



Government Meeting

Recently, we hosted an information session for representatives of the Provincial Government and the City of Charlottetown. We welcomed a diverse group:

- Hon. Brad Trivers, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change and
- Brad Colwill, Deputy Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change
- Lynne Lund, Green Party Environment Critic
- Hal Perry, Liberal Party Environment critic
- Gord McNeilly, District 14 MLA
- Philip Brown, Charlottetown Mayor
- Richard MacEwan, Manager of Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility.

We wanted to show these key decision-makers who we are and what we do. We focused on three issues:

- the negative impacts of major land use changes in our watershed;
- our partnership with the City; and
- the proposed Water Withdrawal Regulations.

Land Use Changes

A large corporate potato producer has acquired 1,000 acres of land in the Winter River watershed over the past six years or so. In the spring and summer of 2019, severe erosion occurred in a field that was in potatoes in 2018. The images below show what happened to a buffer we helped establish in a high-risk area at the lower end of the potato field, and how silt runoff choked off a stream. We're working with the landowner to address the problem but there's only so much we can do. We showed the area to our invited guests to give them a better appreciation of what we're up against. Our key message was that potato production in our watershed is not sustainable without significant improvements in land management practices.

City Partnership

The City of Charlottetown gets most of its water from our watershed. For 8 years, we received an annual grant of \$32,000 from the City to help us with work we do to protect the watershed, and to help protect the water they take from it. In 2019, our grant was cut by \$10,000. We were told that this money will be redirected to support other watershed groups in the City. While we're pleased to learn that other groups will benefit, the loss of \$10,000 will have a significant impact on us. We don't think this is a fair decision and we'd like to see it reversed.



Above: Buffer zone after WRTBWA enhancements (straw bales, tree planting).
Bottom: Buffer zone in spring following potato crop.



How Can You Help?

The WRTBWA's community of interest includes over 1,400 people (including supporters, volunteers, social media followers). Some of you are watershed residents who like to keep track of what we're doing. Some are City residents concerned about water supply. Others follow us because they're concerned about the environment.

It's time for us to ask for your support, and here's what you can do to help:

- Call, write, or email Mayor Brown and ask him to reconsider the City's decision to cut our funding.
- Call, write, or email the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Agriculture. Ask them to provide more assistance to farmers who want to grow potatoes in a sustainable manner and put a stop to practices that harm the environment and put the quality of the City's water supply at risk.
- Follow progress on the proposed Water Withdrawal Regulations and let us know what you think.
- Don't forget to copy the Environment critics from the Green Party and the Liberal Party. In this period of minority government, they can help put pressure on decision-makers.

Finally, thank you for your interest. Knowing that you care about our watershed gives us hope and makes us want to do more.

Water Withdrawal Regulations

The WRTBWA will submit a response to the proposed Water Withdrawal Regulations. In particular, we're concerned with who has priority for supply in the event of a water shortage: the City or watershed residents. Also, there are loopholes in several areas that, in our opinion, give the Minister too much discretion. Finally, we need to know more about the proposed Water Management Areas and how this might impact our watershed.

Water Act Information:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment-water-and-climate-change/water-act>

Contact Us

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| Mail | 630 Suffolk Road Dunstaffnage, PEI C1C 0P6 |
| Office | 13977 St Peters Road Marshfield |
| Phone | 902-314-9293 (coordinator) |
| Email | info@WinterTracadie.ca |
| Web | WinterTracadie.ca/contact |
| Facebook | Facebook.com/WRTBWA |
| Instagram | instagram.com/wrtbwa |
| Twitter | Twitter.com/WinterTracadie |

Help us out by following our social media pages, this helps us get more grant funding.

Contact Information for Elected Officials

| Role | Name | Phone | Email |
|---|-----------------|--|--|
| Mayor of Charlottetown | Phillip Brown | 902-566-5548 (Office) 902-393-2601 (Cell) | mayor@charlottetown.ca |
| Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change | Brad Trivers | 902-620-3646 | MinisterEWCC@gov.pe.ca |
| Green Party Environment Critic | Lynn Lund | 902-620-3977 | lglundMLA@assembly.pe.ca |
| Liberal Party Environment Critic | Hal Perry | 902-368-4330 | jhperrymla@assembly.pe.ca |
| Minister of Agriculture and Land | Bloyce Thompson | 902-368-4820 | MinisterAgLand@gov.pe.ca |