



Educational Program for the Preservation of Coastal Zones

Coastal areas are important for maintaining a good marine environment. However, these areas are heavily developed around Shediac Bay and many natural environments have been disturbed.

The Shediac Watershed Association will work with other environmental groups in the area, namely the Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group and Vision H2O, to develop an educational program on best practices to protect the coast in a natural way.

The groups want to establish a network of demonstration sites for best practices in coastal conservation. In 2020, one or two coastal restoration sites will be established in Shediac or Pointe-du-Chêne. There may be a workshop on coastal management with a limited number of people if health restrictions permit.

Clean-Drain-Dry Program

The Association helps promote the Canadian Invasive Species Council's program to reduce the spread of undesirable aquatic species. The program targets boat owners to ensure that they clean, empty and dry all boats, trailers, engines and equipment before changing water bodies. This practice helps prevent the introduction of invasive species such as green crab or invasive tunicates into New Brunswick bays.

A sign is provided by the New Brunswick Invasive Species Council and will be installed at the Shediac Bay Yacht Club. The Yacht Club has received Blue Flag certification and is committed to promoting good environmental practices in the region.

Follow this link for more info on the program.

<https://bit.ly/2Zuig9l>



Message from the Association's Manager



Rémi Donelle is the Manager of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association since 2013. A board of directors, consisting of 20 citizens from the region, is responsible for administering the organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic arrived in New Brunswick at the end of our fiscal year. It's usually at this time that we finalize our projects and are in the process of writing final reports. Employees of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association were able to adapt quickly to telework and complete the reports. For the time being, employees will continue to work remotely.

Our work teams will also be reduced this year in order to comply with the province's hygiene regulations. Please note that our office is closed to the public and meetings are by appointment only.

Fortunately, the Province of New Brunswick has continued to financially support our programs through the Environmental Trust Fund and the Wildlife Trust Fund. In 2020, the SBWA is continuing its programs of water quality monitoring, stormwater management and ecological restoration of streams and wetlands. We are adding a new program for coastal restoration and erosion protection using vegetation.





Photo - EOS Eco-Energy

Looking for Participants for the Development of Residential Rain Gardens

Have you ever wondered what to do with that low spot in your backyard where water accumulates and remains wet for a long period of time? This could be a great place to plant a rain garden!

A rain garden is a functional piece of landscaping that benefits pollinators, the environment, and your property. It is a shallow depression that is designed to catch rainwater runoff in your yard, which contains plants that are adapted to wet conditions. The plant species used in rain gardens have deep roots, which helps soak up the water and encourage the infiltration of the water into the ground.

This garden benefits the environment by reducing and filtering the stormwater running

off your property and your rooftop, thanks to the actions of the plants and the microbiome living in the soil. By choosing native species, you can provide habitat for wildlife and food for pollinators. It can also protect your property by draining and absorbing standing water, and by preventing erosion that could be caused by runoff.

As part of our Stormwater Management project, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association is looking to recruit 3 landowners who are interested in participating in our pilot project to create residential rain gardens. By working with the Association, the costs of your rain garden will be covered, thanks to funding from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund.

To be an eligible participant in our project, you must:

- 1) Be a homeowner in the Town of Shediac or Pointe-du-Chêne (renters not eligible);
- 2) Want a rain garden to manage stormwater from property;
- 3) Agree to maintain the rain garden;
- 4) Agree that the Association takes photos and videos of the project for educational and awareness purposes, including social media.

To apply, you can register by following this link. - <https://bit.ly/31CzGmS>

Registration ends July 30, 2020.

Ecovision 2025 Project Management

In 2019, the Association agreed to co-manage the EcoVision2025 strategy in collaboration with the Vision H2O watershed group and a steering committee made up of administrators from the municipalities of Shediac, Beaubassin-est and Cap-Pelé. This initiative presents actions aimed at ensuring a healthy environment and a high quality of life for the citizens of the region. (visit www.ecovision2025.ca).

This year, we organized the Ecovision Cleanup event from May 31 to

June 8, where residents from the three communities chose a day to clean up waste near their property. This month, a series of short videos on organic gardening are also published on Ecovision's website and in social media. This helps raise awareness of alternatives to chemical pesticides and fertilizers. This fall, a single-use plastic reduction campaign will educate the public on ways to reduce their use of plastics. Several other initiatives will be unveiled in the coming months.



Water Quality - New Web Section

The Association monitors water quality in the Shediac and Scoudouc rivers as well as in several small streams along the bay. The water quality of the Shediac and Scoudouc rivers remains good, but the results of several small streams are cause for concern. The results of these analyses are available in our archived reports on our website.

The water quality section has also been updated on our website to guide people who want to

know more about water quality and the various resources and reports available.

Through a partnership with the Atlantic Water Network, our water quality data is available online through a web portal: Atlantic DataStream. (<https://atlanticdatastream.ca/>)

It is possible to consult all the data that has been collected by the SBWA since 1999.



Study on Natural Infrastructure

The term natural infrastructure is used to refer to the services that natural environments provide to municipalities. For example, marshes improve water quality by filtering pollutants. Another example is that marsh plants can reduce wave action and thus prevent coastal erosion. The Shediac Bay Watershed Association participates with

several partners on initiatives to recognize and conserve the natural infrastructure of Shediac Bay. A study is currently underway in the community of Pointe-du-Chêne to assess the value of natural environments to protect roads and buildings. This study was initiated by the South East Regional Services Commission and is being conducted by a group of researchers

from the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative. (<https://mnai.ca/>)

By preserving and enhancing the natural environments around our properties we can be better prepared to deal with climate change while benefiting biodiversity and nature.



Record Year for the Nesting Survey on the Tern Platform

Last fall, hurricane Dorian destroyed our tern nesting platform when the storm surge pushed it ashore. Thankfully, we received funding from the NB Wildlife Trust Fund to rebuild it before these beautiful seabirds

return around mid-May. The Shediac Bay Yacht Club has donated floating docks and with the help of several partners, a new platform is now in place for the Common Tern colony. This year, we have a record-breaking year for the

nesting survey with 195 nests and 582 eggs! Our previous record was last year with a little less than 400 eggs. The platform is visible from the walking trail in Pointe-du-Chêne, along with an interpretation panel.



New Nursery for our Native Trees

Since 2016, the SBWA has established several native tree nurseries with schools and community gardens. These trees are used for our reforestation projects around rivers and marshes and to increase biodiversity on community land.

A new nursery is under construction at the Shediac Cape Community Garden. Trees from the small nurseries will be transferred to this central nursery. The trees will be planted by seed or with seedlings and will remain in the nursery for 2 to 5 years. This gives a better chance of survival when they are transplanted into the wild. This nursery will also save money on the purchase of trees and increase the number of trees during planting.

Students from Shediac Cape School, adjacent to the nursery, will be able to participate in the maintenance of the nurseries and receive presentations on native trees and shrubs.

Access to the land was granted by the Anglican Parish of Shediac and funding for the project was provided in part by the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund.



Contact Info

Shediac Bay Watershed Association

612D Main St.
Shediac, NB E4P 2H3
506 533-8880

For more information please visit our website or follow our Facebook page:

www.shediacbayassociation.org

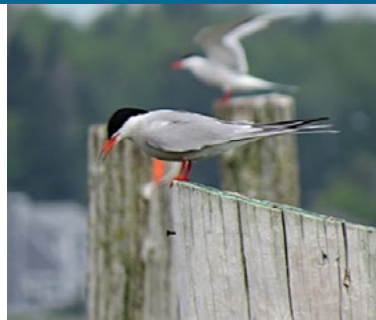


www.facebook.com/shediacbaywatershedassociation

Current News

Contributors:

Rémi Donelle
Jolyne Hébert
Charles LeGresley



Featured species - The Common Tern

The Common Tern is a sea bird who lives in colonies. Breeding adults of this species have light grey wings, white to very light grey underparts, orange-red legs, a black cap, and a narrow-pointed bill that is mainly red with a black tip.

Species Range

In North America, terns will nest along the coast from North Carolina in the United-States up to Newfoundland and Labrador. They migrate to spend the winters in Central and South America. Globally, Common Terns can also nest in Europe and Asia and overwinter in Africa, South America and Australia. Common Tern colonies are becoming rare with habitat being lost to coastal development. The biggest colony in the region can be found at Kouchibouguac National Park. Terns arrive in Shediac Bay in the beginning of May and will stay until migration in late summer/early fall. They will be nesting from mid-May until early July.

Nesting

The terns lay 2-3 eggs directly on the gravel and incubate them for 21-22 days. The hatched chicks then stay in the colony and are fed by their parents another 22-28 days. Afterwards, they join the adults on fishing expeditions. These young birds may receive supplementary feeds from the parents up

until the end of the breeding season and beyond.

Nesting Platform Project

This platform is to help establish a colony of common terns that was displaced. The platform offers protection of the nest and chicks from terrestrial predators such as raccoons, foxes and cats. This structure was designed with the help of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The installation of a nesting platform allowed the re-establishment of a tern colony that had been displaced. It provides protection of the nests and the chicks from terrestrial predators such as raccoons, foxes and cats. The platform is visible from the walking trail in Pointe-du-Chêne, along with an interpretation panel. This project is possible thanks to contributions from the NB Wildlife Trust Fund.

Kingdom: Animalia

Subphylum: Vertebrata

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Charadriiformes

Suborder: Lari

Family: Sternidae

Genus: Sterna

Species: Sterna hirundo



Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work
Votre Fonds de fiducie pour l'Environnement au travail



Fonds en fiducie pour la faune
du Nouveau-Brunswick
www.flnb.ca

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada