



# 2016-2017 FINAL REPORT

ETF PROJECT #160273

NASHWAAK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION INC.  
1 MARCH 2017

## 2016-2017 FINAL REPORT

### PROJECT NAME:

Monitoring and restoration planning in the Nashwaak River

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc. (NWA) received \$55,000 from the NB Environmental Trust Fund in the 2016-2017 fiscal year to complete the following deliverables: 1) a geomorphic assessment of the lower half of the Nashwaak River, 2) an information gathering exercise, which was to feed into a document compiling the best available knowledge on the watershed, and 3) a 3-year action plan to prioritize monitoring, restoration, and outreach projects until 2020.

All three deliverables were completed within the time frame of the grants. The project started in June 2016 and wrapped up in February 2017. In addition, an extra summary of the State of the Nashwaak Report was created and translated into French, which was not part of the originally proposed deliverables. Therefore, the objectives of the project were met and surpassed.

The project stayed within in budget and match funding allowed us to expand the scope of the geomorphic study to encompass 25 km more of the main stem than was originally proposed.

We believe that the project had, and will continue to have, the intended socio-economic and environmental impacts. By compiling all available information on the watershed into an easy to read, visually appealing report, we can better inform watershed residents of the threats facing the Nashwaak and propose solutions to those issues. Additionally, by prioritizing our monitoring, restoration, and outreach activities for the next 3 years, we can best make use of our limited resources and engage more community members in our projects. Ultimately, we hope that these restoration activities effect real, positive changes on the river and its ecosystems and that our monitoring activities enable us make better informed decisions about the future of the river's health. Both *the State of the Nashwaak* and the *Action Plan* build a strong foundation from which future action plans can be built.

### DELIVERABLES

Three major deliverables have been completed:

- The geomorphic survey was carried out by Parish Aquatic Services with assistance from NWA staff and board members. Their final report is attached and the information from the survey was incorporated into both our *Action Plan* and *The State of the Nashwaak Watershed Report*. Thanks to match funding, we could survey more of the river (an additional 25 km) than we had initially intended. The report contains maps of both good and degraded salmon habitat (one of the listed short term achievements)
- The information gathering exercise involved NWA staff reviewing previous research done by the organization; compiling all available data on water quality, benthic macroinvertebrate, climate, water levels, and other environmental data from government databases and other sources; collecting geospatial data from GeoNB and national database to create GIS maps for the report; and collecting historical photos and documents from the Nashwaak River. This resulted in the creation of two documents:
  - *The State of the Nashwaak Watershed Report* – a complete report of all available information, including long term trends and knowledge gaps in environmental monitoring, for the Nashwaak Watershed;

- *Summary of the State of the Nashwaak Watershed* – a short, stylized summary of the State of the Nashwaak, meant to be a more reader-friendly version. This document was not a proposed deliverable for the project but we felt as if it was a necessary component. We have also had this document professionally translated and so that it is available in both French and English;
- The NWAI also hosted the *St. John River Summit* in June in partnership with the WWF. The event was successful with a large turnout from watershed groups, researchers, and community members at large (40 people in total). Though the *Summit* provided an opportunity for groups to get together to discuss issues surrounding water in the province, no action items came out of the meeting (as was hoped) as it took on a bit of a different form than was originally intended. However, many attendees commented on the usefulness of the *Summit* and the discussion opportunities that it provided.
- Our *2017-2020 Action Plan* was created based on the geomorphic survey and the information gathering exercise. It prioritizes restoration, monitoring, and outreach activities for the next 3 years. It outlines what, where, and how activities should be conducted. The NWAI has prioritized future projects based on the severity of impacts to the river ecosystem, landowner cooperation, funding, resources available, site access, and opportunity for volunteer involvement.

**PROJECT STATUS**

Estimated percentage of project complete: 100%

Estimated percentage of award spent: 100%

This ETF grant allowed for the creation of 2 full-time jobs at the NWAI (Executive Director [8.5 months work] and Project Coordinator [7 months work]). We predict that projects created by the Action Plan will support 3-6 jobs in the environmental sector in coming years.

**PUBLICATION OF RESULTS**

We are in the middle of a major website overhaul, which will be finished this spring. All documents and maps, as well as historical water quality and climate data, will be available to the public on our website upon its update. We will also prepare printed copies, which will be available for loan at our office. The information will be shared regularly on our social media channels and will be used in our future education and community outreach programs.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS**

Document	Summary
<b>State of the Nashwaak Report</b>	A complete report of all available information, including long term trends and knowledge gaps in environmental monitoring, for the Nashwaak Watershed
<b>Summary of the State of the Nashwaak Report</b>	A short, stylized summary of <i>The State of the Nashwaak Watershed Report</i> , meant to be a more reader-friendly version

<b>Document</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Summary of the State of the Nashwaak Report (French)</b>	A professionally translated version of the summary document
<b>Final Report from Parish Aquatic Services</b>	Results of the geomorphic survey from Stanley to Fredericton
<b>2017-2020 Action Plan</b>	Prioritizes restoration, monitoring, and outreach activities for the next 3 years [2 versions: 1 in word and 1 in excel]

## MANDATE OF THE NASHWAAK WATERSHED

The Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc. (NWA) was founded as a non-profit organization in 1995 based on a shared belief that the Nashwaak River should be managed to balance economic, recreational, social, and landowner interests such that the health of the resource is maintained for generations to come.

Report submitted by: Jillian Hudgins, NWA Project Coordinator

## Appendix A - Board of Directors

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Peter Toner	President
Paul McLaughlin	Past-President
Stephanie Merrill	Vice-President
Joanna Nickerson	Treasurer
Monique LeBlanc	Recording Secretary (ex-officio)
Kent Fackenthall	Director
Peter Salenius	Director
Nicola Johnson	Director
Jean-Guy Leaman	Director