

WEST RIVER WATERSHED NEWS



SPRING 2014

River Restoration

During this winter that seems to have no end, it's good to look ahead to the warmer, gentler days of summer! Central Queens Wildlife Federation is excited about plans to trial new methods for fish and wildlife habitat restoration on the West River this summer.

In the summer of 2013 we tried for the first time to clean out the gravel bottoms of the river above Crosby's Mill Pond. Over decades, the air spaces in the gravel and cobble have become so packed with fine silt and sand from sediment traveling downstream that the stream bed is like concrete and the fish can't move the material with their tails to build their nests for eggs.



Summer student Kyle Doucette rakes new gravel / cobble mix in restored river bed

We tried to restore those air spaces by digging sections of the bottom and replacing the fines with Island and Nova Scotia river rock. In the fall we were rewarded with high numbers of Atlantic salmon spawning in the restored areas. This summer, we plan to trial mechanical means of cleaning up the gravel bottom and expand the area we work by hand.



Staff and volunteers built a cross-vane flow deflector using Island and Nova Scotia river rock in a small tributary in Brookvale. We will use this method of creating pools in larger stream reaches this summer

Last summer we also tried a new method for creating deep pools in the river. Pools are important as a refuge for fish from warm summer water temperatures and predators. This year we will try to build larger versions of the rock flow deflector you see above, using cut sandstone boulders.

Neither of these techniques has been tried elsewhere on the Island and we will monitor their effectiveness in our unique Island conditions.

Winter Planning Sessions

Over the past couple of years, Central Queens Wildlife Federation has expanded their area of management to include the Clyde River. We've now spent two summers planting trees and shrubs in the buffer zone along the main branch (along Bannockburn Rd) and Crew Creek. We've also built a sediment trap to collect the historical bed-load of sediment in these tributaries and started to clear them of debris to flush out that sediment.

We usually work out our priorities for summer work based on our West River Watershed Management Plan. However, that plan was written in 2008 to reflect the needs of the watershed above the head-of-tide (from Bonshaw up to Emyvale and Brookvale). So, we are currently asking the residents of Clyde River and New Haven for their input to a revised watershed management plan that would include their areas as well.

What do you want your neighbourhood to look like 10–20 years from now? Do you hold a history of the community in your head? Are you concerned about the environmental challenges your community faces right now? Let us know! Email coordinator Megan Harris (cqwf.pei@gmail.com) for meeting dates (winter storms have postponed two already!). Alternatively, you can fill in an online survey <http://goo.gl/ZNc8qg>

Other Meetings & Presentations

Central Queens Wildlife Federation is holding their annual general meeting this coming Saturday (April 5th) at 10 am in Emyvale at the Recreation Centre. Come out, meet your neighbors and find out what's happening in your watershed. Also, learn more about the Wildlife Conservation Fund from speaker Jackie Waddell. The CQWF applied successfully to this fund to launch a new program for youth and parents called 'Watershed Wild' this summer – come find out more!

Another great event to attend is the provincial PEI Wildlife Federation's AGM, held in partnership with the Morell River Management Co-op on April 10th (7 pm) at Morell Regional High School. Guest speaker, Dr. Jack Imhoff (Director of Conservation Ecology for Trout Unlimited Canada) is presenting on Rebuilding Healthy and Functional Rivers and Streams.



New ATV bridge built by CQWF in 2013 to replace a badly damaged culvert.

Contact Details

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