



Hammond River Angling Association Winter 2022 Newsletter 2022 EVENTS

Wishing all of our Members a Wonderful 2022!!

- HRAA Staff - Melissa, Paul, Josh,
Isabella & Sarah



EVENTS

HRAA Family Fishing Derby (June 4th & 5th, 2022)

Hammond River Angling Association's Family Fishing Derby was a huge success in 2021!! With over 300 participants, we had a great day of fishing, family and of course food!!

Our dates for the 2022 Family Fishing Derby are June 4th & 5th, 2022. We look forward to seeing all of the familiar faces again this year, as well as some new ones!! We will have the registration page open in March.



Hook and Paddle (June 11th, 2022)

Hammond River Angling Association will once again be hosting the Hook and Paddle Fishing tournament! If you are interested in taking part in the Hook and Paddle series, check out their website at www.hookandpaddle.ca or search Hook and Paddle on Facebook.



OPERATIONS

Office

The offices are currently closed to the public; however, an appointment can be made by calling or emailing!

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

Rentals

We are open for rentals at the Hammond River Conversation Center! We have a COVID Operational Plan in place and will be checking Vaccination Records at the door. Call Melissa at 645-1698 to book your rental today! Members receive 20% off all rentals!!

AGM

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will once again be cancelling our Annual General Meeting. We want to keep all of our Staff, Board Members and Members safe.

A spot on our Board of Directors has recently become available and if you are interested in putting your name forward to fill this position, send an email to kombay1900@yahoo.com.

We hope that this newsletter will have updated you on what's happening at the HRAA, but if you have any questions at all, or would like a copy of the Financial Statement, please contact the office at office@hrra.ca.



Hammond River Angling Association Winter 2022 Newsletter 2021 FALL PROJECTS

2021 FALL PROJECTS

1. Upham Gypsum Monitoring

Our HRAA Field Staff and two of our Board of Directors, John and Bruce, visited the gypsum mining site in Upham in November. This site visit coincided with a period of heavy rain, which was perfect timing to observe how the site was operating under higher flow conditions into the settling ponds and discharging into the receiving environment. We are pleased to report that no major issues or concerns were observed. Monitoring of the watercourses north, east and south of the mine will continue throughout the winter months, documenting rain-on-snow events. Thank you to Dan Guest for accommodating our site visit!



2. Redd Count

We hosted our annual Volunteer Redd Count with great success! We had our Kids' Fishing Club join HRAA field staff to learn how to perform a redd count at French Village Bridge- the kids found 2 redds and had a great morning on the water! We then had 15 volunteers join us at the Conservation Center for the main redd count- volunteers were placed into groups with experienced Team Leads and hit the water throughout the watershed looking for redds! In total, we surveyed 12 different sites, and found a total of 65 well defined redds, with 3 large communal redds (more than 3 redds grouped together), and over a dozen "scratches" or test sites! Last year, we only documented 47 redds, so this year marks a 32% increase in spawning activity! One team was even fortunate to see grilse and parr! Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out, especially Geoff Giffin who has consistently been a Team Lead (and led his crew to see grilse) and a special shoutout to the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) team who also joined us for a day on the water! We look forward to this event again next year!





Hammond River Angling Association Winter 2022 Newsletter UPCOMING PROJECTS

2022 Projects

This time of the year is one of the busiest for our staff, as we begin to write and submit our proposals for funding for upcoming projects! While there is no guarantee that all of the following projects will be funded, we wanted to provide you with a highlight on some of the project proposals that we have submitted thus far. If they are not approved, we will take them back to the drawing board and make them stronger for future years!

1. Getting Hands-On in the Hammond

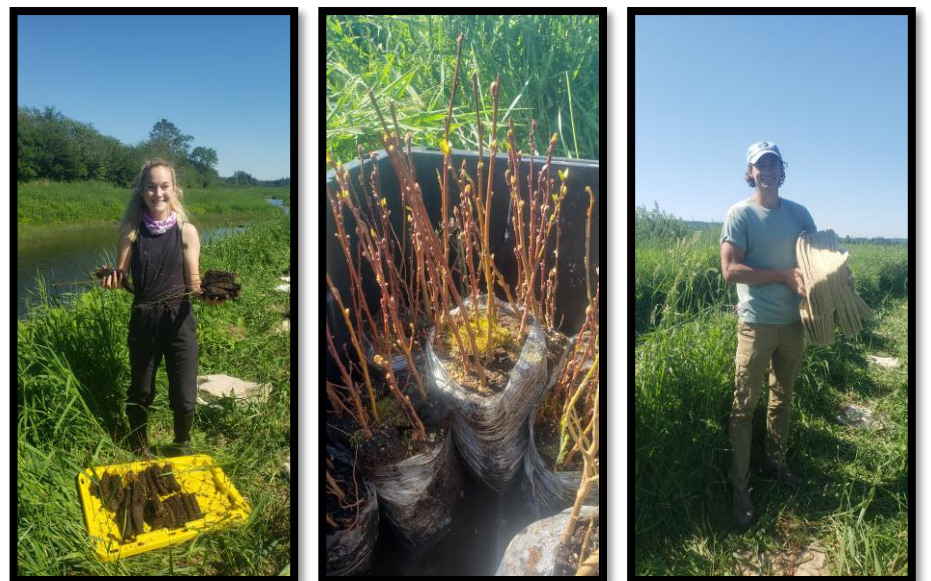
This project, submitted to the NB Environmental Trust Fund, will include maintaining our robust water quality monitoring program, as well as including new sites for water quality sampling in the Caledonia Highlands. This project proposal also includes sediment sampling, electrofishing, redd counts, environmental DNA analysis, Atlantic salmon tissue collection, invasive species documentation, and will include an educational unit on Riverkeepers- citizen science water quality monitoring for all ages and backgrounds. This project will offer many volunteer opportunities, so stay tuned for updates on how you can get involved if this project is approved!

2. Cyanobacteria Monitoring in Darlings Lake

We submitted a proposal to the NB Environmental Trust Fund for additional monitoring of the cyanobacteria bloom in Darlings Lake. This project will include rigorous water quality monitoring in conjunction with ACAP Saint John, including an investigation into the tributaries of Darlings Lake, as well as its inflow and outflow. This project will also work with Dr. David Fung, Chief Scientist for EM Fluids, a Canadian water technology company that provides non-invasive, sustainable and cleantech solutions that enhance oxygen levels in large water bodies without using any mechanical or chemical processes with the EMF-1000. This project also has the support and guidance from the KWRC and the Belleisle Watershed Coalition, as well as support from many residents from Darlings Lake.

3. Carbon Capture Collective

In partnership with the KWRC and BWC, we have submitted a proposal to the World Wildlife Fund-Canada for a major tree and shrub planting initiative and soil sampling to determine carbon sequestration! As a combined effort, we are proposing to plant 20,000 native tree and shrub species and collect 192 core soil samples! Not only will this project benefit the riparian zone, but it will also be a great experience working alongside of the KWRC and BWC!



4. Monofilament Recycling: The 100 Bin Challenge

This past year, we installed monofilament recycling bins throughout the Hammond River watershed and collected a whopping amount of old fishing line! This project quickly caught the attention of the KWRC, who ordered 6 monofilament collection bins for their own watershed, and it also inspired the Antigonish River Association in Nova Scotia to begin their own fishing line collection program! Given how well this initial project was received, we decided to submit a proposal to the NB Wildlife Trust Fund to expand on this awesome initiative- we are aiming to build and distribute 100 monofilament collection bins PROVINCE-WIDE! We have initial support from a dozen watershed groups located throughout the province, and this will offer a great volunteer opportunity to help HRAA staff build these collection bins if the project is approved!



Hammond River Angling Association Winter 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

Monofilament Recycling: The 100 Bin Challenge Continued...



5. Hammond River Nature Camp

Hammond River Nature Camp is a go for the summer of 2022!!! We are so excited for our 21st year of Camp! Our Camp Director, Isabella has some amazing things planned for this year and we can't wait to share them with you in the coming weeks! Stay tuned for our posts on our Nature Camp page <https://www.facebook.com/hraanaturecamp>.

Nature Camp Registration opens on March 1st. Be sure to sign up early to guarantee a spot in your favorite week!



6. Crowley's Pool Collaborative

Unfortunately, we didn't receive the funds for this proposal due to a high volume of applicants BUT we will refine & try again! A huge thank you to all those who offered support of this project and we look forward to future collaborations.



9. 2 Billion Trees Initiative

We are currently working on a proposal with watershed organizations throughout the province on the federal government's 2 Billion Trees Initiative. We are currently seeking landowners in the Hammond River watershed who would like to have some FREE trees planted on their property! If you are interested in providing landowner permission to plant, or if you are interested in volunteering with this project, please reach out to us!



11. Wetlands in the Wolastoq

In partnership with ACAP Saint John, Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee and Belleisle Watershed Coalition, we submitted a proposal to the Habitat Stewardship Program for Terrestrial Species at Risk. This project will focus on wetland areas within the lower Wolastoq-Saint John River watershed, which offer critical habitat for at-risk bird and bat species. If approved, this project will include wetland delineations, and plenty of volunteer opportunities to build bird and bat houses and participate in Citizen Science initiatives! We included a survey for the wetland complex of our candidate Protected Natural Area for Theobald Lake- the results will help inform management decisions and ensure that this area moves from a 'candidate' to a fully-fledged conservation area. We love multi-partner projects- this gives us an opportunity to learn from other groups while supporting a broad ecosystem-based approach to conservation!





Hammond River Angling Association Winter 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

6. Smallies and Stripers: Hammond River AmBASSador Project

We submitted a proposal to the NB Wildlife Trust Fund to explore abundance and distribution of small mouth bass and striped bass within the Hammond River watershed! This project will include floy tagging hundreds of smallmouth bass for recapture and documentation of their movement and distribution in the watershed, as well as environmental DNA and tissue sampling of striped bass in the lower Hammond River watershed in partnership with the Acadia University Striped Bass research team. This project will also include an educational unit geared towards our Kids' Fishing Club, and this project will tie in nicely with our 2nd Annual Fishing Derby!



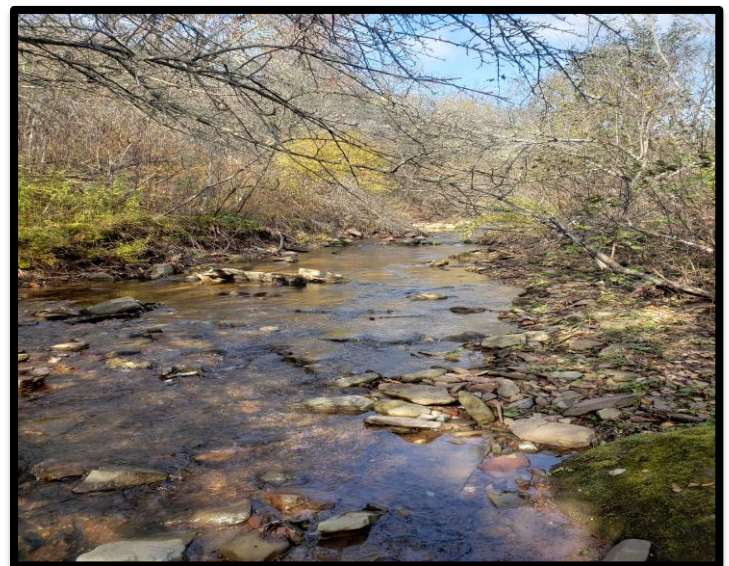
7. Fish Friends of the Hammond River

The COVID19 pandemic brought a halt to the long-running Fish Friends program, where local schools had tanks and got to raise Atlantic salmon eggs and release un-fed fry. This program has been greatly missed by schools, so the HRAA submitted an application to the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation to try and get this program up and running again! This project proposes to collect broodstock and harvest Hammond River salmon eggs, which will be distributed to local schools to raise and then release.



8. Reconnecting McLaren Brook

There are many culverts within the Hammond River watershed that do not allow fish passage, and our current staff do not have much experience in culvert remediation. We decided to submit a proposal to the Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk for a small culvert remediation project to 'cut our teeth on'. The McLaren Brook culvert is a very old, perched concrete arch culvert that used to be part of the Saint Martins-Hampton train line. With assistance and guidance from a number of partners, we are proposing to install a fish ladder to restore fish passage and access to 9,455m² of upstream habitat. This project will also include PIT (passive integrated transponder) tagging two hundred fish and installing an antenna in the culvert to determine overall success of fish passage. If approved, this project will act as a vital steppingstone for future culvert remediation and fish tagging projects!





Hammond River Angling Association Winter 2022 Newsletter SPONSORS

Thank you to our Sponsors



RIVERVIDS



Maritime Worm



We gratefully acknowledge the support of WWF-Canada

GRANT RECIPIENT

"WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved."