



Hammond River Angling Association

Fall 2024 Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Fly-Tying at the HRAA

Fly-Tying at the HRAA is starting up again on November 7th on Thursday evenings at 6pm. Ages 14+. All skills welcome!

HRAA Member Potluck

We have our annual member potluck scheduled for December 15th from 4-6pm. Lots of activities and treat bags for the kids!

Annual Dinner & Auction

Mark your calendars for May 10th for our largest fundraiser of the year, our Annual Dinner & Auction! Enjoy a delicious hip of beef dinner, with all of the fixins', complementary glass of wine, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Arm's Length Draw, Scotch & Co draw, Head or Tails, and so much more! Tickets will go on sale in March of this coming year!

2024 CAMP DONORS

United Commercial Travelers

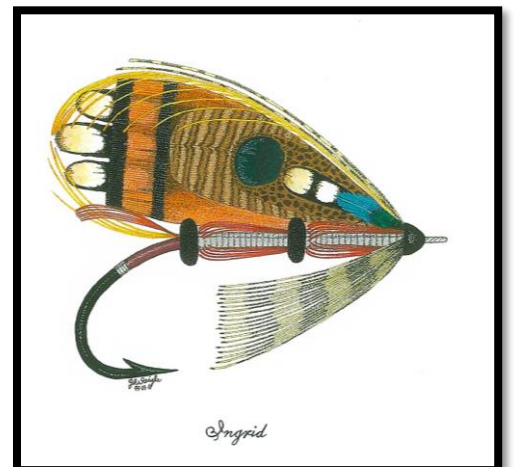
A huge Thank You to our new friends at UCT for the sponsorship of 10 new kayaks and a new gagaball pit for our campers! These were put to very good use this summer and tonnes of enjoyment was had by all of the campers!

Community Investment Fund

This is the 4th year that we have been sponsored by the CIF! In the spring of 2024, we were able to purchase a brand-new Lawn Tractor to help with mowing our extensive field! This gives the counsellors much more time to enjoy spending time with the campers! Thank you Community Investment Fund!!

Farm Credit Canada

A big shoutout to Farm Credit Canada for the sponsorship of our spring update to our garden. We are able to purchase additional mulch, soil and plants! This is a wonderful opportunity for our Nature Camp kids to play an important role in cultivating this awesome garden and to harvest the fruits of their labour!





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PROJECTS

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1) Atlantic Ecosystem Restoration Fund

Our restoration work along Salt Springs Brook is really coming along! This past season, we were able to add riprap along 100m length of Salt Springs Brook to fortify the severely eroding banks. We then hosted volunteer tree planting opportunities- during our fall planting, we were fortunate to have the Hampton U13 Timberwolves hockey team join us for some tree planting! This first section of Salt Springs brook is now complete, with stabilized banks, trees, and grass seed! We will be continuing to expand upon this vital work and will be targeting another 100m length stretch of Salt Springs Brook in 2025- stay tuned for more exciting volunteer surveys!



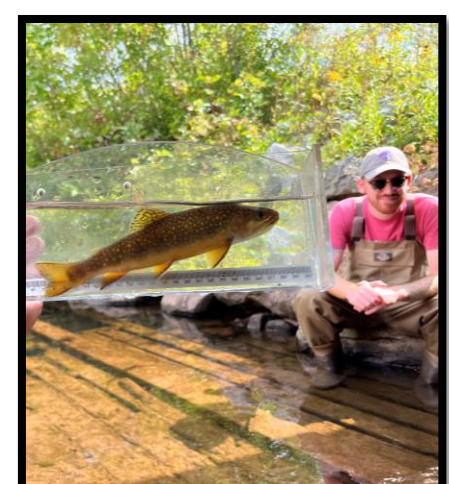
2) Cyanobacteria Monitoring

All of our AlgaeTracker devices have now been retrieved from their watercourses for the season. Throughout 2024, we did not document any cyanobacteria blooms within Darlings Lake, and it will take us a bit of time to analyze the vast amount of data collected this past year with previous years to help us understand why the lake has bloomed in the past but not this year. Our field crew were also able to visit multiple other lakes that are listed on the Government of New Brunswick's Provincial Health Advisory Cyanobacteria List, including Lake Herkert, Irishtown Nature Park, Chamcook Lake, Lake Utopia, Washedemoak Lake and others. During these lake visits, we collected drone footage and samples that we were able to use our new BloomOptix equipment to determine cyanobacteria genera presence/absence in each of these lakes. We will continue to expand upon this project in 2025, and we will have a very exciting announcement coming soon on our cyanobacteria research!



3) Electrofishing

Electrofishing season is now a wrap! In addition to surveying sites within the Hammond River watershed, we were also able to assist both the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, Belleisle Watershed Coalition and ACAP Saint John perform electrofishing surveys in their respective watersheds! During our survey work with the BWC, we collected adipose tissue samples to determine if there is hybridization occurring between Atlantic salmon and brown trout- we anticipate having results from this undertaking in 2025. Additionally, we were able to collect tissue samples and perform Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging in the Irish River with ACAP Saint John, as we continue to expand our knowledge on the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon population. We are in the early stages of analyzing all of our electrofishing results; however, we know that our top 5 fish species present within the Hammond River are the blacknose dace, common shiner, slimy sculpin, brook trout, and Atlantic salmon!





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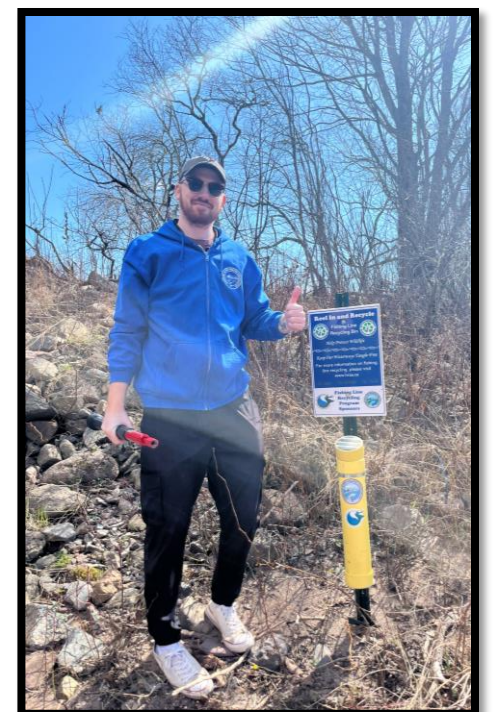
4) Redd Counts

We recently hosted our Annual Volunteer Redd Count Survey! In total, we were joined by 18 volunteers, and we surveyed 6 hotspots in the watershed looking for signs of Atlantic salmon spawning! In one day, we counted a total of 74 redds, which is a great way to kick off our redd counts! Our field staff will continue to perform redd count surveys throughout the remainder of November, which will help provide insight into how many returning Atlantic salmon are coming back into the Hammond River to spawn.



5) Monofilament Bins

Our monofilament bins have once again been brought back in for the season! We were thrilled at how much fishing line these bins continue to collect! We also had great feedback from our partners across New Brunswick on how much fishing line they are collecting as well. While we do not have plans to build more of these units for 2025, we will continue to deploy them for years to come!



6) FlyBrary Bins

Our FlyBrary bins were a great success this past year! This are built on the concept of "have a fly, leave a fly; need a fly, take a fly" to encourage more people to get in to fly fishing (especially where the vast majority of the Hammond River watershed becomes fly fishing only in July)! Throughout the year, we could see that older flies were being taken, and new ones left in their place! Speaking of fly fishing, our Fly Tying group will begin again this year starting on November 7th from 6pm-9pm! Fly Tying nights will be every Thursday and is open to everyone 14 years and up, no experience necessary!



7) Lieutenant Governor General's Award

On October 3rd, HRAA's President John Blenis, and HRAA's Project Manager, Sarah Blenis, were invited to attend the prestigious Lieutenant Governor General's Award for Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation! It was a beautiful day in Fredericton where we were able to meet old friends and new and celebrate the achievements of Mark Hambrook who was recognized for his decades of dedication to our rivers!



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8) Fort Folly Habitat Recovery

On October 12th, our field and office staff travelled to the Pollett River to join Amlamgog (Fort Folly) First Nation, Fort Folly Habitat Recovery, and the Fundy Salmon Recovery release Inner Bay of Fundy salmon! This was an excellent opportunity to witness the partnerships between local residents, salmon conservation groups, watershed groups, Parks Canada, and industry supporters join forces to help release salmon back into the Petitcodiac watershed! This will be a day that our staff will remember for the rest of their lives.



9) Wilding Out!

We are getting ready to start “wilding out” at the Hammond River Valley Elementary School! With financial support from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, we will be assisting HRVES with the development of their nature trail! We had our initial meeting with HRVES staff, where they lead us through the nature trail and shared their visions for creating an outdoor classroom area. We are super excited at having the opportunity to help this school bring their vision to life- stay tuned for more awesome updates on this exciting project throughout 2025!



10) Glyphosate Testing

We have collected our last round of glyphosate presence/absence sampling, and we are still waiting on laboratory analysis of our replicate results. This undertaking has received a substantial amount of attention, and we are aiming to expand upon this pilot research project into 2025. There has been a large learning curve in regard to this sampling, as both approved and emerging methods of glyphosate analysis still suffer from some drawbacks in the sample preparation procedures and analytical processes. Although glyphosate is one of the most widely used agrochemicals, it is also one of the most difficult to measure- herein presents something that the scientific community refers to as the “glyphosate paradox”. For 2025, our goal is to continue our research and expand upon different sampling and analytical techniques to further our understanding of its presence or absence in watercourses and to assess any potential environmental impact.



11) Kids Fishing Club

Our Kids Fishing Club is now a wrap for the current season (with a potential outing planned for ice fishing). In September, we headed to McCrea's Farm where we had a lovely time catching some beautiful trout! In October, we visited Camp Glenburn where the kids caught smallmouth bass, sunfish, and a couple monster chain pickerel! The Kids Fishing Club then joined us in November to help do a morning redd count survey in advance of our main event- in total, we found 40 salmon redds and got to see 2 grilse! While we were out and about, all participants were given garbage bags, and we were able to collect garbage and debris off of the river's edge!





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OPERATIONS / SPONSORS

OPERATIONS

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!!

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