

The year has been one of substantial accomplishment, owing to the continued generosity of Sandra Estey, for her commitment to the long term goals of the Watershed Association on her property at the McLean Flat Nursery. This year Ms. Estey financed the purchase of an estate tractor suitable for our work at the nursery and compatible with the other equipment (attachments) we have acquired so far. This represented an investment of some ten thousand dollars on her part and eliminates for us the need to lease or borrow a tractor, and allowing for earlier ground work and site preparation.

With an increased grant from the Environmental trust Fund, we were able to hire Thrive Consulting who we had worked with on the early stages of planning our education program in the previous years proposal. Thrive has provided us with a powerpoint presentation package of written and visual materials suitable to stimulate discussion at public and educational gatherings to expand and expound on the work of the watershed and the value that represents.

Thrive was successful in contacting two local area schools (Stanley High School and the Nashwaak Valley Elementary School) as well as the UNB Forestry Department and the Fredericton High School Environment Club.

She encouraged and shepherded the two local schools ambitions to apply for ETF grants of their own that would act in conjunction with our resources at the nursery (staff and plant stock). This we see as an ideal first step in what we anticipate to be an ongoing relationship that perfectly aligns with our stated goal of developing the tree nursery's potential as an outdoor experiential learning facility. The response by the staff at these schools was enthusiastic and represented to them a unique opportunity to supplement classroom studies with outside activities very closely linked to their curriculum.

At the high school level, we were again well received by staff, who saw the same opportunities. Students from Stanley High, and from the F.H.S. Environment Club, as well as from the UNB forestry Department all showed up at different outings and planted hundreds of two to five foot trees sourced from both our own stock and from the Canadian Forest Service greenhouses.

As of this writing, plans have been submitted by the Stanley High School for a fly fishing course sponsored by the Atlantic Salmon Federation, and the staff has also submitted a proposal to the ETF which will see us work together on river trips and the further development of educational programs, internships, and an arboretum.

At the nursery itself we worked with two interns and the volunteers to complete all our goals and more for this years grant. The third and final bed of three thousand square feet is under weed barrier and ready for tilling and soil augmentation (compost added) as earlier in the spring as we can get in it.

The second year bed has been planted, and the first year bed thinned and weeded as planned

March 28 2013

Final ETF Report on 2012-2013 Activities

We have had to schedule and reschedule until April our strategic planning exercise due to illness, but have managed to get a qualified facilitator to donate her time and expertise.

We held our AGM as usual at the end of November, to which about sixty people attended. They were presented with a very enthusiastic and upbeat talk and slide show by our nursery director David McLaughlin, who spoke on the huge positive potential he saw in the outreach and nursery programs. The audience in attendance was delighted to hear some positive news and an optimistic outlook after so much gloom and doom on environmental issues in the news.

Our website has been pretty much completed, and has been a genuine source of inspiration, discussion, education, to a degree we could only have hoped for. Several new members have joined our watershed stating that the website and newsletter inspired them to join an organization that seemed to be doing things in a positive and effective manner. This was all done without charge by one volunteer, who worked patiently over the last two years to give a professional, multi function site that has plenty of room to grow. He has more ideas yet.

Under knowledge distribution, we presented a slide presentation and talk at the Washdemoak Late Watershed Association meeting in the late fall, we cosponsored with the Conservation Council a documentary film on open pit mining, followed by a lively two way discussion. We also presented on our own the film "Salmon Wars" by Sliver Donald Cameron, followed again by discussion.

In the end I have to say we had a banner year as far as setting and achieving goals was concerned, and planting the seeds for next years work as well. It has been gratifying to get such great responses from the students and teachers for our outreach work and we look forward to expanding it with them in the next.

All of our goals have been met, everything completed with better than expected results.

I thank the Environmental Trust Fund for their confidence, and Thrive consulting for their diligence and hard work. Our nursery director went beyond the nursery to spend time in November planting arboretae, and giving talks to school children, ending the year with his talk at the AGM.

Thank you
Paul McLaughlin, President
Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc.