



WHEATLEY RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

April has brought us some longer and warmer days! It sure is nice to see the sun shining and to hear the birds chirping. We are very busy here at WRIG gearing up for the fast-approaching field season. In this edition of the Wheatley River Watershed News, we give you a guide to building your own bug hotels, advice on what to do with all the deadwood around, and a look forward to some exciting events we have planned for you this summer!

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



All are invited and welcome to attend WRIG's upcoming annual general meeting. The AGM is scheduled for Wednesday April 19th in the Cymbria Lions Club event room. The meeting will begin at 7pm with a guest presentation by Daniel McRae from the Macphail Woods Ecological Project. Daniel will speak to the group about shoreline restoration and post-Fiona recovery.

We will break for refreshments before getting into the business part of the meeting. The second part of the evening will include presentations of the Watershed Manager's and Treasurer's reports as well as nominations and elections of board members. WRIG would like to thank all of the 2022-23 directors for their hard work and dedication this past year!

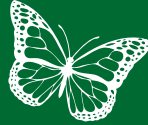




BUG HOTELS

A bug hotel can become a home for bees, lady bugs, beetles, butterflies, spiders, flies & so much more! These spaces offer insects much needed protection and encourage biodiversity.

A BIT ABOUT BUGS



Bugs are an important part of the ecosystem & do all sorts of useful things for us!

They pollinate our flowers & gardens. They help break down organic material & debris.

Bugs are an important food source to other wildlife!



WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZZ?

Rackham's Pond new HOTEL
Coming SUMMER 2023

Water view rooms
Pollinator garden for fine dining

Brand NEW Floating Wetland Islands WITH native flowers & MORE!

Fly, crawl, & creep your way here today!

Room for you & all hundred of your larvae!




Bug hotels can be used in big backyards, tiny yards or even on balconies!

They can be placed on fences, trees, bushes, or on the ground.



CREATING A BUG HOTEL

(A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE)



You will need:

- A frame for your hotel - this could be a pot, plastic bottle, soda can, milk carton, or pallet
- Natural materials such as *pine cones, sticks, feathers, dry leaves, paper straws, lichen, moss, etc.*

Key Tips:

- Start small, use recycled materials, and fill the hotel with different size holes
- Be sure that the hotel has a solid roof so it doesn't fill with water

What to do:

- Carefully prepare the frame so you can place your materials inside
- Arrange materials within the structure... *Think of these as the hotel rooms!*
- Stuff dead leaves, lichen, or moss into the nooks and crannies
- Hang or place the hotel in a sheltered area away from the wind (*close to gardens preferably*)



Bee creative & have fun!



This is just one example of how a bug hotel can look!

ENVIRONMENTAL FUN DAY '23

WRIG & HCWG are hosting the annual Environmental Fun Day at Rackham's Pond where we will have the grand opening of our first BUG HOTEL! With nearly 100 kids from 3 local schools, each will be given the opportunity to construct a room using toilet paper rolls & natural materials.

The kids will learn about nature, in nature, as they visit different presenters around the pond & take part in various activities.

**ARE YOU UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THE TREES THAT CAME DOWN
DURING THE HURRICANE?
READ ON TO DISCOVER A FEW SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH DEADWOOD
THAT WILL ALSO BENEFIT WILDLIFE!**



DID YOU KNOW?



KEEP DEADWOOD

- Provides habitat & food for birds, small mammals, insects, fungi & mosses
- Provides nutrients to the forest & a place where new growth can occur
- Increases the biodiversity and thus the resilience of your forest

- Creates wildlife habitat; a safe place to rest, raise young & escape predators
- Clears space for plants to regenerate
- Clears debris from walking trails

BUILD WOOD & BRUSH PILES



PROTECT YOUR SHORELINE

- Using boughs & logs from downed trees to create a barrier to wind & rain will help reduce the impacts of erosion
- These natural materials will also trap excess silt/sediment and provide a place for new plants to establish their roots

- Supports invertebrate life cycles
- Aids in the formation of pools, riffles & chutes, thus creating fish habitat
- Offers cover & perches for a variety of wildlife

LEAVE DEBRIS IN STREAMS



REPLANT NATIVE TREES

- Forests will regenerate on their own
- Planting species native to the Wabanaki/Acadian forest will increase resiliency to future storms & disease
- Planting native shrubs and wildflowers will provide food & habitat for wildlife

RAIN BARREL FUNDRAISER

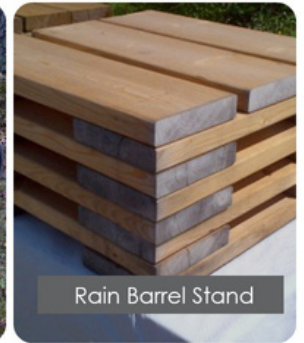


This spring WRIG is partnering with [RainBarrel.ca](https://rainbarrel.ca) to raise awareness about water conservation, to raise funds to support watershed restoration initiatives and to provide you with rain barrels for your home!

How it Works

1. Go to [RainBarrel.ca](https://rainbarrel.ca)
2. In the table on the home page
 - Select province: **Prince Edward Island**
 - Select city: **Rustico**
 - Select: **Wheatley River Improvement Group**
3. Once you're on our page, you can:
 - Shop for rain barrels & accessories (see photo below)
 - Order & pay (or pay cash at pick up)
 - Collect your items at our fundraising event on June 3

Rain Barrel Pick-up Date
Saturday June 3
 Cymbria Lions Club
 Parking Lot
 10:00am - 2:00pm



Tank

Downspout Diverter

Rain Barrel Stand

SUMMER JOBS WITH WRIG!

Are you looking for a summer job that gets you outside, doing hands-on work to help improve your local environment? WRIG is hiring a field supervisor, an intern, and post-secondary & high-school students for the summer 2023 season! Go to our website or social media pages for a full description of the positions. To apply, email your resume and cover letter to Maggie McConnell, Watershed Manager (see contact below).



Email: manager@wheatleyriver.ca Phone: 902-963-3198

WINTER WOODLOT TOUR - LOOKING FOR THE NEXT SITE!



Unfortunately, we had to cancel this fantastic event in 2023 due to unforeseen circumstances. We couldn't source a large outdoor event tent this year and we really struggled to find a site that hadn't been too damaged by the hurricane.

What makes a good site?

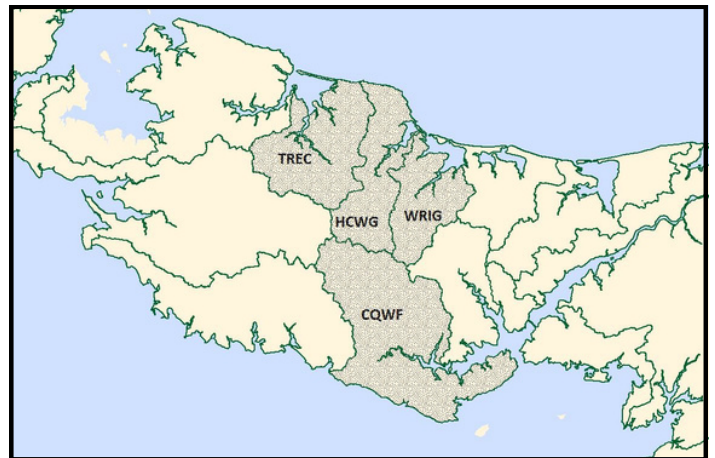
- Mixed-forest woodlot; >3 acres
- Established trail(s)
- Shelter from the wind
- Public road access
- Plenty of space for parking
- Located in the watershed area of one of these groups: WRIG, HCWG, CQWF or TREC (see map)



If you're interested in hosting this event, please get in touch with one of the organizing groups. We take care of all of the logistics and can help clear trails in your woodlot!



For more information on the Winter Woodlot Tour, go to:
winterwoodlottour.ca



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to see improvements to the Rackham's Pond community space while supporting WRIG?

This year we would like to replace the picnic tables at the pond. If you are interested in sponsoring this project, please contact the Watershed Manager. Your sponsorship dollars will go directly into bettering this outdoor area and can include a commemorative plaque.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Picnic Table:	\$500
Volunteer:	Priceless!
Membership:	see page 6

CONTACT INFORMATION

Watershed Manager: Maggie McConnell

Email: manager@wheatleyriver.ca

Phone: 902-963-3198

Website: www.wheatleyriver.ca

Office: 2184 Church Road, Rustico

 [The Wheatley River Improvement Group](https://www.facebook.com/wheatleyriverimprovementgroup)

 [@wheatleyriverimprovementgroup](https://www.instagram.com/wheatleyriverimprovementgroup)

 [@wrigpei](https://www.tiktok.com/@wrigpei)

A Special Thanks to WRIG's 2022-23 Board of Directors:

Renée Pastoor - Chairperson

Peter McDougall - Secretary

Hailey Blacquiere - Treasurer

Kayla Nieuwhof

Jennifer Gallé

Matthew Tennyson

Melissa Boudreau

CORPORATE SPONSORS & FUNDING SOURCES

- Blue Bay Farms Ltd.
- Bluefield Acres
- Canada Summer Jobs Program
- Conseil Acadien de Rustico
- Creekfield Homeowner's Association
- Cymbria Campground
- Cymbria Lions Club
- D & B Developments
- ECO Canada Employment Programs
- Gallant's Country Food Market
- Island Honey Wine Company
- Lilacs and Lanterns
- Oyster Bed Esso
- PEI Climate Challenge Fund
- PEI Jobs for Youth Program
- PEI Watershed Management Fund
- PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund
- Rackham Electric
- Rassicot Farm
- Red Oak Farms
- Skills PEI Student Funding
- Storybook Adventures
- Vanco Farms Ltd.

WHEATLEY RIVER IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2023-24 MEMBERSHIP

Would you like to be a part of restoring and protecting our watershed? This is your chance to help; join or renew your WRIG membership! All proceeds and donations go directly back into the community as we work to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment in the watershed.

Sponsor: \$100.00

Group: \$ 50.00

Family: \$ 20.00

Individual: \$ 10.00

The membership form is also available online here

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Add to WRIG's email list? YES ___ NO ___

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail the completed form and
payment (cash or cheque) to:

**2184 Church Road Hunter River,
PE, C0A 1N0**

Or send an e-transfer to:

manager@wheatleyriver.ca

Thank you for your support!