

INDIAN BAY ECOSYSTEM NEWS



Mission Statement: 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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Winter 2016/2017

Message from IBEC Chair:

As chair of IBEC, I am pleased to report that our organization continues to focus its attention and efforts on environmental protection and conservation in the Indian Bay Watershed, as well as expanding the scope of its work throughout the Bonavista North region.

In this newsletter, you will read highlights of our most recent projects in restoring the habitat for fish and other wildlife species in the watershed and region. We thank all those who have contributed to our work, including the people who have shared their local knowledge regarding the problems they have witnessed in our brooks and streams which directly affected fish migration and resulted in some of our restoration projects.

Over the past couple of years, through meetings and surveys, IBEC has gauged the public response regarding the priority concerns of people in the region and a top priority for everyone remains the protection and conservation of our inland trout and salmon stocks. Please remember however, that IBEC's role is not that of enforcing government fish regulations, but rather that of promoting public education and awareness.

One of IBEC's latest initiatives has been that of advocating for an extension to the Indian Bay "special trout management zone" to include adjacent ponds and rivers to the north and south. Last winter IBEC conducted surveys with trout fishers regarding extending the special trout management zone and received very positive feedback to take further action in this regard. While we have witnessed some encouraging fish catch/data results within the Indian Bay watershed, the same doesn't hold true for many other ponds across the region. We extend an invitation to everyone to attend community public consultation meetings regarding trout management, to be held in New Wes Valley and Centreville-Wareham-Trinity, in January 2017. (See public notice regarding these meetings on next page)

I leave you with this recent statement which I heard on the news from the "World Wildlife Federation - 58 % of all wildlife that existed in the 1970's don't exist today and by 2020 this figure will be up to 67% for all wildlife." These figures are startling and point to a desperate need to act now because doing nothing and being complacent just won't cut it!

"The activist is not the person who says the river is dirty. The activist is the person who cleans up the river." - Ross Perot

We all have a shared responsibility to care for this planet of ours and particularly doing our small part in our own "back yard and playground," where we enjoy our snowmobiling, ATVing, hiking, boating, fishing and hunting!

In conclusion, I thank all IBEC board members, staff and volunteers for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the cause!

Don Sturge
Chair



Winter 2016/2017

Announcements:

Indian Bay Ecosystem Public Meeting
Trout Fishery Discussion

The Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation is hosting a public information session to engage the community in a discussion regarding the survey results from the 2016 winter trout fishing season and proposed extension of the Indian Bay special trout management zone. This meeting is also an opportunity to hear about the recent projects that IBEC has completed, ask questions, voice concerns and offer new ideas. Please come along and bring a friend!

January 19, 2017
7:30 pm
SUF Hall, Badger's Quay

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January 25, 2017
7:30 pm
Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation Office, Indian Bay

2016/2017 Project Overview:

This year IBEC received funding from various government and non-government organizations to undertake 7 habitat restoration projects throughout the Bonavista North region. Work was completed at Spurrells' Brook, #1 Brook, Adurt (Dirt) Brook, Skippers Brook as well as on various wetlands; and included activities such as sandbar removal, pulpwood clean up, culvert replacement and beaver dam removal. The goal of these projects is to improve wildlife habitat and provide increased access for Atlantic salmon and brook trout.

Photo Gallery:



Restoration work completed where Spurrells Brook runs into Big Northwest



Culvert replacement at Adurt (Dirt) Brook/37 Branch



Centreville Academy Community Garden Field Trip Spring 2016



Pearson Academy Duck Box Building Workshop Fall 2016

**For more information about our projects or organization please visit our website:
www.indianbayecosystem.com or follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/Indian-Bay-Ecosystem-Corporation**