



flyway

Wetlands of the Rivière du Sud

The Rivière du Sud is a tributary of the Rivière Richelieu that traverses the municipalities of Henryville and Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville. Surrounding the river is a species-rich natural moist forest covering more than 1,000 hectares. It is an ecosystem people are encouraged to discover, and conserve.

A source of community pride

The Rivière du Sud is an outstanding natural environment.

It is the last ecological gem of major significance in the lowlands of the Richelieu Valley.

The wetlands of the river are rich and varied, with areas of open water, cattail marshes, and willow and maple thicket swamps. The topography is dotted with drier hillocks that host extremely old forests of ash, maple and oak.

This environmental variety, together with the area's mild climate, explain the rich biodiversity to be found along the river, which is already known to ornithologists as an extraordinary birdwatching site.

Inventories of the area have recorded the presence of five species that are endangered, threatened or of concern according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):

- one plant: the false hop sedge;
- two birds: the cerulean warbler and the least bittern;
- one reptile: the map turtle; and
- one fish: the chain pickerel.

Loss of habitat is the primary cause of the decline of these species and so it is all the more important to conserve the forest that shelters them.

Rivière du Sud conservation project

The Rivière du Sud has long been recognized as an outstanding ecological environment and DU Canada is putting a great deal of effort into a multi-faceted program to conserve it. The program involves:

- **Protection** through multiple legal conservation options including purchase, servitude or conservation agreements. The various options will be presented to each owner, who will choose the one that best suits him or her.
- **Restoration** with control of the water chestnut, an invasive plant.
- **Education** of youngsters through the Adopt-A-Class program.
- **Sensitization** of the local community to the ecological importance of the marshes.
- **Territorial management** with the assistance of a wetlands conservation specialist.

With the co-operation of local residents, elected officials and users, DU Canada and its partners hope to be able to protect the exceptional environment of the Rivière du Sud in perpetuity.





The Industrious Beaver – Canada's national symbol

To the operators of Nova Scotia's Trans Canada Trail, the engineering beaver can be an expensive and determined nuisance.

Trail operators had a serious problem: Canada's national symbol was damming watercourses alongside abandoned rail lines that make up the nature trails. In some places, they forced water levels to rise 20 and 30 feet, washing out sections of the carefully constructed trail, creating extra expense and a serious morale problem for the volunteers who helped develop the trail.

Thus, trail operators were caught betwixt and between: how to deal with the results of the beaver's work, without hurting these little creatures. To solve the problem, they searched for experience and expertise.

They found it at DUC in Amherst. As DUC habitat biologist John Wile puts it: "Over the years DUC Atlantic Canada has gained a lot of experience learning to live with beavers."

Working with a \$50,000 budget (\$35,000 from the federal government's Eco Action program), DUC staff zeroed in on a 126-kilometre stretch of the Trans Canada Trail along the Northumberland coastal plain in the northern part of Nova Scotia. DUC staff worked with summer students to construct and install 15 beaver-proof culverts and identified 21

additional sites where remedial work is required.

The end result: happy trail walkers and contented beavers. It is what the Trans Canada Trail co-ordinator Steve Vines describes as: "A perfect fit and good experience. It is a great partnership. DUC took on the project and ran with it."



Rob Fraser is the habitat technician/specialist for the NS and southern NB region. He has been working with DUC for more than 20 years.

P.E.I. fundraising in full swing

The new P.E.I. volunteer fundraising efforts are in full swing. The Borden-Carleton Special Events Committee has had tremendous success with its shooting and fishing events. The next fishing derby is May 2004. Plans for the Mount Stewart Committee and the Provincial Waterfowlers' Committee are all coming along nicely. For the New London Committee, the numbers were doubled and eight Adopt-A-Class pledges were made, to date, the highest number received on the Island.



(l-r): Darren Hasson (FM), Wayne Haslam (Silent Bid Winner) and Dale Johnston (Committee Chair)

P.E.I.'s wetland policy at work

In the case of "A Wetland Conservation Policy for Prince Edward Island" early indications from DUC's Tom Duffy and P.E.I.'s wildlife biologist Randy Dibblee show an enthusiastic endorsement of the document and its application.

Since the policy came into effect, Duffy has worked with Dibblee on two privately owned sites where development caused a net loss of wetland. In each case, without resistance, the development proponent financed plans for compensatory creation of new wetland.

Duffy says: "These test cases prove the policy works...before the policy went into effect we simply would have lost two wetlands."

Other cases involved the government's own Transportation and Public Works Department.

"The policy was really successful in preventing loss of wetland," enthuses Duffy. "The highways department was doing a project that would alter some wetland. They had us look at the sites and point out a few things. The supervisors changed their plans and the wetland was preserved. That's the way it should be – no damage, no cost. In P.E.I., the lesson is simple – it's more expensive to destroy a wetland than it is to preserve it."



Special thanks to New Brunswick's conservation-minded landowners

On Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003, as chairman Victorin Godin of the DUC Committee "de la Péninsule" greeted guests in Bas-Caraquet, everyone knew this was to be no ordinary DUC dinner. For the first time, Northern New Brunswick conservation-minded landowners were to be recognized for signing DUC stewardship agreements to protect their coastal habitats for future generations.

That night, the DUC dinner had been sold out and approximately 260 people attended, which was the biggest crowd ever for this tiny community. Among the landowners in attendance were:

Marielle Doiron, Serge and Jeannine Dugas, Yvette Landry and Denise Duguay, Roger Lanteigne, Paulette Blanchard, Simone Doiron, Village de Bas-Caraquet, Aline Theriault, Aline Lanteigne, Rufino Landry, Patrick Doucet, Claudette and

Gilles Savoie, Chantale Gratton, Bernard Friolet, and Marcel David.

These landowners received a special "Attestation de Reconnaissance" – a Certificate of Appreciation from Phil Boucher, DUC's champion for the Gulf of St. Lawrence Coastal Wetland Stewardship program. To date, Boucher has 16 agreements signed to his credit, and at least 10 more awaiting signatures.



Phillip Boucher presents landowners, Serge and Jeannine Dugas, a Certificate of Appreciation at a DUC dinner in Bas-Caraquet. (l-r): Jeannine Dugas, Phillip Boucher and Serge Dugas.

DUC Moncton Ladies Luncheon

Sunday afternoons can be boring but on Nov. 2, the Moncton Ladies Luncheon was enlivening. Many ladies come back year after year and the majority bring a friend. One group of eight said they came together for a "girls' day out" – a time to leave the kids with hubby so they can socialize and have a good laugh.

DUC-Moncton Ladies Committee wants to thank Joyce Hargrove. She believes that conservation education is essential to teach Grade 4 children the value of wetlands so during the luncheon, she pledged an Adopt-A-Class for the Arnold Leach McLeod School. s



BobbyJo Lawson (l) and DUC's Darren Hasson (r) proudly display "Granddad's Legacy" by Ralph McDonald that Lawson won at the Moncton Ladies Luncheon.

A higher profile for Ducks in Quebec

Work on an advertising campaign to boost public awareness of DU Canada in Quebec began in early September. With the help of media partners, the image of a marsh will be displayed all across Quebec, with the caption "Marshes filter water. Protect them: become a member!"

The media involved in the campaign are Pattison Outdoor, which is supplying 100 10' x 20' billboards for six months; Zoom Media, which is providing

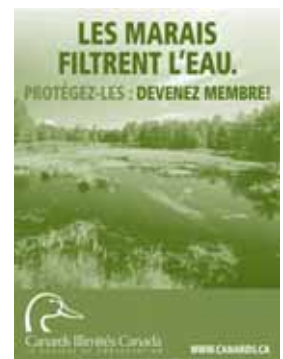
500 spots for posters in bars, restaurants and sports facilities for two months; XPUB, an advertising agent for the Ministère du Tourisme, which is putting a poster in each of Quebec's 24 rest stops; and lastly, Gesca, which is publishing a full-page colour spread in the daily newspapers *Le Soleil* and *La Presse*.

Together, these companies are providing more than \$250,000 worth of advertising placements.

The campaign will undoubtedly help

volunteers recruit new members for DU Canada by facilitating the organization of their fundraising activities.

It was made possible in large part by support from the headquarters of DU Canada in Winnipeg.



Kudos to a gifted auctioneer!

If, one November Saturday, you'd like to experience an entertaining DU Canada dinner, come out to La Tuque!

In most respects, the La Tuque dinner is like any other well-oiled DU Canada fundraiser – the volunteers do a good job and the attendees, for their part, get the message and are generous with their donations.

What is unique about the dinner in La Tuque is the performance by its auctioneer. A talented auctioneer can make all the difference to the success of an event, and this is something the La Tuque committee has come to know well.

For several years now, an auctioneer by the name of Daniel Bourassa has been making the La Tuque dinner the event of the season. Bourassa does more than just auction. Not



Daniel Bourassa

only does he know all the guests, he excels in wordplay and is a master at improvisation. Bourassa is a founding member of the youth division of the local improv league, and even helped organize a match between it and the Montreal improv league, LNI. He is a disciplined person who has been teaching karate at his own karate school for 15 years. A pulp and paper factory employee since 1974, he is a key contributor to the annual DU Canada dinner in La Tuque.

Thanks for your participation, Daniel; your work is much appreciated.

Daniel Bourassa's auctioneer services are available at 819-523-6302.

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The Eider Initiative – flying high

Ducks Unlimited Canada's partnership with other agencies to raise \$1.7 million for the East Coast Eider Initiative in Newfoundland and Labrador is flying high.

DUC volunteers are fully engaged in activities focused on raising the resources needed to make the Eider Initiative an enormous success. Newfoundland and Labrador director Paul Hickey and his team are busy contacting corporations, individuals and foundations. DUC volunteer and professional outfitter Barbara Genge has also been talking with government agencies.

Tim and Barbara Scully of Hooked on Nature Photography donated over seven



Flying eider image © Tim and Barbara Scully

weeks of their professional time to photograph the eiders. They processed more than 8,000 images and donated the best to DUC.

You too can help keep this beautiful bird flying high by calling 709-738-5405

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