



EDUCATION REPORT- TOURS/WORKSHOPS

Our school tours and workshops continued throughout the winter and into spring and summer with physical distancing measures remaining in place. Our numbers reflect a highly successful season with 130 classes and 2500 students visiting the preserve. We are looking forward to continuing to host classes from local schools once school resumes in the fall.



ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND GRANTS

Thanks to New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund for continuing to fund our water monitoring and education programming at the MRA. This grant also helps with overall watershed activities including things such as trash clean-ups, ecological surveys, etc.



SUMMER STUDENTS

This summer, we were able to hire two summer students through The SEED program and the Canada Summer Jobs program. Keiran Rioux and Jordan Green have been working alongside MRA staff on a variety of tasks and projects over the past few months. Initially they were kept busy assisting with a very full schedule of school tours and workshops. They hike all the trails on a regular basis and perform various trail maintenance tasks such as removing trees that have fallen across the trail, removal of litter, hand removal of invasive plants, structural repairs to bridges and handrails etc.



They have assisted with our water monitoring programs, collecting samples regularly as well as deploying and checking on the various devices we use for water monitoring. They were involved in preparing the new benches and moving them onto the trail which was no small task. Another large project the students tackled this summer was the revitalization of our current website. They will be finishing up on August 6th and will be very much missed. We want to wish them well as they return to university to continue their studies.



WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Our monitoring programs are in full swing here at the MRA. We are currently participating in 2 monitoring programs. The first, our regular water quality monitoring work, has been ongoing for over 15 years. This involves taking water samples from 2 sites in the Meduxnekeag River and 2 tributaries of the Meduxnekeag. Samples are taken twice a year, once in July and once in October. The samples are then sent off to a lab where they are analysed before the results are recorded and sent back to us. We check the results to make sure they are consistent with data from previous years before uploading the information to Atlantic DataStream. This year we have added a new component to our water quality monitoring program by deploying temperature loggers in some of the tributaries of the Meduxnekeag.



This data will give us a baseline to refer to as climate change impacts the temperature of our freshwater systems. This work is funded by the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund and the data we collect is shared with the province. The second monitoring program we are participating in involves cyanobacteria monitoring. This monitoring is part of a larger project that ACAP Saint John is undertaking to monitor cyanobacteria in the Wolatoq (Saint John) River and its tributaries.



We placed cyanobacteria collectors that look like teabags and temperature loggers in the Meduxnekeag River in 2 locations (one in Woodstock near where the river empties into the Wolatoq and one further upriver) in June. After being in the water for a month, we take the collectors out of the water, replace them with new ones, and collect a water sample from each site. The month-old collectors are frozen until they are sent off for analysis which determines whether harmful cyanotoxins are present in the water. The water samples are also sent for analysis. We continue this process throughout the summer, changing collectors every month from June- October. Although this is the second year that we have participated in this project, we have not received results from last year's monitoring because of delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Keep an eye out for more information and results on our social media pages.

NEW BENCHES



After many years of use, several of the benches along our nature preserve trails had become rotten and needed to be replaced. With wood donated by Carl Faulkner and the craftsmanship of Jim Galloway, several live edge tamarack benches were built and donated for all our trail users' enjoyment. Staff and volunteers moved the benches onto the trails where they will be well sought after rest stops for our trail users. Wooden barn beams were also salvaged from the collapsed barn clean up on the How property and will be repurposed as more benches for the trails. These benches will be made and placed on the trails in the coming weeks for everyone to enjoy!



How Property Clean Up

One of the MRA's more recent land acquisitions, the How Property, had the remains of a collapsed barn on the site. Clean up and removal of the debris was a big job but with the help of the carpentry class at NBCC, we have removed all evidence of the old barn and the site is looking fresh and healthy. Thanks to everyone who helped with the cleanup. We really appreciate it!



MEDUXNEKEAG RIVER ASSOCIATION 50/50 WEEKLY LOTTERY

The Meduxnekeag River Association 50/50 Weekly Lottery, operated by The Lotto Factory Global, is ongoing. Due to a series of non winners, the current jackpot stands at \$2636. Tickets are \$2 each. Single tickets can be bought or you can pay for up to 52 weeks in advance. Proceeds from this 50/50 draw support our extensive outdoor environmental education programs and help us to acquire ecologically sensitive properties.

WEBSITE

We revamped the website's aesthetic and organization. We have updated nearly everything appearance wise to make the website more accessible and user friendly. The content has been organized in a way that better reflects our priorities as an organization and the needs of our supporters. We hope you'll take a look because a lot of work went into it!