



Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Riverside Cleanup (October 23rd, 2022)

We'll be hosting a Fall Riverside Cleanup event on October 23rd, from 1-4! Volunteers will meet at the HRAA Conservation Center, before breaking into teams to target specific areas of the watershed to cleanup. We'll return to the Conservation Center for 4pm, to dump our collected garbage into the bin, and have a snack! This is a great opportunity to make a difference in your watershed!



Redd Count (November 6th, 2022)

Redd counts (salmon nesting areas) are done by walking stretches of the Hammond and its tributaries looking for depressions in the cobble. We generally rely on numerous volunteer counters, led by trained HRAA staff. A chili supper will follow at the Conservation Center. Later in October, we will begin to promote the upcoming redd count event- last year was a huge success, as we had many volunteers, and were able to find more than 40 redds throughout the month. Our plan for this year is to host a volunteer day once again, and then our field team will continue redd counting throughout the entirety of November.



RECENT EVENTS

Hook and Paddle (June 11th, 2022)

On July 11th, the HRAA was happy to host the second stop on the Hook & Paddle circuit. As has been the case over the years the sun was shining for the 40 anglers that took part in the tournament. A total of 11 different species were caught and released on the day. Rene Pelletier, with 8 species totaling 98.75", took first place for the second year in a row. Peter Nyenhuis took second with 9 species totaling 91.25" and Travis Melanson took third with 9 species totaling 85". Travis also had the only brook trout of the day.



A film crew was also on-site preparing for the second season of the Hook & Paddle TV series on the Sportsman Channel and the World Fishing Network. Check out the tournament schedule on Facebook at Hook and Paddle or www.hookandpaddle.ca and details on the TV series on Facebook at Hook & Paddle TV.





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 EVENTS

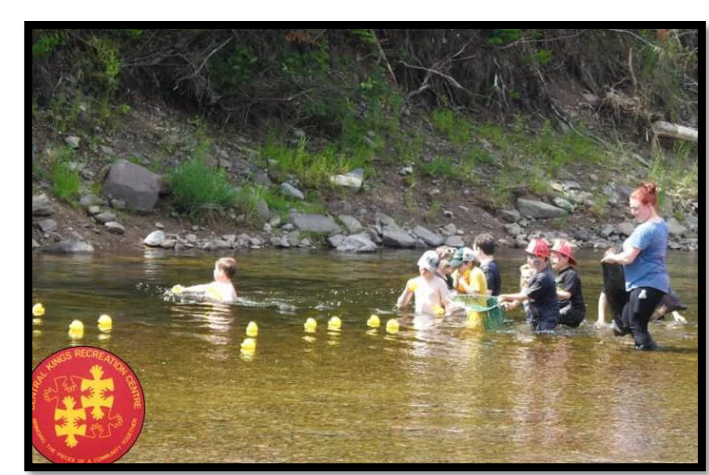
RECENT EVENTS CONTINUED

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

The 2nd Annual Family Fishing Derby was once again an absolute smash hit! We had over 320 people come join us for 2 days of fishing fun on the Hammond River! This year, we were so lucky to have a HUGE donation from Fish Kids- they gave us thousands of hooks, lures, and fishing accessories, including 40 fishing rods to give away to participants who did not have rods of their own! We are also super grateful to all of our fantastic sponsors- to Dominos for the awesomePizza, Hammond River Holdings Upham Gypsum Mine for donations to purchase amazing prizes, and to the one and only Uber Rob- Uber Rob provided the grand prize draw this year for a free river adventure with his new business, It's aBOAT Time! Want to see some awesome highlights? Head on over to HRAA's YouTube channel and check out youth interviews from the Fishing Derby! Don't forget to hit that like and subscribe button too so you'll never miss one of our awesome videos!

Ducky Derby

One derby this year was simply not enough! Our awesome staff helped to host a Ducky Derby in partnership with the Central Kings Recreation Center (CKRC) in Upham for the rural communities along the Hammond River. The derby was to raise money to help the CKRC repair the roof of the local community center. The CKRC launched 350 rubber ducks off of Tabor Bridge into the Hammond River, while our staff helped to assist the duckies along to the finish line! This was an excellent community event that had free food, face painting, and the Upham Fire Department brought down their firetrucks for a 'touch a truck' event! The Upham Gypsum Mine and Hammond River Holdings also made donations, so the CKRC was able to give away some sweet random prizes! We also had a table set up with information on the work we do here at the HRAA, as well as some of our bug buckets, and we gave away 4 fishing rods and a gift certificate for one free week at Nature Camp! This was such a wonderful afternoon that brought together rural communities, the industrial proponent, the first responders, and the environmental organization all together! We look forward to helping with this event next year!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

2022 Projects

1. Carbon Capture Collective

With generous funding from the World Wildlife Fund Canada, we are partnering with the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee and the Belleisle Watershed Coalition on an exciting 2-year project! This project will include riparian planting and extracting core soil samples to determine carbon sequestration. This is an excellent opportunity for our organizations to join forces to plant thousands of native trees and shrubs across a large portion of the Wolastoq-Saint John River watershed! We recently joined the KWRC and the BWC in Belleisle to provide them with a training session on how to use the core soil auger. Be sure to follow HRAA, KWRC, and the BWC on social media to learn how you can decrease your carbon footprint, and feel free to reach out to any of our organizations if you have a property that you would like to have planted!

<https://www.facebook.com/hammondriveranglingassociation>
<https://www.facebook.com/BelleisleWatershedCoalition/>
<https://www.facebook.com/kennebecasisriver>

2. Hands On Hammond

Water quality monitoring is once again on-going! This year, we are taking monthly water quality samples from our 12 index sites, with additional monthly samples from 3 mountainous tributaries. These water quality samples provide us with insight on the state of our watershed. This also provides us with an excellent opportunity to engage our younger councilors on the scientific aspects that we perform here at the HRAA- we have had some of our summer staff join us in the field to collect water samples and learn about how to use some of our water quality monitoring equipment! This provides our summer staff with a greater sense of connection to the watershed that they are working for. The summer is already beginning to heat up, and we are starting to record higher water temperatures. This is a friendly reminder that when the water gets too warm, it can stress out the fish and may result in fish mortality- we recommend giving fishing a short intermission during heat waves!



Photo Credit: KWRC





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

2022 Projects Continued

3. Freshwater Mussel Survey

Freshwater mussels are an extremely important component of aquatic systems, influencing water quality, filtering suspended solids, nutrient cycling, food webs and the structure of the riverbed. This project is expanding on a previous study performed in 2018, which focused on identifying mussels within the lower portion of the watershed. This year, our team received training from the New Brunswick Museum on how to properly identify mussels! While our focus this year will be on the upper watershed, we have performed preliminary surveys in the lower portion. In 2018, only 2 types of mussels were documented during the survey- we have already surpassed that amount by identifying 2 additional types of mussels! Of particular interest is the yellow lampmussel and the brook floater, both of which are species of conservation concern. You may be thinking- what do mussels have to do with fish and an angling association?! Mussels depend on host fish to carry their glochidia ('baby' mussels) before the mussel detaches from the fish and begins to grow in the substrate. By examining which types of mussels are in what locations throughout the watershed, we can get an idea of what type of fish may be passing through these areas. If you happen to find any mussel shells on the shore, you can bring them in to the Conservation Center for identification- we would love to see your finds, just be sure to note where you found the shells so we can add that to our data!



4. Ducks Unlimited Classes

Quack Quack! It's not often that our newsletter contains not one, but two, different write ups on ducks! This time, however, we are talking about the real-life thing! We had many schools join us for the Ducks Unlimited Wetland Tours. Schools came to the Conservation Center, where they learned all about the importance of wetlands and how they can help keep wetlands intact. We then got to play some awesome field games with the kids that focused on migration patterns of ducks, as well as a game that focuses on the important roles of wetlands! We are very thankful to Ducks Unlimited and we can't wait to host Wetland Tours again next year!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

2022 Projects Continued

5. AmBASSadors

Our staff have been having a blast doing this project, and we hope that you will help assist us! Since the opening of fishing season, we have been floy tagging smallmouth bass to determine abundance, migratory behaviors, site fidelity and growth rates through a capture-mark-recapture method. Little is currently known on the spatio-temporal distribution of bass in the Hammond River, and how it may overlap with Atlantic salmon. We know that smallmouth bass can be a bit of a 'hot topic' on whether or not they are invasive versus naturalized, a 'trash fish' versus an awesome recreational fishery. With this project, our aim is to remain neutral- our goal is to simply learn more about this fish species and its movement and distribution through the watershed. To date, our team have tagged 73 smallmouth bass! These floy tags are numbered, and we need your assistance to recapture these fish! If you catch a tagged smallmouth bass, please record the length, approximate weight, tag number, and location of your catch- don't worry, all locations will be kept confidential (no spot busting here!). This project has also been very invaluable in getting more of our youth involved in angling- our Nature Camp kids have been having a blast capturing tagged smallmouth bass, and we were joined for a day on the river with the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee to help us tag some smallies! This has also been a great opportunity to expose our new camp councilors to the great joys of fishing! We have already had some interesting results- we tagged a bass shortly after spawning in the midsection of the Hammond River, and a fellow angler recaptured the same fish in the Kennebecasis River. This indicates that, perhaps, once the smallmouth have spawned, they return to the Kennebecasis River instead of remaining in the Hammond River system; however, we need more recaptures to fully understand their behaviors! Get your rod in hand and help us recapture these smallies! Everyone who catches a tagged fish and reports the tag number and location will have their name entered into a draw for a prize at the end of fishing season!



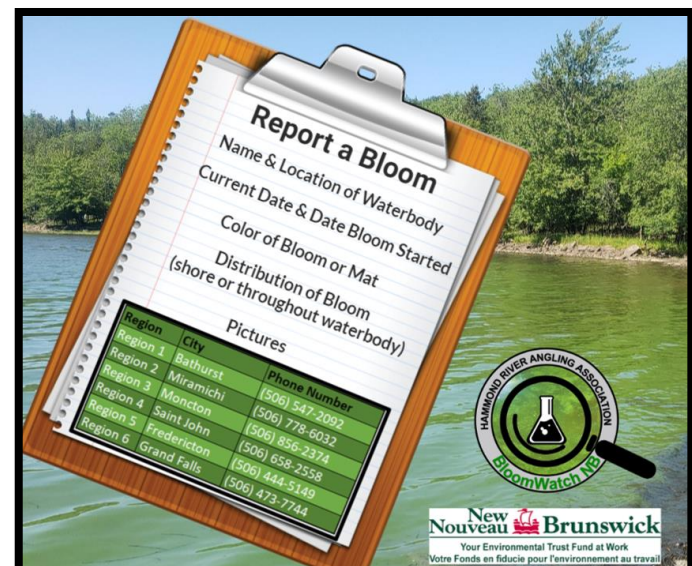
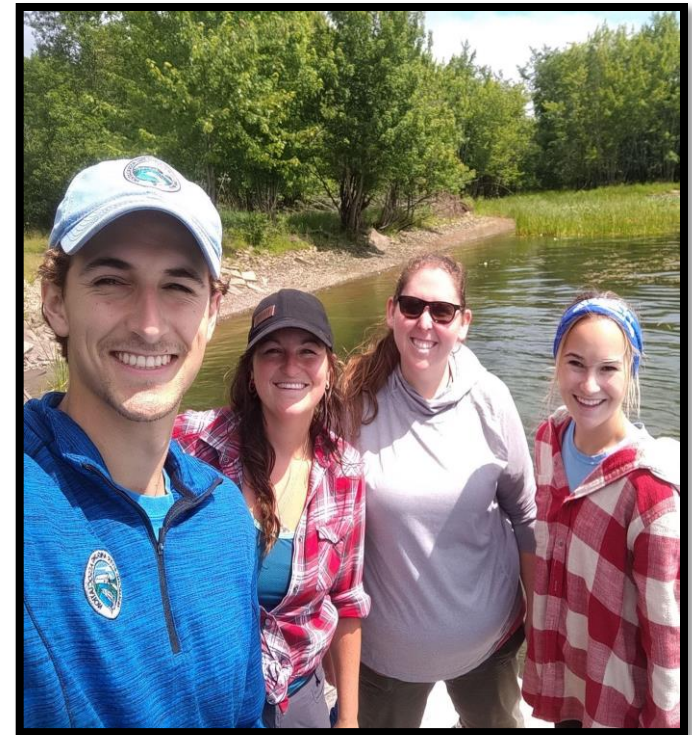


Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

2022 Projects Continued

6. Cyanobacteria Monitoring in Darlings Lake

In 2021, our staff documented a cyanobacteria bloom occurring in Darlings Lake, and this year we wanted to be prepared in case the bloom reoccurred. With generous financial support from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, we were able to prepare a full arsenal of monitoring and mitigation tools, just in time for the 2022 cyanobacteria bloom to occur in Darlings Lake. We have deployed 2 Algae Trackers in Darlings Lake- these are solar power devices that provide us with real-time water quality results, including sunlight, turbidity, phycocyanin, chlorophyll-a and water temperature, all key factors in bloom occurrence. These trackers also have the ability to alert our staff if levels of any of the aforementioned parameters have exceeded set limits, giving us early warning signs that a bloom may be about to occur. We launched these devices in the nick of time- we were able to capture data that determined a bloom was indeed about to occur. We have also deployed another device into Darlings Lake- an EMF1000- this is another solar power device that is increasing the dissolved oxygen into Darlings Lake, which should help mitigate or decrease the severity of a cyanobacteria bloom. To date, the bloom that is currently occurring is not to the same magnitude of the bloom that occurred in 2021. Other new tools in our cyanobacteria monitoring toolbox include microcystin test kits- microcystins are the most common cyanotoxin. These kits provide us with presence/absence data on whether the bloom is actively producing toxins. If the result comes back positive, we then collect an additional water sample for quantitative analysis. So far, these kits determined that the bloom in Darlings Lake is currently producing microcystins- we are now awaiting quantitative results from the lab. Another aspect of this project is monthly boat surveys of the lake to determine if fish and wildlife are being impacted from the bloom. Additionally, we created a separate Facebook page that is dedicated to cyanobacteria- BloomWatch NB. This page provides a space for all things cyanobacteria, and we encourage the general public to take pictures of their lake, both before, during, and after cyanobacteria blooms. This is an integral part of citizen science and gives us greater insight into the nature of these blooms.





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

2022 Projects Continued

7. Monofilament

Last year, we had such great success with our monofilament recycling program, that we decided to expand the project to become a provincial initiative! With generous support from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, we were able to build over 60 new monofilament bins! We were able to provide bins to the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee, the Belleisle Watershed Coalition, ACAP Saint John, Minnow Tackle Shop, Meduxnekeag River Association, Miramichi Salmon Association, Petitcodiac River Alliance, Shediac Bay Association, Oromocto Watershed, Restigouche River Watershed Management Council, and other bins sponsored by John Craft and Tom Smith! Keep an eye on our Facebook page- we are about to launch an interactive map with all of the locations of the bins as well as extra information on these sites! We also took the opportunity to join TikTok- be sure to check out our very first TikTok video on monofilament recycling, and remember- let's keep our waterways tangle free!



8. Riverkeepers

We recently wrapped up our Riverkeepers classes! These classes are part of our Getting Hands on in the Hammond Project and helps us to engage surrounding schools and youth on the importance of citizen science and water quality monitoring! Schools arrived at the HRAA Conservation Center and learned about different types of water quality monitoring parameters, before being given Water Rangers test kits to test the water for themselves! Once they tested the water quality in the river, they headed to the pond for some 'critter dipping'- this gives them the opportunity to see benthic macroinvertebrates and understand the connection between water quality and aquatic life. We had a blast hosting all of these schools, and we look forward to seeing familiar faces again in the fall!



9. Encorp Atlantic Clean Up Day

With generous support from Encorp Atlantic, we hosted an awesome volunteer riverside cleanup day! We had almost two dozen fantastic volunteers join us at four different locations in the watershed to help clean up our beautiful watershed! We removed multiple bags of garbage and recyclables- some of the intriguing finds were a children's slide, car door panels, DTI road pylons, and LOTS of broken glass. Thank you to our awesome volunteers for coming out and helping to keep our area clean! Did you miss out on joining us? No worries- we will be hosting another clean up event in the fall, and we would love to see you there too!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

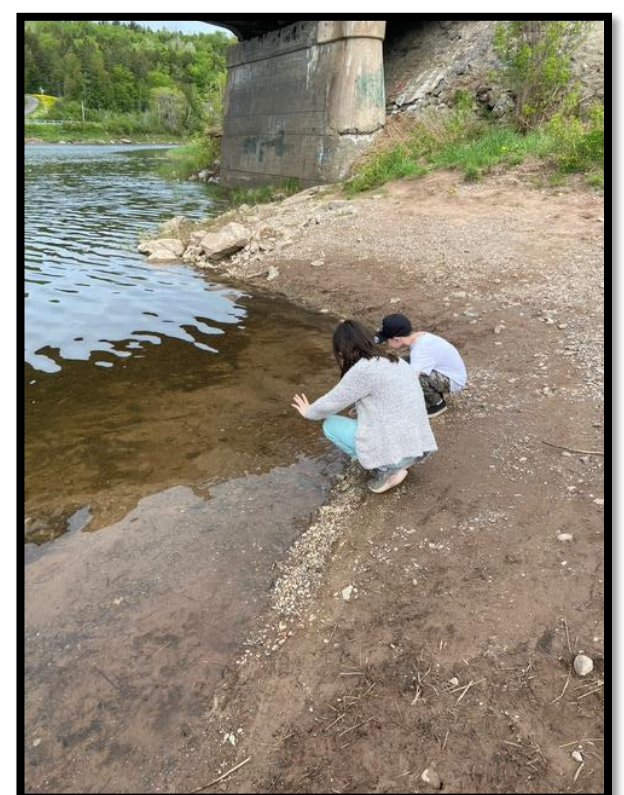
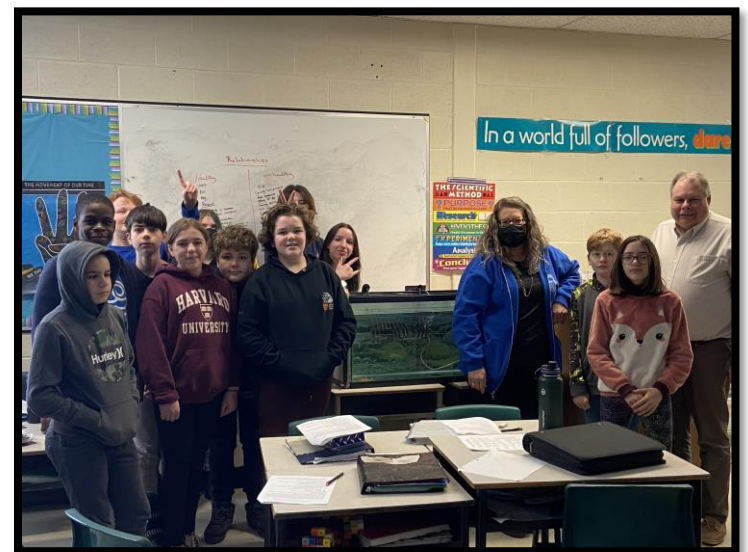
2022 Projects Continued

10. Gypsum Monitoring

We are now in our 3rd year of environmental compliance monitoring of the Upham Gypsum Mine! We perform monthly water quality sampling, with additional sampling occurring post heavy rainfall events. So far in 2022, our staff have not recorded any exceedances, and we continue to maintain an open line of communication with the proponents.

11. Fish Friends & Splash Day

It's finally back! Fish Friends has long been a staple environmentally educational program for the HRAA in partnership with the New Brunswick Salmon Council; however, the pandemic made things difficult for the past two years. Now that things have settled down, we were able to come back into classes to deliver Atlantic salmon eggs for schools to raise to the unfed fry stage! Very few words can express the joy and wonderment on kids faces when we place the eggs in their tanks! We then get to talk to the kids about the Atlantic salmon lifecycle, and how they can help conserve this species. This program is extremely beneficial- it really helps connect our youth to their natural surroundings and inspire them to become conservationists through the direct connection they are building with the salmon as they watch them grow. Once the salmon reach the unfed fry stage, the classes join us at the Conservation Center for a Splash Day! It was so exciting to watch the kids release their fry back into the Hammond River. This year, we were fortunate to have extra eggs, so our staff found a tank and chiller, and we actually had 'office pets'! We were as giddy as the kids at the opportunity to raise our own salmon! Once they reached the un-fed fry stage, we strategically chose top-secret locations in the upper Hammond River to release these fish. We cannot say enough about the positive impact of this program, and we are looking forward to raising more salmon with schools this upcoming March!





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter 2022 PROJECTS

2022 Projects Continued

12. Hammond River Nature Camp

We are having a great 2022 summer so far. We have sold out our 9 weeks of camp with well over 300 campers throughout the summer. Isabella and her staff have done a great job once again. Thank you!!!

Each child receives a treat bag at the end of the week including some HRAA swag, WTF promotional items as well as *It's About Time* – River Adventures brochure.

This year we continue to offer snacks throughout the week including freezies, popcorn and hot dogs.

Our wonderful staff includes:

Emma Steadman – Recreation Program Leader

Andy Lake – Recreation Program Leader

Ben Daigle – Eco Tech/Lifeguard

Sophie Hebert – Eco Tech

Paige Wright – Counsellor

Sarah Knox – Counsellor

Rachel Hicks – Counsellor

Marissa Gootjes – Counsellor

Zach Perrin – Counsellor

Cameron Pierce – Counsellor/Lifeguard

We are very thankful for the wonderful job they are doing.





Hammond River Angling Association Summer 2022 Newsletter OPERATIONS / SPONSORS

OPERATIONS

Office

The offices are now open to the public, so feel free to stop in and say hi! You can also 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! Call Melissa at 645-1698 to book your rental today! Members receive 20% off all rentals!!

Facebook

We would love for you to follow our page on Facebook! You can find us here: <https://www.facebook.com/hammondriveranglingassociation>

Thank you to our Sponsors



Maritime Worm

HAMMOND RIVER
H O L D I N G S



We gratefully acknowledge the support of WWF-Canada

GRANT RECIPIENT



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