



Hammond River Angling Association Fall 2023 Newsletter EVENTS

EVENTS

Clean Up Event at the HRAA (Held Nov 5)

Our local Scouting group had secured funding to host a clean-up day at our Center on November 5th! We met at the center at 1pm and went out to multiple locations within our watershed, along with the Redd Count Volunteers. We came back to the Center for some snacks and chili! Picture at right is of their volunteer clean-up and tree planting last fall.



Fly-Tying

Fly-Tying started up on October 12th, 2023. It will be Thursday evenings from 6-8pm at the Conservation Center. These FREE events will go until April 2024. No experience necessary! Equipment provided for beginners! Ages 12+. Picture at right is of the Hammond River Lady, hand-drawn by Aurele Daigle.



Redd Counts (Held Nov 5)

HRAA's Annual Redd Count Event was held on Sunday November 5th from 1-4pm. We met at the Conservation Center and headed off in groups to well-known spawning areas within the Hammond River Watershed. We had a great turnout and we all enjoyed a chili supper afterwards! Only a few redds were found but our team will be out many more times this month to document some more!



Christmas Potluck

We are finally able to host our annual Christmas Potluck at the Conservation Center! Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10th from 4-6pm. We will provide the turkey and everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert. All ages welcome. We will have door prizes, kids activities, music, food and friends! Can't wait to see everyone and catch up!

Annual Dinner & Auction

Looking ahead to the new year, we will start planning our Dinner & Auction. We would love some new members on the Dinner Committee. We meet 12 times from January to May for a couple of hours each meeting, some of which are virtual meetings. No experience necessary! Please email office@hrra.ca if you would like to join our committee!

The Dinner & Auction is scheduled for May 11th, 2024 at St. Marks Church. Tickets will go on sale in March. We are happy to accept any donations from individuals or businesses!



Sarah, our Project Manager, volunteering at the 2023 Dinner



Hammond River Angling Association Fall 2023 Newsletter 2023 NATURE CAMP

2023 Hammond River Nature Camp

We had a wonderful summer at our sold out Nature Camp! We had over 260 campers join us for some awesome adventures this summer!

Thanks to our summer staff:

- Sam Bohan
- Evin Bonnell
- Lilla Christie
- Ben Daigle
- Brett Daigle
- Colin Downey
- Marissa Gootjes
- Rachel Hicks
- Sarah Knox
- Sam McIntosh
- Zach Perrin

Also a huge Thank You to our volunteer Counsellors-in-Training!





Hammond River Angling Association Fall 2023 Newsletter 2023 PROJECTS

2023 Projects Update

1. Fish Friends (NB Wildlife Trust Fund)

We have updated the original curriculum (including a Teachers Handbook) and created a 10-part video series. We had 12 classes participate in the 2023 Fish Friends Program and release their fry in the Hammond River. Each class was provided with rocks for their tank, as well as a new set of salmon Lifecycle posters.



2. Building Stronger Communities (NB Wildlife Trust Fund)

We have partnered with the Elizabeth Fry Society and Chris Saunders Memorial Elementary School to build pollinator and vegetable gardens. Additionally, we built a pollinator garden at the HRAA and partnered with KVHS, assisting them with their new greenhouse project.



3. Hammond River Kids Fishing Club (NB Wildlife Trust Fund)

We hold monthly meetings with 30 youth registrants to learn about fish identification, proper fish handling, fishing techniques, water quality, conservation etc. We currently have 30 kids registered, with a wait list of 15 other youth. We have partnered with Hampton High School's Fishing Club to teach fly-tying lessons, hosted the Elizabeth Fry Society for a fishing day and provided an outing to the kids on the Fish Club wait list.



4. Avifauna of the Hammond River (Baillie Fund)

We have been examining and recording bird species in the Hammond River during field work; and will be encouraging youth to participate in bird watching during Nature Camp. We have purchased new binoculars and bird identification books with this grant!



5. Getting Redd-y in the Hammond River (Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon)

We will be assisting the Nashwaak, Oromocto, Belleisle, Kennebecasis, and Petitcodiac Watersheds perform redd count surveys in November. Salmon identification signs will be installed in the watershed, an update will occur to HRAA's Fisheries Management Strategy, we will be incorporating redds education into the Fish Friends curriculum and have installed "flybrary bins" (take one, leave one fishing flies)

6. Nutrien Garden (Nutrien)

We have upgraded the area around the sheds to include a large vegetable garden, featuring raised garden beds, heavy-duty landscape fabric & mulch paths between raised beds. The garden area is coming along nicely, despite the poor weather. This project also allowed the HRAA to remove 800m2 of invasive plant species from a Provincially Significant Wetland Area.



7. Smallmouth Bass Tagging Year 2 (NB Wildlife Trust Fund)

This project is a continuation from 2022, with an increased goal of tagging more smallmouth bass than the previous year.



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2023 Projects Update

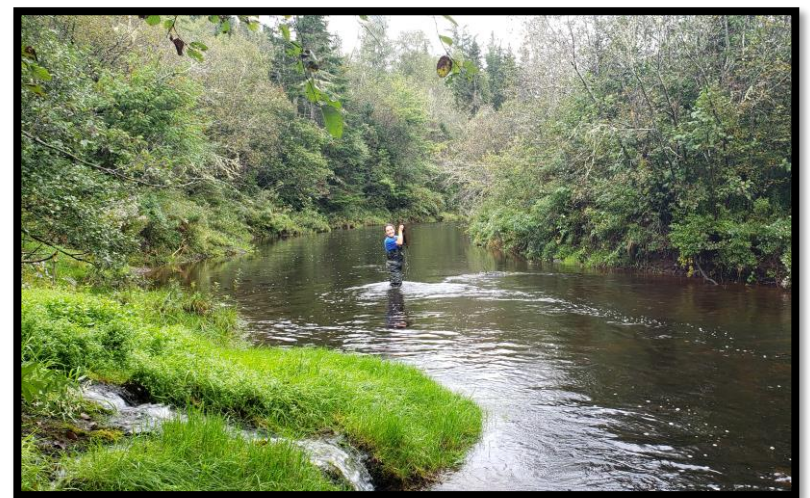
8. Carbon Capture Collaborative Year 2 (World Wildlife Fund-Canada)

This is a continuation from 2022, partnering with Belleisle Watershed Coalition & Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee to increase riparian restoration efforts while sampling soil carbon sequestration. The focus of Year 2 was on eroded banks of Salt Springs Brook- we hosted 2 volunteer planting events with over 40 volunteers and planted 400 trees and harvested 900 willow stakes. We created a “food forest” in the riparian area in the headwaters of the Hammond River by planting fruit trees and shrubs that will benefit a plethora of wildlife. To date we have planted a total of 1563 trees and 900 willow stakes!



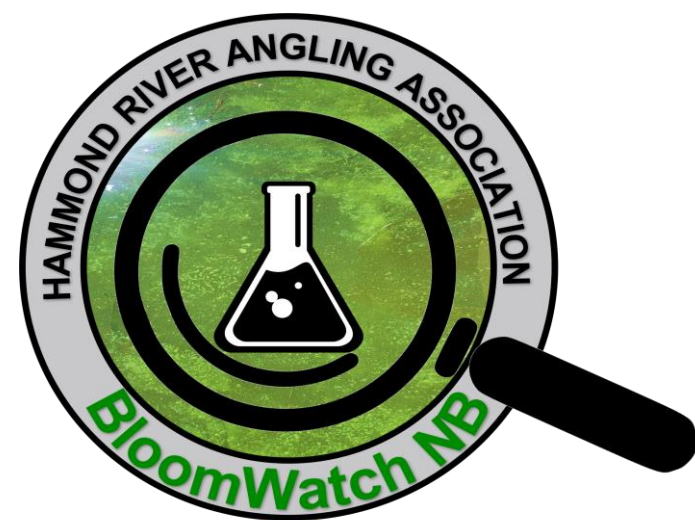
9. Implementing the Watershed Management Plan (NB Environmental Trust Fund)

We will be editing and printing the WMP from 2020; engaging stakeholders/Board of Directors/general public for input. We will also be updating HRAA’s management strategies. Water quality monitoring, electrofishing, invasive species monitoring, education & outreach etc. are just a few of the things we have completed in this project!



10. Darlings Island Cyanobacteria Monitoring (NB Environmental Trust Fund)

This is a continuation from cyanobacteria monitoring in 2022- rigorous water quality testing and deployment of AlgaeTrackers; partnering with other groups to assist with deployment of additional algae trackers. Out of all projects funded through NBETF on cyanobacteria research across the province, HRAA received the most funding! This summer we had 6 AlgaeTrackers deployed in 5 different watersheds and have been able to use this technology to help predict bloom formation. In-house cyanotoxin test kits all came back negative for cyanotoxins in Darlings Lake. We assisted DELG with reporting multiple additional blooms in Lake Utopia, Nerepis River, Meenan’s Cove and Murphy’s Cove in the Kennebecasis.



11. Upham Gypsum Monitoring

We will be continuing with our sampling program, as well as an additional site visit with new staff and a facility tour. (Picture of monitoring site to the right.)



12. Celebrating Suckers (NB Wildlife Trust Fund)

This new project is designed to eliminate the myth of “trash fish” and to educate the public. We will compare historical electrofishing data focusing on sucker abundance and distribution.



Hammond River Angling Association Fall 2023 Newsletter OPERATIONS / SPONSORS

OPERATIONS

Office

The offices are open to the public, so feel free to stop in and say hi! You can also reach us by phone at 506-832-1230 or by email at office@hrra.ca.

Rentals

We offer hall rentals at the Hammond River Conversation Center! Call Melissa at 506-645-1698 to book your rental today! Members receive 20% off all rentals!!

Facebook

Follow our page on Facebook!

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