



NEWSLETTER

Hammond River Angling Association

Operations



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In Memory of Randy Giffin

We remember and celebrate the life of Randy Giffin- a Charter Member, Director, President, and longtime Chairman of the Environmental Committee of the HRAA, who has passed away at the remarkable age of 99.

Randy was more than a founding member; he was part of the soul of this organization- his passion for the Hammond River was unwavering. We will miss his presence- always encouraging, always insightful- and his steady support for conservation, education, and the preservation of all the wild places he loved so deeply. His presence at HRAA was a gift to all who knew him, and his legacy flows as surely as the river he cherished.

Thank you, Randy, for a lifetime of leadership, laughter, and love of the water.

Tight lines, friend.

"Randy's River"

(Written in loving memory of Randy Giffin, 1926-2025)

He cast his first line in Victoria Vale,
A boy of four with a heart set to sail,
On rippling waters, quiet and clear,
The start of a love that would last ninety-nine years.

From that first trout beneath the alder's shade,
To the Hammond's pools where legends are made,
He found his peace where the riffles run,
Where the day's last light meets the sinking sun.

At Smithtown camp, he'd take his stand,
A Chief or an Adams poised in hand,
Watching the currents, calm and wise,
Reading each secret the Hammond implies.

He taught us that fishing is more than a fight,
It's patience, respect, and moments of light.
It's knowing the joy in a gentle release,
And finding your solace in nature's peace.

Now his children and grandchildren stand by the shore,
Casting the lines that he cast before,
Carrying on his legacy, steady and true,
In the same bright waters where his spirit flew.

His laughter still echoes along the stream,
Where salmon roll and brook trout gleam.
And if you listen close where the waters sing,
You'll always feel his presence in the Hammond's ring.



Projects

Ritchie Lake Management Advisory Committee: A New Chapter of Stewardship

HRAA is proud to sit on the Ritchie Lake Management Advisory Committee, collaborating with Town staff and landowners. Sampling is complete, and analysis is underway. Kolby even joined Mayor Libby O'Hara for the last round of sampling, highlighting our hands-on, community-focused approach. We are excited to help protect this beloved urban lake for years to come.



Upham Gypsum Mine Compliance Monitoring

Monitoring continues at the Upham Gypsum Mine, and we're happy to report no exceedances of total suspended solids this fall. HRAA will continue keeping residents informed as any future exploratory work moves forward.



Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon: Supporting Salmon Survival

This year was challenging, with historic drought conditions, so we carefully selected electrofishing sites to avoid harming fish. Despite this, we surveyed the Belleisle River and Irish River with ACAP Saint John, identifying 2 parr from last fall's PIT tags.

Fall rains brought some relief, though they coincided with our Annual Redd Count, forcing its first cancellation in five years. Our staff have since resumed redd surveys, with over 30 redds counted so far. Full results will be shared at the AGM.



Our waters are talking, and we've been listening all summer! Our water quality monitoring continues to be the backbone of everything we do. This summer, HRAA teams sampled 13 index watershed sites, including Darlings Lake, gathering crucial data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and pH. We documented 5 E.coli exceedances across the watershed, and now, as fall sets in, our HOBO loggers are safely retrieved, ready for data analysis.



Our smallmouth bass tagging project had another great year: 57 bass tagged, 8 recaptures, and more insight into their distribution. Meanwhile, our monofilament recycling and flylibrary bins were busy with community contributions, showing just how much local stewardship matters. With all this data in hand, we're already gearing up for 2026 restoration priorities.

NB Wildlife Trust Fund: Fishing Club & Youth Mentorship (YAMs!)

Big fish, big smiles, and even bigger memories—our Youth Fishing Club wrapped up in style! Our Youth Fishing Club wrapped up a fantastic season with a year-end party at McCrea's Fishing Farm. The YAMS were incredible this year, mentoring younger anglers and helping run activities. Robin Doull also returned to offer fly fishing lessons, giving beginners a chance to learn from an expert. It was a season full of excitement, learning, and memorable first catches- we can't wait to see everyone back next spring!



Gilgan Foundation: Soil Science Meets Restoration

We got down and dirty to make sure every tree has the perfect home! We collected over 100 soil samples this fall and analyzed 14 parameters in-house. This data is helping us map the entire watershed by soil type and guide tree species selection for maximum survival.

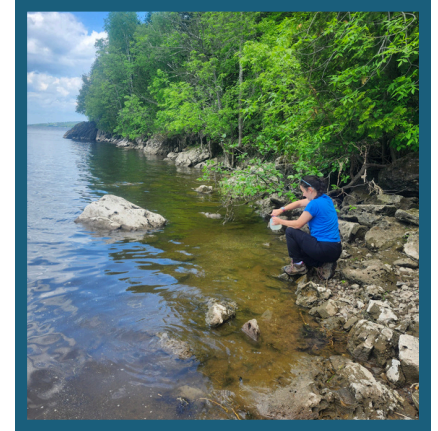
By integrating soil and water quality data, we can prioritize sites, make smarter planting decisions, and share resources with our partners to enhance planting across the watershed. Science + restoration = stronger rivers, streams, and communities!



NB Environmental Trust Fund & Wolastoq-Saint John River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative: Blooming Into Action for Real-Time Monitoring

All our CyanoTrackers are now back for the season, and the team is diving into data analysis! These devices helped us catch early bloom warnings at Darlings Lake, Kennebecasis River, and Yoho Lake, giving us a head start on understanding cyanobacteria dynamics.

This year, we collected and analyzed over 130 samples for cyanobacteria genera identification. Knowing which genera are present helps us predict potential toxin production and better understand bloom triggers. From Chamcook Lake to Gaspereau Creek, our team has been ready to respond whenever blooms appear. Full findings will be shared in our Winter Newsletter and at the AGM, so stay tuned for a deep dive!



Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Fund: Restoring Riverbanks & Reconnecting Ecosystems

This fall, we planted nearly 8,000 reasons for the river to smile! Fall planting has been exciting and productive! Our season total now stands at 7,953 trees and shrubs, creating more habitat, improving water quality, and reconnecting riverbanks. Working with partners like Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, Belleisle Watershed Coalition, and ACAP Saint John, our restoration efforts are truly making a difference.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation & Scotts Gro for Good: Miyawaki Food Forest

Who's got the champagne?! We are thrilled- HRAA won the Scotts Gro for Good video contest! Our garden at the Central Kings Recreation Center received the most votes in Canada. Our edible Miyawaki forest is thriving, full of berries, rhubarb, grapes, and other perennials, with help from local youth from the Summer Fun program. This project shows what can happen when community, stewardship, and education come together.



Events

Redd Count - Volunteer Redd Count Event was scheduled for Saturday November 8th, 2025, however we were forced to cancel this event due to weather. Staff have been busy doing our own redd counts so we will still have our 2025 data.

Fly-Tying - Fly Tying evenings have started. We meet every Thursday evening at the HRAA at 6pm. Ages 14+. No experience necessary and supplies provided.

Christmas Potluck - Join us on December 14th from 4-6pm for our Annual Christmas Potluck! We will have music, door prizes, gingerbread cookies and treat bags for the kids! Let us know if you will be joining us at our Christmas Potluck Facebook Event Page.

Used & New Fishing Gear Sale at the HRAA - Tentatively scheduled for April 12th, 2026...More details to follow in the new year but we wanted to give you a little heads up!

Thanks to our Sponsors



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**TD Friends of the
Environment
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HAMMOND RIVER
H O L D I N G S

