

Indian Bay Ecosystem News

Vol. 2 No. 1 Winter 2006

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 legacy to generations yet unborn."

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Welcome to the second issue of Indian Bay Ecosystem News. This newsletter is meant to share information with the community about the activities of the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corp. (IBEC) and other users and managers of the Indian Bay watershed. Keep yourself informed on the latest research findings, enforcement reports, new and proposed regulations and more! In this issue:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Indian Bay Watershed Research Symposium March 14 & 15th, 2006

Speakers on watershed resources and research
Indian Bay Field Research Centre, No. 2

2) Indian Bay Ecosystem Corp (IBEC) Annual General Meeting

April 6, 2006 7 pm

Become a member and vote for your local Board of Directors.
IBEC office, Indian Bay

Everyone is welcome! Call the office for more information.

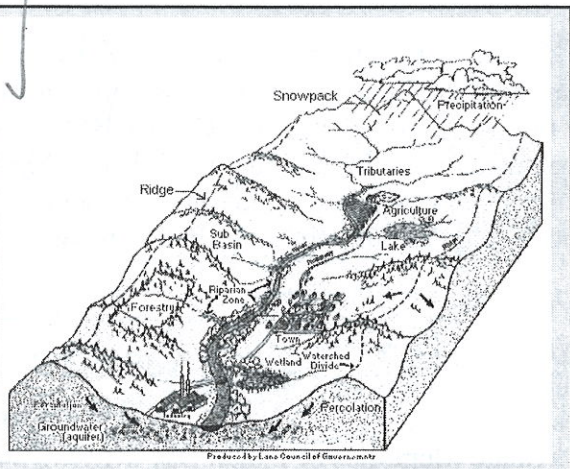
Message from the President

It's been a busy year at IBEC, and a stressful one at times waiting to hear if the funding would come through to make the Indian Bay Centre for Ecosystem Studies become a reality. Well it did! 12 jobs were created along with the beginnings of a world-class facility that will bring economic, educational and environmental benefits to our communities and our watershed for many years to come. The Board and staff remain committed to making the Centre a success, encouraging universities and other institutions to bring their research and field classes to Indian Bay. While working to get new research and education initiatives going we have also worked hard to maintain our existing programs going, particularly compliance monitoring and the annual creel survey. These programs help us protect our valuable fisheries resources. Thanks to all of you who provide information on your catches each year. With your help we can monitor how fish stocks, and catches, are doing in Indian Bay and make better management decisions. IBEC accomplishments are community accomplishments.

See you on the pond, Johnny Waterman

From the Hills to the Bay: The Indian Bay Watershed Ecosystem

An ecosystem (short for ecological system) is a group of living (biological) and non-living (physical, chemical) things interacting with each other. IBEC's ecosystem of concern is the Indian Bay watershed. A watershed is one of many types of ecosystems. Within a watershed there are also forest ecosystems, wetland ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems and coastal ecosystems, all working together. There are also smaller sub-watersheds within larger ones.



A watershed is the land over and through which water flows to reach a common water body. It includes surface and groundwater drainage. All land is a part of a watershed. In every watershed, small streams flow into larger streams, which flow into rivers, lakes/ponds, and, in coastal watersheds, saltwater bays. The smallest streams at the outer limits of a watershed are called headwaters. Headwaters are often located at higher elevations. Hills such as Old Jingle are found throughout the Indian Bay watershed and are a source of water supply. Water follows gravity and the contours of the landscape into the streams and rivers below. Ridgelines of mountains or hills often divide two watersheds (such as Indian Bay and Trinity waters). A watershed is identified by the name of the body into which its waters flow. In the Indian Bay watershed waters drain into more than 16 ponds and steadies through many brooks and streams, into Indian Bay River and finally into Indian Bay, the estuary where fresh and saltwater meet. A coastal watershed extends, according to some definitions, to the limits of freshwater influence on the marine environment. There are many factors, such as temperature and sediments, which can influence fresh/salt water interactions in coastal bays. These interactions, and how they might influence fish stocks for example, are just one of the things we can learn more about through the Indian Bay Centre for Cooperative Ecosystem Studies.

Healthy watersheds do many things. They receive, store and release water, including clean water for our drinking supplies. They provide flood control, forest, wildlife and fish resources. They absorb and filter contaminants from the soil, water and air. Bogs and wetlands play a particularly important role in many of these functions. With too much human pressure wetlands and watersheds can no longer do these jobs properly. The biggest source of marine pollution around the world is the waters that empty into the ocean through coastal watersheds. Clean, healthy watersheds mean healthier freshwater environments and healthier oceans. By looking after Indian Bay watershed we can do our part to protect our forests, ponds, rivers, wetlands and oceans for the future.

Update on the Indian Bay Centre for Cooperative Ecosystem Studies

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation. A great deal has been accomplished in the development of the Indian Bay Centre for Ecosystem Studies (the new field school and research station). Construction of a new wet and dry laboratory on No. 2 Pond and a trail between the existing field research centre and the new lab began in Fall 2004. The lab is nearly complete. New equipment will be added over time to meet the needs of visiting students and faculty. The next stage was to build four chalets and a classroom. Construction of the first two chalets began in June 2005 with a crew of six local

carpenters and trainees, supported by Human Resources Development Canada. In October 2005 IBEC received news that funding had been received from federal and provincial governments to complete the additional buildings. A second crew of six was hired in November 2005. Work will continue until funding is exhausted. These new facilities have given the Indian Bay Centre for Ecosystem Studies an edge in the competitive market for researchers and students interested in studying the ponds, lakes and forests of Newfoundland and Canada.



The Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation has used the new facilities to build upon existing relationships with past researchers working in Indian Bay, and to attract new researchers to the watershed. Memorial University of Newfoundland Department of Biology, a long time partner of the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation will be offering the inaugural field course at the new field school in April. Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, is also in the process of developing a field course for the Indian Bay field school. If all goes well 10-30 students will contribute to the local economy and provide revenue for the continued development of the Centre.

Fisheries research has also continued over the past year at Indian Bay. Dr. Ian Fleming, Director of the Ocean Science Centre, has started a project examining the spawning behaviour of ouananiche and salmon in the Third and Fourth pond area of the watershed. Dr. Daniel Ruzzante, Dalhousie University, has been studying genetic structure of the Arctic Char population in Wings Pond. Dr. Blair Adams, Ocean Science Centre, has been working with Dr. David Cote, Parks Canada, to develop a new approach to brook trout and salmon management using data from Indian Bay and three national parks (Terra Nova, Gros Morne, Fundy).

In the short term the Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation will be hosting it's annual winter awareness campaign. This year however the focus of the meeting will be to bring together potential researchers and current researchers interested in working in Indian Bay and to exhibit the new facilities to professors who might bring in students in the future. Traditional fisheries and watershed issues will also be examined.

Want to learn more about past, present and future research in Indian Bay? Attend the **Indian Bay Research Symposium March 14-15th**. Call Patricia at 678-2565 for more information on speakers and the agenda.



Indian Bay Park and Campground



*Rainbow Reflection,
Thwart Pond (Dirt Brook)*

Pictures Wanted: Help us promote the beauty and history of our area. Do you have any pictures of the Indian Bay watershed, wildlife, fishing, camping, boating or other activities in the area you would like to share? Let us know!!!

Keeping Our History Alive: Community Elders Share Memories of Indian Bay

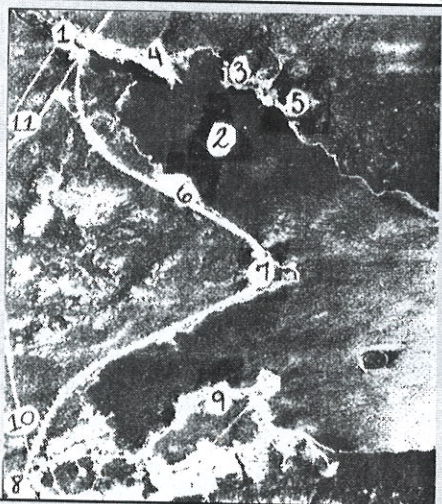
For eight weeks in the Summer 2005 local youth visited community elders from Hare Bay to Valleyfield to learn about the history of the Indian Bay watershed. Melissa Hunt (Wareham), Chris Norris (Trinity), Chilo Winter (Badger's Quay) and Travis Barbour (Wesleyville) spent the summer gathering historical information and photos. The students interviewed: Howard Ackerman, Ralph Yetman and Joseph Hunt (Centreville), Mark Button, Walter Rogers, Roland Hunt, Robert Tucker, John Ackerman, Ken Firmage and Robert Firmage (Wareham), Ray Parsons Sr., Gerald White, Harry Parsons, and Harry Boland (Indian Bay), Tolson Parsons of Gander and Jacob Cutler of Wesleyville (both formerly of Indian Bay), Jonas Glover and Jake Brown (Trinity), Lewis Collins and Arch Collins (Hare Bay), Eldon Stratton, Levi White, Roland Winter, Herbert Winter, Eli King and Abraham Sturge (Valleyfield) and Lester Kean (Badger's Quay). We thank them for sharing their memories and knowledge.

The students' research revealed that aboriginal peoples (presumably Beothuk) first occupied the area, trapping and spearing fish. George Skeffington may have lived in Indian Bay as early as 1720, given rights by the King to harvest salmon from the Indian Bay River for export. William Parsons settled On Parsons Point around 1790 and built the schooner the Indian Queen. There were at lease eight salmon operations in the area. In 1836 the Census listed only one family of five, thought to be William Parsons and family. In 1875 records show that ten nets caught 26 barrels of Indian Bay salmon.

By 1901 there were 40 residents in the community first called Northwest Arm then Parsons Point and now Indian Bay. By 1900 people were mostly employed in three area sawmills, and in a lobster factory built in 1911. In 1921 the International Power and Paper Company (which became Bowaters in 1937) began logging the area. Ships came into the Bay from Norway, Sweden, England, Germany, Denmark and France for loads of wood. Bowaters shut down from 1949-1950 because they were afraid their ships would be torpedoed steaming across the Atlantic during the war.



John Ackerman (1914-2005) operated a sawmill at No. 2 Pond, just below the IBEC Field Research Centre, with his wife Beatrice from the late 1960s to mid-80s.



1. Indian Bay River 2. Log booms,
3. "The Plant", the old settlement,
4. Parson Point/Indian Bay 5. Rhine banks 6. Barker bank 7. Rockcut 8.
- Centreville - "the neck" 9. Wareham 10./11. Old Jingle

Woodsmen travelled from communities such as Silver Fox Island, Newport, Hare Bay, Gambo and Gander Bay to build camps, cut roads, saw pit props, load barges, drive logs down rivers and ponds, load ships and other jobs. They made their own fishing rods to catch a meal of salmon or trout. Ken Firmage remembers getting paid ten cents an hour as a lumberjack. Lester Kean recalls walking two days from Badger's Quay to get to work. After The Labrador fishery some fishermen would head to work in the woods. Bowaters was the main employer in Indian Bay until the 1961 fire. After harvesting the burnt wood, the company left in 1967. It was the end of an era in Indian Bay. Suddenly the woods roads were open to anglers eager to fish the area's famous trout and tourism became a new industry.

With support from the Canadian Heritage Information Network Community Memories Program summer students will gather more information in 2006 and create an on-line exhibit with the photos and many interesting stories they have gathered. The exhibit will be posted on the Virtual Museum of Canada website (www.virtualmuseum.ca) with a link provided from our own website (www.indianbayeco.com).

Watershed-Friendly Riding Tips

Careless snowmobiling can have negative impacts on our watershed. Here's some tips from the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations to help "Keep Nature Beautiful" while we're enjoying it!!

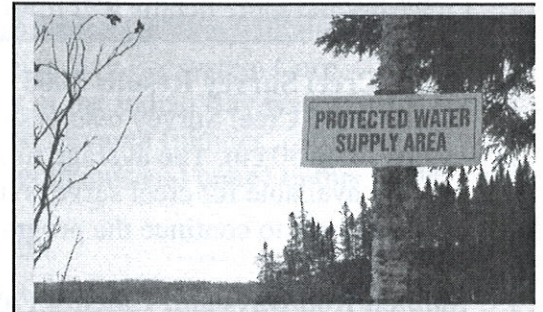
1. Leave Tracks, Not Trash - *If you had room to carry it in respect nature by carrying it out*
2. Maintain Your Sled - *A well-tuned machine is more reliable and environmentally sound*
3. Protect Wildlife - *Keep your distance, animals are vulnerable and under stress in the winter*
4. Keep it Quiet - *Avoid aftermarket pipes that increase noise*
5. Stay on the Trail - *Reduce your impact by riding on organized trails*
6. Avoid Sensitive Areas - *There are lots of other places to ride*
7. Embrace New Technologies - *Mother Nature appreciates more efficient and effective snowmobiles*
8. Spread the Word - *Snowmobiles have improved continuously, responsible snowmobilers care*

(From www.ccsso-ccom.ca)

Resource Bulletins

North West Waters Included in Indian Bay Fishing Regulations

After concern was expressed that an important part of Indian Bay watershed required attention, North West waters are now included in Indian Bay Fishing regulations. North West Brook and five ponds (North West, Spurrell's, North, Big Northwest and Dam) are now patrolled by IBEC Compliance Monitors to protect the system's significant trout and salmon resources.



Pit props from Indian Bay River



Model of Camp 32, Spurrell's Pond constructed by Roland Winter

New Five Year Forestry Planning Process Underway

A new five-year forestry planning process has been launched for Districts 4, 5, 6 and 8. A Planning Team of 20-30 members will develop the plan through a consensus process facilitated by Dr. David Smallwood of Corner Brook. IBEC has three members participating on the Team (General Manager Winston Norris and Board member Murray Wells representing IBEC and IBEC Board member Gary Collins representing Gambo-Indian Bay Development Association). Also represented are

federal Fisheries and provincial Environment departments, the sawmilling industry and the two major companies with cutting rights in the Indian Bay ecosystem and throughout the Plan area – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper (CBPP) and Abitibi Consolidated. The Committee will meet regularly from now until June to hear the interests and concerns of stakeholders, including blueberry producers, tourism and watershed groups. The Plan must fit within the Province's Twenty Year Forestry Development Plan (1996-2015). After the Plan is approved companies must also submit yearly operating plans to the Planning Team to ensure compliance with the Five-year Plan.

Abitibi has been logging in the western portion of the watershed along the southern portion of Fourth Pond, moving towards Southern Pond. Areas between and to the west of Southern and Little Wings were scheduled for harvest by CBPP in 2005 but have not yet been harvested. Through negotiations with IBEC in the previous five-year plan, CBPP agreed to leave a 150 m managed buffer

around Little Wings Pond (compared to the 50 m required for a water supply area) and to remove Southern and Big Wings from the harvest plan, leaving these areas pristine for study purposes. Similar issues will be discussed in this five-year planning round. A forestry plan for 2007-2012 will be available in June and will be put out for a 35-day period of public review. For more information phone IBEC (678-2565) or Gander Forestry office (Brian Carter, 256-1455).

500 m No-Development Buffer on 3rd, 4th and Southern Pond

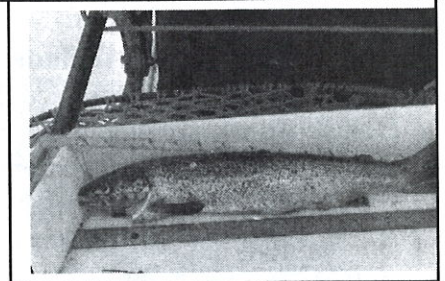
Crowns Lands Land Management Division has approved a 500 metre no-development buffer zone for 3rd, 4th and Southern Ponds to help leave the areas for pristine for purposes of study and wilderness enjoyment.

Ouananiche Bag Limit Proposed

New fisheries management regulations provide the ability for DFO, upon the request of organizations such as IBEC, to utilize special management measures such as separate management by species (e.g. ouananiche) or by length limit. A bag limit for ouananiche is under consideration by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and more details will follow.

Trout Creel Survey Results 2005

Winter 2005 Creel Survey results show the average size of Indian Bay trout caught to be 30 cm. The average time to catch a trout was 1.2 hours. Funding was not available for creel surveys in the summer of 2005. Funding support has been received to continue the program in the 2006 winter fishing season.

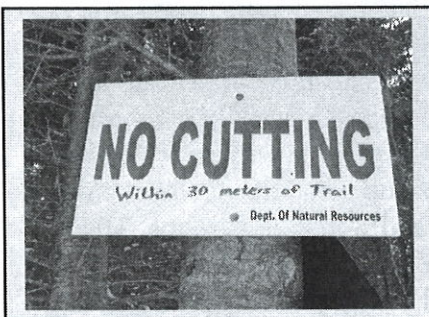


Salmon Rod Days and Catches Fall in 2005

The number of reported angler/rod days of salmon fishing on the Indian Bay River fell from 1019 days in 2004 to 912 in 2005 and the catch fell from 317 fish to 275. No large salmon (greater than 63 cm) were caught. Catches and rod days have been significantly lower over the past eight years than mid-1990s levels. Rod days and catches also fell across the Province (from 91,151 days in 2004 to 81,283 in 2005 and from 41,057 fish caught to 32,645). Average number of fish caught per day was higher province-wide (0.4) than in Indian Bay River (0.32).

Compliance Monitoring (Enforcement)

Compliance Monitors Nat Dyke and Clayton Mathews patrolled Indian Bay waters in the 2005 winter and summer fisheries, with financial assistance from DFO and provincial INTRD. Funding was not received until two weeks after fishing commenced in February 2006. Monitors began patrolling the Indian Bay fishery on Monday February 19th. Officers from Prov. Dept. of Natural Resources and DFO also patrol the region. At least one charge was laid by DFO in 2005 for netting salmon. Conservation Officers with the Department of Natural Resources were active in the Indian Bay Ecosystem management area last year monitoring the activity of resource users. Several violations were detected and charges laid against individuals for illegal activity. In one case an individual from Trinity received a two-month jail sentence, two years probation and was prohibited



from hunting for five years in an incident involving the harassment and killing of a moose. There were also several other cases where individuals from various communities received fines related to illegal fishing activity. Enforcement of wildlife regulations and protection of all of our natural resources will continue to be a priority for Conservation Officers responsible for patrolling this area in 2006.

Help protect our environment and natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Report violations to Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS/8477**. Cash awards and guaranteed anonymity for information leading to the arrest of or charges against criminal offenders.