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Meet A Board Member

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER, HANNAH BERGERON



Hannah is from St. George, New Brunswick and has always had aspirations in environmental management. She received her B.Sc. in Environment and Natural Resource Management at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton in 2013, and promptly moved to the Saint John area to pursue a M.Sc. in Biology, conducting research in aquaculture and aquatic ecology. In 2015, Hannah began working for the Hammond River Angling Association spending three years as the Research Coordinator. Hannah has very fond memories of her time with the HRAA conducting electrofishing, smolt wheel and redd counts surveys, water quality assessments, stream restorations and nature tours at the nearby Hammond River Park.

After working with the organization, Hannah went to work with Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, conducting research at the St. Andrews Biological Station. Hannah began working with the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries in 2022 and is now the Senior Policy Advisor for the department, supporting the work of the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and providing strategic advice in the marine space through policy development.

Hannah now lives in Rothesay with her two daughters, husband and dog and looks forward to supporting the great initiatives and important work being done by the HRAA to protect the captivating environment of the Hammond River.

Recent Events

27th Annual Dinner and Auction



Thank you to everyone who made this year's Conservation Dinner and Auction a wild success-we raised over \$22,000 to support our conservation programs! Special thanks to Minister John Herron and his DNR team for their strong support. And start polishing your boots, because the 2026 theme is... Wild West! Saddle up for a hoedown you won't forget!













Projects

Partnering with the New Brunswick Salmon Council: Fish Friends & Fry Releases

We're thrilled to continue our partnership with the NB Salmon Council in 2025 as we help deliver the Fish Friends Program. In June, HRAA will welcome around 300 students to the Conservation Center for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, releasing their classroom-raised salmon fry into the wild! It's a powerful moment of connection between youth and nature, and we're proud to help make it happen.



Upham Gypsum Mine: Monitoring with Integrity

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. We're also excited to share that the mine's operator, Hammond River Holdings, has once again signed on as a sponsor for the Family Fishing Derby, proof that industry and conservation can work hand in hand.



Ritchie Lake Management Advisory Committee: A New Chapter of Stewardship

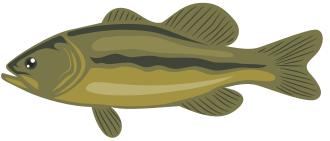
Though outside our watershed, Ritchie Lake in Quispamsis is a beloved community spot, and HRAA is proud to step up. After a full season of cyanobacteria monitoring in 2024, we're now joining the new Ritchie Lake Advisory Committee. This group will meet quarterly to develop a robust monitoring and action plan to safeguard this urban lake's health for generations to come.



NB Environmental Trust Fund: Water Quality for the Protection of Aquatic Resources

We're diving headfirst into another impactful season of water quality monitoring through our core environmental initiative! This year, HRAA will be collecting water samples from 13 key sites across the watershed for four months, building on our long-term dataset to protect aquatic life. We are also deploying data loggers to continuously monitor temperature from May through October, giving us critical data on thermal stress and climate impacts. But that's not all- our beloved smallmouth bass tagging program is back, along with invasive species surveillance, monofilament fishing line recycling stations, and our popular flybrary bins. This project is the backbone of our watershed management and we're proud to keep building a cleaner, safer river for all.





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

In one of our largest collaborative research efforts to date, HRAA is spearheading New Brunswick's most expansive cyanobacteria monitoring initiative ever! We're rolling out 18 AlgaeTracker units across key freshwater sites in the Wolastoq-Saint John River system, providing real-time data to identify harmful algal blooms before they become a threat. Partner organizations will receive specialized training on the cutting-edge BloomOptix platform, which uses AI to identify cyanobacteria down to the genus level. On top of that, we're expanding our cyanotoxin detection introducing capacity, rapid testing for cylindrospermopsin, alongside existing anatoxin-a and microcystins. This project places HRAA

at the forefront of environmental technology,

In 2024, we made a concerning discovery: juvenile smallmouth bass are moving further upstream, overlapping with sensitive Atlantic salmon habitat at nine new sites. We've installed data loggers in these tributaries to monitor for temperature shifts that may be inviting these fish. These areas will be prioritized for electrofishing and eDNA testing to track smallmouth presence. At the same time, we'll enhance riparian habitat in key salmon zones and conduct benthic macroinvertebrate surveys to assess food web health. This is salmon conservation backed by solid science-and we're ready to act. And last, but certainly not lease, this project will begin the formation of a Below the Dam Outer Bay of Fundy Salmon Working Group,



where we will unite members of all watershed organizations and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to collaborate on monitoring of population abundance and distribution of OBoF Atlantic salmon using standardized methods across all areas, and work together to begin formulating long-term plans for the recovery of this iconic species.

Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Fund: Restoring Riverbanks & Reconnecting Ecosystems

Get ready to get your hands dirty- 2025 is shaping up to be a banner year for riparian restoration! We're launching a large-scale restoration project on Salt Springs Brook using tree revetments, an innovative bioengineering technique where trees are anchored along eroded banks to slow water, capture sediment, and restore natural structure. At Crowley's Pool, we'll conduct an intensive willow staking effort to stabilize banks and enhance habitat. Steele's Pool will also receive a major riparian planting makeover. We'll be calling on volunteers for several planting days throughout the season, so keep an eye on our Facebook page and come help us heal our watershed- one tree at a time!



Gilgan Foundation: Soil Science Meets Restoration

Thanks to a brand-new partnership with the Gilgan Foundation, HRAA is integrating soil science into our restoration planning like never before! This exciting project will help us assess soil characteristics across the watershed to select the right tree species for the right soil typesensuring better survival and stronger ecosystems. 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!







Glyphosate Monitoring

We have recently been invited to submit a full proposal to the McLean's Foundation to continue our glyphosate sampling project that was piloted by the HRAA in 2024. This upcoming season, our goal is to work along side Fort Folly Habitat Recovery and use Two Eyed Seeing, where western science meets Indigenous Knowledge, to target our sampling across the province and include areas of Indigenous importance for cultural and Traditional medicines and food resources. While this project has not been given the full green light yet, we are hopeful that we will be able to secure the necessary funding to expand on the successes of our pilot project from 2024!



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

Say hello to one of our most exciting community initiatives yet! We're creating a Miyawaki Edible Food Forest at the Central Kings Recreation Center this summer! Using the dense, fast-growing Miyawaki method, we'll build a 100m² garden filled with native pollinator plants, fruit and nut trees, and raised beds bursting with vegetables and herbs. This project connects food security, environmental stewardship, and community engagement—and we can't wait to dig in!



Ducks Unlimited Wetland Tours: Quack-tastic Adventures for Youth

Things are about to get quacky at the HRAA! In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, we're hosting Wetland Tours for local youth to explore the wonders of wetland ecosystems. Kids will learn about the vital role wetlands play in water purification, wildlife habitat, and flood mitigation—all while having a blast with games, scavenger hunts, and duck-themed activities. It's hands-on, muddy-boot fun with real conservation impact!



March Break Camp: Winter Fun with an Environmental Twist

Our first-ever March Break Camp was a smash hit! Hosted at the Central Kings Rec Center, this week-long program featured snowy outdoor adventures, nature education, arts and crafts, and environmental fun. Big thanks to the New Brunswick Children's Foundation for helping us create a magical, memorable week for local youth. We can't wait to do it again next year!



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

The HRAA Fishing Club is back in full swing, and we're thrilled to introduce our newest feature: the Youth Angler Mentorship Program (aka the YAMs)! These experienced youth anglers will guide and support our younger fishers on outings, help with gear, and complete conservation challenges throughout the season. We're also relaunching our Introduction to Fly Fishing for Adults, and with 27 participants already signed up, it's going to be a great season on the water.



Annual Family Fishing Derby: The Biggest Weekend of the Year!

Mark your calendars- our famous Family Fishing Derby is back and bigger than ever! Join us June 6–8 for a weekend of rods, reels, and riverfront fun. The festivities kick off with the Angler's Social on Friday night from 6–9 PM, where participants can pick up registration packages and mingle. Then it's two full days of fishing across the watershed. Last year, we had over 420 participants, and this year we're aiming even higher. Prizes, community spirit, and good old-fashioned fun await!



NB Wildlife Trust Fund: Redds & Beds

We're diving deep into the riverbed with our Redds & Beds project! Over the 2024–2025 seasons, HRAA field staff will survey freshwater mussels and salmon spawning beds across the watershed. These insights will guide our restoration priorities to ensure we focus efforts where native biodiversity is richest and most in need of protection.



NB Wildlife Trust Fund: Riverkeepers Program

This spring, HRAA is welcoming student groups to our Conservation Center for our Riverkeepers Program—an engaging, hands-on water quality education experience. Using test kits and real-world tools, students will explore parameters like pH, temperature, and turbidity while learning how to be guardians of their local waterways.



NB Wildlife Trust Fund: HRVES Wilding Out

We're proud to support Hammond River Valley Elementary School in creating a nature trail and outdoor classroom right on their school grounds! Through our Wilding Out project, we've helped lead trail-building efforts and delivered environmental education sessions to every student. This is outdoor learning at its best-built by kids, for kids, with HRAA by their side.



Summer Camp

It's almost that time of year again! Summer camp is quickly approaching. Our staff have been working hard to get everything ready. Camper registration completely filled up for the whole summer in just over 24 hours! We are more than excited for another great year of camp.

















Thanks to our Sponsors







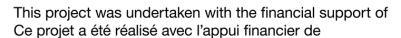






The McLean Foundation







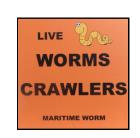
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TD Friends of the Environment Foundation





HOLDINGS









