

Current News

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Tern platform

In its fourth year of operation, the common tern platform continues to successfully provide nesting grounds for terns during the summer months. Following a predator attack in 2016, this year, predator guards were added around the perimeter of the platform to reduce predation from terrestrial predators and to increase the survivability of tern hatchlings. In total, there were 50 nests and 99 eggs for 2017. The adding of predator guards was financed by the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund.



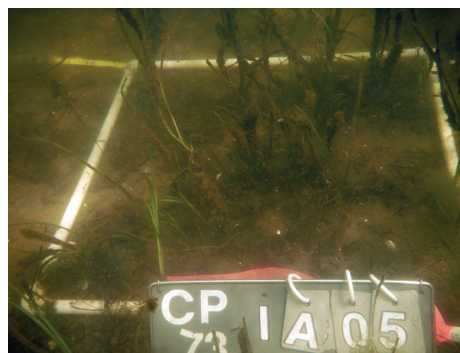
Invasive Species: European Green Crab

Since 2013, the SBWA has been monitoring the invasive green crab using specially designed traps at ten different sites in the Shediac Bay. In 2016, there was an enormous spike in the green crab population compared to 2015. During the 2017 sampling season, the sampling counts are similar to 2016, except for a slight increase in numbers. The SBWA plans to continue this monitoring programs for the next several years. Project details will be posted in the annual report on our website in the coming months. The NB Wildlife Trust Fund supported this project along with eelgrass monitoring.



Eelgrass Monitoring

In partnership with the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence Coalition on sustainability and with funding from the NB wildlife Trust fund the monitoring of eelgrass health program was expanded. In Addition to our site established in 2016 at the mouth of the Scoudouc River a new site was added at the mouth of the Shediac River. At each site, different measures are taken on the



density and health of eelgrass using the Seagrass.net international protocol. These measures will help better understand the state of eelgrass with the arrival of the green crab and climate change. A few years of monitoring is necessary before obtaining results.

Water Quality Testing (both Small stream and rivers)

Water quality in the Shediac Bay Watershed has been the mandate of this association since it was founded in 1999. In light of recent concerns over the water quality in Shediac Bay, the SBWA expanded its water-testing program to include 11 new sampling sites in small tributaries and drainage points that flow to our coastline. These new sites, adding to the existing 10 sites throughout the watershed, are designed to help track unknown sources of bacterial and inorganic pollution. The results of 2017 water sampling season will be posted to our website in our annual report this winter. The water quality testing is funded through the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund.



Wetland Evaluations and Buffer Zone Plantings

Funding was received by Environment Canada's National Wetland Fund to help restore wetlands in the watershed. Three wetlands were chosen that had no forested buffer zones to replant native species that are adapted to this climate. The funding also allowed to do a test run of the new Wetland Ecosystem Assessment Protocol for Atlantic Canada on three other wetlands. This evaluation can help determine different benefits gained by wetlands and gives a rating on the different services (hydrology, water quality, ecological). A detailed report will be available this winter on our website.



Beach Sweep

The annual beach cleanup event on June 10, 2017, was once again a success thanks to the partnership with the Town of Shediac and the wonderful volunteers who came out that day. Approximately 20 people showed up to help clean over 4 km of our beautiful Shediac Bay coastline, collecting over 15 extra-large garbage bags full of plastic bottles, plastic bags, cans, coffee cups, food wrappers of all kinds, and much more. The morning was finished off by a light lunch provided by the Shediac Coop-IGA and Shediac Subway, and coffee and Timbits donated by Shediac Tim Hortons.



Market (rain barrel giveaway)

The SBWA team was present at the Shediac Farmer's market with an educational kiosk to speak with locals and tourists on ongoing projects, the status of the invasive green crab population, and to collect names for the distribution of free collapsible rain barrels to citizens living

within the watershed boundaries. The rain barrels, part of the "Water Conservation and Stormwater Management Project" funded by EcoAction and the Environmental Trust Fund, are designed to reduce runoff and promote reusing rainwater for outdoor uses, effectively conserving water from municipal

sources. More information on this project will be published in the final report on our website by March 2018.

ATV trail repair

The SBWA has been working with the Scoudouc ATV club to control sedimentation from erosion and sediment runoff from the steep slope of an ATV trail near the Scoudouc River. The area is an important habitat for Atlantic salmon, and has been impacted by recreational vehicles and sediment runoff. The project aimed to remediate runoff by creating 4 channels to redirect sediment-filled water into the woods instead of directly in the river. Erosion issues were also targeted by planting native trees along the river banks and spreading seeds of fall rye to stabilize the soil. These activities aim to improve habitat of trout and salmon in our rivers. The restoration was funded by

the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, the Atlantic Salmon

Conservation Foundation, the NB Wildlife Trust Fund and the NB Environmental Trust Fund.



Rain garden

You may have noticed the creation of a new garden in the Shediac Centennial Park, behind the Vestiaire St-Joseph. This garden was designed to capture stormwater runoff, using specific water-loving plants, trees, and shrubs, for their ability to absorb large amounts of rainwater. Stormwater runoff is the primary vehicle that brings pollutants such as bacteria into the Shediac Bay. An interpretation panel will be installed next to the garden.



Tree nurseries

Four tree nurseries have been planted this fall with the help of students at the local schools. More than 75 students at Shediac Cape planted a tree nursery bed at the Shediac Cape community garden with 130 trees. The students from MFB School in Shediac created their bed in the school yard and filled put 190 trees in the nursery. Finally, 50 6-grade students from Grande-Digue School planted 100 trees. The last nursery will be established at the Shediac Community garden by the Shediac Bay Watershed Association staff and volunteers. Once the trees have reached two to three years old, they will be used to reforest banks in local rivers and streams. This program was financed by EcoAction.



Contact Info

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For more information please
visit our new Website at :
www.shediacbayassociation.org

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Nouvelles du Courant

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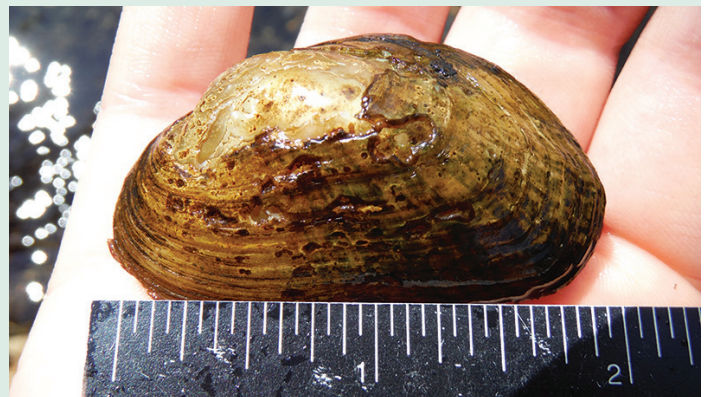


Brook Floater

For the fourth consecutive year, the SBWA has been searching for a rare and endangered species of freshwater mussel, commonly known as the Brook Floater. Being a species that can be burrowed beneath the substrate of a riverbed for long periods of time, this small mussel can be very difficult to find. No sign of this rare mussel was seen again this year, leading to the possibility that this rare mussel may in fact have disappeared from the Shediac Bay Watershed basin. DNA test have been conducted

by DFO to help determine the presence or absence and results will be available this winter. The program is

funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.



TD Tree Days

This year, the TD Tree Day event took place at the corner of Ohio Road and Champlain Street. Previously a forested area, this location was flooded by a beaver dam and is now a small wetland. In partnership with TD Bank and with the help of approximately 30 volunteers, a total of 150 trees were planted in order to increase the biodiversity around the wetland.



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