



## WRIG's Summer Field Crew:

### Charlotte Large, Field Crew Supervisor

Charlotte Large, joining WRIG for the first time was born and raised in Charlottetown. She graduated from UPEI with a Bachelor of Arts and will be going to Dalhousie University this fall to pursue a Masters in Resource and Environmental Management. For her summer internship in 2020, she hopes to either return to PEI to work with one of the local watershed groups or be accepted into a position working in Northern Canada. A lover of the outdoors, she enjoys active hobbies such as hiking and kayaking, as well as sports like kickboxing, rock climbing, and dodgeball.



### Taylor Gallant, Riparian Health Technician

Taylor grew up in New Glasgow, PEI and just recently graduated grade 12 at Bluefield High School. This is Taylor's 3rd year with WRIG, in his free time Taylor likes to spend it outdoors, -whether it be fishing or on the beach he always enjoys his time outdoors. Taylor will be continuing his studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, where he will be taking Sustainable Engineering.



### Garrett MacDougall, Field Crew Technician

Garrett recently graduated grade 12 at Bluefield High School this past spring and is planning on taking Computer Science at Holland College in the fall. This is Garrett's first year here with WRIG. Garrett enjoys all aspects of the outdoors, whether it be at work or on his free time, you will always catch him outside enjoying nature.

## 2019 Environmental Fun Day

On Friday, June 14th, we had over 75 grade 5/6 students from Gulf Shore Consolidated, Central Queens Elementary and the homeschooling community join us at the Gardens of Hope, for the 10th annual Environmental Fun Day. This educational day is planned by WRIG in partnership with the Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group and includes 6 stations focused on different aspects of the environment for the students to enjoy. This year; David Gladstone and Karalee McAskill taught the students about water chemistry; Stephen DeWolfe came out from the Private Forest Division to talk about forest health; Jamie Stride with Island Falconry Services spoke about falconry and birds of prey; and, staff from Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA) had a station focused on butterflies; Jordan Condon and Knowlton Parkman taught fly-fishing techniques and Parks Canada educated the students on the species at risk that can be found here on the island. We are incredibly grateful to the teachers, volunteers, and presenters for helping to make this day possible! Environmental education of our youth is of utmost importance and is one of WRIG's priorities.



---

## Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)

WRIG is excited to be included in the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) for the first time this year. This program is a science-based monitoring program, whose methods were established by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Through this program local community environmental groups, located in the Gulf Region around New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI can examine the health of the bays and estuaries in their respective watersheds. How this sampling works is a beach seine net is used to collect the different small fish, shrimp and crab that make up a “community”. These species are then counted, recorded and released live back into the estuary. Additional supplemental data is also collected, water temperature and oxygen are sampled using a YSI monitor along with surrounding vegetation and substrate makeup. The data collected is sent back to be analyzed by DFO and the health of the waterway can be estimated from this. Currently 14 estuaries are being monitored on PEI using CAMP, for more information and a list of these sites you can visit the DFO website.



---

## 2019 CELEBRATE OUR RIVER EVENT AND DUCK RACE!

Our annual Celebrate Our River event is coming up! Get ready to come out to Rackham’s Pond for a fun-filled afternoon on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. This family-friendly event is great for all ages and is an excellent way to support WRIG, your local watershed group!

We will be having a BBQ and everyone is welcome! Bring your friends and family for free hot dogs and fun for all ages. We will be hosting the popular Duck Race at this event, so make sure to buy your duck ticket. Duck tickets will be available at Gallant’s Clover Farm, at the WRIG office in the Cymbria Lions Club, and from WRIG directors, staff, and volunteers. With the purchase of a duck ticket, you will be assigned a duck to enter in the race from Rackham’s Pond down to the Wheatley River Bridge. We offer prizes for the first three people whose ducks make it to the finish line, so hopefully your duck will be the fastest! Come join in the fun—enjoy our beautiful river, learn more about the watershed, and take part in family friendly games and outdoor activities. Keep an eye out for our posters around the community, on our Facebook page, and on our website ([www.wheatleyriver.ca](http://www.wheatleyriver.ca)) for additional details!



---

## “POLLINATOR GARDENS: WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DO I PLANT ONE?”

One project that you’ll be seeing soon is the new pollinator garden that will be planted this season at Rackham’s Pond! This large garden will be filled with flowers in order to attract a variety of pollinating insects and birds to the area, providing them a safe habitat to explore. It will take up a sizeable 500 square feet, and with careful maintenance (and some luck) this garden will continue to bloom year after year!

A pollinator garden provides pollinators with shelter, food, and protection from harmful pesticides. There are many kinds of pollinators! Beyond bees and butterflies, other pollinators include wasps, hornets, flies, moths, beetles, bats, and hummingbirds! Pollinators are essential to our lives because they fertilize plants, causing those plants to make fruits and seeds, of which a fraction will grow into new plants. Without pollinators, most of our essential foods could no longer grow! And many of our beautiful island wildflowers and plants would no longer thrive. As pollinator habitats are threatened by pesticide use and urban development, creating new spaces for them is key to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Planting your own pollinator garden at home is a simple and effective way of doing just that!



<https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/all-about->

A pollinator garden doesn’t have to be big to be effective! A small garden, made up of only a few flowers in pots or window boxes, can make a difference to your local pollinators! Creating a pollinator garden regardless of where it is or how large you make it. Whatever the case, your local pollinators will be happy!

To design your garden, big or small, it’s important to pick a variety of flowers that are rich in nectar and pollen. The more colourful the better! Pollinators are attracted to bright colours and strong scents to



find the right flowers. A few good picks are black eyed susans, anise hyssop, asters, lamb's ear, and coneflowers. Since there are many different pollinator species, each need something a little different! To maximize pollinator potential, plant multiple kinds of flowers that bloom at different times of the year and serve different purposes. The best pollinator gardens will always have something in bloom from May to October! Finally, flowers that are native to the surrounding area will have what's best for local pollinators. Notice what's already growing around you and do some research on what plants are best for your local environment.



<https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/all-about->

When planting your garden, no matter the size, it's important to plant flowers in clusters. When flowers are planted in dense groups together, this makes it easier for pollinators to find the flowers they need! A single black eyed susan is hard to find amongst other flowers, but a large group of them is obvious to a pollinator. Whatever flowers you've picked for your garden, make sure to read up on what they need to thrive. Once you've planted your garden, keep an eye on it and soon enough you should see an increase in pollinators in your area!

Creating a pollinator garden is a simple undertaking, but it has the potential to make a big impact of your local environment! Our plant pollinators are essential to us, and by creating new

habitats for them, we are creating better natural spaces for all!

--By Charlotte Large

## 2019 Canada Day Celebrations

WRIG teamed up with the Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group for our annual native tree giveaway and watershed booth, at the Seawalk Park in North Rustico for Canada Day 2019. It was a rainy day but that didn't stop us or anyone who came out to enjoy the live music and festivities. In total approximately 300 trees were given away to be planted on private properties. The tree species included white pine, wild apple, eastern cedar, eastern larch, eastern hemlock, red oak, and red maple. Each tree came with a name tag and the Canada Day tree planting pledge and proper planting instructions.



## WRIG IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE FUNDING FROM PEI WCF FOR THE 2019 SUMMER FIELD SEASON!



As a non-profit organization, WRIG receives its funding through a variety of sources. We'd like to gratefully acknowledge the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund for its continued support of our efforts to enhance and maintain the overall health of the Wheatley River watersheds. The WCF is generated from annual angling, hunting, and trapping fees and from the sale of motor vehicle Conservation Plates.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge former WRIG chair Sidney Annema for his support of the Wheatley River Improvement Group. We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort he dedicated to leading our

### Special thanks to Rackham's Pond Landowners

- Grant, Nancy, & Steven Rackham ●
  - Melvin & Debbie Ling ●
  - Charles & Laura Lipnicki ●
- Philip & Shirley Weatherbee ●
  - Susan Axworthy ●
  - Jody Mokler ●



### WRIG's 2019/2020 Board of Directors

- Chair – Micah Gallant
- Treasurer – Melanie Labelle
- Secretary – Gary Loo
- Director – Stewart MacRae
- Director – Kayla Nieuwhof



You can reach us through the WRIG website [www.wheatleyriver.ca](http://www.wheatleyriver.ca), on our Facebook page, or e-mail [manager@wheatleyriver.ca](mailto:manager@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!

## Know Your Surroundings

Giant Hogweed is an invasive species found here on the Island and is part of the carrot family. It was introduced to Britain from southwest Asia during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as an ornamental plant in people's gardens, later making its way and establishing itself here on the island. This plant can cause severe skin and eye irritations and severe burns when the sap is exposed to sunlight. Giant



PEI Invasive Species Council

Hogweed can grow up to 15-20 feet in height and the stem can reach 4 inches in diameter. The stem is a dark purple colour with raised nodules. The leaves are compound in nature and can reach 5 feet in width. The leaf stalks are hollow with sturdy bristles. The flowering body at the top is white and umbrella shaped. If you come across this plant please do not try to remove it, contact the PEI Invasive Species Council. For more information you can visit the PEI Invasive Species Council website or facebook page, for other invasive species found here in the island.

The leaves are compound in nature and can reach 5 feet in width. The leaf stalks are hollow with sturdy bristles. The flowering body at the top is white and umbrella shaped. If you come across this plant please do not try to remove it, contact the PEI Invasive Species Council. For more information you can visit the PEI Invasive Species Council website or facebook page, for other invasive species found here in the island.



PEI Invasive Species Council



*We need your support! Annual membership dues go directly toward protecting the environment in our watershed and it is our membership base that helps to give you and WRIG a voice. Please consider becoming a member for the 2019-2020 year—your support truly will make a difference. You can join WRIG's membership by filling out the form below and mailing it in or online through our website, [www.wheatleyriver.ca](http://www.wheatleyriver.ca). We appreciate you, thank you for contributing to conservation efforts in this beautiful place we call home!*

### Upcoming Events

The Beach Hut is up and running again this year on a new day. **Every Tuesday afternoon from 1-4**, you can find WRIG or Hunter-Clyde watershed groups on the beach in Cavendish alongside Parks Canada.

The River Clyde Pageant is a magical performance focusing on local environmental issues. The event is taking place over two weekends again this year: **July 27-28 and August 3-4!**

The Celebrate Our River Event and River Duck Race is on **Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** at Rackham's Community Pond! Stay tuned for details.

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)



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

#### OUR FUNDING SOURCES:

- Province of Prince Edward Island Watershed Management Fund•
- Wildlife Conservation Fund•
- Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program•
- Jobs for Youth•

#### OUR PARTNERS:

- Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group•
- PEI Department of
- Communities, Land & Environment•
- Transportation, Infrastructure & Energy•

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

- Blue Bay Farms•
- Maple Land Woodcraft•
- Oyster Bed Esso•
- Cymbria Campground•
- Creekfield Homeowner's Association•