILLESPIE ANGLER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JACK SWAN

In the 1990's, Jim Gillespie, Larry Defazio and a few others began hosting HRAA's original Fishing Derby. Jim Gillespie was passionate about engaging youth in angling, and could often be found giving lessons to eager youth along the shorelines of the Hammond River. This past year, we lost Jim- a pillar of the Hammond River Angling Association organization- and we wanted to create something that would honor his legacy.

For the Family Fishing Derby 2024, we created the inaugural Gillespie Angler Achievement Award, which will be given out each year to a youth who demonstrates a passion for fishing, proper fishing sportsmanship, who demonstrates growth in their angling skills, and who volunteers their time to help out with other HRAA projects.

We are pleased to announce that Jack Swan has been awarded the first ever Gillespie Angler Achievement Award. Jack has been attending Nature Camp for many summers, has helped the HRAA with different volunteer opportunities, and has participated in all of our Fishing Derbies. Jack is one of the most passionate youth anglers we have met, and he is always happy to help show others his techniques, his tackle box, and to chat about all things fishing! Jack demonstrates a keen understanding of proper fish handling, catch and release, and overall conservation of our aquatic resources, and all of us at the HRAA are so proud to have witnessed Jack's skills continuing to grow over time.

Congratulations, Jack!





Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2024 Newsletter MEET THE TEAM

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FIELD STAFF

Sophie Hebert – Environmental Scientist

Sophie is an animal lover who loves learning new things in the biological field. She was our Eco Tech at Nature Camp and once she graduated from the University of PEI with a bachelor of science in Biology, we hired her back full time as our new Environmental Scientist! She is looking forward to gaining more experience in the field with HRAA!

Ryan Farrell – Ecological Technician

Ryan is an outdoor enthusiast with a passion for golfing and fishing. Growing up on the Nashwaak, he spent countless days honing his fishing skills in the beautiful waters. During his time at UNBSJ, he became familiar with the Hammond River, further deepening his connection to the area. After spending the last two years away from New Brunswick, Ryan is thrilled to be back in the province he calls home, where he enjoys being outdoors and working on and around the water.

Logan Shea – Student Ecological Technician

Logan grew up in Rothesay and is currently studying biology at the University of British Columbia. He has a deep love for camping, hiking, and fishing, and is thrilled at the opportunity to work with both camp and field teams. Logan is eager to learn as much as possible from these experiences and is motivated by his exploration and study of all things outdoors.

CAMP STAFF

Sarah Estabrooks – Camp Director

Sarah brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Camp Director role, holding a Degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies from UNB and boasting over 25 years of experience in the field. Her deep-rooted passion for the outdoors shines through in her work, as she is not only an outdoor enthusiast herself but also dedicated to educating youth in outdoor skills and development.





Hammond River Angling Association Spring 2024 Newsletter PROJECTS

PROJECTS

- 1) Ducks Unlimited Classes- learning all about wetlands and the critical services they provide.
- 2) Splash Days- release of unfed salmon fry into the Hammond River, and additional stocking performed with Vibert boxes in the upper watershed.
- 3) ECHO Foundation- large-scale restoration and tree planting underway at Salt Springs Brook to help protect juvenile and spawning salmon habitat.
- 4) Cyanobacteria Monitoring- Our 6 AlgaeTrackers are being deployed once again this year, with 2 in Darlings Lake, one in Belleisle Bay, Grand Lake, Latimer Lake and the Kennebecasis River at Meenan's Cove. Two new devices are on their way and will be deployed in Lake Utopia and one location TBD. We will also be using real-time artificial intelligence with our new BloomOptix to determine cyanobacteria species and cell count!
- 5) Riverkeepers- hosting educational classes to use the Water Ranges test kits, as well as incorporating water quality testing into our Fishing Club. Project also includes several riverside cleanup initiatives.
- 6) Water Quality Monitoring- we will be collecting water quality samples from 12 index sites, as well as performing environmental DNA analysis for a variety of at-risk and invasive species, and we will be collecting samples this fall to determine presence/absence of glyphosate in the water column. This project also includes a continuation on our smallmouth bass tagging project to determine abundance and distribution throughout the watershed.
- 7) Redd-y, Set Grow- Performing riparian planting along critical salmon spawning grounds, while simultaneously raising awareness on fishing regulations and fish identification.
- 8) Wild Wetland Wards- educating youth on wetland species, with a particular focus on native duck species! New signs will be installed across the Conservation Center property that will have a QR code that will link to additional information and videos on our website!
- 9) Accountable Anglers- we have built 10 additional monofilament bins and have distributed these to other watershed organizations across the province, bringing our total up to 97 bins! We will also be building additional FlyBrary Bins to distribute across the province- so keep your eyes out for these soon! Additionally, this project raises awareness on the hazards of using lead weight, of introducing invasive species by using live bait, and the importance of recycling your worm containers!
- 10) Reel Naturals- we are off to a great start with our Fishing Club, who meet monthly and learn about all things angling! We have also started an Adult Fly Fishing group called FlyCasters, and we love seeing how much this group has advanced in their fly fishing techniques!
- 11) Suckers Don't Suck- we are changing 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! We are studying their abundance, distribution, migratory behaviors, and nursery habitats.



Hammond River Angling Association Spring 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!!

Facebook

Follow our page on Facebook!

You can find us here: <https://www.facebook.com/hammondriveranglingassociation>

Membership

Join our membership or buy-a-brick today at <https://www.hraa.ca/membership>

Thank you to our Sponsors

