

# WATERWAYS

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- Are we speaking up and is anyone listening?
- Thousands of free trees and where to get them.
- Beginning a project that completes in four centuries.
- It takes a village to do what, exactly?



**A satisfied Greenway participant in the original playstation.....anywhere outside on a sunny day**

## The Mine and the EIA

Without doubt, the hottest topic in the watershed these last few months has been the Sisson Mine. The NWA Inc. co-hosted, with the Conservation Council of N.B., three discussion and dinner talks in Stanley, Fredericton, and Taymouth to present their review of Northcliff's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Approximately 280 people attended the sessions. The EIA (over 5000 pages of it) was released in August and the public was required to complete their review and comment within 45 days.

These talks were the only chance for people downstream from the project to hear what experts and scholars found when they reviewed the EIA, and their suggestions for improvement.

To be clear, these experts were engaged not to judge the mine in any way, but to assess the thoroughness of the plan to build it without putting people at risk, and to minimize or eliminate harm to the river and its environment.

Scott Kidd, a lawyer hired by the CCNB to coordinate the review, presented the findings in point form and in simple language. His talk formed the basis of the question and answer period that followed, one that left those attending among the most informed lay people in the province on the thoroughness of the EIA. It also left them with a lot of questions needing answers and concerns needing attention.

There is not room in this newsletter to go into the EIA or the review in any meaningful way, but the Powerpoint presentation used by Scott is available from our website ([www.nashwaakwatershed.ca](http://www.nashwaakwatershed.ca)) or CCNB's ([www.conservationcouncil.ca](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca))

Recently, representatives of the NWA, together with Scott Kidd and Inka Milewski, from the review group, met with the new Minister of Environment and Local Government, the Hon. Danny Soucy, to afford him the opportunity to hear the same review and hopefully be inspired to seek those answers and assurances on our behalf.

We will wait to see if anyone was listening.

## Trees For Free

Our tree nursery at the MacLean Flat may be one of the best kept secrets along the Nashwaak and we would like to change all that.

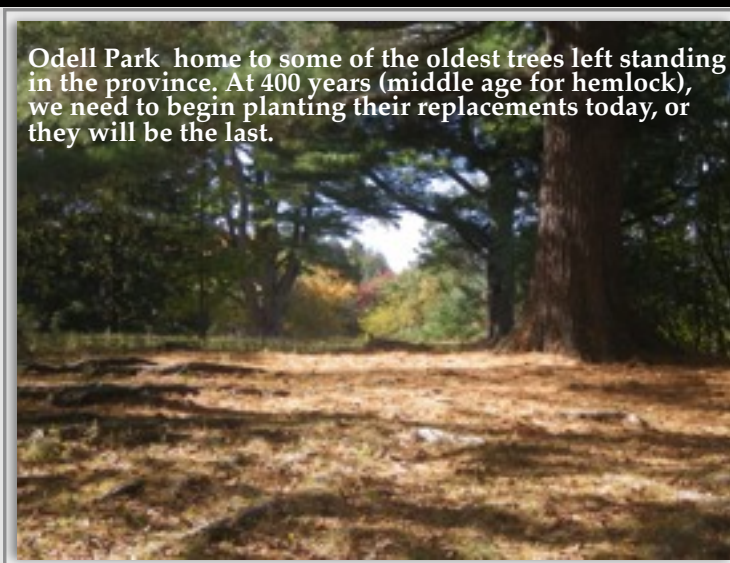
It houses almost 5000 seedlings, whips up to five feet in height, and more than a few caliper sized trees ready for transplanting and free to anyone in the watershed.

Help is available in the form of professional advice on species, site selection, planting and maintenance advice. Of particular interest to us are sites that have been stripped of soil, and the eroded banks of streams or the river itself.

We are adding almost five hundred new seedlings from the Canadian Forest Service each year, as well as propagating our own native hard and softwoods from seeds and cuttings collected in the area. For threatened areas along streams and the river, we can organize a volunteer day and help you plant hundreds of trees, meet some new people and have a barbecue, all while improving the quality and sustainability of your valuable land



For more information on these and other services, contact us via email at [nashwaakwatershed@hotmail.com](mailto:nashwaakwatershed@hotmail.com) or call 450-4943 and leave us a message. We are planning right now for next year's plantings.



Odell Park home to some of the oldest trees left standing in the province. At 400 years (middle age for hemlock), we need to begin planting their replacements today, or they will be the last.



once those trees die off, there will be no ancient trees, no forest giants, and the people alive then



Volunteers make light work of even big jobs, and help build your community

## **Nashwaak River Greenway,** *thinking long term*

The Nashwaak Watershed Association has been developing plans for the re-establishment of a native forest or "greenway" on areas of the flood plain near the confluence of the Nashwaak and the St. John rivers, and running north along both sides of the river to the Marysville Heritage Centre. We have been in discussion with the City of Fredericton's Tourism, Planning, Parks and Trees, and Engineering departments, all of whom have been supportive of the idea. All of the councillors we have so far contacted have also been very encouraging as well. Our next task is to develop what they are calling a visioning document to present to Council.

In general terms, the idea is to set aside this area, in perpetuity, as a kind of national park in the centre of the city. It is not a park at all in the sense that there will be no swings or amusements, few if any man made structures, only rough trails, water, brush and trees.

The existing trail system is well developed around the perimeter, and is well used in all seasons. The river itself is frequented by boaters of every stripe and fishers ply the waters for a wide variety of catches. It is already a little bit of heaven in one sense, so why the bother of "setting it aside"?

Well to begin with, the fact that it is so popular to so many, and so easy to get to, makes it particularly vulnerable to being loved to death. Add to that the effects of scouring by spring ice flows and freshets to the deep sandy banks that are unprotected by natural tree root systems and the logical consequence of laissez faire management is likely to be bad, if not catastrophic.

Another is the need in this city to consider planting replacement forests to take over from the ancient trees in the hemlock groves at Odell Park. Odell Park is home to some of the oldest trees in the province and we need to learn how to think in terms of centuries beginning now in order to maintain the quality forests Fredericton has today. Without it,

will never know what New Brunswick looked like before the coming of Europeans.

The establishment of these forests will offer substantial savings to the city in terms of water filtration, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, temperature moderation, and erosion controls. To do these things with engineered devices would cost millions to build, and more to maintain.

To accomplish this, we have been working with support from the Fredericton Area Watersheds Association (FAWA), who, with their own Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) Project, undertook a public outreach program to raise awareness of this very ambitious plan with a series of public events, including tree plantings, a family photo contest, a stream clean up and survey, and a "Greenway Celebration Day." For all this work, we need to thank FAWA Director, Shawn Dalton, and her program coordinator, Aaron Dowding, both of whom bought into our vision for this area, and used their talents to further that cause this summer. There is still a lot of work to do and events that we must plan and carry out, including building support in communities all along the river for the idea of setting aside land in order to maintain the possibility of tangible contact with a native forest or wetland environment.



“Experts predict as much as a 40 per cent gap between water supply and future demand.” Canadian Farm Credit Corporation March 11, 2013

*And it will take all of us pulling together to change that*

### **Now...About that village...**

We are mostly water, can't live for more than a few days without it, and use the stuff for everything. It is not a huge leap to recognize that:

- a) We are using more all the time, and
- b) We are running out.

The future is either a threat that we must prepare for today, or an opportunity that we must prepare for today, but in either case, prepare we must.

This may mean rethinking every single action we take where water is used. The NWAI is committed to the preservation of the watershed for that future, good or bad, and that is a goal we all need to work towards. It takes a very large village with everyone helping, to force that reality into the laws of our country such that any enterprise, large or small, should not be able to reduce, damage or destroy the water it uses without the commitment and demonstrated ability to return it to its natural state, ready for whatever safe use it is next put to.

The nation's First Peoples have held water as sacred since before the rest of us showed up. Among all the peoples, across the continent, water was held as sacred when the rest of us still believed the world was flat.

We eventually sorted out that flat earth thing, but the First Nations are still waiting for us to arrive at the understanding that water **is** sacred. Their wisdom in these matters begs attention.



NWAI board member Stephanie Merrill with a crew of willing hands planting trees by the Nashwaak River south of the Marysville Heritage Centre at the Greenway Celebration.

# Annual General Meeting

Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc.

7:00 PM , Wednesday, November 27th

Marysville Heritage Centre, 11 McGloin Street

Fredericton, N.B. **(please note new location)**

This year, Simon Mitchell of the World Wildlife Fund and the Meduxnekeag Watershed Association will speak on conducting a successful land acquisition program.

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The NWA is an affiliate of the New Brunswick Salmon Council and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Donations are welcome; all monies will go to preservation and enhancement of the Nashwaak Watershed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ email : \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be advised of your next meeting

I want to volunteer to:  Feed fish  Plant trees  Administer the Assoc.  Other (specify)

## For the NVES, an orchard and a forest, for Stanley High, an Acadian Forest



Above, David McLaughlin, aided in no small part, by many tiny helping hands completes the planting at NVES.

## School Outreach Activities

Over this past year, the Nashwaak Watershed Association continued its relationship with two area schools through tree plantings. Special activities included the installation of a fruit orchard on the school grounds of the Nashwaak Valley Elementary School so that children will get to watch the orchard grow right along with them. The Association also worked with students at Stanley High to plant on school grounds, trees found in a natural Acadian Forest.

## Join Us!

An organization needs members and new voices - make yours heard. Please contact us by email at: [nashwaakwatershed@hotmail.com](mailto:nashwaakwatershed@hotmail.com)

Find us on Facebook, or via our website: [www.nashwaakwatershed.ca](http://www.nashwaakwatershed.ca)

Or call 450-4943 to leave a message.