



## Natural Coastal Restoration and Erosion Control with the 'Living Shorelines' Method

New Brunswick's coasts are vulnerable to erosion and sea level rise due to climate change. The Shediac Bay Watershed Association is exploring various methods of adaptation using natural methods.

Ocean Surf Campground's owner approached the Association in 2019 following Hurricane Dorian. They wanted to repair the damage caused by the hurricane by using environmentally friendly methods instead of riprap. This site was chosen as a pilot project for the region to develop new techniques.

In order to improve our coastal restoration capabilities, two workshops were held to present the 'Living Shorelines' method to Watershed groups and riverfront property owners. Rosmarie Lohnes of Helping Nature Heal Inc., an expert in natural coastal restoration, presented various techniques for stabilizing shorelines using plants and natural materials. These techniques were then put into practice during the workshop.

A workshop took place in Pokemouche, in the Acadian Peninsula. With the help of workshop participants, an eroding shoreline was restored in the river's estuary. The second workshop targeted a shoreline next to a marsh in Pointe-du-Chêne. More than 60 participants registered to learn and participate in the ecological shoreline restoration.

This project was made possible through a partnership with the Acadian Peninsula Regional Services Commission and several local groups. The workshop in the Southeast was organized with two other environmental groups, the Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group and Vision H2O.

Other coastal protection and restoration initiatives will be implemented in the coming years.

## Message from the Association's Manager



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

The activities of the Shediac Bay Watershed Association were able to continue this summer despite the COVID-19 pandemic. We worked in small teams to implement the actions that will be presented in this newsletter.

However, our public engagement activities have been put on hold for 2020, including our annual tree planting event. We did manage to organize a tree planting activity with a group of youths affiliated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation who contacted us for a volunteer work opportunity.

I hope that we can resume our volunteer activities next spring, starting with the coastal and road clean-up. In the meantime, you will be able to follow the progress of our projects on our Facebook page and our website.





## Residential Rain Garden Program to Help Homeowners with Standing Water or Flooding Issues

As part of our Stormwater Management project, the Shediac Bay Watershed Association sought out homeowners in the Town of Shediac and Pointe-du-Chêne who were experiencing standing water or flooding issues on their property. As part of a pilot project, 3 rain gardens were constructed on 3 properties in an effort to help control these water issues.

A rain garden is a shallow depression that is designed to capture rainwater runoff. It contains plants native to the area that are adapted to wet conditions. The plant species that are used in a

rain garden have deep roots that create pores in the soil so water can infiltrate into the ground. These long-rooted plants also help soak up the water.

This type of garden benefits the environment by absorbing stormwater runoff from a property and impervious surfaces such as rooftops and paved driveways. Stormwater runoff can contain pollutants that can impact the water quality in nearby streams and subsequent waterbodies. Rain gardens act as a natural filtering system, thanks to the actions of the plants and the

microbiome living in the soil. These natural systems attempt to replicate the ecosystem services provided by natural wetlands.

If you are a landowner living within the Town of Shediac or Pointe-du-Chêne who is experiencing standing water or flooding issues around your home, or who is interested in reducing the stormwater running off your property, contact us through our website at [www.shediacbayassociation.org](http://www.shediacbayassociation.org) to participate in our future residential rain garden program.

## 177 lbs. of Waste Collected in Cleanups Around the Municipality of Shediac and the Watershed

Trash and toxic substances that are irresponsibly disposed of on land or in water can cause significant harm to humans, animals and the environment. Littering can endanger the lives of animals and fish and are a danger to public health. Pollution also causes damage and affects the quality of water in the streams and rivers in our watershed.

Each year, the Association organizes community clean-ups such as the Beach Sweep and other volunteer events to prevent the accumulation of litter along the shoreline. This year, due to the pandemic, these events did

not take place. As a result, the clean-ups were done by employees and a summer student.

Over the summer, the Association did 17 cleanups around the Municipality of Shediac and the watershed. Sites include the trail and a creek in Pointe-du-Chêne the beach on Chandler Shore Road, the M.F.B. School playground, along Cornwall Brook and many other sites where samples are taken for water quality assessment. A total of 177 lbs. of waste was recovered and properly disposed of.





## Monitoring of Water Quality in Streams and Rivers of the Watershed Continues

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association has been monitoring water quality in the Scoudouc and Shediac rivers since 2000. In 2017, in order to better understand the potential sources of bacterial and nutrient contamination in the water, several sampling sites were added in small streams.

Sampling of the Shediac and Scoudouc rivers shows good water quality. The area around the watercourses is still in a natural state. However, some of the small streams along the coasts have high levels of bacteria and nutrients. In 2020, the ABVBS will do more sampling in these areas to determine the possible causes of the results.

The sampling will guide ecological restoration projects. The Association wants to work on properties located along degraded watercourses to restore ecosystems and bring them to a healthy state. If you own land along a watercourse, we are always looking for places to do projects.

More information on water quality sampling programs is available on the water quality page of our website. Results and interpretation of the water quality data collected are available in the Reports and Archives section.

All our water quality data is available using the Atlantic Datastream portal (<https://atlanticdatastream.ca/>). The 2020 data will be available online in November.

## Implementation of the EcoVision2025 Strategy Actions and Activities

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association, in partnership with VisionH2O, continues its commitment to the EcoVision 2025 Strategy for the municipalities of Shediac, Beaubassin-est and Cap-Pelé.

A part of the Implementation Team, the Association has been working on several projects in the last few months. First of all,

the publication of [four videos on organic gardening](#) has allowed local residents to learn more about the techniques used to garden without the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

In anticipation of the by-law on the reduction of single-use plastic bags that will come into effect on January 1, 2021, reusable bags have been ordered and will be distributed to

residents this fall.

A survey on plastic reduction was also conducted among businesses in the region. This will allow measures to be put in place to help them reduce single-use plastics.

Other educational activities to inform citizens about alternatives to plastics will be announced this fall.

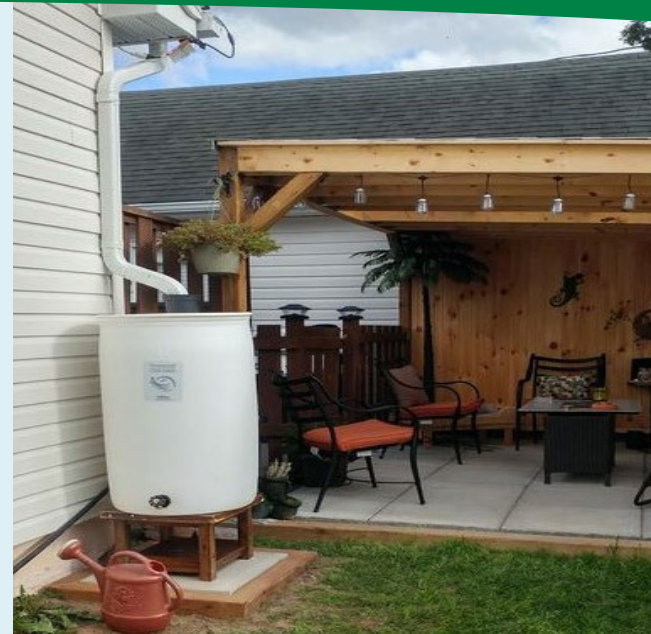


## Distribution of Rain Barrels to Residents of the Watershed

As part of our *Water Conservation and Stormwater Management Program*, the SBWA aims to encourage the use of rainwater as a resource, by installing rain barrels below downspouts to capture water from rooftops. This summer, a contest was held on social media to recruit participants who were interested in installing a rain barrel on their home. We gave away 18 rain barrels to residents living within the Shediac Bay watershed boundaries.

These barrels will help residents conserve drinking water by using rainwater for gardening and for other purposes. In addition to water conservation, a secondary benefit of rain barrels is that they help reduce surface water runoff that originated from rooftops. If you would like a chance to win a free rain barrel, follow our Facebook page for future contests.

We would like to thank the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund for the project funding and the EcoContainer company in Dorchester for providing the 55-gallon food grade barrels that were used to build the rain barrels.



### Contact Info

Shediac Bay Watershed Association

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

[www.shediabayassociation.org](http://www.shediabayassociation.org)



[www.facebook.com/shediabaywatershedassociation](https://www.facebook.com/shediabaywatershedassociation)

### Current News

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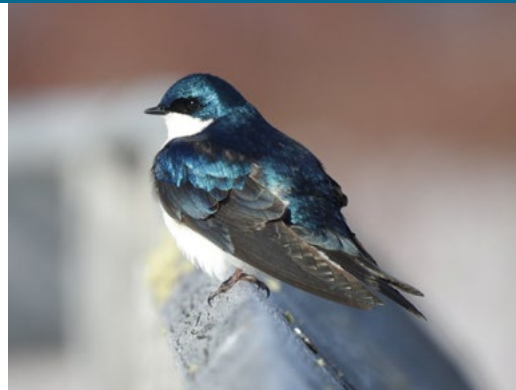


Photo : Robert Shortall

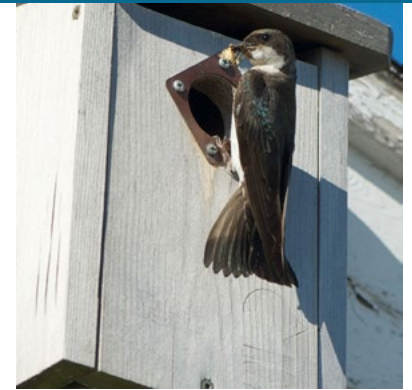


Photo : Gilles Gallant Photographie

## Featured Species - Tree Swallow

The tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) are small songbirds with dark-blue backs and white fronts. Their wings are pointy, and their bills are very short and flat.

Tree Swallows are agile fliers, frequently seen around wetlands and fields across northern North America. They nest in old trees which have existing cavities and take up residence in nest boxes. In some occasions these birds will nest in hollow stumps and even holes in the ground. They lay 4-7 eggs at a time and they incubate them for about 11-20 days.

These small birds mainly feed on flying insects such as mosquitoes, dragonflies, and bees. They may also eat plant foods or other small animals during bad weather when prey is scarce. During breeding season, they have a high-calcium diet and eat foods like fish bones and clamshells.

Tree swallows are highly social. In winter, while migrating, they can form large flocks of more than hundreds of thousands. They also build their nests close to each other.

**Class:** Aves

**Order:** Passeriformes

**Family:** Hirundinidae

**Genus:** *Tachycineta* Cabanis

**Species:** *Tachycineta bicolor*



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