

Building Expertise Streamside

Sussex (Oct. 12, 2011) Throughout southeastern New Brunswick groups are working to prevent erosion and run-off into streams in order to improve quality and flow of water in their watersheds.

About 20 representatives of these ground-level organizations boarded a bus in Sussex on a recent sunny October morning to visit stream bank restoration sites in and around the town as well as Millstream and Havelock.

The tour followed a classroom day with Ron Jenkins, a restoration professional with Parrish Geomorphics. Among the topics covered were a watershed approach to watercourse restoration planning, the governing principles of geomorphology, and geomorphic assessment tools for watercourses.

Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee Project Manager Ben Whalen found the exchange of information that took place as the group discussed the site activities helpful.

“Standing on a stream bank during the fall months near Sussex is always rewarding, but during Fundy Model Forest’s *Habitat Restoration Workshop* the reward was not just the colourful and vibrant scenery, but also great discussion with other watershed groups that will no doubt, lead to future partnerships and information sharing,” he said.

The need for the workshop was identified at a meeting of the Inner Bay of Fundy and Atlantic Salmon Forum earlier this year. Watershed groups indicated they needed help in building expertise in stream bank restoration. Subsequently, Fundy Model Forest, which spearheads the Forum, obtained funding from Habitat Stewardship Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to conduct the training session. Partial funding also came through the Canadian Forest Service’s Forest Communities Program.

Stops on the tour illustrated various techniques, such as stabilized cattle fording sites, rock groynes to improve fish habitat, fencing, constructed riffles, tree planting to improve site biodiversity and riparian zone health, and bank stabilization.

While some activities viewed have taken place in the last year or two, the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee started working at the Millstream stop in 2000. Among other activities, approximately 3200 trees have been planted on this 400 metres site. Located on the Millstream River, it is known as the Pleasant Ridge Demo Site and affords an opportunity to see the impact of restoration activities over a period of several years.

In 2010 Agriculture Canada provided funding to establish a riparian science demonstration site where restoration work was taking place on Ridge Brook near Havelock. It is used to demonstrate beneficial management practices to farmers and watershed groups. It includes a solar powered watering system installed to provide cattle with an alternate watering source. One riparian section was replanted this year using the EcoBuffer Concept, which meant it was planted with several species of trees and shrubs that provide various ecological functions (food, habitat, shading, etc.). Environment Canada is monitoring the stream through the CABIN program.

“The KWRC looks forward to continuing these types of learning events with the Model Forest,” Whalen said.



Shifting Trout Creek presents stabilization challenges.

