

**For Release – May 8, 2018**

## **Shediac Bay Watershed Association Releases Reports**

Shediac – The Shediac Bay Watershed Association (SBWA) today released three important reports on its water sampling and environmental education programs.

Two of these reports provide technical information on SBWA's water quality sampling program. The other report summarizes its important public education work on Water Conservation & Stormwater Management. These reports are now available on SBWA's web site at "<http://www.shediacbayassociation.org/>".

The results of SBWA's water sampling program were summarized in the Provincial Government's Parlee Beach Water Quality report. At a Board meeting on April 28, SBWA Directors largely agreed with Provincial findings that sampling results indicate there is no chronic water quality problem in Shediac Bay, and water quality at Parlee Beach is generally within health guidelines.

SBWA recognizes the need to remain vigilante, particularly with respect to sources of water-borne bacteria that may be harmful to human health. SBWA supports the Provincial strategy focusing on water quality in Shediac Bay and Parlee Beach in 2018 and beyond to ensure that existing and potential sources of bacterial contamination are identified, and mitigation plans put into action. SBWA proposes to continue to collaborate with the Provincial Government and other organizations on its comprehensive bacteria testing program launched last year.

Other than work proposed in the Provincial Government's report, the SBWA notes the importance of a "Green Strategy" being coordinated by SBWA and its partner in Cap Pele, Vision H2O, for municipalities bordering Northumberland Strait. Initial work on the Green Strategy is nearing completion.

SBWA also noted the importance of environmental accreditation for public beaches and strongly endorses the "Blue Flag" certification initiative that is also well underway. The goal is to demonstrate that our beaches are the cleanest in Atlantic Canada and among the best in the world.

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association was founded in 1999 as a forum for businesses and concerned citizens from communities throughout the Shediac Bay watershed to focus on a sustainable environment in the context of traditional industries, expanding recreational use, and economic growth.

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