

# Volunteers muddy hands to protect city water source

Annual Winter River hike, tree- planting day held at watershed just outside capital

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— With muddy hands and faces, volunteers from the City of Charlottetown and the Winter RiverTracadie Bay Watershed Association planted trees on Saturday morning to protect the city's drinking water.

The second annual Winter River hike and treeplanting day took place at the Winter River watershed located just outside the city boundaries.

The City of Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility Association and the Winter River association joined forces to plant trees to protect the city's water sources.

Residents of the communities surrounding the watershed depend on these sources for drinking water, recreation, agriculture and aquaculture.

About 10 volunteers showed up to take part in the tree planting and knowledgeable, local guides were present to show participants how to plant trees and to answer any questions about plant and animal identification.

Ramona Doyle, the city's utility projects officer, said the turnout was great, but they always like to see more people go out to learn where their water comes from.

drinking From left, Bryan Grimmelt, Charlottetown's utility projects officer Ramona Doyle, Nicole Murtagh, Samantha Hughes and organizer Bruce Smith plant a tree during the second annual Winter River hike and tree- planting day Saturday.

“Taking a chance to kind of give back to that place. Winter River runs a trail walk every year and that event went on today, too. We do the tree planting and then we all meet for lunch after. It’s a great event,” Doyle said while wiping dirt off her pants.

“Well, there are multiple benefits, I mean the volunteers coming out learning where their water comes from helps us with promoting awareness in Charlottetown for water conservation. Planting the trees have huge benefits on water quality and the stream habitat for fish and wildlife.”

After the tree- planting, a hot lunch was provided for the volunteers at a log cabin in East Suffolk.

The picturesque streamside cabin was a short, easy hike from the road and volunteers enjoyed their lunch after a hot Saturday morning of tree- planting.

Last year, the committees planted more than 4,000 trees in the Tracadie area.