

# 💧Kensington North Watersheds News💧

September, 2008

## Public Meeting

There will be a public meeting of the Kensington North Watersheds at **7:00 p.m. on September 17 in the Cafeteria at Kensington Intermediate High School (KISH).**

The movement to amalgamate the small watersheds in our area together into a greater, more sustainable group has been well received at the community level. The need to move forward with this organization is clear, and the idea is popular. At this meeting we will be pleased to introduce you to our new transitional executive who will guide our group through the next year.

At this meeting, we also will present to you our new mission statement. We hope that this is a starting point that we can build on as we grow and hone in on our vision and goals.

Also, we will be offering for the first time memberships to individuals, corporations, and youth. The strength of our membership in years to come will determine how well our organization will be run and the success we will have in addressing watershed issues.

**Please come and hear our about our new group and contribute your support and comments.**

## A Permanent Name

The steering committee has settled on a permanent name for our group. **Kensington North Watersheds.** There is a slight difference from what the name we have previously been using. Watersheds is plural, indicating the fact that our organization is made up of many watersheds. There is no single Kensington area watershed.

## Streams Improving After Summer Work

Our summer crew has had a very successful summer. Stream cleaning began in the southern end of the Baltic River, which has not been cleaned before. A large amount of heavy debris was removed from the stream, and flow has increased dramatically.

Work then moved to Indian River, east of Rt. 20. Brush mats were constructed to narrow the river bed, speed up the current, forcing it to clean off good gravel beds. This system is in very good condition after several years of work.

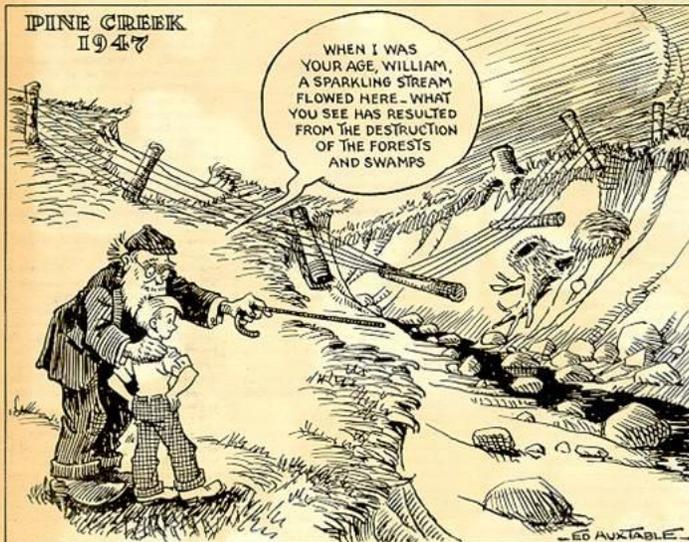
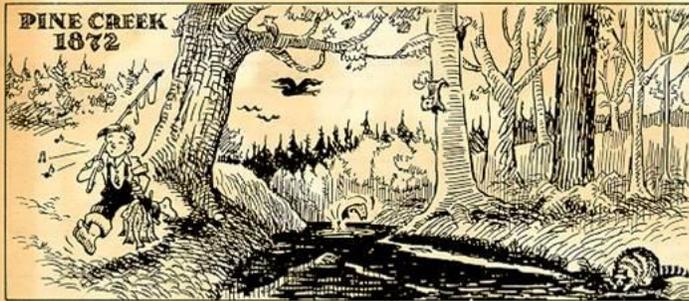
The crew then shifted to the Southwest River in Spring Valley. This system has not been cleaned for several years, and portions have not ever been cleaned. The increase of current after removing debris was again very noticeable.

Preliminary work was done on Adams Creek in Springbrook. Work was also done in the Campbell's Pond system in Park Corner, and in Long River.

Our crew also planted hundreds of trees in several locations, and constructed and manned a booth at the Harvest Festival featuring watershed issues and gave out approximately 250 seedlings.

**Many thanks** to our summer crew, namely Janie Adams, Jonah Martin, Charlie Gillis and Mallory Pickering for helping to make this a very productive year for our watersheds.

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Here is a cartoon from the October, 1947 issue of the Carling Conservation Digest. Published by the Carling Conservation Club of Ontario, the digest published articles dealing with conserving wildlife and the environment. It is interesting to see that the concern for rivers and streams has been around for longer than we may have thought. The lesson here for us may be that the health of streams can improve with our help, and that we have no need, or right, to give up hope. Despite all the challenges that we know that our watersheds have, we have more locations that look like 1872 in our area than 1947.

## Watersheds: Rural and Residential?

Although some people may perceive that watershed issues pertain only to rural communities, there are many reasons why town residents need to be aware of and involved in watershed issues. The Barbara Weit River has been troubled in the past by the sewage waste from the Town of Kensington and the potato processing plant in New Annan. Currently, both the Town and Cavendish Farms have excellent waste treatment systems. The current discharge from the Town's waste treatment plant is lower than even recently revised requirements for waste treatment systems. The good performance of both water treatment facilities are directly due to the demands of our local communities.

The extraction of large amounts of water by the Town of Kensington and Cavendish Farms will continue to require attention in years to come. Kensington, Cavendish Farms, and Summerside all draw large volumes of water from a narrow section of Prince Edward Island. Both rural and town residents will be affected by a decrease in water table and stream levels. Wise use of water is a concern for all citizens. The common ground rural and urban people have in watershed issues is becoming more apparent.