



Abbey Bartlett, 16, our nursery intern, transplanting Silver Maple seedlings at the McLean Flat Nursery

From the President...

We are living in what the Chinese proverb refers to as “interesting times” and it is worth noting that the phrase is actually part of a curse... “May you live in interesting times”.

That ancient culture is nothing if not wonderfully nuanced. Our little piece of heaven is the site of much activity and the attendant controversies. We hear repeatedly how Canada is so blessed with political stability, abundant clean water and clean air that we can be lulled into imagining it is not something which needs maintenance and considerable thought to preserve. With all this blessing comes great responsibility. We are now challenged with making decisions not just for our own benefit, but in consideration of consequences far into a future none of us can know for certain. To do so we have to get off the couch and learn. I encourage everyone to accept as a fact that doing nothing when a decision is required has two very serious consequences. The first is that by saying or doing nothing, we are agreeing with any action that may result, no matter how we feel about it. And secondly, we commit the lives of our children (and theirs) to accept the results of our indifference for the rest of their lives.

The other point I would like to make is that businesses are run with the sole objective of making money. Business has no conscience, nor any need for one. We should not demonize business if its interests do not include making us happy and safe. Those responsibilities are

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Salmon Enhancement Activities: Assistance for the Magaguadavic River

A group has undertaken an attempt to restore Atlantic salmon in the Magaguadavic River. The salmon population collapsed in concert with the increase in disease / parasite pressure and escapes of aquaculture fish from the sea farm cages in the Bay of Fundy during the last decade or so. The group undertook collection of juvenile salmon from the Nashwaak, Hammond and Canaan rivers during the early fall of 2011.

The NWA held and fed 100 of these fish from the Nashwaak at the Tay rearing site for 6 weeks during which the fish were certified disease free, before being transferred to Cook Aquaculture Ltd. where they will be grown to sexual maturity in fresh water. In a couple of years, they will become the source of fertilized eggs to reintroduce significant numbers of wild origin salmon into the Magaguadavic River.

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Trees

In this year's ETF project we wanted to do three things:

1. Improve tree planting by planting taller trees, by involving landowners in the care of the trees after planting, and by planting a greater variety of trees and shrubs in more natural configurations to imitate wild riverbank profiles. Taller trees reduce the expense of brush clearing operations currently required for the three years following the initial planting to allow the trees to grow above the competing vegetation.

2. Increase outreach and education in the community about the value of plants as a means of bank stabilization, water management, and landscape options other than massive lawns or bare banks along the river. We hope to get families interested in doing their own planting on all their properties along streams and the river, using native stock which we are now able to provide from a nursery which they would help to develop and maintain.

3. Create attractive viable alternatives to existing landscape practices along river properties. We would begin to build, first in the children of the area, an awareness of forests and how important they are to their world. We can use the nursery as a teaching tool where children can see how trees begin and grow and where they can actively participate in their selection and planting. They will be able to return to the same location over several years to see the effect their efforts have had, to see the trees they planted grow over their heads, to take some home to plant. This is a very powerful tool in empowering people to change the world around them without the need for money or other resources.

At the nursery, we will be able to develop full scale examples of landscaping designs to make attractive and erosion-resistant riverside plantings for use in landscapes adjacent to rivers and streams. We are in the process of establishing three beds, each 40 by 100 feet, for seedling development and a further area of several acres for out-planting to demonstrate landscape options, tree and shrub varieties, and to create seed and cutting sources for our bank stabilization programs. As well, we will have on hand a variety of native trees in the three to six foot range for planting along eroding banks and elsewhere.

From the President...

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ours, and now more than at any time in history, we need to stand up and know the facts, to consider the consequences and ultimately, to set the rules for how business is to be conducted in our corner of the world. We are unwise if we see the choice as to have a mine or to not have a mine (or a natural gas industry, or a forestry industry) or any other business.

The only choice to make, and we must be ready to make it, is how those businesses will behave on our watch. We own the resources, all of us, and if we think they have been poorly used or their use threatens our safety, then we will have to ensure we have the policies and people we can trust.

Business will be happy to do whatever we ask of it. They need only two criteria: the first is a clear set of rules and the knowledge that we, as owners, have the willingness and means to see them enforced; the second is an opportunity to make money. We can be completely confident that business will look after the second point. The first is up to us.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank Peter Ashfield, our long-time coordinator, for his work for the Association and to congratulate him on his acceptance to law school!

— Paul McLaughlin
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Sisson Project, Fracking

We had planned to include pieces from both sides of the Sisson Mine project as well as from the anti fracking group at Taymouth and from SWN Resources of Texas, the company drilling for natural gas in our area. Neither Northcliff Resources nor SWN could get material to us in time for publication. We will hold the articles for the next newsletter, due out just after Christmas, in which we will devote the bulk of the paper to the environmental issues and spokespersons from different points of view. We are committed to the distribution of unbiased information rendered in layman's terms that will give people the knowledge they will need on these crucial matters.

Funding for NWA Activities

The NWA received \$20,000 from the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF), to continue the work of riverbank stabilization, establish the tree nursery, and develop an education program for children and youth.

In our ETF application for 2012-2013, we will seek funding to continue with riverbank stabilization, grow the nursery, begin to deliver the education program, undertake outreach activities in the development of a 5-10 year action plan for the Association, and participate in the development of a watershed association network.

In early October, the NWA submitted an application to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) Participant Funding Program to support our involvement in the environmental assessment (EA) of the Sisson Project - the proposed tungsten and molybdenum mine under development by Northcliff. We hope to undertake an expert review of the environmental assessment as it relates to water quality and salmon habitat, and engage the community on three fronts: documenting the traditional knowledge of the land and resource use by capturing the stories of our elders; communicating in layman's terms the science and technical information related to the Sisson Project to support community participation in the EA; and a meeting to bring together representatives from the community, non-government organization, government and industry, to develop a common understanding of each other's interests and a vision of the desired future. The Taymouth Community Association and the Stanley Agricultural Society provided much appreciated letters of support. We hope to hear from the CEAA in the next few weeks.

Thanks to our Volunteers!



Board member David McLaughlin, shown loading hemlock, dedicated 100's of hours to layout, training, and planting at the nursery. His donations of expertise and equipment made the project possible.



Volunteers from Tidal Impact, World Baptist Congress transplanting yew at Canadian Forestry Service nursery, July 2011.

The Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc. relies on volunteers to make its projects work. Those who gave of their time this year: Alvin Ashfield, Hazel Ashfield, Mike Ashfield, Lief Salonijs, Mark Smith, Monique LeBlanc, Diane Fraser, Peter Salonijs, David McLaughlin, Bill Gammon, Gary Spencer, Bonnie Deveau, Brian Dunphy, Justin Chase, Matt Trevors, Jim Fraser, Brent Bishop and Paul McLaughlin. A special thank you to Sandra Estey, long-time resident and "bonne-vivante" for her generous grant of land-use at McLean Flat for the establishment of the nursery.



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With thanks for continued support





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MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS! Your membership and fee will help us fund programs, projects and activities to inform, educate and advocate for the well-being of the Nashwaak Watershed. We welcome your support! The Nashwaak Watershed Association is an affiliate of the New Brunswick Salmon Council. All monies will go to preservation and enhancement of the Nashwaak Watershed.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

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Please advise me of the date and location of the next NWA meeting.

I am interested in volunteering/helping with:

Feeding fish Collecting water samples Association administration Other

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please call our Association at (506) 459-6663 and leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also e-mail Peter Salonijs at: nashwaakwatershed@hotmail.com

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