

Every drop counts

P.E.I. student wants to make people aware how important water conservation is

- The Guardian (Charlottetown)
- 22 Feb 2010
- BY SALLY COLE GUARDIAN PHOTO BY SALLY COLE

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Every drop counts After noticing water levels declining in Charlottetown's main water source, a Charlottetown Rural High School student wants to make people aware of the significance of water conservation.

"It's so important to preserve the environment, especially the quality of the watershed for future generations.

"Taking steps like shutting off the water while you soap up when you take a shower goes along way, if everyone does it," says Luke Peters, board member of the Winter River Tracadie Bay Watershed Association. (WRTBWA)

Besides advocacy, he's hoping to do fieldwork in the streams and waterways this summer.

"The association is following up on a survey carried out this past summer, which identified areas that we needed to work on like silt deposits or places where the water flow was obstructed. They also identified some areas for tree planting and the removal of alders," the Grade 11 student says. The WRTBWA also identified areas where a brush mat could be installed (which catches silt) as well as areas where streams could be narrowed, increasing the speed of the water.

These are all things that Luke feels strongly about.

"I've always been big on nature. I've grown up in a big fishing family. I just love being outside. So the environment is very important to me," he says.

While Luke waits for spring, he is giving his input to board members who are filling out applications for silt traps and other projects that will improve life along the river.

"We pushed for dredging around the Corran Ban Bridge. So, after disturbing that environment, we're looking for areas to do some compensation work.

"We're considering stream enhancement and salt marshes - anything to improve habitat," says Luke Peters

"I've always been big on nature. I've grown up in a big fishing family. I just love being outside." Luke, adding the WRTBWA is inviting Islanders to come out and see the improvements that have been made, during a winter event.

A free snowshoeing trek will take place on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the end of the East Suffolk Road at 1 p.m.

"The walk follows the river and is quite beautiful. Midway we will stop at a cabin for hot chocolate and cookies, before resuming our walk. It will take up to two hours," he says.

Anyone with snowshoes asked to bring them along.

"Midway you'll be able to warm up by the fire before heading back to the starting point," he says.

The WRTBWA chair is thrilled with the enthusiasm that Luke brings to the group.

“It’s so awesome. There are very few young people involved in our area. He’s amazing. He’s loyal and he keeps showing up,” says Cathy Corrigan.