



Central Queens Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation

WATERSHED NEWS

Winter 2021

2020 was a different year for Central Queens Wildlife but thanks to our hard working crew and dedicated volunteers we made the most of it! Here's some of our highlights:

West River Restoration Update

Our crew covered and ensured that more than 33 km of stream channel were free of blockages. Also, several new areas were restored including 2.6 km in the headwater region of Quinn's Brook and the last remaining 750m section along Eliot River Rd.

Other areas CQWF focused on for salmonid habitat restoration were Howell's Brook, Brookvale, and the main West River. A brief description of performance measures along these areas include: 71 brushmats, 110 cover structures, 23 spawning "beds", and 4 pool creating structures.

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund provided funds towards restoring salmonid habitat on Quinn's Brook this summer covering a total of 5.9 km of stream habitat. Quinn's Brook is a major tributary to the West River in the Emyvale area and historically had local Atlantic salmon populations. CQWF aims to rehabilitate the habitat with the hopes of having adult salmon return to this area to spawn once again.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation provided

funding for restoring degraded salmon habitat on the West River. A major component of this project aspect was improving juvenile rearing habitat in major riffle areas below Bolger Park road by creating boulder clusters. In total 5,794 m² of riffle habitat was greatly improved.



Scenic morning mist on Howell's Brook

On an annual basis CQWF travels the ~10 km canoe route to ensure it is blockage free and passable for canoeists and kayakers. Departure locations are the culvert in Green Bay (off the Eliot River Rd) and the Riverdale bridge off the Bolger Park Rd.

The upper portion of the canoe route from Green Bay can be described as a “black diamond” as it contains slightly more difficult sections to navigate compared to the lower section below Bolger Park Rd, but also contains some of the most scenic forested landscapes on PEI!

Repairing and restoring Acadian forest species along riparian areas is also a major part in stream rehabilitation. During 2020 CQWF planted 1,145 native trees/shrubs. Ideal riparian species include: white ash, yellow birch, red osier dogwood, aronia sp, and white pine in dryer areas. Since hardwood species are a favorite food item for many herbivores CQWF provides protection to help increase the trees chances of survival.

Three events were open to the public for a chance to come out and volunteer a Saturday morning to learn about watershed restoration. Each event had a different focus, which included: a tree planting event, constructing a very large brush mat, and surveying for salmonid redds in November. We had great support from the public for these events and hope to see some new faces in 2021. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming events in 2021!

Get Involved!

A major component in succeeding in our restoration ventures is having volunteer support. If you would like to become more involved send us an email at cqwf.pei@gmail.com to subscribe and become a member. We will send out notifications for upcoming events and frequent updates on what our crew has been up to during the field season!

www.centralqueenswildlife.ca

Our Funding Partners

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of our volunteers and funding partners, without whose support we would be unable to continue our restoration efforts:

- The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation
- PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund
- PEI Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure
- PEI Dept. of Communities, Land and Environment
- PEI Dept. of Tourism
- Government of Canada
- Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery
- Bluefield High School
- University of Prince Edward Island

2021 Winter Woodlot Tour

CQWF in partnership with Hunter-Clyde, Wheatley River, and now Trout River watershed group, would like to invite the public to attend the annual Winter Woodlot Tour from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm on Saturday February 6th in New Glasgow, at 215 Buffalo Rd. The storm date will be February 20.

There are many fun and family-friendly activities aimed at celebrating Island wildlife, forest ecosystems and sustainable woodlot use. There will be heated tents and hot cider. There is no charge to attend! In accordance with Public Health guidelines masks will be mandatory and capacity limits will be in place.

For more info:

Website: www.winterwoodlottour.ca

Facebook: PEI Winter Woodlot Tour

Instagram: @winterwoodlottour

We hope to see you there!