

🍷Kensington North Watershed News🍷

Watersheds

A watershed comprises the land drained by a river and its tributaries. The boundaries of a watershed establish the natural limits for managing the relationship between human activities and the natural environment. The goal of managing a watershed is not simply to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Watershed planning and management is a community-based initiative to help protect our water resources. Watershed planning allows residents, landowners and others with an interest in the future of the watershed to make their own decisions on how to manage the watershed for the future. As more and more people become concerned with water quality and overall environmental quality, Watershed Planning has been undertaken in an ever-increasing number of watersheds around the world.

Our Local Watersheds

The watershed groups that are currently active in our Kensington North area are Sea View and Indian River. In the past, groups were also active in streams in Margate and Spring Valley. These groups consist of a board of local volunteers, who then obtain funding from various government sources to hire summer crews and address specific projects and tree planting.

The streams in our neighborhood of watersheds are in a variety of conditions, mainly according to the amount of recent effort that has been put into their improvement. Some of the streams in the Sea View, Cousins and Indian River systems have received much attention. Silt traps have been put into place to catch sediment. Brush mats have been constructed to narrow stream sections, consolidate silt, and increase the flow

rate. Stream health has benefited from larger projects such as replacing culverts with bridges for better flow and improved fish passage. Other streams have not received any attention, and require extensive work. In recent years, the importance of water quality, keeping groundwater safe for human consumption, has added to concern.

The Future – Bringing Together Groups and Communities

As the initial work on some streams is being concluded, the work being required in neighboring watersheds is becoming more evident. In recent years, the crew from the Sea View Watershed has been invited to do work on streams in French River, Baltic River, and Campbell's Pond. The Sea View group has also co-operated with the Indian River group on work in the Indian River system.

The recent report on the public consultations on managing land and water on a watershed basis, We are all downstream We are all upstream We are all part of a watershed (Environmental Advisory Council, April 2007) contained several recommendations, one of which is that “Efforts be made to consolidate watershed groups by encouraging smaller groups on a watershed or in closely related watersheds, to join together ...”

There are several reasons behind the initiative to combine the watershed groups in our area.

- established network of volunteers and workers
- extended need for stream work
- increased public awareness of environmental issues

- increased awareness by the provincial government
- desire to formalize existing relationships under one group

Challenges

- acquiring regular and timely funding for employment and projects.
- engaging sectors of the community that have not worked together in the past
- making a significant impact on the environmental needs of the area
- creating a core group of volunteers who will see projects through
- resolving conflicts without creating alienation
- supporting all sectors of the community, including residents, farmers, aquaculturists, fishermen, recreational users.

The Plan

In the coming weeks, the existing watershed groups will approach landowners and key

individuals in neighboring areas, as well as politicians and government organizations. If sufficient interest is demonstrated, a public meeting will be held to form a new larger organization of watershed groups in our Kensington North area.

The following watersheds will be encouraged to make up Kensington North:

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| 1. Barbara Weit R. | 2. Indian River |
| 3. Mills Point | 4. Oyster Cove |
| 5. Shipyard R. | 6. Baltic R. |
| 7. Sea View | 8. Cousins Pond |
| 9. Southwest R. | 10. Tuplin Cr. |
| 11. Durant Cr. | 12. Long River |
| 13. Paynters Cr. | 14. French River |
| 15. Campbell's Pond | |

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