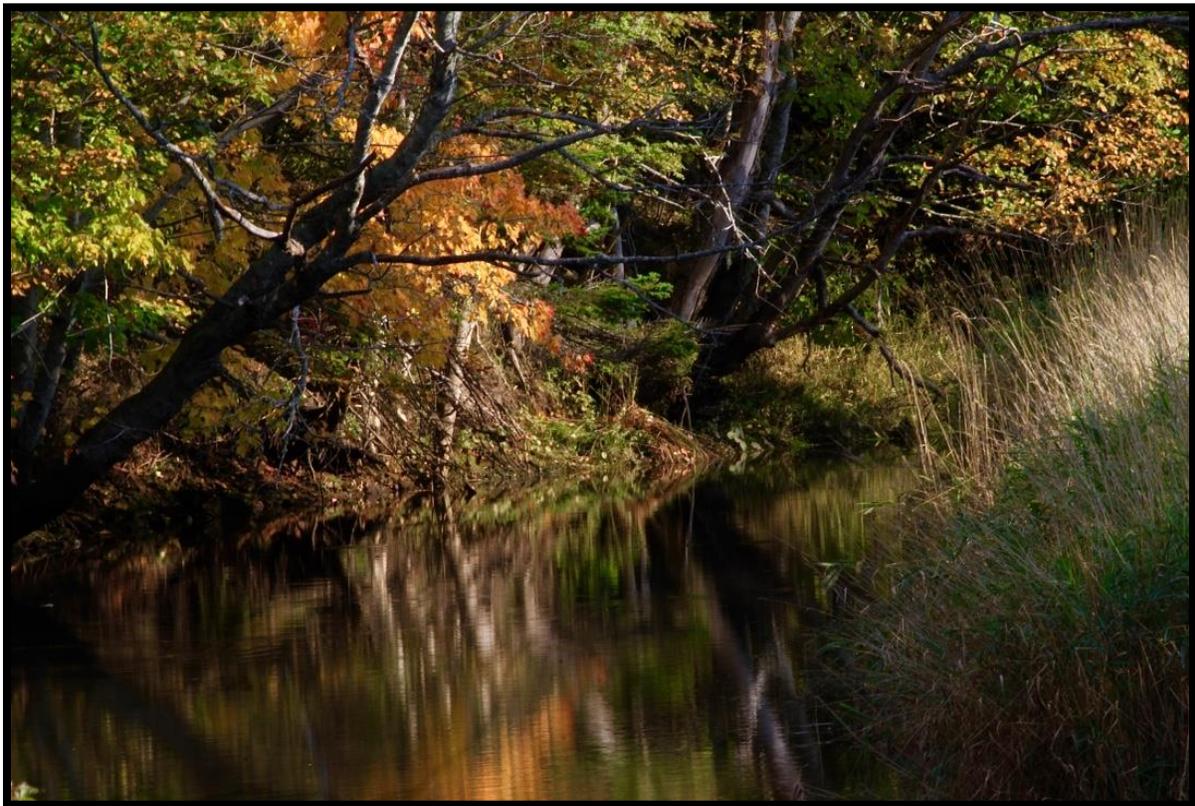




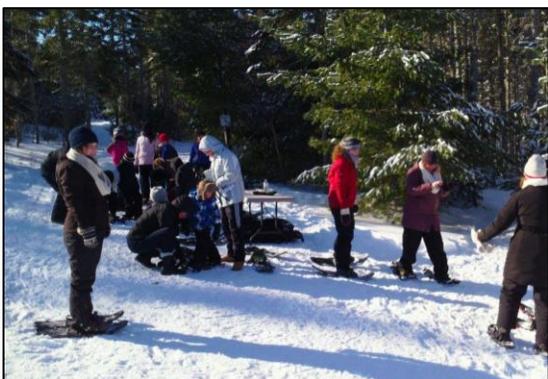
**Wheatley River Improvement Group** **Winter 2016**



*This photo of the Wheatley River, taken from the Wheatley River Bridge, was submitted by Ken Dowling as part of WRIG's photo contest last winter.*

## THE 2017 WINTER WOODLOT TOUR IS COMING SOON!

The 2017 Winter Woodlot Tour is coming up!! Mark it on your calendars for Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am until 1:00pm with the following Saturdays as storm dates. The site this year is in the Hunter-Clyde Watershed and is located just up from 452 Clyde Road in the Hazel Grove area. The Winter Woodlot Tour is a free, fun, and family-friendly event organized by WRIG, the Hunter Clyde Watershed Group (HCWG), Central Queens Wildlife Federation (CQWF), and the PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment. There will be sleigh rides, a heated tent, warm apple cider, and several excellent activities and presenters. The Winter Woodlot Tour provides the opportunity for people to learn more about the role of woodlots and forests in maintaining healthy island ecosystems as well as sustainable commercial and recreational use. Please join us for this wonderful event and excellent opportunity to spend some time outdoors!



**Snowshoeing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors during the winter!**

**WRIG IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE FUNDING FROM PEI WCF FOR THE 2017 WINTER WOODLOT TOUR!**



**Sleigh rides are one of the many fun activities that will be at the 2017 Winter Woodlot Tour.**

## Adopt-A-River

The annual Adopt-a-River education program took place on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in the Hunter-Clyde Watershed. The Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA), with help from WRIG, HCWG, and David Gladstone—one of our notable volunteers also known as the “Mad Scientist”—put on this environmental education program for the grade 7 and 8 students at Gulf Shore Consolidated School. We were also fortunate to have students from our local homeschool group join us for one of the days as well. Nearly 70 students came out to learn about different indicators of water health. The students spent the morning in the field rotating through three different stations: water chemistry, a general site assessment, and collecting small water bugs (or macroinvertebrates). At the water chemistry station, WRIG and the “Mad Scientist” showed the students how to test the stream water for things such as dissolved oxygen, nitrate levels, coliforms, and pH. We were also able to show them the YSI Professional Plus multiparameter probe and how watershed groups



The “mad scientist” testing water for dissolved oxygen content.

use it as a tool to record important water quality information. While doing the general site assessment, the students learned about wildlife and forest ecology. They were able to see how different elements of an ecosystem have a direct affect on other elements. For example, trees with deep roots planted in the riparian zone help to stabilize the stream bank, slow water down in precipitation events, and trap excess nutrients in their roots. The presence of trees can improve the health of the stream. In the stream, students were able to put waders on and work to capture macroinvertebrates living in the stream bed by kicking the sediment and debris upstream of a net. The loose material, along with the macroinvertebrates, would flow downstream and be caught in the net before being transferred to a container and brought back to the lab. The afternoon was spent in the lab identifying the macroinvertebrates and compiling data from the morning to assess the overall health of the stream. Certain macroinvertebrates are less pollution tolerant than others so their presence indicated low amounts of pollution and thus a healthier stream. We are incredibly grateful for everyone that was involved and would like to say a special thank you to the teachers and staff at Gulf Shore for encouraging the environmental education of our youth.

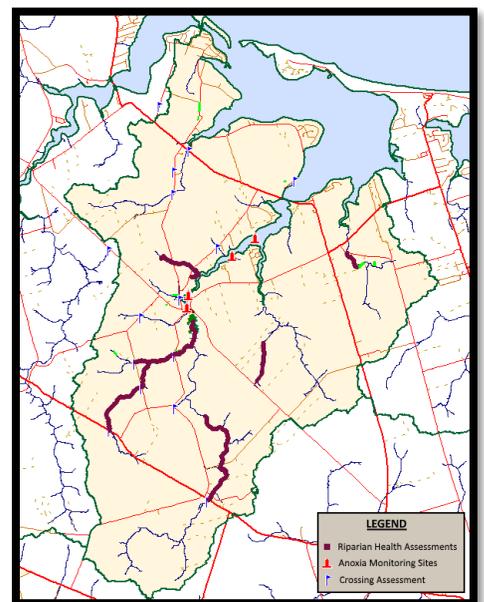


Back in the lab sorting out the macroinvertebrates.

## WRIG’s 2016 Summer Field Work

This summer proved to be another successful summer for WRIG. We were fortunate to have three hardworking students as part of our field crew: Brittany MacLean, Field Crew Supervisor, Hailey Blacquiere, Field Crew Technician, & Emma Spence, Riparian Health Assessment Technician. Work completed included:

- 1,308 tree and shrub species native to PEI were planted by staff & volunteers.
  - 978 trees and shrubs were planted at 11 sites in the Wheatley River watershed
  - 96 Trees were given to students from local schools at the Environmental Fun Day
  - 180 trees were given to visitors on Canada Day to plant on private land
  - 54 trees were given to WRIG members & local residents to plant on private land at the Celebrate Our River Festival
- Swamp Milkweed plants were given to interested landowners & also planted at Rackham’s Pond.
- Red Osier Dogwoods & Heart-leaved Willows were planted in our watershed as part of the Clonal Plant Project.
- Debris & blockages were cleared from 8.65 kilometers of our streams enabling fish passage
  - Staff focused on the Wheatley River & a portion of Hornes Creek during the 2016 field season
- One alder patch-cut was completed along Hornes Creek & native trees were under-planted.
- 1 major blockage was removed near the new culvert at Route 2, requiring a chainsaw.
- Brush mats were built to trap sediment along the Wheatley River SW Branch & Little Bungay Branch
- 1 shoreline cleanup was completed east of the Oyster Bed Causeway & along the Barachois Beach
- 13.01 kilometers of Riparian Health Assessments were completed, providing information that can be used to guide future enhancement work



We are very grateful for our hard-working summer field crew & for all of the landowners & volunteers that assisted us & allowed us to access their land in order to plant trees & work in the streams.

*If you have any questions or would like more information on the work completed this summer, contact us!*

# WRIG's Winter Photography Contest!



It is time for the Wheatley River Improvement Group's winter photography contest! Submit your favourite photos from the Wheatley River Area to WRIG. The subject can be people, landscapes, wildlife, or natural details—we want to see our watershed through the eyes of those that call it home!

	The age categories are:	5-16	16 & up	
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Submit photos via email to [kayla@wheatleyriver.ca](mailto:kayla@wheatleyriver.ca) or through the Wheatley River Improvement Group's Facebook page. The contest will be judged by John Sylvester.

The winning photos for each age group will be published on WRIG's website ([www.wheatleyriver.ca](http://www.wheatleyriver.ca)), on our Facebook page, and in the Northern Star. Entries will also be displayed at this year's Winter Woodlot Tour on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

The deadline for submissions is January 6<sup>th</sup>.



## Special thanks to Rackham's Pond Landowners

- Grant, Nancy, & Steven Rackham •
  - Charles and Laura Lipnicki •
  - Melvin & Debbie Ling •
- Michael & Betty-Ann Mokler •
- Philip & Shirley Wheatherbee •



## Questions? Comments? Just want to get in touch?

You can reach us through the WRIG website [www.wheatleyriver.ca](http://www.wheatleyriver.ca), on our Facebook page, or e-mail [Kayla@WheatleyRiver.ca](mailto:Kayla@WheatleyRiver.ca). Office hours are variable so if you'd like to drop by please contact us to make sure we're in. We'll be happy to meet you at the WRIG office in the Cymbria Lions Club at 2184 Church Road!

## Education Day with Summerside Intermediate School

The second annual education day with Summerside Intermediate School's grade 7/8 science classes took place at the beautiful Gardens of Hope in New Glasgow on September 22. Five stations—Monarchs, Forests, Birds, Water, and Pond Life—were located throughout the gardens. The weather was perfect and the students were eager to learn. They took diligent notes, recording their observations and knowledge gained from the presenters for a project that was completed back at the school. This educational day was made possible by WRIG, HCWG, BBEMA, volunteer presenters, the Gardens of Hope, and the Island Preserve Company. Overall, the day was a great success and WRIG looks forward to being involved again in the future.

### Define a Term!

Ephemeral Stream: a stream that is transitory, or appears as a result of precipitation.

Riparian Zone: the area of land directly bordering the river or stream.

Redd: spawning nest in the sand or gravel on the stream bed built by salmon or trout.



### Your 2016/2017 Board of Directors

Chair, Sidney Annema

Treasurer, Melanie Fredrickson

Secretary, Charles Lipnicki

Director, Gary Loo

Director, Micah Gallant

Director, Stephen Lowe

Director, Stewart MacRae



### Coming Events

The 2017 Winter Woodlot Tour is coming up on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> just up from 452 Clyde Road in Hazel Grove. Everyone is welcome!

The winter Photography Contest is happening NOW!! John Sylvester will be judging the contest; submit your photos by January 6<sup>th</sup>!

### WRIG is looking for a canoe!

If you or someone you know is looking to part with a canoe, please let us know! The WRIG summer field crew has used our canoe for water quality monitoring, accessing work sites, conducting depth surveys of the pond, at the finish line of the duck race, and much more. The canoe we've used in the past sprung a leak this year and we are now looking to replace it. Contact us if you can help!

### OUR GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE:

#### OUR FUNDING SOURCES:

- Province of Prince Edward Island Watershed Management Fund•
- Greening Spaces Program•
- Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program•
- Employment Development Agency Jobs for Youth Program•
- The Wildlife Conservation Fund•

#### OUR PARTNERS:

- Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group•
- Central Queens Wildlife Federation•
- PEI Department of
- Communities, Land & Environment•
- Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal•

### AND OF COURSE, ALL OUR INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND CORPORATE MEMBERS!

BLUE BAY FARMS  
BROOKFIELD GARDENS  
CREEKFIELD HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION  
SAVORY ENTERPRISES-OYSTER BED ESSO

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

2184 Church Rd, RR#3  
Hunter River, PE, COA 1N0



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

YES \_\_\_\_\_ No Thanks \_\_\_\_\_

Please visit us online at...  
[www.WheatleyRiver.ca](http://www.WheatleyRiver.ca)

