



Contact Information:
Phone: 709-522-3222
Email: ibec@eastlink.ca
Web: indianbayecosystem.com

Mission: "We believe that all of us together have a shared responsibility to conserve and enhance our wilderness heritage, that our forests, rivers and streams form the life blood of our cultural and economic identity, and that this priceless gift must be preserved, protected and passed on as our own legacy to generations yet unborn."

INDIAN BAY ECOSYSTEM NEWS

Message from the Executive Director

I would like to start with a brief introduction - my name is Steve Moss and I was recently hired as the new Executive Director for the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation. Born and raised in Gander, I've spent a lot of time in beautiful Central Newfoundland and have been really enjoying this position.

I have formal education in Business Administration. Since graduating from Memorial University in 2006, I have worked for non-profits in various sectors including immigration, regional economic development, and now environmental conservation.

With a background in business and an interest in the environment, I felt that this opportunity was a good fit for me. There are very few organizations in the province that exist to conserve and protect our natural environment, and anything I can do to help promote conservation in Central Newfoundland would be a worthwhile experience for me. In these times, many not-for-profits are struggling with funding to keep operations going. My goal is to work with the board on project based opportunities that will offer long term sustainability for this organization, while completing valuable conservation projects throughout the region.

I love to chat with people about the area and the ecosystem. We're always looking for new ideas to improve the ecosystem. If you would like to discuss ideas with respect to the watershed, I would encourage you to stop in our office in Indian Bay or give us a call at 709 522-3222 or email director.ibec@eastlink.ca.

IBEC Business Plan

Over the past year, IBEC has been working on a new business plan to provide renewed focus and direction for the organization, with more emphasis being placed on developing opportunities that are in line with our mandate and economically feasible. To achieve this IBEC is returning to its core mandate – conserving the watershed, and we are adopting a three pronged approach to conservation: Education and Awareness, Volunteer and Community Engagement, and Ecosystem Management. This will be achieved through project

specific opportunities that make sense both for the protection and conservation of the watershed and the sustainable operations of the organization.

Throughout this process, the field facilities located on Number Two Pond has been a matter of great discussion and debate for the organization, funding partners, and the consultant team. The original dream for IBEC - to develop the field facilities as a Centre for Ecosystem Studies, has not been fully realized. As a result, IBEC would like to advise residents that the remote cottage facilities located on Number Two Pond will be sold. IBEC recognizes the potential of this facility for commercial opportunities such as tourism and ecotourism, however, our mandate is in conservation and protection of the watershed and the organization is not in a position to pursue such development. Through an expression of interest, IBEC has identified potential buyers and we have started the process to move forward with the sale of these properties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Testing and Surveys in the Watershed

Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation (IBEC) has recently conducted water testing of surface waters in the Indian Bay Watershed, and would like to advise residents that samples have tested positive for E-coli at the following locations: Number 2 Pond Boat Launch, Jim's Steady, Number 1 Pond and Adurt Brook Pond. IBEC recommends that all surface waters be boiled prior to consumption. For additional water testing results conducted over the past year, please contact IBEC at 522-3222. Please note that E-coli has not been detected in springs found in Indian Bay and Wareham, but boiling is recommended as a precaution.

Thank you to everyone who completed our Water Quality surveys. Look for our next newsletter for the Household Drinking Water Quality Results.

IBEC Looking to Enhance Salmon and Trout Habitat

Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation is looking to enhance fisheries habitat within the watershed and is looking for information with respect to issues or concerns that could be detrimental to salmon and/ or trout. If you have any information or issues of concern, please contact the office at 522-3222.

IBEC is currently in the process of finalizing the business plan, and we will be looking to engage with stakeholders in order to begin implementation. We will be looking for your input and direction in the near future – so stay tuned or give us a call!

New Staff on the Go

It's finally summer! IBEC has hired two students under the Canada Summer Jobs Program. Marlena Simms of Corner Brook has been hired on as the Field Officer, and Victoria Rogers of Centreville has signed on as the Marketing Coordinator.

Marlena recently completed the Fish and Wildlife Technician diploma at College of the North Atlantic and is currently enrolled at the University of P.E.I to pursue her Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation Degree. She enjoys reading, hiking and fishing. Victoria Rogers has just finished high school at Jane Collins Academy and has been accepted for the Criminology Program at Academy Canada. Victoria likes to read, write and enjoys going to the cabin.

Kids Learn Conservation with Project Webfoot Field Trips

Project Webfoot is a program run by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) it is aimed at elementary students from grades four, five, and six. In June of this year, IBEC partnered with Ducks Unlimited to host Project Webfoot field trips. This field program has had a great impact on students all across Canada and has finally come to Central Newfoundland. This year, five schools throughout the region came to visit the Indian Bay Municipal Park to learn about wetlands and the environment. The schools included Pearson Academy, Gill Memorial Academy, Holy Cross School, Centreville Academy, and Riverwood Academy. A big thanks to Ducks Unlimited Canada, Bonavista North Ducks Unlimited Chapter, partnering schools, and volunteers for their participation and support. A big thank you goes out to Don Sturge, Marjorie Horlick, Earl Horlick, Jennifer Dick, Shane Noble, Kelly Vodden, Jill Pickett and Lorraine Ackerman for their support and hard work.



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Enhancing Bird Habitats with Nesting Boxes

In December of 2012, the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation (IBEC) teamed up with the grade 4 and 5 students of Centreville Academy to work on a joint environmental restoration project to support and enable nesting of the Golden Eye Duck and the Merganser Duck in the Indian Bay watershed and surrounding region. Dr. Kelly Vodden gave a presentation to the students emphasizing the importance of conserving ecosystems habitats for the protection of birds and other creatures, both big and small. The students made twenty one nesting boxes in total and they were placed throughout the watershed to encourage more ducks to stay for the summer. Is this the beginning of a Duck Dynasty in the Indian Bay Watershed? Only time will tell but IBEC will keep you posted on any news. Check out the location of these duck boxes on our website at indianbayecosystem.com.



Also, in early June of this year, grades two, three and four students of Centreville Academy helped with constructing backyard bird houses for swallows and other small birds. IBEC volunteers and staff talked about migratory bird conservation initiatives, and with the help of ecosystem volunteers, staff and teachers, each student constructed a nesting box to take home to their own backyards. All students received a presentation by Shane Noble, Don Sturge, Steve Moss and Ken Roebottom on local bird habitats. Each student got to keep their work and was provided with instructions for placement and monitoring of the boxes. They were also given cool activity booklets with a theme of birds and the environment. Forty bird boxes were constructed. Thanks again to teachers, students, volunteers, and funding partners for their support.

