

# 🍷Kensington North Watershed News🍷

July, 2008

## Summer Work

Our summer stream crew has been working hard in hot conditions. Cleaning has taken place in the top end of the Baltic River, as well as Branders Pond system. There have been several brush mats built in the Indian River, and about 1000 trees and shrubs planted in a variety of systems. Upcoming work this summer includes cleaning in the Southwest River in Spring Valley, Adams Creek in Springbrook, the Campbell's Pond system, Long River, and the eastern Barbara Weit river.

The crew will also be creating and staffing a booth at the Harvest Festival. An important summer task will be taking an inventory of the condition of streams in the Kensington North Area to facilitate planning for the future. There are three students and a supervisor performing the outdoor work.

## Name That Watershed

The steering committee that has been guiding the new Kensington North Watershed through its initial stages has launched a contest to Name That Watershed. The name Kensington North was proposed as an interim name, until a permanent name could be chosen. The creator of the winning name will win a small (six foot) native tree and have it planted where they wish. The contest is open to all residents of the watersheds that make up Kensington North.

Please send your suggested new name to:  
[kensingtonnorthwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:kensingtonnorthwatershed@gmail.com)

## Public Meeting

The first general meeting of the Kensington North Watershed will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 17**, time and date to be announced. The agenda will include a summary of our summer work, election of officers, and the discussion of plans for the upcoming year. This important meeting will set the tone for our new watershed for the future.

## Nitrate Water-Testing Clinic

The Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry is renewing its program of free nitrate testing with free clinics in several Island communities where homeowners can test the levels of nitrates in drinking water. A clinic for our area will be held:

**Thurs. August 7, 2 pm - 7 pm**  
Spring Valley Community Centre  
1234 Rte. 102  
Spring Valley

If you would like to participate, simply bring a one-cup sample of water from your private well to the clinic. The sample will be tested while you wait.

For more information, please contact the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry at 1-866-368-5044.

# Alternative Land Use Services

The Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program is a voluntary environmental program for Prince Edward Island's agricultural landscape. The program focuses on ecological goods and services - the benefits society derives from healthy ecosystems. It includes things such as the value of wetlands in purifying water; the value of riparian zones in filtering soil and other contaminants from run-off entering watercourses; and the value of natural areas in providing fish and wildlife habitat. These are just some examples of the environmental benefits all Islanders can appreciate.

As the largest single group of landowners in the Province, farmers have a profound impact on our environment. Farmers have always been the traditional land stewards in the Province, and through the new ALUS Program, they will be eligible for financial incentives to continue with their improved land management efforts. ALUS provides incentives for landowners who want to deliver ecological goods and services that are above and beyond those provided through regulation. These ecological goods and services represent the critical life support systems of the planet.

A key principle of the program is the mixture of public and private resources on private land. Water, air and wildlife are public resources that are impacted (negatively or positively) by land management on private land. It is this mix of public and private resources on private land that creates the need for a landscape level program that delivers positive environmental outcomes. The program also reinforces the public support for agriculture and a working landscape. With the

implementation of ALUS activities on private land, it is anticipated that some agricultural lands currently in production will be permanently retired. These areas that are set aside will not detract from agriculture production in a substantial way since the set asides are generally small. The small areas permanently retired will allow Island farmers to focus their attention on their most productive lands, and will allow the less productive areas that are important to the environment to remain so. Two examples of activities covered by the ALUS program are extended buffer zones around streams and grass waterways in fields. Watershed groups will be actively involved as partners as they work cooperatively with their neighboring landowners to solve environmental issues at the watershed level. By working together, we can improve our environment while maintaining the working landscape, so integral to our quality of life on Prince Edward Island.

The Dept of Environment is still developing the application and guidelines for the program, and hope to have them ready for distribution in late summer.

Submitted by Shawn Hill,  
Dept. of Environment, Energy and Forestry

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The following watersheds are either currently part of, or are being encouraged to make up Kensington North : Barbara Weit R., Indian River, Mills Point, Oyster Cove, Shipyard R., Baltic R., Sea View, Cousins Pond, Southwest R., Tuplin Cr., Durant Cr., Long River, Paynters Cr., French River, Campbell's Pond

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**Contact Us** at 836-5253, or  
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