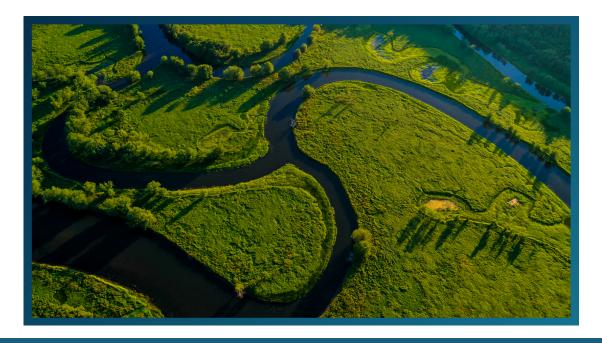




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Meet A Board Member

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER, DENNIS LEGERE



Dennis has been a working at Irving Oil for the past 12 years, where he has held roles in logistics, managing the company's private fleet in Canada and the US. More recently, he has been contributing to the Energy Transition team. Before joining Irving Oil, Dennis served as the National Sales Manager for an ocean container company, working throughout Eastern Canada and the Caribbean.

Outside of his professional life, Dennis has been an avid fly fisherman for the past 40 years. He spent his early years fishing on the Nepisiguit River in Bathurst and in later years, exploring other lakes and rivers in New Brunswick. The COVID-19 pandemic rekindled his love for tying flies. During his university days, Dennis' love of fishing inspired him to write and record music, with many songs referencing New Brunswick rivers, and the pursuit of the fish within them. He performed throughout New Brunswick and Nova Scotia during this time.

Dennis is married to Nadine, and they have two children. Their daughter is in her third year at Dalhousie University, while their son recently completed his Commerce degree from St. Mary's University and is currently pursuing his CPA designation with JD Irving. Both children share Dennis' love for spending time on the river. In his spare time, Dennis and Nadine enjoy spending time at their camp and traveling, particularly to visit Nadine's family in Germany.

Projects

Ritchie Lake Management Advisory Committee: A New Chapter of Stewardship

Though outside our watershed, Ritchie Lake in Quispamsis is a beloved community spot, and HRAA is proud to step up. After a full season of cyanobacteria monitoring in 2024, we're now joining the new Ritchie Lake Advisory Committee. This group will meet quarterly to develop a robust monitoring and action plan to safeguard this urban lake's health for generations to come. Our first meeting will be mid-August; however, we wanted to kick things off earlier than anticipated! We launched one of our CyanoTrackers into Ritchie Lake at the start of this season, and we have been working closely with the Town of Quispamsis to



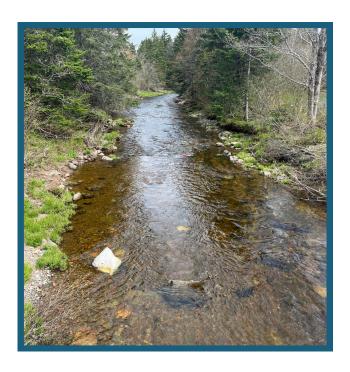
revise their water quality monitoring plan, including the addition of inflow sampling. The HRAA was pleased to work with Town staff and provide them with kayaks and assistance in the collection of their first round of water quality sampling. We also performed a drone survey to further understand the surrounding landuse and overall shape of the lake. We have begun planning on outflow monitoring by pre-scouting some locations for fall electrofishing surveys to help define fish abundance and distribution! We love making meaningful connections within our local community, and we are looking forward to continuing to assist in the development of this monitoring project.

Environmental Education

It has been a very busy educational summer thus far! While we have yet to tally up how many youth have come to the Conservation Center to learn all about water quality, Atlantic salmon, wetlands and more- we anticipate this number to be well over 2,000 youth in 2 months! We were also able to assist the New Brunswick Salmon Council in upgrading the current Fish Friends equipment, and we now have 10 new chillers sitting in our storage room that will be delivered to classes in Southern New Brunswick this upcoming spring, helping to update old and broken equipment!



Our flagship water quality monitoring continues in full swing! This summer, HRAA teams are sampling at 13 index watershed sites, including an additional 8 sites surrounding Darlings Lake, thus extending the dataset that underpins restoration decisions and building on rigorous work outlined in our Watershed Management Plan. To date, we have completed May, June, and July water sampling documenting a total of 5 E.coli exceedances across the watershed, with only August samples remaining to be collected. Our HOBO data loggers for continuous temperature and light monitoring are still in various waterbodies across the watershed; however, we would like to remind the public to please leave these in the water- we have had a few of these devices returned to our office! Once we



move into the cooler months, we will begin an intense analysis of all of our water quality and temperature data to assist in prioritizing our focal areas for the 2026 season. Our smallmouth bass tagging project is having a successful year, with 57 additional bass tagged with floy tags, and 8 being recaptured, furthering our understanding of this species abundance and distribution. Our monofilament bins and flybrary bins are getting lots of use, and we love seeing new flies placed on the flybrary bins!

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

Our Youth Fishing Club once again sold out within two days of opening up registration! So far this summer, we have had several Club meetings, as well as some adventurous outings and lots of fish being caught so far! One of the highlights has been our YAMs- the Youth Angling Mentorship Program. This fine group of youth have been integral in assisting the project delivery- by providing experience, guidance, and a helping hand during all of our Fishing Club meetings (we wish we



had of thought of this idea years ago!). We have also been very grateful to welcome back Robin Doull, who has offered a series of introductory fly fishing lessons to beginner fly fishers! With only a bit of fishing season left this year, we have taken advantage of as much time on the water, and we will have hosted the youth on the registration wait list for a special event! There is nothing quite like witnessing the excitement and joy of youth catching their first, or biggest, fish!

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

We have been having a very successful season monitoring and predicting cyanobacteria blooms across the Wolastoq-Saint John River. We currently have 18 real-time monitoring devices deployed across the province to help us collect vital data on the triggering mechanisms of cyanobacteria. Originally, these devices were called "AlgaeTrackers"; however, we have received the blessing from the devices'



manufacturer, AquaRealTime, to re-name these devices as CyanoTrackers, which better aligns with the provincial messaging to highlight that these devices collect data on cyanobacteria, not algae. These CyanoTrackers have been pivotal in providing us with early indications that Darlings Lake, the KennebecasisRiver, and Yoho Lake were in the early phases of bloom development before a surface bloom was visible! In conjunction with our project partners, we have been able to collect and analyse over 130 samples for cyanobacteria genera identification using our new BloomOptix equipment. Understanding the genera of cyanobacteria within a surface bloom is providing us with greater insight into potential cyanotoxin production. Further, we have been documenting cyanobacteria across the province- from site inspections at Chamcook Lake to documenting a surface bloom in Gaspereau Creek near Richibucto, our team is always ready to spring into action. Our cyanobacteria research has been highlighted in almost a dozen interviews for radio, newspapers, and television this year! Unfortunately, with the warm water temperatures and an increase in nutrient input, we documented a cyanobacteria bloom in the mainstem of the Hammond River- from the Darlings Island covered bridge stretching up to the Deep Hole. This is the first time that we have documented a surface bloom in the mainstem of the Hammond River, and we are closely monitoring the situation, with a high sampling frequency. Later this month, we will be presenting our findings at the Yoho Lake Annual General Meeting; further, our scientific research paper in partnership with Dalhousie University will be published!

Fishing Derby Recap

We had another amazing time at our Annual Family Fishing Derby- we had a total of 309 participants this past year! We changed up some of the regulations this year, including making a new category for "Teen", enabling us to provide even more awesome prizes to youth anglers! Even though there was some rain, thunder, and lightning, the spirits of the participants did not dampen, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive! We are super thankful to all of our amazing donors and sponsors-thank you for making this our best Derby year yet!

Gilgan Foundation: Soil Science Meets Restoration

We have been getting our hands good and dirty throughout August! Soil Science has been our main focus for the last month as we worked to establish a soil quality characterization of the entire watershed! This data will give us greater insight into what types of trees will be best suited to each site within the watershed for future planting initiatives. We are confident that having a understanding of soil quality characterization will greatly enhance our overall tree survival rate! Even better, we're sharing the love by equipping our friends at Belleisle Watershed Coalition and ACAP Saint John with soil sampling kits and extra capacity funding to help them increase their own tree planting targets. It's a win-win for watersheds across southern New Brunswick!



Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Fund: Restoring Riverbanks & Reconnecting Ecosystems

This restoration project brings together the HRAA with the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, the Belleisle Watershed Coalition, and ACAP Saint John as we work together to restore vital aquatic ecosystems across the Wolastoq-Saint John River! To date, our team has planted a total of 7,137 trees and shrubs this year, with more on the horizon for our fall planting! Coming at the end of August, we will be undertaking Phase 2 of our Salt Springs Brook restoration, stabilizing another 100m length of this critical tributary. We will be re-sloping the banks and then using a combination of gray and green infrastructure: we will be securing large tree revetments into the bank to provide fish habitat, while using armored rock to secure the banks, and then planting a large 50m buffer zone from the water's edge! We also had a great



surprise earlier this planting season- the Belleisle team surprised us with an unexpected delivery of MONSTER trees- these trees were so big, that we had to rent a U-Haul to transport them to our Salt Springs Brook site! Stay tuned for upcoming tree planting events, and we hope to see you in the field!

Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon: Supporting Salmon Survival

Recently, one of our awesome summer staff was able to completely re-vamp our boat launch sign, making it so much more informative and accessible! This sign includes everything you need to know about fishing regulations and fish identification! Friendly reminder that the Hammond River is now fly-fishing only from the CN Bridge to McGonagle Brook. We are also in progress of working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of Natural Resources to begin working towards making the entire mainstem (and North Branch) of the Hammond River fly-fishing only after July 15th, extending this regulation past



McGonagle Brook, for greater understanding of the fishing regulations and augmented projection of salmonids that are seeking cold water refugia in our watershed's headwaters. This summer, we were also happy to help in a fish rescue during culvert restoration- we were able to safely relocate over three dozen trout from the watercourse and assisted with opening up over 5km of prime upstream salmonid habitat! Last month, we attended the inaugural Outer Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon Working Group Committee Meeting in Fredericton, where we met with members of Indigenous communities, DFO, and industry to discuss the work being done, and the current outlook, for our OBoF salmon. The HRAA is spearheading the next conversation between watershed groups who operate below the Mactaquac Dam, as we are in a prime position to help shape upcoming restoration and recovery efforts!

Upham Gypsum Mine Compliance Monitoring

Environmental compliance monitoring is back in action at the Upham Gypsum Mine. Our team is collecting monthly water samples and post-storm runoff data, and we've added two temperature loggers in the north and south watercourses to assess potential thermal impacts. To date, we have not documented any exceedances in total suspended solids in the outflow of the gypsum mine, indicating that the proponent has done a good job in site planning and design, particularly the use of settling ponds. We have also been answering a lot of questions recently regarding the upcoming gypsum exploration in Markhamville. Hammond River Holdings (HRH) has held this mineral claim in Markhamville for a few years now; however, this will be the first year that they have performed core sampling to define the resource. In August, will be drilling and extracting an anticipated total of 5 core samples to determine if further exploratory work is warranted. We empathize with residents in the Markhamville community- we understand how unnerving and stressful it can be when your area may be subject to a potential mining project; however, rest assured that HRAA will continue to monitor, and update, on this potential project's undertakings as they develop.

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

We have been busy bees in the local community throughout this summer! We have been working away at the Central Kings Recreation Center creating a stunning edible food forest and pollinator garden! We have installed raised garden beds that are filled with predominantly perennial plants and shrubs- these include highbush cranberry, elderberry, blueberry, haskap, snowberry, buffaloberry, saskatoon berry, rhubarb, currant, grapes, and so much more! We have had some great helpers with this project, including the local rural youth from the Summer Fun program! Stay tuned-soon, we will have an exciting video highlighting this awesome project, where we have a chance to win an amazing \$2,000 of prizes! The winner is selected by most votes on the videos, so be sure to vote, vote!

NB Wildlife Trust Fund: Redds & Beds

We have recently wrapped up our research paper focusing on the spatial overlap of salmonid habitat and freshwater mussel habitat, with a particular focus on salmon spawning redds and mussel beds. A comparison of Mussel abundance between 2022 and 2025 across surveyed sites in the Hammond River watershed reveals a mixed pattern of population change- five sites experienced an increase in mussel abundance over the three-year period, five sites showed a decline, and four sites remained relatively stable. This distribution suggests that site-specific



conditions are playing a significant role in shaping mussel population trends, and that broader environmental stressors may be having uneven effects across the watershed. The overall decline in Eastern Pearlshell Mussel abundance across most Hammond River sites likely reflects the combined impact of several environmental and ecological stressors. Habitat degradation from sedimentation linked to agriculture, forestry, and development is a major contributor, reducing the clean, oxygenated gravel mussels need to thrive. Declining host fish populations, particularly juvenile salmon and brook trout essential for mussel reproduction, may further limit recruitment—especially where fish movement is restricted by barriers like culverts or small dams. Of the 25 sites surveyed, 32% had both Eastern Pearlshell mussels and Atlantic Salmon redds present, reinforcing the known biological relationship between these two species. In 28% of sites, mussels were found without redds, suggesting either past salmonid presence or environmental conditions still suitable for mussel survival but not current spawning. Conversely, 20% of sites had redds but no mussels, which may indicate areas where salmonid habitat is suitable but mussel populations are absent—potentially due to past disturbance or population decline. The remaining 20% of sites had neither mussels nor redds, pointing to less suitable habitat conditions for both species.

HRAA Field Staff

Sophie Hebert



Sophie has recently completed the refresher course for the hydrogeomorphological assessment training! Sophie is the rock that holds our team together- from flawlessly executing far beyond her fair share of our 'shared responsibilities', to infinite trips to the mailbox to check on proposal letters, Sophie's smile and warm personality never waiver! It has been phenomenal watching Sophie's growth over the past few years- it is clear that she has a deep love for all animals that call our watershed home. Sophie has a wonderful ability to flip between youth environmental education to full scientific research- there is literally nothing we can't throw Sophie's way, including being the best truck driver on our team!

Sarah Blenis



If you've ever wondered what keeps the Hammond River Angling Association running smoothly behind the scenes, the answer is simple: Sarah Blenis. A lifelong resident of the Hammond River, Sarah brings both heart and expertise to her role as project manager. Her dedication is unmatched, and her ability to turn complex ideas into polished reports and proposals has helped secure countless opportunities for the HRAA. Sarah isn't just a gifted writer—she's also a true nature enthusiast. When she's not coordinating projects in the office, you'll find her outside fishing, hiking, or exploring the outdoors with her two young boys. Her personal connection to the river and her love of nature fuel her commitment to conservation every single day.

Kolby Gallant



Kolby originally started with the HRAA as a part-time work co-op placement, however, once his term was over, it was undeniable- we NEEDED Kolby on our team, and we are so grateful that he accepted our offer! Kolby is one of those rare employees who is always early and always shows up with a smile on his face and ready to start the day. Kolby is an incredibly well-rounded individual- he can go from working with power tools to working with Excel with ease. One of the highlights this season has been taking Kolby into our watershed- at every single location, Kolby has found beauty- it is hard to put it into words how much it means to us to see a newcomer to our watershed embrace its every curve and bend, and know that the Hammond has found a new steward for life.

HRAA Summer Field Staff



Sam Bohan

We met Sam Bohan when he was still a student at the Kennebecasis Valley High School when he was spearheading a greenhouse project. Since meeting Sam, we KNEW that we needed him on our HRAA team! Sam has been working with HRAA as a Nature Camp Counselor; however, this year Sam has joined the ranks of our field research team and we are thrilled to have him be a part of our crew! Sam's creativity and ability to think outside the box has been a true asset to our research team; further, Sam has a wonderful way with words and we are fortunate to have his literary skill to assist with final reports and proposal writing! Sam's bubbly personality keeps things fun and engaging- even if he falls in the water, his spirit never dampens!





This is Logan's sophomore year with our HRAA field crew, and we are thrilled to have him join us once again this summer! Logan is the perfect blend between analytical and imaginative- he is able to break down complex problems into smaller parts, identifying patterns, and using logic to find solutions while incorporating innovation to really bring his ideas to life! Logan has a wonderful way of asking questions that really open up further discussion, and we love his inquisitive nature! We have also loved watching Logan blossom as our premiere educational leader- he is captivating and engaging, and the feedback from teachers is clear: Logan has a true gift for educating, combining his inquisitive nature and quirky brain in one powerful force that truly captivate audiences!

Sam & Logan, Thank you for an Amazing Summer! Good Luck at School this Fall!

Summer Camp Staff

Hammond River Nature Camp is done for another season! With activities galore from fishing, fort building to baking, harvesting and swimming. There is something for everyone here at camp. We boast a beautiful dock and swimming area where the campers can paddle board, swim and kayak, a massive field for games, specialized activities and a wooded area with an amazing wetland habitat! So much to explore and learn! Thanks to our AMAZING Summer Staff for a FANTASTIC Summer!!























Summer Camp























Thanks to our Sponsors













The McLean Foundation



This project was undertaken with the financial support of Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de



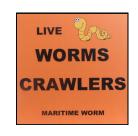
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