

# Clean Annapolis River Project



## 2020-2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

July 15, 2021

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MESSAGE

I cannot help but feel that CARP has been fortunate over the last year in that we have collectively managed to make the best of the difficult situation that the COVID-19 pandemic has put us in. To start with, we are lucky to live and work where we do, as we've certainly been impacted far less than other regions within Canada and the world. We have also benefited from the fact that our staff is small, and that we have been able, for the most part, to continue to work together in person. I feel that this has been very good for morale overall and that it has helped us weather the times when we have had to retreat to working remotely from home, or in small field teams. We have all become accustomed to taking extra measures to protect the health of the community and our co-workers while we are out and about working on the landscape, and to interacting almost exclusively virtually with partners and collaborators. I know we are not at all unique in this, and I'm sure that many others share our desire to walk more easily throughout the community and re-connect in person when it becomes possible.

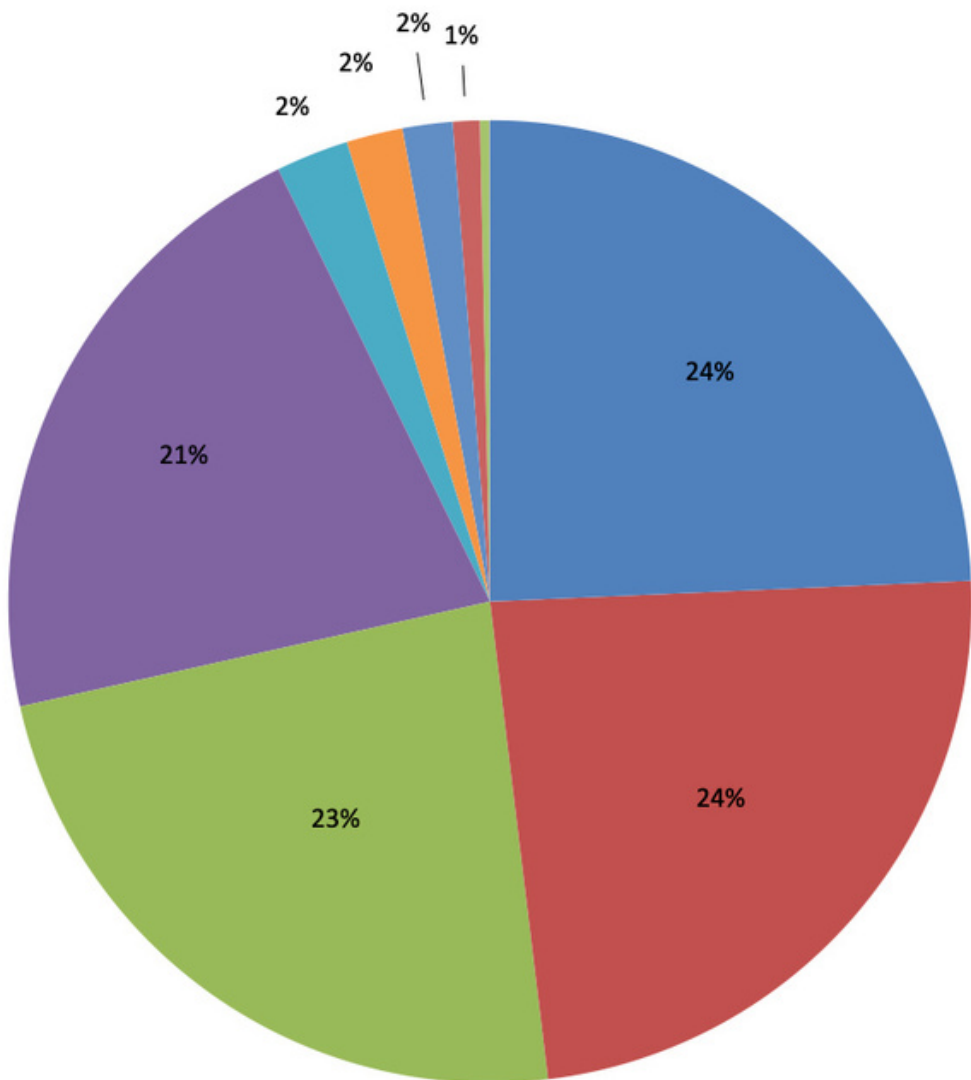
Though the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the way that we go about our day-to-day work, CARP's staff, board, volunteers, and partners have shown great adaptability and resilience in the face of the changes and challenges that have come. Because of this, CARP has continued to deliver on our existing projects and programs, and we are pursuing new and exciting opportunities and partnerships that will keep us busy for the next year and beyond. I am proud to say that the volume and quality of work that our staff has produced in the last year have not diminished despite the additional challenges and that we have had a very successful and impactful year overall. I think that you'll agree as you read through our Year in Review for 2020-2021.

Levi Cliche





## 2020 REVENUE BY SOURCE



- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- Federal Government Wage Subsidy
- NGO Partners
- Municipal Government
- Business/Corporations
- Other Revenue
- Donations
- Membership
- Deposit Interest





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been another busy year for the volunteers that make up the CARP Board of Directors. In addition to the regular monthly meetings, there have been numerous meetings of the Finance committee, Fund Development Committee, Human Resources Committee, and the River Festival committee. These committees focus on various important aspects of organizational management and development, and sustaining CARP financially continues to be an important one.

The Board and CARP staff have worked together to find ways to reduce expenses and increase revenue. The Community Interest Company (CIC) has been providing a variety of environmental services to the community while allowing the profits to be turned back to CARP. These funds can be used to cover core expenses and sustain various projects.

The board and staff have been working to achieve the goals outlined in our new strategic plan. As mentioned last year, this plan will help guide the organization over the coming years and provide direction. "Ecologically healthy watersheds" is still our vision but have new and important areas to focus on moving forward.

Due to COVID-19, the board was forced to meet virtually and some of the committee work put on hold, but the hard work still continued in other areas. Like so many other community events Riverfest had to be canceled. The Annual General Meeting normally held in June had to be postponed due to the State of Emergency.

The year-end review clearly shows the wide range of projects being carried out in the watershed and the level of community engagement. It is encouraging to see the number of volunteers and their various backgrounds. Connecting residents of the watershed to the watershed is an important part of the stewardship process.

We have an excellent CARP staff, CARP Board, and a working relationship between the two. This winning combination and continued community support allow CARP to be a leader in community-based environmental science. With your continued support, things can only get better.

From being a director, participating in the strategic planning process, lending a hand with River Festival, taking samples as a River Guardian, or searching for wood turtles...none of these things would happen if it were not for the support of volunteers. Thank you to all our volunteers.



Sincerely,  
Mark Hebert

## 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Angrignon  
Mark Hebert  
Orris Orlando

Maggie Rice  
Britt Roscoe  
Bob Rowe

Heather Stewart  
Jeffrey Sweet  
Josie Todd





## RESTORING ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TO IMPROVE FRESHWATER IN THE ANNAPOLIS RIVER WATERSHED

The Annapolis River Watershed has a long history of human use, alteration, and degradation, which has taken a toll on wetlands and riparian ecosystems. Human activities in the watershed have resulted in significant loss of wetland habitats and the clearing of riparian zones to convert landscapes for agricultural activities, create scenic views for homeowners, and facilitate other economic opportunities. The 'Restoring Ecological Services' project focused on improving and maintaining freshwater quality in areas previously degraded by human activity through the restoration of ecological services provided by wetland and riparian ecosystems, as well as engaging members of the public throughout this process to provide hands-on learning and support for long-term stewardship of freshwater resources.

### 2020 Highlights

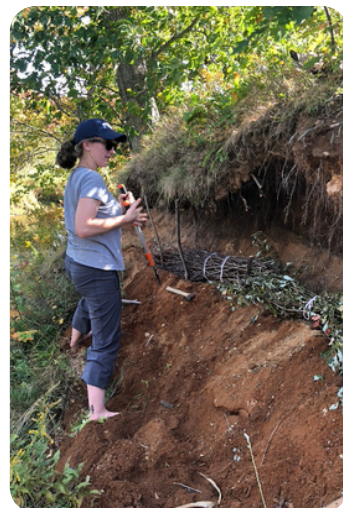
- 26 bird nesting boxes were constructed by the Annapolis West Education Centre's Construction Tech class.
- A total of 500 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants were planted, as well as 310 willow stakes.
- A live sill was installed, measuring 4.5 meters long and 2.5 meters wide to help stabilize an eroding bank along the South River.
- Survival surveys took place at the 2019 planting sites. Results showed an average survival rate of 88% of tree seedlings.
- A total of 69 participant pledges were collected as part of the Pledge to Protect Campaign.

### Future Directions

This two-year project wrapped up at the end of March 2021. Although the project has come to an end, all educational resources and outreach materials will continue to be made available in hard copy and digital format and integrated into future initiatives. The encouragement and promotion of wetland, freshwater, and riparian habitat management will continue to take place on CARP's social media, at events, and on additional outreach platforms, and will be incorporated into current and future projects where relevant. CARP will continue to provide support when possible to interested landowners seeking advice or looking to make changes to steward freshwater and biodiversity on their properties.

2020 Project Partners: Michael Adzich; Thea Bowanowsky; Kathy Brooks; Frederick Ketcheson; Jennifer Bullock; Niki Clark; Ian Curry; Gordon Keel; Gloria Saesura; Colin Hirtle; Christine Igot; Jessica Musgrave; Lucas Roch; Deborah Lyver; Maureen MacInnis; Randy Fredericks; Matthew Roop; Rachel Taylor; Crystal Veinot; Greg Cosman; Annapolis West Education Centre; Bridgetown Regional Community School; Lawrencetown Education Centre; West Kings District High School; Jijuktu'ktwejk Watershed Alliance; Tilia Builders; all of our awesome Pledge to Protect Participants

Project Funders: Environment and Climate Change Canada





## FISH PASSAGE RESTORATION AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

While threats to fish populations are numerous and diverse, degradation of freshwater habitats remains one of the most significant contributors to the observed declines of native species. Much of this habitat loss has been attributed to modifications of the physical environment by human land uses. Issues in the Annapolis River watershed include habitat fragmentation (the loss of passage between areas of habitat), watercourse alterations, in-stream habitat loss through channel modification, sedimentation, and alterations to water quality. The objective of the 2020 project was to enhance in-stream habitat for Atlantic salmon, brook trout, and other native aquatic species in the Round Hill River and Fales River sub-watersheds, as well as to conduct restoration monitoring to identify additional areas in need of fish passage restoration and habitat enhancement work in the future.

### 2020 Highlights

- 4 deflectors installed restoring a total of 2604m<sup>2</sup> of rearing habitat for juvenile and adult fish in the Round Hill River.
- 12 Habitat Suitability Index Assessments were conducted throughout the Fales River and Round Hill River sub-watersheds to assess the existing condition of fish habitat.
- 21 sediment traps were installed throughout the Fales River to identify potential sediment input sources.
- 3 river tours were held to invite community members to come and learn about the restoration work that's been happening over the past few years.

### Future Directions

Fish habitat restoration and enhancement is an ongoing program area for CARP. In 2021 the program will continue its efforts by installing additional in-stream structures on the Round Hill River, conducting Habitat Suitability Index Assessments, monitoring sedimentation on the Fales River, and providing education and awareness on the presence of Atlantic salmon in the Fales River and Round Hill River sub-watersheds.

Project Partners: Jeffery Sweet; Sebastian Conyers; Oliver Bonnington; Liam and Vaughn Winstead; John Hill; Dawson Edwards; Matthew Henry; Lawrencetown Education Centre

Project Funders: Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-a-Stream Program



## OCEAN FRIENDLY NOVA SCOTIA

A large portion of marine debris is made up of single-use plastic items commonly used by the food industry, like straws, bags, coffee cups, and take-out containers. Consumers and businesses are both increasingly adopting more sustainable practices by reducing their single-use plastic use. The Ocean Friendly Nova Scotia program, created by Coastal Action, is a tiered recognition system that encourages the elimination of single-use plastics at cafés and restaurants while promoting these positive changes. CARP has partnered with Coastal Action to bring the Ocean Friendly program to the Annapolis River watershed and surrounding area.



## 2020 Highlights

- 2 virtual workshops took place to provide interested business with information about the program
- An inventory of businesses in the Annapolis Watershed was created, and introductory information including a survey to gauge current use of plastic products was circulated.
- A list of businesses for follow-up in 2021 was created.

## Future Directions

The Ocean Friendly Nova Scotia Program will continue to recruit and encourage food service businesses throughout Halifax Regional Municipality, the Annapolis Valley, and the South Shore to participate in the program, with hopes of becoming a provincial and eventually and Atlantic Canada wide program.

Project Partners: Coastal Action

Project Funders: Environment and Climate Change Canada's Zero Plastic Waste Initiative



## HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

Under the leadership of the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, CARP is part of a collaborative team that is working to develop an online habitat and biodiversity assessment tool for agricultural producers. CARP's role is to lead the development of the Nova Scotia version of the tool. The overall objectives of this national scale project is to reach as many agricultural producers as possible through the integration of a virtual tool into provincial Environmental Farm Plan platforms, provide producers with awareness of what key habitats might be present on their land and the measures that will improve their suitability for likely species at risk, prioritize the compatible management actions that can be taken to conserve or improve those habitats and provide further resources to support producers in their implementation and awareness of species at risk.

## 2020 Highlights

- Identification of the target species and habitats for version 1 of the tool.
- Compilation of species at risk and habitat data and GIS analysis to support tool development.
- Identification of best management practices and data processing to create a beta version of the tool.

## Future Directions

Beta testing and revisions to version 1 of the tool are planned for 2021, to support a public launch in winter 2021/2022. CARP will also be working with other partners in the Maritimes as they begin to develop tools for their provinces.

Project Partners: Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry, The Center of Geographic Sciences

Project Funder: Environment and Climate Change Canada



## AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

CARP has a number of projects that focus on the stewardship of agro-ecosystems, a term used to refer to the ecosystems found naturally on lands managed for the purpose of food and fiber production. While agricultural lands are heavily modified for human use, some species at risk, such as the Bobolink and Barn Swallow, have the potential to benefit from these land uses, which provide suitable habitat for them. With so much agriculture in our watershed, CARP is partnering with local farmers and stakeholders in the agricultural sector to work together to improve species at risk habitats and preserve or restore ecosystem services.

### 2020 Highlights

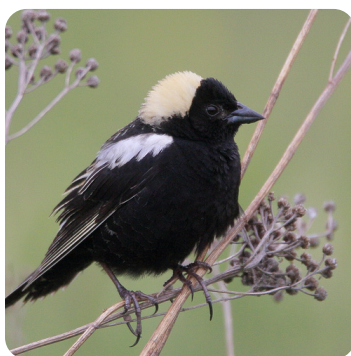
- Engaged with over 30 partners to prioritize threats to species at risk on local agricultural lands as part of a strategic planning process for the Kespukwitk (Southwest Nova) priority place.
- Engaged with local farmers to discuss the feasibility of strategies that promote species at risk on agricultural lands.
- Developed a GIS tool to help identify agricultural lands with species at risk observations.
- 3 webinars were delivered on topics related to species at risk on agricultural lands.
- Engaged 6 local farmers in the development of new Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation Plans.
- Conducted restoration activities on 5 farms across the watershed and identified 3 sites for restoration activities for the 2021 field season.
- Conducted species at risk surveys to identify new areas to target future engagement efforts.

### Future Directions

CARP will continue to lead strategic planning for agro-ecosystems in the Kespukwitk priority place, in order to support the implementation of strategies that address key threats to species at risk and biodiversity. Within the watershed, CARP will continue outreach work into 2021, with the goal being to reach at least 60 agricultural landowners with species at risk observations on or near their property, and provide these individuals with resources to make them aware of potential management practices they can consider to conserve habitat or mitigate threats. Demonstration tours and seminars will be conducted to support outreach efforts. CARP will also continue to deliver the Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation program, through which farmers receive a comprehensive document outlining the various habitats on their property, what practices they are doing that promote biodiversity, as well as recommendations on ways they could improve biodiversity.

Project Partners: Department of Lands and Forestry; Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture; Perennia

Project Funders: Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Canada Nature Fund; Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund





## ANNAPOLIS VALLEY SAND BARRENS STEWARDSHIP

Have you ever noticed how sandy it gets near the highway in Kingston? This area is part of the Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens, a unique and often recognized ecosystem that is home to rare and endangered species. The Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens have experienced steep declines due to various forms of human land use, with only about 3% of them estimated to be remaining. CARP's project aims to increase awareness of the Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens through community engagement, support for stewardship activities, and land conservation, as well as by helping the conservation community gain a better understanding of this under-studied ecosystem.

### 2020 Highlights

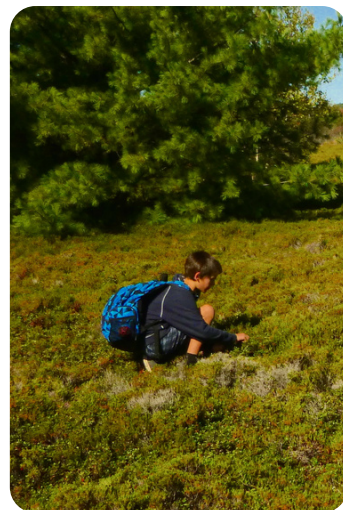
- 10 school-based field trips to sand barrens sites with grade 6-11 classes in schools local to the sand barrens.
- 3 guided interpretive walks for the public to raise awareness about characteristic species in the sand barrens.
- A draft of the 'Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens Guide' was written, and is currently being prepared for publication.
- 2 future sites of sand barrens demonstration gardens were identified at NSCC Kingstec and Kings County Municipal Complex, and faculty in the NSCC Landscaping and Horticulture Technology program engaged as partners for future native landscaping initiatives.
- Trials were started for growing native plant species of the sand barrens.

### Future Directions

Education and outreach efforts, including guided walks and field trips, are planned to continue in 2021 to help increase the awareness of this rare ecosystem in local communities. Once the final version 'Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens Guide' is completed, this will be made available to the public to learn more about this ecosystem. To further help raise awareness of this ecosystem, at least two demonstration gardens will be built on publicly accessible areas. These gardens will help community members recognize the key species of this ecosystem, as well as demonstrate landscaping techniques that are compatible with the sand barrens. One large initiative for the coming year is continuing the land-use change analysis that began in 2019. This work is being done in coordination with NSCC Centre of Geographic Science using historical aerial photography from over the last century. This analysis is intended to give the conservation community a better understanding of how the sand barrens have changed over time and how different human land uses affect this ecosystem.

Project Partners: NSCC Centre of Geographic Sciences; Fern Hill Institute; NSCC Kingstec; Department of Lands and Forestry; St. Mary's University

Project Funders: Environment and Climate Change Canada







## ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF INVASIVE FISH TO AT-RISK ATLANTIC SALMON AND ATLANTIC WHITEFISH POPULATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA

This three-year project brings together a collective of partners in order to address Fisheries and Oceans Canada's regional priority threat of competition and predation by non-native species to native species, including species at risk such as the inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon and Atlantic Whitefish, and the Southern Upland population of Atlantic Salmon. By drawing on a network of partners from central and southwest Nova Scotia, the project supports activities in several watersheds including the Annapolis, Cornwallis, Gaspereau, Petite Riviere, LaHave, Stewiacke, and Shubenacadie River watersheds.

### 2020 Highlights

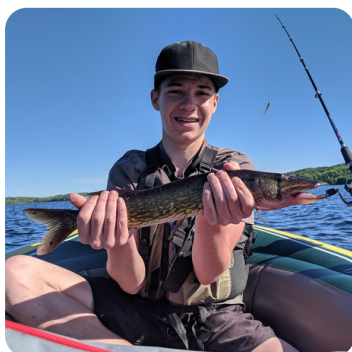
- Angler surveys took place at 20 locations throughout Nova Scotia.
- The Aquatic Habitat Connectivity Planning Tool was presented to 28 individuals representing 7 organizations including federal government (3 divisions), Indigenous organizations, and community-based watershed stewardship groups. This tool supports decision-making for fish passage remediation projects where there is a risk of facilitating the spread of invasive species.
- 8 aquatic invasive species educational signs were installed at popular fishing locations across Nova Scotia.
- A total of 40 sites across the province were monitored and surveyed for aquatic invasive species.
- 5 angler diaries were received as part of the citizen science fish monitoring program. These volunteer anglers fished 10 systems and reported on 11 different species, including aquatic invasive species and aquatic species at risk.
- 35 new reports of chain pickerel and smallmouth bass observations were entered into the aquatic invasive species geodatabase.
- 5 virtual presentations promoting invasive species awareness took place as part of the "Eat your Invasive" outreach series.

### Future Directions

2021 will be the final year of the project and will see the continuation of the project's core activities, including the continuation of CARP's Citizen Science program, angler surveys, updates to the geodatabase to support decision making processes, training on the use of aquatic habitat connectivity planning tools for invasive species, invasive species sampling surveys, and public outreach events. It is hoped more in-person events will be possible, including eat-your-invasives events, and a white fish day.

Project Partners: Coastal Action; Mi'kmaw Conservation Group; Nova Scotia Salmon Association; Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute; Jijuktu'ktwejk Watershed Alliance; Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture; LaHave River Salmon Association; East Coast Wild Foods; Fish on Guide Services; Randy Fredericks; Wildcat First Nation; Nova Scotia Power; McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery; Justin Trimm; Citizen Science Program volunteers

Project Funders: Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species and Aquatic Habitat; Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture's Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative





## GHOST GEAR: COLLABORATIVE REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED, LOST AND DISCARDED FISHING GEAR IN SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA

Under the leadership of Coastal Action, CARP is working to support the 'Ghost Gear' project. Ghost gear causes significant negative environmental, economic, and social impacts including habitat degradation, indiscriminate fishing, and entanglements, decreased catches, at-sea safety hazards, and vessel damage. This project will work collaboratively with industry, academia, and government to prevent, reduce, and assess the impacts of ALDFG on the South Shore of Nova Scotia (LFAs 33, 34, and 35 – Nova Scotia only) from July 2020 to March 2022.

### 2020 Highlights

- Installation of 2 rope disposal bins at 2 wharves within the Annapolis River watershed (Digby & Victoria Beach)- 9 bins installed across SWNS.
- 5 beach cleanups in March 2021, with 1639 kg of debris removed, 68% of which was rope.
- Collected rope was used to support a rope recycling pilot program and diverted 5,800 kg of rope from high and medium impact disposal methods in collaboration with Sustane Inc. and Goodwood Plastics.

### Future Directions

CARP is coordinating at-sea retrieval efforts in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 35 after the summer lobster fishery closes. Retrieval efforts in LFA's 33 and 34 are being coordinated by Coastal Action and will take place this summer. In addition to reporting on the amount and type of gear retrieved, data about any bycatch will be collected and analyzed, to better understand the environmental and ecumenic impact of ghost gear.

Project Partners: Coastal Action (project lead), Dalhousie University, Goldwater Lobster Association, Brail Rock 33/34 Lobster Association, Sustane Inc., Good Wood Plastic, Clare Machine Works, Ocean Tracking Network, Ocean Frontier Institute

Project Funders: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Program

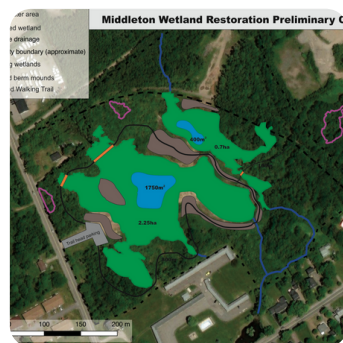


## WETLAND RESTORATION AND RECREATIONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN OF MIDDLETON

In late 2019 CARP commenced a new project in partnership with the Town of Middleton, which will see the restoration of a complex of infilled and degraded wetlands on Town-owned land, and the establishment of an accessible recreational trail that will allow community members to enjoy the site.

### 2020 Highlights

- Development of a restoration plan and preliminary trail design.
- Initial site preparation, and installation of hydrological monitoring equipment.
- FrogWatch volunteer training, to support volunteers collecting pre-restoration data about frog species at the site.





## Future Directions

The majority of restoration work is scheduled to be conducted during the 2022 field season. In the meantime, CARP is working to secure the additional funding needed to complete trail building work and will be working with the Town Accessibility Committee to ensure that trail design meets community needs. Public site visits will be hosted in the summer of 2021 (as permitted by public health guidelines), so that community members can learn more about the project.

Project Partners: Town of Middleton, East Coast Aquatics

Project Funders: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund



## LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES

The goal of this project was to assist the Towns of Middleton and Annapolis Royal in addressing the challenges of sustainable energy planning. This was achieved through a partnership between the Towns and the Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP). CARP's Sustainable Energy Advisors completed energy assessments for Town-owned buildings and infrastructure, which were used to develop strategic planning documents that define recommendations to reduce energy consumption and associated GHG emissions.

## 2020 Highlights

- A policy and by-law review was conducted for each Town, to understand how the policy environment influences decisions related to energy sustainability.
- An inventory of Town-owned buildings and infrastructure with energy needs was compiled, and a subset of buildings selected for assessments.
- Through a partnership with the NSCC Energy Sustainability Engineering Technology program, students were engaged in energy audits and the identification of upgrades for 3 buildings in the Town of Annapolis Royal
- Site assessments were conducted at buildings in the Town of Annapolis Royal and x in the Town of Middleton, and site-specific recommendations developed for each.
- Using the Town of Annapolis Royal's tree inventory, a report analyzing the role of the Town's urban forest in carbon sequestration was produced.
- Energy data was tracked for the Towns using the Energy Star Portfolio Manager and the Partners for Climate Protection management tool. Guidance documents outlining how to keep this data were produced to support Town staff or other partners working on related projects in the future.
- An introduction to Property Assessed Clean Energy report and presentation was delivered to the Towns to promote the concept of a PACE program.
- Window inserts were purchased for several single pane windows in Town-owned buildings, to improve the insulation value of the building envelopes. Installation is planned for summer 2021.

## Future Directions

This one-year project wrapped up at the end of the 2020 fiscal year. CARP will continue to explore opportunities to support both Towns in a variety of environmental initiatives, including energy sustainability-related projects.

Project Partners: the Town of Middleton, the Town of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia Community College

Project Funder: Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Mines

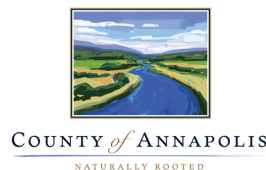


## OTHER PROJECTS IN 2020

**Annapolis River Guardians:** Water quality monitoring took place at 8 sites across the Annapolis River to look at E. coli, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, pH, and turbidity. This data was used to create a 2020 Annapolis River Watershed Report Card, which summarizes the trends observed throughout the season. The 2020 monitoring season was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Municipality of the County of Annapolis.

**Bug Friendly Annapolis Royal:** This short-term project, focused on supporting the Town of Annapolis Royal to demonstrate how Towns and other municipalities can serve as leaders in efforts to conserve biodiversity, starting at the foundation of the ecosystem. Unfortunately, many people have negative perceptions about many types of "bugs", often thinking first of destructive invasive pests, instead of the important role bugs play in our ecosystems. While bees and butterflies tend to be darlings of the "bug" world, other pollinators such as flies and beetles are not given their due recognition. We want to work to dispel negative myths and change attitudes in order to foster biodiversity stewardship of all species. Outreach activities were limited in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions and will be carried into future years to take advantage of the resources developed. This work was made possible thanks to the support of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2020-2021 FUNDERS:



CARP lifetime and annual members for the 2020-2021 fiscal year



## MEET OUR TEAM

### Levi Cliche- Executive Director

Levi Cliche, CARP's Executive Director, has been involved with the organization for over 20 years. Levi has strong family ties to the Annapolis River watershed, and was inspired to pursue a career in environmental stewardship through the example and stories of his grandparents and family members, time spent exploring the Nictaux River, and summers spent canoeing, swimming and fishing local lakes and rivers. His first job with CARP was directly out of high school as a field worker on CARP's fish habitat restoration program. This experience led him to complete the Fish and Wildlife Technology program at Fleming College's School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences. He is interested in and has worked in many areas related to environmental restoration, stewardship and management, but aquatic habitats and fisheries remain his primary passion.



### Susan Lane- Administration Manager

Susan Lane joined the CARP organization in July 2002 following a decade with King's Theatre in Annapolis Royal. Susan has spent the majority of her career as an administration manager in the not-for-profit sector. Her work with CARP entails the day to day management of the organizations, management of CARP's financial operations, providing support to the Board of Directors as requested, assisting with the administration of CARP's human resources.

Since moving to the Annapolis Royal area she has volunteered on the Board of several local not-for-profit organizations and currently serves as the Treasurer of the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. When not working, Sue loves to try her hand growing vegetables in containers, strolling around the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens and the Annapolis Royal Marsh taking photos, learning to play the clarinet, and dabbling with watercolours and pencil drawings.



### Katie McLean- Program Manager

Katie is currently the Program Manager for CARP. Over the past 7 years she has worked in a variety of positions within the organization, including leading communications and outreach programming, and supporting projects such as wood turtle monitoring and species at risk stewardship on private lands. She is particularly interested in youth education and outdoor recreation, which she combined to help create CARP's Youth Leading Environmental Change program. Her educational background includes a Masters of Resource and Environmental Management from Dalhousie University.



### Rachel Walsh- Aquatics Program Coordinator

Rachel is a Nova Scotia Community College graduate, with a diploma in Natural Resources Environmental Technology. She has been part of the CARP team for 2 years and is in the current position of Aquatic Ecosystem Programs Lead. Rachel's interest in environmental work comes from her love of being outside. She has enjoyed working on a variety of projects at CARP, with her interest growing in fish habitat restoration work. Rachel looks forward to furthering her experiences and gaining new opportunities as her time at CARP continues.





### **Brittni Scott- Private Land Stewardship Coordinator**

Brittni was hired through the Clean Leadership Program as an intern in September. Upon the end of her internship, she was hired full time to the CARP team to continue as the project lead for the Agro-ecosystems and Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens projects. Brittni has always been passionate about local wildlife, and has been enjoying furthering her knowledge about local species at risk in this position. One of the more rewarding parts of her job is helping support local community members to conserve species at risk and their habitats on their land.



### **Marina McBride- Environmental Technician**

Marina Jean is a summer student who has completed the Wildlife Conservation Technology Program offered at Holland College, and is continuing her education at the University of New Brunswick to pursue a degree in Environment and Natural Resources with a major in wildlife conservation. She is looking forward to working on river enhancement techniques in Round Hill River and completing surveys on Atlantic sturgeon and Striped Bass in the Annapolis River. Marina has taken the lead in the Ocean Friendly Nova Scotia program and her goal is to present at least ten recognition decals to local food businesses this summer. She is excited to spend her fourth summer at CARP and is proud to be a part of the team.



### **Ginny Everett- Fisheries Technician**

Ginny is a Fisheries Technician with a background in Wildlife Conservation and Ocean Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture. She is excited to contribute to the Annapolis estuary monitoring project to further study the presence and abundance of native fish species in the Annapolis River Estuary, especially as it pertains to one of her personal interests, Nova Scotia's recreation fishery.



### **Lauren Burns- Environmental Technician**

Lauren is currently a summer student from the Nova Scotia Community College and is graduating after completing her second year in the Natural Resources Environmental Technology course. She is excited to be working on Wood Turtle monitoring over the summer and learning more about wetland restoration practices, aquatic habitat management, as well as riparian zone surveying. In the coming months, she looks forward to working with the CARP team to further expand her knowledge by working with other team members and helping with their projects.



### **Brandi Veinot- Environmental Technician**

Brandi is a seasonal employee who is interested in taking Natural Resources Environmental Technology, concentrating in the Aquaculture field. She is excited to gain experience and learn about our freshwater ecosystems, and how we can best help protect and preserve our fish habitats. In 2020, she enjoyed being trained and taking part in fish habitat restoration, River Guardians water quality sampling, eDNA sampling, and support in a live fish release. During the 2021 spring season she has been able to accompany Rachel to install this year's first set of sediment traps, and has spent most of her time focused on working with Anglers' observations to get a bird's eye view on species locations, and spread of invasive species.





### Stuart Boudreau- Environmental Technican

Stuart is a summer student who just finished his first of two years in the Natural Resource Environmental Technology program at Nova Scotia Community College Lunenburg campus. Stuart grew up in and around the forest and has always had a passion for wildlife. He is primarily helping with wood turtle surveys; this involves walking up and down rivers, recording wood turtle sightings and even naming turtles that haven't been documented yet. He also helps out with bird surveys; his favourite bird is the evening grosbeak even though they aren't part of the surveys. Stuart looks forward to helping the environment and his community.



### Jakemen Mercer- Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Graduating from NSCC's Energy Sustainability Engineering Technologies (ESET) program in 2019, Jakemen is interested in all things energy, from photovoltaics to energy management and educating others. He worked with CARP to lead two energy sustainability projects over the past few years. He is currently an Energy Advisor in training for Sustainable Housing and hopes to continue work in the energy sector.



### Morgaine Mason- Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Morgaine has a bachelor of Commerce from Saint Mary's University, as well as a diploma from the NSCC's Energy Sustainability Engineering Technology program. During her time at NSCC she gained additional knowledge through the Canada Green Building Council by earning her LEED GA designation. Upon graduation she worked for CARP as a Sustainable Energy Coordinator, she is interested in continuing her career in the field of clean energy. Morgaine has since moved on to working for Solar Ascent, a Halifax based solar company, as their Solar Systems Designer.



### Matthew Henry, Dawson Edwards and Brandi Ross- Highschool co-op students

We were fortunate to have a great group of co-op students from Annapolis West Education Center working with us this year. Matthew and Dawson helped with a bit of everything, from nest box repair and installation to Christmas Bird Count preparation. Brandi was our resident artist, painting seasonal watershed-themed murals in the front of our office in Annapolis Royal.



Matthew Henry



Dawson Edwards



Brandi Ross

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