

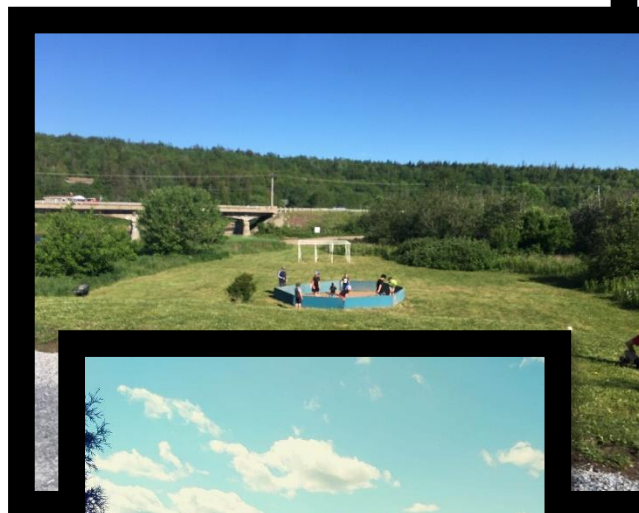


Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2020 Newsletter NATURE CAMP

Hammond River Nature Camp Summer 2020

Hammond River Nature Camp is a huge success this year! With 9 weeks of camp, we will have seen over 250 campers throughout the summer! Every week is sold out with a long wait list. Many parents have called back to see if their child can return for a second week because they loved it sooo much! Isabella has done an amazing job as our new Camp Director and we can't wait to see what new games, activities and lessons the last few weeks of camp will bring! Thank you, Isabella for all your hard work this year! Adjusting to the new COVID rules and regulations has been hard, but you have done a wonderful job and the kids are having a blast!!

- Week 1 – Fishing Week 1
- Week 2 – Sports Week
- Week 3 – Survival Week 1
- Week 4 – Master Chef of the Hammond Week
- Week 5 – Wild Water Week
- Week 6 – Fishing Week 2
- Week 7 – Munchkin Week
- Week 8 – Survival Week 2
- Week 9 – Favorites Week





Hammond River Angling Association

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MEET THE STAFF

Melissa Crilley

Office Manager

My name is Melissa Crilley and I was hired in February as the Office Manager here at the HRAA. It's been a busy few months getting caught up on all of the projects, but I am settling in nicely and starting to get into a routine.

I am a Mom to 3 amazing kids and an awesome husband. I have been a member of the HRAA for many years and the Hammond holds a special place in my heart. I have many fond memories of fishing in the Hammond River with my siblings and now with my own children.

About 3 years ago I started working here as Rentals Manager. I take care of all the rentals that are booked at the center (don't forget, members get a 20% discount). I love doing that job because I was able to work my hours around my young family, but now that my youngest is in school, I felt I was able to spend a little more time working and took the position as Office Manager. I'm loving it so far! It's great to be around adults again!! I look forward to answering any questions you might have and I'll be keeping you updated about all of our ongoing projects!



Paul Daigle

Accountant

I am presently employed as bookkeeper for HRAA. I work closely with Melissa, our Office Manager and Natasha Mazerolle, our Treasurer to keep the books balanced and the employees paid on time.

I joined HRAA in the fall of 1991 after my neighbour and lifetime HRAA member, Randy Phillips, convinced me to join him on the river to try my hand at salmon fishing. As luck would have it, a fresh run of salmon arrived at the pool we were fishing that evening. The good news was that 8 or 9 fish were landed in the span of about an hour. The bad news... my best attempt at casting still left me well short of where the fish were. Undaunted, I headed back to the river early the next morning and managed (with the help of Randy's good friend, Phil Oram) to land my first grilse. Needless to say, I was hooked!

Since joining HRAA in 1991, I have served the association in several capacities, including newsletter editor, Membership Committee chair, Maintenance Committee, Audit Committee, Dinner & Auction Co-Chair, Board member, Treasurer and President.





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MEET THE STAFF

Josh Kelly

Environmental Technician

I joined the HRAA in 2017, working as an environmental technician during the summers when I was not studying at university. I graduated with a BSc in Biology and minor in Earth Science at STFX this year and I aim to apply what I have learned to continue helping the HRAA with its conservation, education and restoration work. I have been involved in many of the HRAA's projects over the years such as habitat restoration efforts, species surveys, electrofishing and more. Becoming a technician years after attending the Hammond River Nature Camp for many summers as a camper, I credit much of my interest that lead to my post-secondary education to the principles and lessons I learned while attending the HRNC.



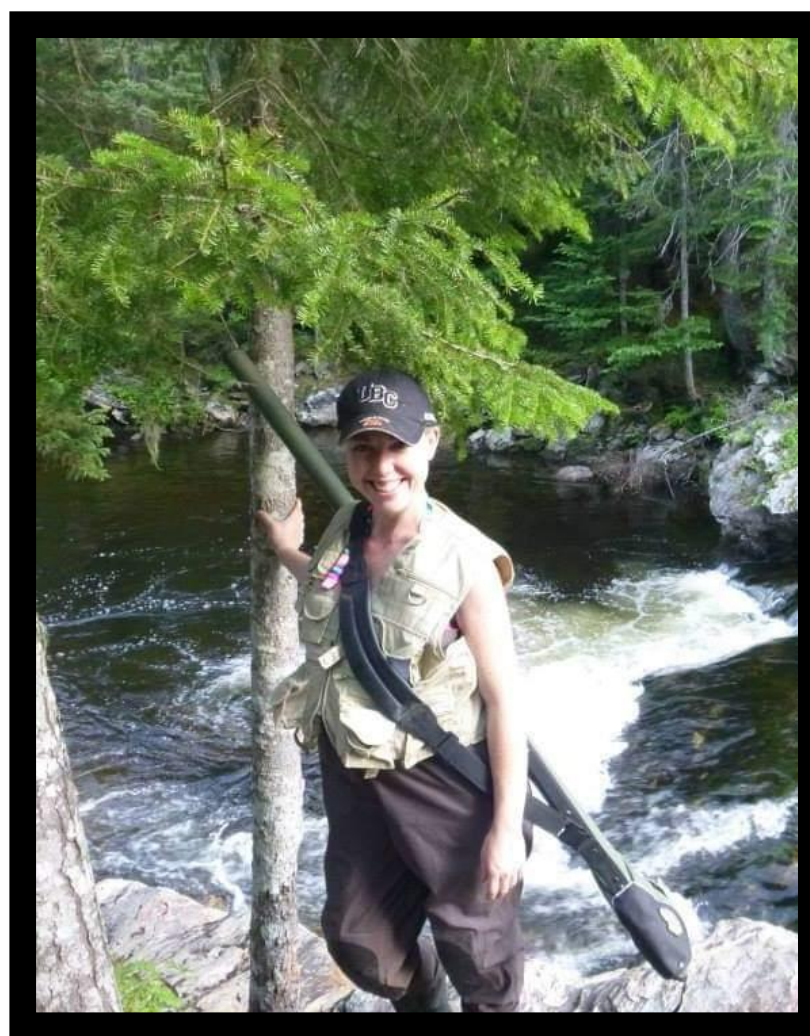
Sarah Blenis

Project Coordinator / Environmental Educator

I would say I am a nature enthusiast, who loves fishing, hiking, and exploring. I joined the HRAA team this past spring as the educator, focusing mostly on our "in Classroom" projects. Since then, I have taken over coordinating all of our projects and have been keeping busy this summer out doing field work.

I have been joining the camp staff once in a while to do some educational activities with the campers! When not at work, I can be found outside exploring with my 2 young boys!

I love this job and look forward to many more projects coming my way in the near future!





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MEET THE STAFF

Isabella van Dam

Camp Director

When I moved to Canada from Colombia many years ago, I was very happy to find out just how nice New Brunswickers are and how safe it is to live here. As an architect, I appreciate how cities and towns seemed to grow around nature and not despite of it. After living in Fredericton for three years, we moved west to Vancouver. After 12 years on the West coast we decided to come back to New Brunswick and realized the two most important aspects of living here had not changed: the people are incredibly nice and the province is a safe place to live.

This year I have the opportunity to work as the Camp Director and to learn more about the Hammond River and what it means to different people. I am learning to see the river through the fisherman's eyes and their stories, experience it through the innocent eyes of children as they play and enjoy the river, as well through the biologists' work and efforts to keep the river thriving for generations to come.

I am very happy that I am part of a team and an organization that is committed to protect the Hammond River.





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SUMMER STAFF

Ben Daigle

Counsellor/Lifeguard

My name is Ben Daigle and I will be graduating this year from Saint John High School. This is my second summer working at HRAA. I love all sports, especially swimming, soccer, track and field and lifesaving sport. I am a lifeguard/counsellor and I love my job working with the kids and the rest of the staff. I would like to go into education after high school so the experience that I am gaining here at HRAA is so valuable. I knew that I would love to get a position at HRAA because I attended the camp as a child and have many great memories.



Caroline Fitzpatrick

Counsellor

My name is Caroline Fitzpatrick and I am very excited to be a camp counsellor this summer! I am going into my second year of university at the University of New Brunswick studying in biology-psychology. I have spent my past summers on the Kennebecasis River teaching sailing! I am most excited to continue to share my love for the outdoors with the kids, and continue to teach on the water!



Emma Steadman

Counsellor

My name is Emma Steadman, and this fall, I will be going into my first year at Acadia University, studying Kinesiology. I am a day camp counsellor here at the Hammond River Angling Association, and my favorite thing about the HRAA is that it is a place where we can learn, while still having an amazing time doing fun outdoor activities. I play competitive soccer with the Fundy Soccer Association, I play the guitar, piano, and ukulele, and I love going for bike rides and hanging out with friends and family.





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SUMMER STAFF

Katelyn Roger

Counsellor/Eco Tech

My name is Katie Roger, and I'm a second-year Earth Sciences student at Dalhousie University. I'm working as an Ecological Technician with the Hammond River Nature Camp to help educate the campers about conservation and sustainability, and am also working as a Counsellor. Outside of school, I'm a competitive dancer, and also enjoy running and reading. I have loved working with the HRAA this summer as it has been so great to see a new generation learning about and developing an interest in nature and the world around them. It makes for such a rewarding job and I am so glad to play a part in connecting with the campers.



Katelyn Melvin

Counsellor/Cleaner

My name is Katelyn Melvin. I was hired as a summer student to work at HRAA as a Counsellor to the kids and Cleaner. My journey here at HRAA has been amazing so far! The thing I like about my job is making sure all of the kids are safe and having fun. I enjoy doing different activities with the kids each week and I hope to work here again next summer!



Parker Morehouse

Counsellor

My name is Parker Morehouse and I am a student at KVHS. After spending many summers as both a camper and CIT, I was hired as a camp counsellor/ part time Eco Tech Assistant. What I love the most about the camp offered by the Hammond River Angling Association is the ability to explore nature and spend time on the river.





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SUMMER STAFF

Robel Beserat

Counsellor/Maintenance

My name is Robel Beserat. I'm 17 years old and I live in Saint John. I came from Eritrea, went to Sudan and then my family and I came to Canada 3 years ago. I have four Brothers, two Sisters, my Dad and my Mom. Some of my hobbies are reading and playing games. I have learned to be nice to people and to be on time for work and meetings. I go to Saint John High School where I play sports, especially basketball and badminton. I also am involved with the chess club. Some things I like about HRAA Camp are outside games like nine square and gaga ball. Other activities I like to do with campers is going swimming and going into the woods. Each week has different activities we do with the HRAA campers.



Rachel Hicks

Counsellor/Cleaner

My name is Rachel Hicks. I am going into my senior year at Rothesay High School. This summer, I was hired under the position of a counsellor / cleaner for group 1 at HRAA. This is my second year at camp. Working at HRAA combines my two favorite activities, fishing and looking after kids. I have had a passion for fishing ever since I was young. Now I am able to teach other people how to fish. What I love most about HRAA is having the opportunity to meet new people and learning new skills. For example, when I first started out as a cleaner this year, I didn't think I'd be any good at it. Now that I've been doing it for a few weeks, I'm really starting to enjoy it. This camp is an amazing place to be.



Wil MacPherson

Counsellor/Lifeguard

My name is Wil McPherson. I am a lifeguard/counsellor at the Hammond River Nature Camp this summer. In the fall I will attend Grade 11 at Hampton High School. I am active in many school sports including Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball and Track and Field. I have previously played basketball for Team New Brunswick. Once I am done High School, I plan to attend Royal Military College. This is my first summer working at the camp and I enjoy sharing my love for the outdoors with the campers.





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OPERATIONS/EVENTS

Dinner Committee Report

The 25th Annual Dinner & Auction unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19. We have every hope that we will be back up and running for next year. We had a few new committee members this year and with new members, comes new ideas! We look forward to sharing these with you at our next dinner!

Dinner Committee meetings start up in January, and we would love for you to join us!! Send an email to office@hrra.ca if you would like to donate your time for a great cause!!

Rentals

We have recently started offering rentals again during this difficult COVID time. We have a COVID procedure that we have to adhere to, however we are still here for your booking needs! Call Melissa at 645-1698 to book your rental today! Members receive 20% off!

Office

Melissa transitioned into her new role as Office Manager back in February and everything has been running smoothly ever since! With summer camp going on and many different projects in the works, she is keeping busy making sure all deadlines are met and details are covered!

You can reach her by phone at 832-1230 or by email at office@hrra.ca.

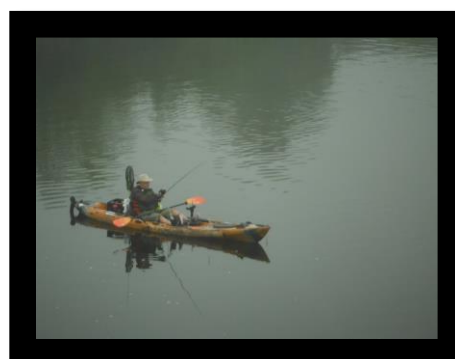
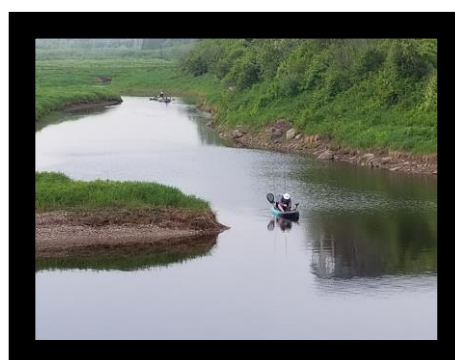
The offices are currently closed to the public while summer camp is going on, however an appointment can be made by calling the number above.

Hook & Paddle Fishing Derby

On June 13th, the HRAA again hosted the 2nd stop on the Hook & Paddle fishing series. Although it started off a little foggy it quickly became a beautiful day on the river for the record 35 participants – that is more than double the participants from last year.

The anglers caught and released 92 fish from 11 species in 2020; chain pickerel, smallmouth bass, striped bass, yellow perch, white perch, chub, gaspereau, pumpkinseed, longnose sucker and brown bullhead. John Cail took home top honors with six species caught and a total of 86 points. That is three in a row for John at the Hammond River tour stop. The top three was rounded out by Rene Pelletier and Steven Chapman. Participants were treated to refreshments and pulled pork sandwiches after a great day on the river. Jean Muzzerall took home the door prize; a Yeti Roadie cooler donated by Doiron Outfitters.

There are 7 more stops for the Hook & Paddle series. For more information check out their website at www.hookandpaddle.ca





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2020 Newsletter PROJECTS

2020 PROJECTS

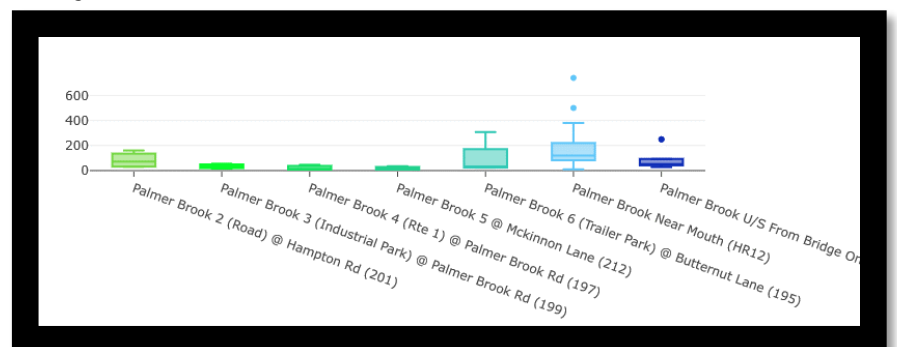
- 1) Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program** - We have partnered with ACAP Saint John, Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, Belleisle Watershed Coalition, Canaan-Washademoak Watershed Association, Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association, Nashwaak Watershed Association, Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve, The St. John River Society, and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. We have deployed two SPATT collectors within the watershed, as well as temperature and light data loggers, and we are collecting benthic cyanobacteria mats (rock slime) for analysis. This project will help advance our understanding of cyanobacteria, its toxins, and the risk it poses for humans and wildlife.



- 2) Eco Logic** - This year, we are working on an online educational Eco-logic program that we can deliver to the schools without actually having to enter the school. COVID-19 has changed some of the school visitor rules, so we are adapting to accommodate.
- 3) Milfoil** - We have partnered with the NB Invasive Species Council, Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, and the Belleisle Watershed Coalition, to find and research the Invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil. We've begun kayaking lengths of the Hammond River, Kennebecasis, and soon the Belleisle watershed, doing grid searches to find other locations of milfoil. We are working towards educating the general public about the importance of Clean, Drain, Dry!



- 4) Water Quality Monitoring** - Our water sampling season has begun! We are working on our Watershed Management Plan 2020, and we will be sampling, assessing, and documenting the main stem pools and major tributaries of the Hammond River, and exploring new initiatives in sampling, such as eDNA (environmental DNA).
- 5) DataStream** - One of our biggest successes so far this season has been uploading 20 years of historical water quality data onto the Atlantic Water Network's DataStream- an online open platform that has standardized water quality datasets, and allows for ease of comparison and sharing of historical data. We now have the ability to easily compare datasets from 1998-2018, and the rest of our data will be uploaded very soon!



- 6) Social Media** - We have begun to reengage with the public through our social media outlets, including Facebook and Instagram. We have been doing theme weeks, such as Well Water Week, and Invasive Species Week, to increase our educational outreach.



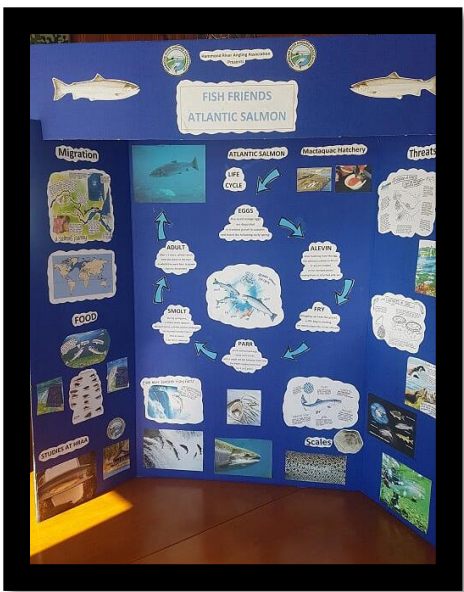


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PROJECTS

7) **Fish Friends** - We set up 10 tanks and delivered salmon eggs for classes to raise. Normally, these schools would have come to the Conservation Center for Splash Day and release their salmon fry; however, due to Covid-19 restrictions, these school field trips were cancelled. We came up with an innovative solution, to ensure that the salmon were still released into the Hammond, and that the school kids could still see their salmon being released- we made movies! Teachers were invited to bring their salmon fry to the Conservation Center, while Sarah and Josh used an underwater camera to film the release, and these movies were given to the teachers to share with their classes from home!



8) **River Clean Up** - We have successfully completed a summer river clean up event! With a group of awesome volunteers, we were able to clean up garbage from Silver Hill, Tabor Bridge, Damascus Bridge, the Deep Hole, and the HRAA Boat Launch. In total, we removed 27 bags of garbage from the riverbanks!



IN THE WORKS

- 1) We have recently received our WAWA permit, and we will begin to do willow planting along an 80m stretch near the Hammondvale Bridge that has become eroded and allowing significant nutrient overloading in the river.
- 2) Beginning late August, we will start a culvert survey, to examine the main culverts within the watershed and assess if they allow for proper fish passage.
- 3) Early fall, we will be doing our electrofishing program, as well as a benthic macroinvertebrate study (BMI).
- 4) We will be engaging the public in a citizen science program- we will be introducing the Water Rangers kits to volunteers within the watershed to collect monthly water samples!

Thank you to our Many Sponsors

