



WHEATLEY RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

Wheatley River Improvement Group

April , 2010

WRIG Welcomes New Chair

Wheatley River watershed resident, Dr. James Kemp, UPEI Research Biologist and Associate Professor, has been involved in research relating to pollination and floral morphology. He initiated and co-led a project involving wild roses as an alternative crop for bioactive compounds in Atlantic Canada. His work also involves pesticides and the decline of honey bees in Atlantic Canada. His general research expertise is in the field of pollination biology and floral morphology



of native species of plants. Recently, his work has focused on blueberry pollination, and the sustainability of native pollinators. Dr. Kemp has also developed a collaborative research program examining the development of native rose species as a major source of bioactive substances. Dr. Kemp has sat on the PEI Environmental Advisory Committee and worked with other groups concerned with provincial environmental health.

Letter from the Chair

A few years ago, my wife, Marie, and I were house hunting. During that time we travelled through many areas of this beautiful Island, but kept heading back towards a region called the Wheatley River Watershed, and a place that we now call "Home". Marie is originally from Nova Scotia, and in 1993, I came from Ontario, to teach in the Department of Biology, at the University of Prince Edward Island. Yes, it is true, we are "CFA's". However, like Marie, from the first time I set foot onto this Island, I fell in love with it ... I had arrived home.

As a botanist, I had time to investigate and discover the beauty of this Island. I have walked the hills, with camera in hand, and walked the streams with fly rod in hand, and have realized the importance of protecting this beautiful land. But like so many others, I have also realized that no individual can do this alone. We are all part of this land, and therefore, we are all part of this beautiful watershed, the Wheatley River Watershed. So many have called this place "home", and everyone that lives here is charged with the responsibility of caring for this enchanting land.

When I was asked to join the Wheatley River Improvement Group (WRIG), I was honoured to do so, especially when I considered the amazing people that have given so much of their time to develop this group. Now that I have been asked to Chair the group, it was with extreme humility that I accepted, but it was my passion for helping to protect this beautiful land that allowed me to do so. This land gives us so much, the early morning sunrises as the dew glistens on the flowers, and the gentle sunsets reflecting on the water, these and many others are the images that invigorate our souls, and because of this, it is only right that we who live in the

Wheatley River Watershed, have the responsibility to give back to it and protect it..

My role in the WRIG is simple, and like others on the board; it is to insure that the vision of those who preceded us will be implemented, and to encourage all others in this watershed, to give back to their land. What could be simpler, more logical, and more natural, than giving back to a place in which you live, and that you love. As I stood by the river at the last Remembrance Day Service, I understood why those who we were honouring gave the ultimate sacrifice. I also realized that a part of what they fought to defend was our freedom to enjoy the beauty and bounty of nature right here at home. It is very important, to thank all those that have worked tirelessly over the years to protect this beautiful watershed. Without their determination, and efforts, the Wheatley River Improvement Group would not exist.

Naturally, no Newsletter would be complete without asking for something from you, and this letter will not be any different. What I ask of you is simple, it is for your participation as we celebrate, maintain, and develop our watershed. If you have children, bring them along as there is so much to learn and to see, and one day, it will be theirs. Over the coming months, there will be a number of events taking place, events at which everyone can help, and as we all know, "many hands make light work". We are also looking forward to information sessions in which everyone can learn more about their watershed. This is YOUR watershed, you are a part of it, and it is here to enjoy. If you have any suggestions, I welcome your input, and promise to deliver them to the others on WRIG as we are all part of this Watershed and everyone has a voice in making it a success.

Respectfully, Jim Kemp

FREE WORKSHOP
Wed, April 14th, 7:00 pm
Wheatley River Community Hall,
Rackham's Lane
Mark Douglas, Certified Energy Advisor
Presents
HOME ENERGY AUDITS and
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY OPTIONS

Mark Douglas, - NRCAN certified Energy Advisor with Sustainable Housing, will present a free overview on how residential energy audits work. The evening will be fun, informative and what you will learn about your own home's energy consumption may be quite shocking! Mark will cover some easy, practical solutions for saving home energy costs that include tips you can use throughout your home to save up to 30% on home energy.

FREE WORKSHOP
Sat., April 24th
Wheatley River Community Hall,
Rackham's Lane
Gary Schneider
Presents
9:00 am - GARDENING WITH NATIVE ISLAND SPECIES
1:30 pm - RE-PLANTING RACKHAM'S POND BASIN

The use of native plants to improve wildlife habitat, beautify yards and reduce the size of lawns is attracting increasing attention across the country. Renowned expert Gary Schneider, of the MacPhail Woods Ecological Forestry Project, will lead these workshops. Participants will learn about what types of plants provide the best food, both for wildlife and humans, and get a chance to discuss some of their own landscaping situations.

WRIG Coordinator's Report

At WRIG's 2010 AGM on Thursday Feb.18, our report documented a super-busy year. We should all be proud that besides the careful development of a solid plan for our first major flagship project, i.e. Phase 1 of the Restoration of Rackham's Community Pond, we also held numerous fundraisers, provided environmental awareness activities at the pond and in schools, held our second "*Day on Our River Festival*", facilitated a World Water Day event with Hunter Clyde watershed, provided stream site assessments to local landowners and the labour to make environmental improvements. Our summer field crew accomplished a sizable amount of instream restoration, planted 555 trees, installed sections of brush-mats, removed a mountain of garbage from portions of streams and revitalized our tree nursery at Crooked Creek Farm. They also restored a good section of walking trail along a beautiful and unique stretch of river, just off the Little Bungay Road.

We organized free workshops, participated in Provincial and regional watershed group planning and consulted the community about planning for the revitalization of Wheatley River Hall. Should this endeavour be successful, and sufficient funding secured for a major renovation, the building will be greener, better equipped and vastly more energy efficient. Its usage will broaden to become a multi functional community space and a site dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural history of the Wheatley River Watershed. An energy audit was scheduled in late March, bringing the group a step further along the application process.

Last fall, WRIG, worked in conjunction with the Federation of Agriculture to organize an afternoon W.R. Watershed Farm tour, where we got to highlight some of our local producers who have environmental farm plans and are using agricultural best management practices, others who are considered pioneer organic growers and still others who have recently achieved "certified" organic status.

As the winter wears thin, WRIG continues to plan for and provide opportunities for our watershed residents that result in a positive outcome such as improved local water quality, increased bio- diversity, and greater understanding of our own human impact on the watershed. We invite you to participate in all our activities and meetings and hope you will offer suggestions for specific events you would like to see in our communities.

The AGM saw the fulfilling of terms by some of our dedicated founding directors as well as the welcome addition of several new ones. We owe serious thanks to retiring Board members Pierre-Yves Daoust, Melvin Ling and Lloyd and Lynn Ross for all they have contributed over the years. And we welcome the new and returning Board members listed below.

It's been a great year, one full of challenges and successes, and it is with the support of our watershed community, our government and our dedicated directors and membership that this good environmental work will continue in our Wheatley River Watershed for another year.

All the best, Tracy Gallant

Meet New and Returning Board & Officers Inaugurated at Feb. 18 AGM

Chair, Dr. James Kemp
Past Chair, Stewart MacRae
Treasurer, Ann Wheatley
Secretary Paulette Potvin
Dr. David Gladstone
Jack Hanley
Allie McCrady
Grant Rackham
Vicki Reddin-Gauthier
Eric C. Riordon



Photo by W. Gairns '09

2010 Angling Opening Delayed for Rackham's Pond.

Rackham's Pond Angling Restrictions. Opening Delayed to May 24th Family Fishing Weekend.

We know that local anglers can't wait for the opening of the season and the new Rackham's Pond will play a role in this spring ritual but a little later. We are excited to have people visit and enjoy the area but a delayed opening is necessary to give the new grass and vegetation time to establish and further stabilize the banks. This will avoid the possibility of sections of the bank breaking away and sliding back into the basin. The delay will ensure that the fragile banks remain safe and solid. Signs outlining the conservation restrictions will be posted before April 15th, and notices of the same will be placed in newspapers. Proudly, the Rackham's Community Pond basin has been identified as the only wildlife conservation area in the Wheatley River Watershed. After May 24, anglers wishing to use barbless hooks and adhere to the reduced daily catch limit of 5 fish will be welcome to be among the first to enjoy fishing at the new Rackham's Pond.

What's good for the fish is good for the angler. Thank you for respecting our pond.

**OPENING DELAYED UNTIL MAY 24TH
DAILY CATCH LIMITED TO 5 FISH
BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY IN THE POND AREA.**

OPPORTUNITY: WRIG's Summer Field Crew Will Work for YOU!

Watershed residents! Do you have a section of stream needing improvement/restoration or a section of buffer zone in need of the stabilizing benefits that trees and shrubs provide?

If so, we have a solution for you. Please contact WRIG to arrange for a site assessment and to add your property onto our summer field crews' work schedule.



Coming Events

Wheatley River Hall & Rackham's Pond

Wed., April 14th Free Workshop with Mark Douglas
7:00 PM - HOME ENERGY AUDITS and SUSTAINABLE ENERGY OPTIONS

Sat., April 24th Free Workshop with Gary Schneider
9:00 AM - GARDENING WITH NATIVE ISLAND SPECIES
1:30 PM - RE-PLANTING RACKHAM'S POND BASIN

Sat., May 1st Evening Community Concert
With - JUST FOR FUN - Music and Variety - FUNDRAISER FOR WHEATLEY RIVER COMMUNITY HALL – details will be posted

Fri., May 21st -International Biodiversity Day -
Rackham's Community Pond. 6:00 PM - come plant a tree with WRIG

Sat., May 24th - Official Opening Rackham's Pond
RACKHAM'S POND OPENS FOR 2010 FISHING SEASON with new conservation restrictions -
OPENING DAY CELEBRATIONS – official ceremony, ribbon cutting, presentations, BBQ , fun activities and A FISH CAKE!

Coming in June – Schools Environmental Fun Day

Please Consider Joining Our Membership

Individual or Family \$10.00

Corporate or Supporting \$50.00

Simply clip this out and mail it to:

The Wheatley River Improvement Group

c/o Pierre-Yves Daoust
RR#3 Hunter River, PE
COA1NO



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email - Would you like to be notified about upcoming WRIG meetings and events? _____

YES _____ No Thanks _____

Please visit us online at...
WRIG.Blogspot.com



Special thanks to Rackham's Pond Landowners

GRANT, NANCY AND STEVEN RACKHAM

EILEEN AXEWORTHY & FAMILY

MELVIN & DEBBIE LING

MICHAEL & BETTY ANN MOKLER

PHILLIP & SHIRLEY WEATHERBEE

Attention Environmental - Biology Students

Get your feet wet!

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

WHEATLEY RIVER IMPROVEMENT GROUP

FIELD crew SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: At least one year post-secondary education, preferably in the area of environmental sciences, biology, forestry, conservation or wildlife management. If you have been a full-time student in 2009 and returning to school in the fall of 2010, have a valid driver's license and daily access to a vehicle, contact us. Must be between the ages of 18 and 30, and have demonstrated the capacity to work independently.

Duties: Plan and oversee summer field project for WRIG, including remedial stream work, planting trees, water quality monitoring and maintaining a tree nursery. The position also includes communicating with the public, writing reports and newsletter articles and helping to organize a community event.

The Field Supervisor is responsible for 2-3 crew members and at times for larger crews of students. The Field Supervisor will report to the WRIG Coordinator & Board of Directors of the Wheatley River Improvement Group.

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International Biodiversity Day

May 22, 2010

*In recognition of this important day, WRIG has joined **The Green Wave**, a multi-year global campaign that enables people to make a difference – one group, one school, one tree, one step at a time. **The Green Wave** contributes to the Plant for the Planet Billion Tree Campaign.*

You are invited to join us when we plant WRIG's first 2010 Tree, a Red Oak on **Friday May 21 at 6:00 pm** at Rackham's Community Pond. Or just check in online and catch the green wave on Biodiversity Day when we go live on the map at 20:10 on 22 May 2010!

http://greenwave.cbd.int/en/map_2010

A single mature tree can release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support 2 human beings!