



Northeast Avalon ACAP Sustaining Our Watersheds Workshop 2013

Proceedings Report

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Northeast Avalon ACAP
2nd Annual Sustaining our Watersheds
Workshop Proceedings

Introduction

For the second year in a row, the Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program (NAACAP) – An environmental non-government organization committed to the protection and conservation of the Northeast Avalon Peninsula watersheds – held its 2nd Annual “Sustaining our Watersheds” workshop. Last year the group focused on the substantial increase and threat from development to watershed protection on the Northeast Avalon Peninsula, and this year continued on that discussion thread with the added element of possible solutions to some of the known watershed impacting issues.

While development pressure remains a highly impacting activity on the Northeast Avalon which threatens watershed sustainability, it is not the only candidate. Other watershed impacts on the list include climate change, deforestation, and river and waterbody pollution. Often just a small change in one of these factors can have significant impact on watershed sustainability including filtration capacity, habitat suitability and water cycle productivity.

This year, NAACAP again invited municipality representatives, government officials, environmental non-government organizations, developers and concerned citizens for an afternoon workshop with knowledgeable speakers to highlight the importance of sustaining our Northeast Avalon watersheds. A workshop with an audience interactive session was planned in order to involve the audience in a meaningful way towards the outcome of the whole event. The goal was to re-invigorate those concerned about watershed issues and discuss together some of the proposed and workable solutions that may have been found.

Methodology

The 2nd Annual NEA Sustaining our Watersheds workshop was organized once again by NAACAP staff with assistance from NAACAP board members. Municipality involvement was sought from the beginning, with particular targeting for those with least involvement in this or other NAACAP initiatives during the past years. Invitations for the workshop were also extended to provincial and federal government representatives, non-government organizations with interest in watershed ecology and sustainability, and the general public.

NAACAP staff and board members then compiled a list of potential speakers from organizations whose work can relate to this year's workshop theme. The list included possible representatives from municipal government, provincial government, consulting agencies and other non-government organizations. An invitation to speak was offered via email or telephone communication. Registration forms for the afternoon workshop were posted online on the NAACAP website and distributed freely through email communications and environmental organization postings (Appendix I). A question and answer period was allowed for each speaker following their initial presentation to the audience. Groups of 8-12 audience members also allowed for ample discussion of speaker topics and to bring a sense of togetherness to participating organizations.

In addition to the workshop speaking engagements, audience participation was planned in two ways. A question sheet was devised for handing out during the afternoon, to receive feedback from participants at the end of afternoon speaker engagements, or via mail in of the completed question sheet later. The three questions on the sheet were geared towards understanding what the audience believes are the main issues impacting the Northeast Avalon Watersheds, who is working on resolving the issues and what any problems are to collaborative resolution efforts by them. An additional set of five questions was compiled and an audience interactive session planned for the evening following the evening keynote speaker. Entitled "Visioning for our Future", the premise of this group activity was to get audience participation and solicit feedback, with questions like those asked on the afternoon question sheet. Additional questions were formulated to gather details from the audience about future activities and projects that NAACAP could become more involved with or utilize in future planning.

Results

The title and theme of our workshop was 'The threats to watershed sustainability and possible solutions to some watershed issues'. The workshop was held on February 27th, 2013 at The Suncor Energy Fluvarium, at Nagle's Place, St. John's. This location was the ideal choice for such a workshop as the Fluvarium showcases the living river – the area below the waterline of a

local river where you can discover just how things look and function in this all important sub-watershed ecosystem.

Posters were created in order to advertise the event, and were posted up at the local colleges and university (Appendix II). The speakers were confirmed and scheduled, and the final schedule drawn up and distributed (Appendix III). Printed copies of the schedule were also done, and were distributed to people attending the workshop along with biographies of all the planned speakers for the day (Appendix IV). Setup for the workshop began at 1:00pm, with NAACAP staff ensuring everything was in order for the planned speakers and activities throughout the afternoon and evening. The afternoon workshop began at 2:00pm with an opening message from NAACAP board member and afternoon facilitator, Diana Baird. This was followed by a welcome message and opening remarks from Newfoundland and Labrador's Environment and Conservation Minister Tom Hedderson. The afternoon workshop then started with the first speaker scheduled taking the floor. A summary of each speaker's presentation follows in the order of original afternoon delivery.

Honorable Minister Tom Hedderson (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation)

Minister Hedderson opened the afternoon proceedings stating the importance of continued sharing and discussion amongst environmental stakeholders such as through NAACAP's 'Sustaining our Watersheds' Workshop.

Boreal Streams and Rivers as Indicators of Landscape Environmental Change (Dr. Sue Ziegler - Canada Research Chair in Environmental Science, and Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland)

In her discussion about the indicators of landscape environmental change, Dr. Ziegler showed how climate warming is altering the organic matter reservoir size and quality in boreal forest landscapes. The alteration will have ramifications not only to forest ecosystems but to the watersheds they contribute to. Some of Dr. Ziegler's research involves Newfoundland and

Labrador watershed locations – locations that NAACAP is also concerned about. She also noted that landscape interactions with other major environmental change effects (e.g. nutrient enrichment) is key to understanding stream biogeochemistry and current trends in carbon fluxes.

How Municipalities Can Save Our Environment (Geoff Gallant - President, Stewardship of Municipalities (SAM) Inc., and Deputy Mayor, Town of Torbay, Newfoundland and Labrador)

Geoff spoke about the Stewardship of Municipalities Inc. group and what it means to sign on for any municipality who becomes a member. The group is actively involved in environmental stewardship right in their own municipality and through cooperation and collaboration under SAM, the municipalities work together towards the common goals of environmentally sustainable resource use and being environmentally responsible. It is through this collaboration and cooperation for municipalities across their borders with other municipalities that Mr. Gallant advises municipalities can make substantial progress in saving our environment.

The Pearl in the Waterford: Towards an Urban Ethic of Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship within the Waterford River Watershed (Stephen B. Jewczyk FCIP - Director of Planning and development, City of Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador)

Mr. Jewczyk began by painting a picture of the current watershed status for the City of Mt. Pearl and specifically the status of its major waterbody The Waterford River. He outlined several threats to this important ecosystem, including climate change and flooding, large storms, urbanization and rainfall estimation. One threat was also the inability for governments to work together towards better watershed management – a threat that could be turned into a solution if collaboration and cooperation triumphed. Mr. Jewczyk proceeded to talk about the initiative to develop the urban ethic with respect to watershed protection such as on-site water retention measures, public education and awareness, and new city landscape regulations and guidelines.

Managing Our Watersheds (Neil Dawe - President, Tract Consulting Inc. St. John's)

Mr. Dawe painted a picture for the audience of how things have changed on the Northeast Avalon over just a relatively short period of time. He talked about the rapid urbanization and the changes in water quality as serious threats to our watersheds. Other threats were discussed and following on there were some points to be made about what we must do to better manage our watersheds. Included was storm water management, better land use planning, and better cooperation between jurisdictions. Mr. Dawe noted the key to success would also be a systems-based approach, with social, ecological, and economical factors all integrated. Mr. Dawe finished off with a case study of the City of St. John's, outlining both challenges and opportunities for the region along with his view of what the next steps are to more sustainable watershed management.

Salmon Re-introduction to City Rivers (Trevor Davis - President, and Scott Nightingale - Vice-President, Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland Inc.)

Mr. Davis and Mr. Nightingale captured the audience's imagination, describing in detail their current project to reintroduce salmon to St. John's City Rivers. The Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland (SAEN) is a group interested in the conservation, restoration and regulation of wild salmonids, and began the project of re-introduction just this past summer. A history of the project initialization was presented, and the Canadian-invented incubator boxes on-hand provided the audience with a visual representation of how the science will work in the field. Mr. Davis and Mr. Nightingale finished by advising what the next steps planned are for the hatchery project to realize its goal of newly hatched salmonid in local rivers.

The afternoon concluded with the facilitator closing out the workshop, thanking the afternoon speakers. We invited afternoon participants to stay as we moved into our supper and evening session with our schedule. The afternoon feedback question sheet (see Appendix V) was availed to the audience, and was particularly targeted to those who were unable to stay for our upcoming evening session. Responses received back are also listed on Appendix V.

The final speaker of the workshop was during the evening, following a lite supper served to participants. Our evening session was facilitated by NAACAP board member Beni Malone. There were some changes in the audience, with some afternoon participants having to leave but new participants arriving who had been unable to attend at an earlier time. This included more students and additional public participants.

Evolving Rivers and Wetlands in Northeast Avalon (Dr. Norm R. Catto - Professor of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Dr. Catto's presentation in the evening centred on Northeast Avalon Peninsula Rivers and Wetlands, with an over-arching theme of change that is occurring, particularly climate change. He showed several types of rivers and wetlands, describing their characteristics and abundance. Dr. Catto explained how the changes to rivers and wetlands are occurring due to human factors such as land use and modifications, and due to natural factors like climate and geomorphology. Stratification was explained and then floods were explored noting the factors that help contribute to worsening floods for the Northeast Avalon such as infrastructure alterations and changes in seasonal temperatures and storm activity.

Following Dr. Catto's presentation, the workshop group session started. With each question our facilitator asked the audience, tables were given 5 minutes to discuss their answer at their individual table. As the allotted time ended, answers to the questions were gathered and compiled. Shared responses were projected via computer onto screen to help keep audience members engaged and informed as the session progressed. Any individual tables having the same or similar answer to a previous table were counted as to prioritize the answers from most popular to least mentioned. Appendix VI shows the questions asked the audience in sequence and their list of prioritized popular answers.

Discussion

As demonstrated by workshop attendance and participation, people living and working on the Northeast Avalon remain concerned about their watershed and the threats to its sustainability. During the afternoon, speakers engaged the audience in a variety of topics dealing with indicators of changing watershed ecosystem health. The importance of understanding what is happening in the watershed is reflected in the language used by speakers and the alarms being raised by them for changes that impact in a negative way. This is clear through Dr. Ziegler's presentation on boreal streams and rivers, and is also visible as Mr. Dawe points out, if we examine activities of our parents and grandparents ways of water interaction and compare it to today. Conversely, positive success stories of restoration like salmonid re-introduction help encourage further support and engagement towards increased protection for watershed areas. It is these success stories that describe what can be achieved if we follow through on our plans and efforts for better education, awareness and strengthened management policies. Municipalities play an important role in those plans and efforts, essentially controlling at the local level what is allowed or not allowed. A good municipal plan seeking best-practices for watershed protection, development sustainability and public awareness can be the key, as outlined by both Mr. Jewczyk and Mr. Gallant.

In opening the evening session with his presentation about changing rivers and wetlands, Dr. Catto was also priming the audience for the group activity that was approaching afterwards. Discussing at length the characteristics of Newfoundland bogs, fens and rivers allowed the audience to envision how natural and human changes were impacting watershed function and make-up.

Participating audience members, both during the afternoon session and evening group activity highlighted key areas of concern. The issues conveyed by the audience were relative to the workshop's subject matter, and was also likely spurred by some of the discussion points presented by each speaker in succession. Participants responding using the afternoon sheet outlined urban development combined with poor/improper planning as the most major issue facing watersheds on the Northeast Avalon, followed secondly by a general lack of knowledge and/or respect [for the watershed]. The Stewardship Association of Municipalities and municipalities themselves were seen as working towards solutions for watershed issues. During

the evening group activity a lack of knowledge and/or respect was seen as the biggest issue, with urban development and poor/improper planning the second most-noted issue.

When asked what gaps existed in watershed research and understanding, groups most often noted the lack of primary ecological inventories (watershed, wildlife, plants, etc.). People viewed the need to allocate funding to this research as the culprit for such a gap, saying there needs to be research investment in order to produce serious and meaningful outcomes. Collaboration and education/awareness were also seen as gaps, needing attention by those who prioritize and work on watershed issues.

When looking towards the future, groups were asked what type of efforts or actions can be undertaken by organizations like NAACAP towards more-sustainable watershed management. Varieties of Involvement and outreach/engagement appeared on people's minds the most, noting ideas such as further discussions and meetings with environmental NGO's and those who are responsible for creating and/or enforcing policy and regulation. Having adequate expertise for an issue was also seen as important, including knowledge of watersheds, and of current policy and regulation and how it applies to the areas where we find them.

Recommendations

Holding a workshop with the goal of strengthening watershed protection efforts amongst like-minded environmental organizations is a key activity in working towards sustainable watershed management. While it is not difficult to attract groups like NAACAP, Rotary Club of Waterford Valley, Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM), Keligrews Ecological Enhancement Program (KEEP), or the various government bodies representing an environmental agenda - it is more difficult to attract those groups seen as holding an important piece of the stakeholder pie to the table. Developers and their development activities are key components of the watershed management arena and we need to work harder to achieve not just their interest, but their participation and support for watershed management workshops in pursuit of sustainable outcomes.

As noted during NAACAP's 2012 Sustaining our Watersheds Workshop, efforts should involve "employing a strategic feedback portion of the workshop to identify the areas and issues of

concern in the region”. This was the aim this year and provided a way for participants to be involved and share with like-minded groups of individuals regarding watershed protection and conservation. Concerns raised allow a group like NAACAP to consider such feedback and responses more directly and with greater weight when considering their future activities surrounding watershed stewardship. This effort is proven to yield positive, informative results with growth-potential for sustainable ideas, and should therefore be continued in one form or another through further public workshops, planning sessions and/or engagement activities. Such outcomes, like those of the 2nd Annual Sustaining our Watersheds Workshop can then continue to be used to inform NAACAP’s activities and goals through the coming years.

Appendices



Northeast Avalon 2nd Annual SUSTAINING OUR WATERSHEDS Workshop

This year we'll explore the risks,
threats and solutions pertaining to
our watersheds on the Northeast
Avalon. Come out and help us
make a difference!

WHEN: **Wednesday, February 27th**

WHERE: **Suncor Energy Fluvarium**

Nagles Place, Pippy Park, St. John's

WHO: **Northeast Avalon Municipal Representatives,
Relevant Professionals, & Interested Public**

Hosted by the **Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program (NAACAP)**, this **collaborative workshop** will give you an opportunity to share your initiatives and concerns about your watersheds, as well as learn from each other and a diverse group of speakers with experience in water issues working towards sustainability.

For further information, contact: Myron King
Outreach and Office Coordinator
(e) myronking@naacap.ca
(p) 709-726-9673
www.naacap.ca

To register, please fill and return the following form:

Name: _____

Affiliated Municipality / Organization: _____

Role in Municipality / Occupation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to attend:

- ☐ Afternoon Workshop and light supper (2:00 pm – 6:00 pm)
- ☐ Workshop Only (2:00 pm – 5:00 pm)
- ☐ Evening Session and NAACAP Celebration (Free!) Everyone welcome (6:00 pm – 8:30 pm)

Please **mail this registration form** along with a **registration fee of \$20.00**:

Northeast Avalon ACAP
342 Freshwater Rd. (lower level)
P.O. Box 8732
St. John's NL A1B 3T1

Mail-in Registration Deadline:
February 20nd, 2013
Registration at the door dependant on seating availability

Flooding **Climate change** **Pollution**

NAACAP is concerned about
our **Watersheds**

Northeast Avalon
2nd Annual
**Sustaining Our
Watersheds**
Workshop

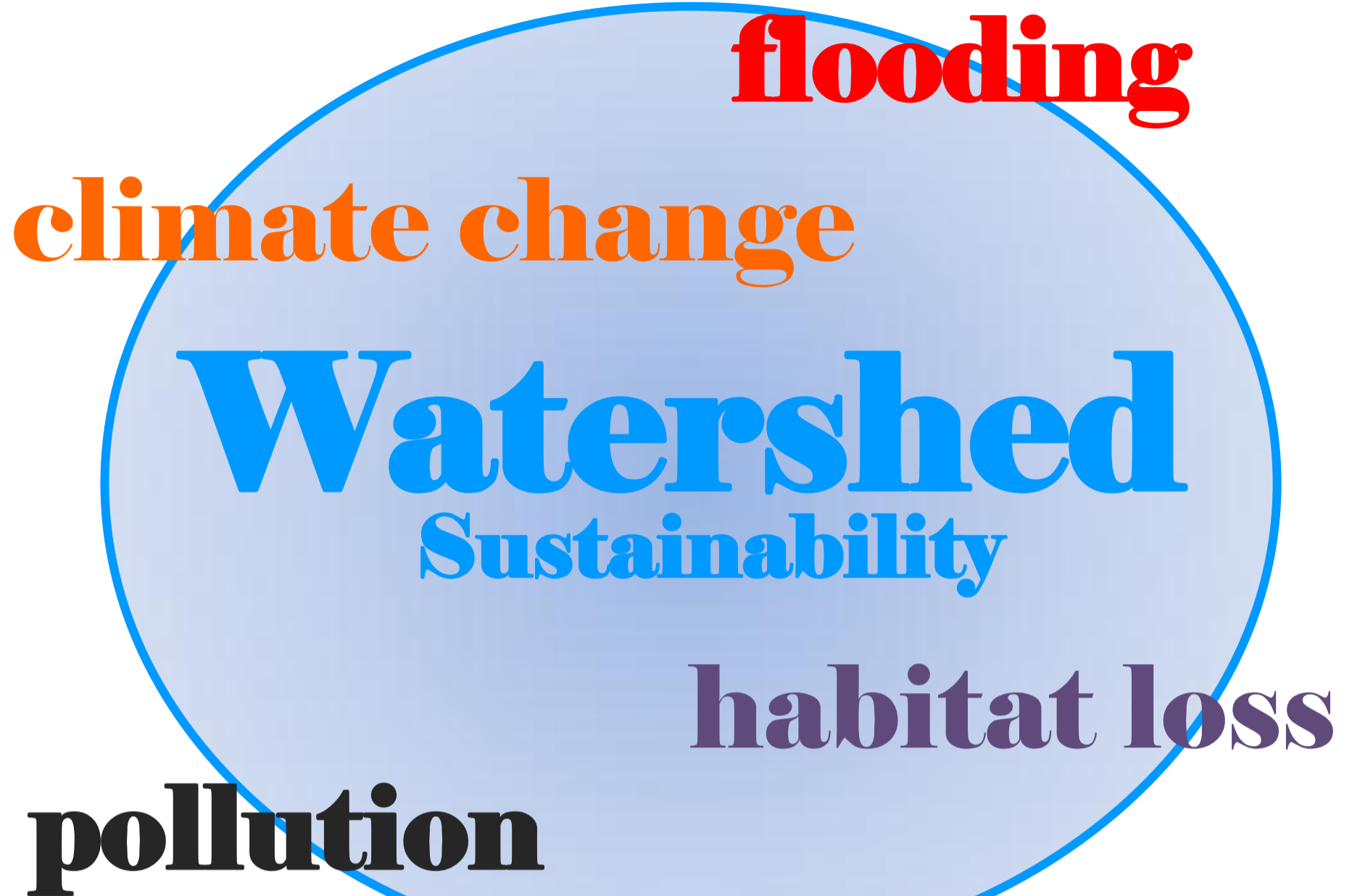
Exploring threats facing
our watersheds and
working towards
solutions to water issues
on the Northeast
Avalon

Wednesday, Feb. 27th

The Fluvarium, Nagle's Place, St. John's
Starting at 2pm

Visit www.naacap.ca
to register or for more details.





**What is
happening in
your watershed?**

Northeast Avalon
2nd Annual
**Sustaining Our
Watersheds**
Workshop

Exploring some of
the threats and
solutions pertaining
to our watersheds
on the Northeast
Avalon

Wednesday, Feb. 27th

The Fluvarium, Nagle's Place, St. John's
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Visit www.naacap.ca
to register or for more details.



Thanks to all our supporting
partners, including:

- Conservation Corps NL
- Rotary Club of Waterford Valley
- Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
- Dept. of Environment & Conservation

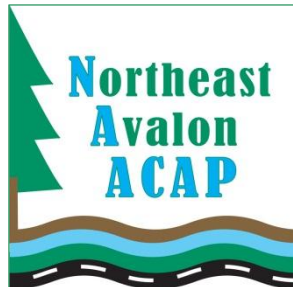
The 2nd Annual **Sustaining our Watersheds**

Workshop



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Canada

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Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Program

342 Freshwater Road.
P.O. Box 8732
St. John's NL A1B 3T1
www.naacap.ca
709-726-9673

Wednesday, Feb. 27th

The Fluvarium, Nagle's Place
St. John's

Time	Activity
1:30 pm	Arrival and Seating
2:00 pm	Diana Baird Afternoon greeting and Introduction
Workshop Opening Remarks	Honourable Tom Hedderson Minister of Environment and Conservation for Newfoundland and Labrador
2:15 pm	Dr. Sue Zeigler Canada Research Chair in Environmental Science Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences Memorial University of Newfoundland <i>"Boreal Streams and Rivers as Indicators of Landscape Environmental Change"</i>
2:45 pm	Geoff Gallant President, Stewardship of Municipalities (SAM) Inc. Deputy Mayor, Town of Torbay <i>"How Municipalities Can Save Our Environment"</i>
3:15 pm	Health Break Coffee, Tea, Snacks
3:30 pm	Stephen B. Jewczyk FCIP Director of Planning and Development, City of Mount Pearl <i>"The Pearl in the Waterford: Towards an Urban Ethic of Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Within the Waterford River Watershed"</i>

Time	Activity
4:00 pm	Neil Dawe President, Tract Consulting Inc. <i>"Managing Our Watersheds"</i>
4:30 pm	Scott Nightingale Vice-President, Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland Inc. <i>"Salmon Re-introduction to City Rivers"</i>
5:00 pm	Afternoon Conclusion
5:10 pm Fluvarium Catering	Light Dinner Soup & Sandwiches
6:00 pm	Beni Malone Evening greeting and Introduction
Keynote	Dr. Norm R. Catto Professor of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland Coastal Issues Chair, Canadian Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations Research Network (C-CIARN) <i>"Evolving Rivers and Wetlands in Northeast Avalon"</i>
7:00 pm	Group interactive discussion with the Northeast Avalon ACAP - 'Visioning for our Future'
8:00 pm	NAACAP 20 th Anniversary Celebration Coffee/tea and cake

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Norm R. Catto *“Evolving Rivers and Wetlands in Northeast Avalon”*

Professor of Geography

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr. Catto joined Memorial University in July 1989. His research interests include coastal landforms, natural hazards, sea level change; mass movements and slope failures; emergency measures policies and effectiveness; response of river systems to climate and weather events, and flood risk assessment; and the impacts of climate and weather events on resources, economic activities, and communities. His research has included projects and investigations in environments in 16 countries, and in all Canadian provinces and territories.

Dr. Sue Zeigler *“Boreal streams and rivers as indicators of landscape environmental change”*

Canada Research Chair in Environmental Science

Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Sue is interested in understanding the impacts of environmental change on key reservoirs of carbon and nutrients in the boreal landscape. Given the unprecedented predictions for climate warming in boreal regions over this century it is critical for us to gain knowledge on how carbon reservoirs that are most intimately connected with the atmospheric CO₂ pool are likely to be altered with warming. Soil organic matter in forests and wetlands represent a significant and vulnerable carbon reservoir currently under intense investigation. We are, however, only recently recognizing the potential regional and global significance of the connectivity between these landscape pools of carbon and the streams, rivers and lakes that receive inputs from these terrestrial pools. Alterations in the source and composition of the organic matter and nutrients caused by environmental change may lead to significant interactive effects pertinent not only to aquatic ecosystem function but also global carbon fluxes relevant to climate feedbacks. Sue and her group are, therefore, interested in understanding organic matter composition and cycling in both soil and stream dissolved organic matter to (1) develop potential chemical signatures for landscape changes due to climate change, and (2) understand potential interactive effects of changing nutrient and organic matter composition on stream and soil biogeochemical cycling.

Geoff Gallant *“How Municipalities Can Save Our Environment”*

President, Stewardship of Municipalities (SAM) Inc.

Deputy Mayor, Town of Torbay

Mr. Gallant is a graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Information Technology Institute. The former Vice-Chair of the Torbay Environment and Trails Committee (TETC) Mr. Gallant lead several successfully campaigns to save wetland and coastal conservation zones in Torbay. As Deputy Mayor and Chairperson of Torbay Parks and Recreation he is working to establish policies of balanced and environmentally sustainable

growth in the Province's 2nd fastest growing community. Currently the president of SAM, Geoff strongly believes by acting locally and cooperating regionally Newfoundland and Labrador has a real opportunity to save our environment before it is too late.

Stephen B. Jewczyk FCIP, *“The Pearl in the Waterford: Towards an Urban Ethic of Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship within the Waterford River Watershed”*
Director of Planning and Development, City of Mount Pearl

Stephen graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical University in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He has been a Town Planner with the St. John's Metropolitan Area Board from 1977 to 1989. Since 1989, he has served as City Planner with the City of Mount Pearl. In 2009 Stephen was appointed Director of Planning and Development and is responsible for land use planning, economic development, building inspection services and communications for the City of Mount Pearl. Professionally, Stephen is a member and former president of the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Atlantic Planners Institute of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Newfoundland and Labrador Branch of the Atlantic Planners Institute. In 2006, Stephen was elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Neil Dawe *“Managing Our Watersheds”*
President, Tract Consulting Inc.

Neil is the President of Tract Consulting Inc., a company focused on providing professional planning and design services to municipalities. He has over 30 years of experience in community planning, design, management, and project implementation. His educational background includes a diploma in Forest Resources Technology, a bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning, and a master's degree in Landscape Architecture. He is formally trained in Project Management, having received his Masters Certificate in Project Management from York University in 1999.

Scott Nightingale *“Salmon Reintroduction to City Rivers”*
Vice-President, Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland Inc.

Scott describes himself as ‘just a guy trying to give a little back’. He is the current vice-president of SAEN and has been deeply involved in their work to attempt restocking City of St. John's Rivers with Atlantic Salmon. Scott advises that SAEN was formed in 1979 by a group of concerned people who were interested in protecting salmon and trout and the habitat they occupy, and he is just glad to be involved with them and helping to do his part in this active community-oriented, stewardship group. Scott is an avid fisherperson on the ponds and rivers of Newfoundland and Labrador and enjoys getting involved in local watershed initiatives.

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK - AFTERNOON

1. In your opinion, what are the major issues impacting the watersheds on the Northeast Avalon?

- Urban/suburban development
- Unplanned (or poorly planned) urban development. A Lack of knowledge / respect. Apathy
- Urban development, pollution, lack of planning, data uncertainties, liability/lack of resources for government to do action.
- Exponential development, lack of wetland/urban forest policy to protect the overall communities & environment.
- Lack of Education, Understanding & Respect of System. Development/Deforestation, Political Will.
- Urban sprawl & improper planning. Hand in hand with that is municipalities rush to take advantage of the economic boom that has hit the Avalon Peninsula.

2. Who is working towards resolving these issues at the municipal scale? At the regional (i.e. multi-community scale)? E.g. NGOs, community associations, developers, academics and government. How so?

- At the municipal level – planning depts. & municipal governments or their consultants. At regional level – SAM with DEC-NF. Input from academics and individuals provide a source of new ideas. I would like to see more Environmental Advisory Committees.
- Dept. Environment & Conservation, MUN
- SAM, Municipalities, NAACAP, Ducks Unlimited, New wave of environmental consciousness in municipal leaders.
- NGO's, Community associations, not developers.

3. What are the major barriers to collaboration around these issues? Can we brainstorm some solutions here/look to other jurisdictions within Canada and beyond for good practices?

- Jurisdictional conflicts pose challenges but are not permanent obstacles. I would like to see more engineers in attendance. Could NAACAP consider a more active effort to attract engineers? Consider a more hands-on workshop for next year?
- We need regulators to enforce & create regulations
- Lack of planning policy, and with 190 contour zone development opened up... watershed protection & flood mitigation is essential.
- Greed & pressure for development that maximizes profit for individuals!

Scan completed document and email to info@naacap.ca, or mail to:
NAACAP – workshop handout return, P.O.Box 8732, St. John's, NL. A1B 3T1

NAACAP “Visioning for the Future” WORKSHEET

Thank you for joining us this evening and participating in our visioning for the future planning session. Our common goal is working towards a more sustainable management of wetlands and watersheds on the Northeast Avalon and to stay informed on each other’s work towards achieving this goal.

1. What do you think are the current and potential threats to the watersheds on the Northeast Avalon?

- Expansion of Urban Areas (2 groups mentioned)
- Lack of regional plan WRT urban area expansion. (2 groups mentioned)
- Lack of enforcement (2 groups mentioned)
- Lack of knowledge /respect/ appreciation (3 groups mentioned)
- Storms and subsequent runoff
- Deforestation
- Fragmentation of watersheds
- Lack of accountability of municipalities
- Lack of funding to research
- Lack of political will (2 groups mentioned)
- Increased erosion, sediments
- Loss of natural bogs

2. Is your organization or municipality currently working on any projects related to watershed protection and/or conservation?

- Rotary, Comprehensive watershed/river plan
- Protection of watershed area (St. John’s)
- Artsmart (Environmental Trails Committee)
- Wildflowers Society
- Brother Brennen Center.
- DFO
- Urban Forest Advisory Committee (2 groups mentioned)
- KEEP
- St. John’s EAC
- Pesticide Coalition
- QV/RR Development Foundation
- NatureNL
- Nature Conservancy
- Manuels River

3. Are there gaps in watershed understanding and/or research today? If so can you suggest what needs to be done to fill them?

- Primary inventories – watershed, wildlife, etc.
- Political will to allocate funds (3 groups mentioned)
- Degree of fragmentation, effect to watershed
- Socioeconomic perspectives on watershed
- Lack of cross-boundary collaboration for watershed (2 groups mentioned)
- Public education (2 groups mentioned)
- Inadequate EA's and conflicting inter-EA group priorities
- Lack of freshwater ecologist/biologist
- Educational approach tailoring.
- Lack of understanding of negative effects/impacts from changes
- Apathy
- Overall lack of Outdoor education

4. What types of efforts / actions can be undertaken by people/ENGOS now and in the future in working towards more-sustainable watershed management?

- Lobby / elect the right officials. Have discussions with them, public meetings, environmental focused sessions. Remind them of policy / policy-need
- Know the legislation inside-out; policy expertise
- Share between groups, experiences, ideas.
- Organize eNGO meeting to have more discussions.
- Join NAACAP
- Facebook / twitter usage. Make connections.
- Engagement
- Seek feedback.
- Involve more near-shore area focussing.

5. In NAACAP's (and St. John's Harbour ACAP's) 20 years of work, is there any particular activity that stands out for you as a success and should be revisited?

- Question became part of general discussion during workshop evening activity closure