



IYFW 2003

The International Year of Fresh Water

By: Karen Johnston

"Together we can make a difference", this catch phrase is common to every successful initiative program needing the support of everyone it impacts. The resource management integration of freshwater is vital to each and every one of us. Despite the many ways we depend on water to stay healthy and performing our daily lives, we are increasingly disrespectful of our waterways. We have become a society quick to forget how essential water is to our very survival. Wasting, polluting and abusing our water resources is the very reason 149 supporting countries have initiated the proclamation to encourage this the International Year of Fresh Water. This should help impact society's hopes of taking action to "increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection" so that our future and our planet can have an impact far beyond 2003.

There are numerous facts and figures, and multiple publications and forums worldwide but ultimately it is the focus of individual concerned citizens, forming these communities and nations, that will make 2003 a year of "Opportunity, Action and Reflection". Take this as your opportunity to make a difference and take a chance to mend the ways of water usage. You can join in this celebration of every glorious drop of freshwater we need to protect on this planet simply by starting in your home, at your school or even by taking time to learn how precious this resource is. For more information, visit the IYFW official website and see how you can get involved. (<http://www.wateryear2003.org>)



Kings Tree Steward Project

By: Derick Fritz

This year, the VWSA is pleased to have received funding from Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program to support the Kings Tree Steward Program. Saplings and cuttings from native trees and shrubs gathered this fall by volunteers around the Kings County Watershed, and purchased plants will be planted this fall. Willow, dogwood, wild raisin, high bush cranberry, and mountain ash are among those expected to be planted.

Sites in need of planting and restoration are identified and prioritized through the Watershed Assessment Process, the Water Quality Monitoring Program and from concerned property owners. Since May of this year, meetings with the landowners have been organized to develop a prescription that incorporates the historic vegetation and needs specific to each site. Monitoring the sites for planting success is part of the program maintenance.

This program is intended to help reduce water temperatures as it works to increase shade over waterways. It will also assist in re-establishing native vegetation, helping increase bank stability, reducing sediment and nutrient inputs from upland sources, reducing non-native noxious weeds, as well as helping habitat structure complexity and the diversity of native flora and fauna. Planting trees and shrubs will positively impact and overtime improve water quality and riparian habitats. The ultimate goal will be to benefit many wildlife species.

Inside this issue:

Black River Lake Association Update	2
Kings County Lake Monitoring Program	2
Watershed Management Club	2
Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps	3
Canadian Environment Community Award	3
Mercury Reduction from Dental Offices	3
Aquifer Study	3
Membership	4

Want to Join the VWSA???

- *New members are always welcome! Want to be heard? Have a question or concern? Maybe we can help.*
- *We are a community based, non-profit organization. Call us for information or send a submission for our next newsletter.*
- *Feel free to contact us at any time by phone, fax, & e-mail provided on the reverse of this publication. Or, you can drop by our office!*

Black River Lake Association Update

By: John MacLachlan



The Black River Lake Association is “Committed to the Conservation and Wise Use of Black River Lake through Co-operation and Stewardship”, and is thus very involved in issues such as water quality, the Canadian Loon Study, land-use policies and land conservation. We have mem-

bers who are involved in other conservation groups, for example: The Valley Watershed Stewardship Association, King’s County Wildlife Association, and the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership to mention a few. We are willing to get involved with any environmental issue that affects the Black River Lake System, the eastern Valley, or the Bay of Fundy.

At present, we are working with the County of Kings on the Water Quality Study and are about to work with the Nova Scotia Land Trust to try and preserve some ecologically sensitive and unique areas of the Lake. We have a good working relationship with both NS Power and Kimberly-Clarke, meeting and corresponding with them regularly. We also sponsor social events for the membership to try and foster friendship and co-operation between all the members.

Our full membership is open only to land owners and their families, but we offer associate membership to people who use the Lake for their enjoyment. Any membership or general question can be referred to John MacLachlan at 542-2748. We would be glad to help in any way that we can.

Kings Co. Volunteer Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program

By: Kate Thompson

The clean lake waters of Kings County’s South Mountain are a traditional destination for cottaging, camping, swimming, boating and fishing—and the community wants them to remain that way. In the 1980’s, local citizens and municipal government, concerned over increasing development pressures on the lakes, began planning to protect these precious resources. Since 1997, a group of dedicated volunteers has participated in the environmental stewardship of the watershed by monitoring water quality. Once a month in the ice-free season, monitors collect water samples, record air and water temperatures and measure water clarity on ten of the lakes.

The analyzed sample data from the past six years illustrates the changing water quality conditions of the tested lakes, and suggests the condition of other lakes in the watershed. The municipality uses

the data to validate and refine a planning model to predict the lakes’ capacity to support development. There are other benefits of volunteer monitoring: residents are now stewards of the lake lands, the community is informed about the impacts of land and lake use on water quality, and a community environmental ethic is nurtured.

For more information on the program, please phone or e-mail Program Manager Michael MacIntyre at 690-6102, mmacintyre@county.kings.ns.ca, or Summer Coordinator Kate Thompson at 690-6154, kthompson@county.kings.ns.ca



Water Management Clubs—A Pilot Project

By Yvonne Thyssen-Post, P.Ag

The drought of recent years has made all of us more aware of water as a valuable resource. For the last several years, government funding has been utilized to conduct research studies, and how there is a pilot project underway to have direct impact at the farm level. In October 2002, the NS Federation of Agriculture and the NS Department of Agriculture & Fisheries initiated a project to establish water management clubs in Nova Scotia. Yvonne Thyssen-Post of Thyagrissen Consulting Limited has been contracted to coordinate the project.

Three strategic locations were selected by the Advisory committee to pilot the water club concept. Clubs involved in the pilot project have now been established in the following areas: Pereau Watershed, Annapolis Valley, Stewiacke area of central NS, and Bouldarie Island in Cape Breton. The clubs all comprised of both livestock and crop farmers utilizing land within a relatively small radius, who are interested in collectively managing water as a sustainable resource. Club membership varies from 5-12 farmers depend-

ing on the location. Members have collectively identified and prioritized issues, established goals and objectives and are now in the process of developing work plans to improve their ability to manage water quantity and quality. The Agricultural Resource Coordinator in each area along with staff of the NS Departments of Environment and Natural Resources act as resources people assisting the clubs and the coordinator. Involvement of other stakeholders, technical experts, and government personnel will evolve as work plans progress.

The establishment of the initial three water clubs is a pilot project. The success of these clubs will be evaluated in the fall of 2003, and future direction regarding additional water clubs will be assessed.

For more information contact Club Coordinator: Yvonne Thyssen-Post, P.Ag, e-mail: thyagrissen@ns.sympatico.ca, Phone: (902) 895-1414

New Development: “Kings Community Water Seminar” is pending on the support of local businesses and community interest. The Valley Watershed Stewardship Association is looking for participants to present or offer a small display on informative water issues and projects. We would like to keep the scope limited to information pertinent to Kings County residents however, we welcome new ideas or important program information from surrounding organizations. If you would like more information and want to be part of our contact list about this conference, please contact Dawn MacNeill at the VWSA office.

NS Youth Conservation Corps

By: Sarah Sabean and Craig Peters



The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps (NSYCC) is a project in its 14th year which, was developed by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. Youth, ages 17-24, gain environmental work experience and training by working on community projects. This summer the NSYCC employed two students through the Valley Watershed Stewardship Association which was picked as a valuable community project. These youth will be working on creating community awareness as well as helping out with field and office work.

The provincial projects are picked based on an environmental proposal submitted to the NSYCC. The students will focus their energy into conservation and enhancement of Nova Scotia's environment, community

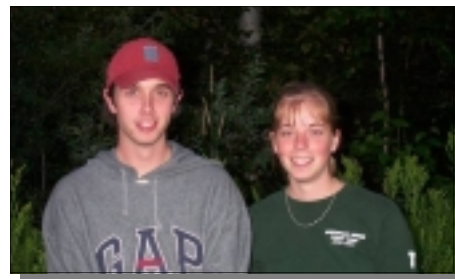
environment education & awareness, as well as public participation. This year, there are 59 youth employed across Nova Scotia through the 30 projects supported with themes including watershed management, waste resource management, pollution prevention, climate change and environmental education.

Exchange programs to Ireland and Costa Rica are also supported, in which the participants are introduced to environmental projects from other countries and how they are performed in different cultures.

The two participants this year at the VWSA are Craig Peters and Sarah Sabean, both of whom are in the Biology program at Acadia University. They are currently enjoying their work experience with the Association and are becoming actively involved in field and office projects being conducted this summer.

Craig and Sarah have spent time organizing

office databases and enhancing our membership/affiliation connections. They also have worked very hard on organizing events targeted for youth education, family canoe and lake discovery tours, and participating with research students from Halifax's NS Department of Fisheries and Oceans, canoeing, water sampling and volunteering their skills and assistance studying the Cornwallis River Riparian Zone Assessment.



Youth Corps Students: Craig Peters and Sarah Sabean

Mercury Reduction from Dental Offices

Mercury from dental offices has been identified as a significant contaminant of municipal septic systems. Fortunately the dental mercury amalgam is in a bound metal state (inorganic) which could result in a very limited release to the environment. This is unlike dirty fossil fuels which when burned releases atmospheric mercury that locally pollutes our land and water ways. This form of mercury (organic) can be absorbed, ingested and concentrated in the food chain, and has resulted in recommended limits in the amount of freshwater fish eaten in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Bagnell is on a provincial committee to ensure that the dental profession is doing their part to reduce their emissions by 95%. This can, in part be achieved by installing mercury separators in their waste systems. All offices must have such units installed by January 1, 2005.

Valley Aquifer Study

The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), in collaboration with provincial and federal Departments, the VWSA and other environmental organizations and academic institutions, is starting a groundwater characterization study in the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley. The objective of this hydro-geological study is to characterize the groundwater resources within the aquifers of this region. Groundwater is a major source of water supply in the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley & an important source of water for numerous aquatic habitats. Major changes in population, land use and likely climate have occurred since the last Valley groundwater evaluation was published in 1968; very little work has been done since. This 3-year project is part of a National Inventory and for further information you can contact the GSC directly. Contact Christine Rivard at Natural Resources Canada in Quebec; crivard@nrcan.gc.ca, (418) 654-3173.

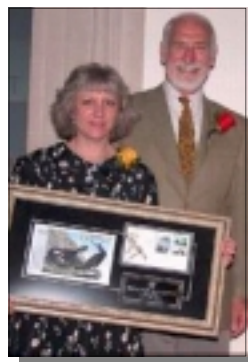
VWSA Member Nationally Recognized

"Congratulations" goes out to the VWSA's own treasurer, Belinda Manning, for receiving the Canadian Environment Silver Community Award.

On June 2, 2003, Manning attended the Canadian Environment Awards Gala held in Toronto. Here, she was honoured for her original contributions to environmental learning, raising awareness of pressing environmental issues, and developing solutions to environmental problems.

Over the past few years, Manning has become well recognized for her expertise in both composting and provincial environmental legislation. In 2000, she started a successful letter-writing campaign which convinced provincial officials to revoke the permit and order a clean up of the operation responsible for annually trucking 5000 tonnes of sewage sludge mixed with sand and being sold as "topsoil". True leadership skills prompted Manning to found the Environmentally Concerned Communities of Kings Association (ECCKA), she supports and speaks at citizen's meetings, and challenges politician when questionable practices pose a danger to the local environment. Because of her success at raising community and government awareness on environmental issues, she has also prompted the Province to develop a new interpretation guide the Provincial Environmental Act.

We praise Belinda for her active interest and the impact she continues to make on our environment throughout Nova Scotia, especially in the Annapolis Valley.



Belinda Manning and Minister of Environment, David Anderson
Source: (www.cangeo.ca/cea2003/english/nominees/learning.asp)

**VALLEY WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP
ASSOCIATION**

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Email: valley_watershed@yahoo.com
Executive Director: Dawn MacNeill

*Send us your comments /
questions/submissions*

Our Mandate: To facilitate, promote and encourage stewardship of water resources in the eastern Annapolis Valley (Cornwallis, Pereau, Canard, Habitant and Gaspereau Rivers)

**Thank you Funding
Sponsors and Partners**

A Message from the Executive Director:

Greetings!

As the warm summer evenings come to an end and autumn is upon us, it provides an opportunity to look around at what we have accomplished, what is going on, and what is left to be done.

This summer we began work on the Kings Tree Steward Project through the support of Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program (page 1). This project will continue into the fall.

For the first time, in a joint partnership the VWSA, Municipality of the County of Kings, the Department of Natural Resources, and Acadia University partnered to present a workshop on Shoreline Stewardship, entitled "Shoreline Discovery Tour", at Lake George. This was well received by participants and we hope to present this again next year.

*Are you a VWSA member? **Have you paid your membership dues?** Do we have your up to date contact information? Please contact me to if you are unsure of the answer to any of these questions or would like to be a member.*

Dawn MacNeill



Environment
Canada



Did you make the list???

Valley Watershed Membership:

Acadia University
Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research
NS Department of Environment & Labour
Ocean Valley Aquatics
Representatives from the agricultural community
Michelin
Nova Scotia Power
The Friends of the Cornwallis River Society
Clean Annapolis River Project
Wellington Marsh Body
Grand Pre Wines Ltd.
Kings CED Agency
Black River Lake Association
Horticulture Nova Scotia

Webster Engineering
Aylesford Lake Association
Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture
NS Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Big Falls Fish Growers Ltd.
Agriculture & Agri-foods Canada
Town of Kentville
NS Federation of Agriculture
Eastern Habitat Joint Venture -(NSDNR)
Municipality of the County of Kings
Gaspereau Lake Association
Town of Wolfville
NS Dept of Agriculture & Fisheries
Environmentally Concerned Citizens of
Kings Association (ECCKA)
Individual Concerned Citizens

**SEE YOUR AD
HERE!**

Another way to
Support the efforts of the
VWSA is by
Placing an Advertisement
for your business in our
newsletter.

This service will be
available in our next news-
letter expected out this Fall/
Winter.