

Let's work together for sustainability

FEBRUARY 2012



Did you know that several individuals have worked for a number of years now, to insure quality of life and quality of the environment for the Kent-South region? These individuals are volunteers and employees of 3 non-profit organizations (NPO): the Kent Watershed Coalition (KWC), the South-eastern Anglers Association (SAA) and the Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group (PCSDG).

This newsletter wishes to inform you on some recent projects these NPO's have been working on, but also wishes to help you understand that these projects can only be achieved thanks to the participation and the commitment of people like you.

Let's participate and get involved!



Kent Watershed Coalition Coalition des bassins versants de Kent

The Kent Watershed Coalition (KWC) is an environmental organization founded in 2000 to manage the Water Classification Program. The Coalition has continued working on different projects focusing on environmental assessment for the watersheds of the Chockpish, Bouctouche, Little Bouctouche and Cocagne rivers. For more information on the Kent Watershed Coalition and our work, please contact:

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Trees of the Acadian forest for schools

In recognition of the International year of the forest in 2011, the Kent Watershed Coalition organized different activities about the Acadian forest. There was a public presentation in Cocagne and a kiosk for the Eco-festival in Bouctouche. Native trees were planted at the Cocagne, Grande-Digue and Notre Dame schools. The species were chosen to increase biodiversity in the region. This project is funded by Environment Canada's EcoAction Community program.



Forest health and biodiversity project

The Kent Watershed Coalition initiated in 2008 a program to evaluate forest health and biodiversity in Kent-South. Individual trees in 20 X 20 meter quadrants were identified, measured and examined for health defects. Each tree has an aluminum tag to enable long term monitoring of growth and health. The NB Wildlife Trust Fund finances this project. If you own a woodlot and would be interested in participating in this study you can contact us at our office.

Community Aquatic Monitoring Program

This program, initiated in 2005, consists of beach seining on the shores of the Cocagne and Bouctouche bays to measure the diversity and abundance of fish species. This is a monthly survey from June to August. We usually find between 7 and 11 different species of marine organisms (fishes, crabs and shrimps). Several thousand fishes are caught and released alive. The data is used to determine marine environmental health in coastal waters. This project is in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Southern Gulf of St Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability.

Water classification program

The KWC measures water quality in the rivers of Kent south for the Water Classification Program of the NB department of Environment. Eighteen sites are visited monthly from June to October in the Chockpish, Bouctouche, Little Bouctouche and Cocagne rivers. At each site different parameters are measured such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, E-coli levels and nitrates. Water quality remains good on most samples in our watersheds.





Groupe de
développement durable du
PAYS DE COCAGNE
Sustainable Development Group

The Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group (PCSDG) has gone by the 10 year mark!!! Our work continues, thanks to your interest, your commitment and your enthusiasm. **Thank you very much!**

The PCSDG is there to provide empowering mechanisms and opportunities to assure a quality of life as well as resilience and sustainability to our communities. We are very happy to receive your comments, your suggestions and your help.

Ecological landscaping demonstration gardens

continue to be developed on the Cocagne watershed school yards. The school community development officers, the teachers, the students, and the volunteers participate in the school yards' planning and will be happy to share their learning and their knowledge with you. Thank you! Thank you!



All are welcome to visit and participate in the ecological landscaping of the Blanche-Bourgeois School of Cocagne, Grande-Digue, Notre-Dame and Camille Vautour of Saint-Antoine school yards. Then, go ahead and try it at home!! Feel free to ask help from the school or contact us: gddpc@nb.aibn.com, www.ecopaysdecocagne.com, 506-576-8247.

The special talk series continues at the Blanche-Bourgeois School in Cocagne, 7pm (if the school is closed that day, the talk will be canceled).

Tuesday 20 March 2012 Mr. Richard Lachance, retired architect, Cocagne, *Pocket Neighbourhoods*, (sustainable community planning model)- in English

Tuesday 17 April 2012 Ms Jane Tims, passionate about plants and sustainable communities, Fredericton, *Gathering and Growing Local Foods*- in English

We are presently preparing our 2012-2013 calendar. Suggestions welcome. Please communicate with us gddpc@nb.aibn.com, www.ecopaysdecocagne.com, 506-576-8247

3rd Annual Local Foods Breakfast

On February 19, 2012.

A great community gathering!



Workshops and nature outings are also popular activities here. Among other things we have learned to salt beans, make sauerkraut, prepare poutines râpées and meat pies, plant and look after trees of the Acadian forest, use a power meter, use pyramid structures as garden helpers and we partook in spring and fall garden cleanups. We also nature watched ducks, shorebirds, warblers, butterflies, mushrooms and trees.

Themes to come : pruning fruit trees, growing mushrooms on logs, nature watch: ducks, warblers, butterflies, mushrooms...

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We need your input!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: What do you think of the idea that someone in your community would be available to discuss with you, in your own home, simple and cost effective ways to conserve energy. If there is a need we could try to organize this for our area. Please let us know if this is of interest:

gddpc@nb.aibn.com, www.ecopaysdecocagne.com, 506-576-8247.

LOCAL ECONOMY: What does this mean for you? Interested in discussing it?

Please share your comments and suggestions: gddpc@nb.aibn.com, www.ecopaysdecocagne.com; 506-576-8247

FOOD SECURITY: What does this mean for you? Interested in discussing it?

Please share your comments and suggestions: gddpc@nb.aibn.com, www.ecopaysdecocagne.com; 506-576-8247

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Striped bass

In 2011, the SAA initiated a project to better understand the dynamics and abundance of Striped Bass in the Cocagne and Bouctouche rivers after having had recent evidence of an increased population in these areas. In 2004, the commercial and recreational fishery were closed and suggested that the Striped Bass be listed as threatened by the COSEWIC committee. Increasing our knowledge on this fish species in our rivers is important.



Fish Friends

This wonderful project was re-launched again this year after being inactive for a few years. The program involved teaching classrooms (grades 5 and 6) the Atlantic salmon life through interactive learning. Four local schools participated this year in which they each had an aquarium with Atlantic salmon eggs. Once hatched, these salmon were released, with the help of the students, proving to be an educational and memorable experience for all involved. We would like to send a special thanks to the Friends of the Kouchibouquais for providing the salmon eggs and the Bouctouche CO-OP and the Atlantic Salmon Federation for the new incubators.



Sedimentation from non-designated roads

Stream surveys were conducted on previously determined sedimentation "hot spots", occurring because of damaged/unmaintained non-designated roads, to assess the overall health of these streams. This information was then mapped to help determine which areas habitat restoration should occur, limiting the effects of sedimentation and improving habitat and water quality.

Restoring the riparian zones to improve the water quality

For many years, the SAA had taught and demonstrated through projects the importance of riparian zones when it comes to water quality. If you are concerned about the health of the riparian area on your property and would like to improve it with simple and inexpensive ways and would like our help, please contact us.

Our coordinates: Telephone 576-8247
or e-mail aprse@nb.aibn.com

