



# WINTER RIVER - TRACADIE BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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## **Assessing Ecosystem health and fish spawning locations in Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed**

We took on some new projects this fall to gather important data that will help with our future wildlife protection and habitat enhancement activities.

The Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) is a program developed and maintained by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Two of our staff members were trained by ECCC in all the field procedures and data analysis methods necessary for CABIN. Three staff members then sampled nine sites throughout the watershed this fall. At each site our crew collected samples of benthic invertebrates (bugs that live on the bottom of the stream), took measurements and samples for water chemistry analysis, and collected other required data at each site. We are now analyzing this data to help us decide which areas of our watershed need the most restoration work. The results allow us to assign definitive numbers to patterns that we have only suspected before.



Staff also walked through the streams in late fall looking for trout redds – locations where trout have disturbed the rocks and laid their eggs on the bottom of the stream. These locations were recorded using a handheld GPS and maps were created to help prioritize future projects. We have already submitted a grant application for a large project based on this data.



The Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association would like to acknowledge the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund as one of our financial supporters for these activities.

For more details about this and other projects, check out our page at [Facebook.com/WRTBWA](https://www.facebook.com/WRTBWA) or [WinterTracadie.ca](http://WinterTracadie.ca)

### **About WRTBWA**

The association is managed by a board of directors made up of dedicated volunteers who care about the environmental health of the area. As a non-profit organization, we apply for funding from various government and non-governmental programs in order to carry out our enhancement and monitoring activities.

### **About PEIWCF**

The Wildlife Conservation Fund is supported from annual license fees paid by anglers, hunters, and trappers, and from the Conservation licence plate program in PEI. An independent committee disperses money from the fund based on applications that are received. Everyone in PEI with a fox, trout, Lady's slipper, goose, or blue jay on their license plate is helping contribute to this fund.



### **Media contact:**

To learn more about our activities or inquire about volunteer opportunities, please contact

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