



## **JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER**

### **President's Message**

During the thick of winter, I tend to take some time to reflect on the past year as well as look forward to the coming year.

This past year has seen the HRAA take on a number of projects that I think are quite ambitious, including the Hammond River Nature Camp, a significant wetland restoration project right next to the centre, as well as numerous events that are geared towards membership involvement such as the fly casting clinic, the kayak derby and the Christmas potluck. The success that we have seen in our organization on these activities is due to the people behind them. We have great staff that are very passionate about their work, and it shows. In addition, there are a lot of volunteers that have stepped up to help. This combination has resulted in a very positive year for the HRAA.

In terms of the upcoming year, there are lots of ways that I would encourage members to come out and be involved. Fly tying is held at the centre on Wednesday nights (weather dependant). I am pleased to report that the whisky tasting in February is sold out. Plans are under way for the dinner in May, but there is still room for people that might like to be involved in pulling this fun event together. Finally, we have also been planning some new activities for next fishing season, in the hopes of encouraging more people to get out and enjoy being on the river.

Finally, a note of appreciation on my part for all that everyone at the HRAA does. Being involved has afforded me the opportunity to learn more about the river, as well as the privilege of meeting many people that I am proud to call friends. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Middleton

### **Welcome Back Lee**



We are happy to welcome Lee back from being on maternity leave this past year. Lee takes on the role of Wetland Biologist/Education Director. In this capacity, Lee will manage HRAA's education programs and will assist in managing all ongoing projects. She will also be responsible for planning, coordinating and directing our 2016 Hammond River Nature Camp. Lee has an MSc in Biology and is a certified teacher in New Brunswick. She first joined the HRAA in 2012. Pictured at left is Lee with son George and daughter Zoey.

### **Watershed Management Plan**

The HRAA, with support from the Environmental Trust Fund, is currently finishing up its new watershed management plan which is expected to be released in April 2016. The watershed report divides the Hammond River into its 11 tributaries and makes a comparative evaluation of each area based on a number of factors such as road density, the proportion of developed land, land use type, water quality results, the benthic macro-invertebrate community (bugs that live in the stream beds) and our historical fish population data. Currently, the HRAA is finishing up sorting through benthic macro-invertebrate communities to identify the pollution tolerance of each community as an indicator of stream health. The comprehensive watershed report will include recommendations for each area which will guide watershed management priorities for the next five years. To find out more on the health of the river please be sure to check our website at [hraa.ca](http://hraa.ca) and our Facebook page later this year in April.

## **2015 Redd Count Results**

The annual HRAA fall redd count took place on November 15<sup>th</sup>. HRAA volunteers did a sweep of the upper reaches of the river including the North Branch, Hillsdale, Hammondvale, Hanford Brook, Germaine Brook, Silver Hill, Scoodic Brook and Salt Springs. In total, there were 44 redds identified with 31 of them found in the tail end of one pool in Hillsdale (11 large and 20 small). For comparison, there were 29 redds counted in the same pool in 2014. Overall, not a great year, but at least there are still a few salmon producing redds. However, the small number of redds in the brooks is somewhat worrisome.

## **2015 Christmas Potluck**



We welcomed around 60 people to the Conservation Centre for our annual Christmas Potluck on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Centre was festively adorned with decorations and a Christmas tree thanks to the efforts of Melissa and her elves. Attendees ranged in age from 1 to 81. The kids were entertained by decorating gingerbread men and with other crafts while the older crowd enjoyed lively conversation while nibbling on finger foods and enjoying home-made fruit punch. Following a few words from Jody, HRAA President, we sat down to a delicious meal. Afterwards, draws were made for some great prizes; we had enough so that all the kids and over 90% of the adults left with something.

## **Fly Tying**

Fly tying night has been in full swing since November 18<sup>th</sup>. Tyers of all ages, beginner or expert are welcome to attend. Tools, materials and instructions are available for those wanting to try their hand at tying flies or to learn proven patterns for the Hammond. There are always plenty of fish stories being told, so even if you don't tie flies, stop in and share a few stories of your own. This program is offered every Wednesday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. and is free of charge to HRAA members.



## **HRAA in the Classroom**

The HRAA is offering free, in-class lessons from our staff. We can accommodate all grade levels. Lessons are available on a wide variety of topics including: fly tying, population dynamics, benthic invertebrate sampling, and bird adaptations. Each lesson is designed to spark the students' interest in nature and the environment. If you are a teacher, or if you know a teacher who may be interested, please email Lee Robinson at [lee.robinson@hraa.ca](mailto:lee.robinson@hraa.ca). This program is funded by the NB Wildlife Trust Fund and the Environmental Trust Fund.

## **Scotch 505**

On February 6<sup>th</sup> HRAA will hold the fifth annual Hammond River Scotch Tasting Event, hence Scotch 505. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> in a series of Scotch seminars designed to increase the tasting pleasure of those so inclined. The feeling is that education will greaten the appreciation for this fine spirit. Our presenters this year are Johanne McInnis and Graham MacKenney, both from the Saint John Whiskey Tasting Society. This year's event is sold out so inquire early in the fall for next year's event.

## **Conservation Centre Rental**

Did you know our Conservation Centre is available for rental and that HRAA members are entitled to a 20% discount? Located in the heart of KV, overlooking the beautiful Hammond River, this facility is a convenient place to host your next event; be it a meeting, seminar, workshop, birthday, anniversary, shower, family reunion, retirement party or just a get-together with friends.



### **AMENITIES INCLUDE:**

- Seating capacity for up to 90
- Climate controlled
- Fireplace
- Kitchen (2 stoves, fridge, microwave)
- Large wrap-around veranda
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Hardwood floors
- Flipchart
- LCD projector & screen
- Phone
- Podium
- Wi-Fi



*For information on availability and rental rates, please contact Melissa Crilley:*

*Ph: 645-1698*

*Email: [melissa.crilley@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.crilley@gmail.com)*

## **2016 Annual General Meeting**

This year's Annual General Meeting is set for Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00pm. The storm date will be the following day, February 25th. A number of topics will be covered during the meeting, including: juvenile salmon counts, wetland restoration, new initiatives for 2016, appointment of NBSC representatives, financial results, education initiatives and more. The Board of Directors are hopeful for a good turnout of members, new and old, for this year's AGM. Come and hear about activities undertaken in the past year and about plans for the year ahead, including areas in which you might be able to get involved. A table will be set up to accept payment of 2016 dues for those wishing to renew their membership.

## **21<sup>st</sup> HRAA Annual Dinner & Auction**

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Conservation Dinner & Auction will take place on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at St. Mark's Parish Hall on Pettingill Road. This event features: a smoked salmon reception, a hip of beef dinner, raffle tables, an arm's length draw, a special women's raffle table (most timely being the eve of Mother's Day), super surf & turf draw, door prize, silent and live auctions, and much more. Come out and enjoy a wonderful evening of fun, food and friendship while at the same time supporting the HRAA's conservation and education programs. Ticket price has been held at \$50 again this year. To avoid disappointment, reserve yours early by calling Sean, Lee or Hannah at the Centre at 832-1230.

## **New Memberships**

If you have any friends or family members that would like to join the HRAA, please direct them to our website to download a Membership Application Form: <http://hraa.ca/data/documents/2016-Membership-Renewal-Form.pdf> or they can call the office at 832-1230 and sign up directly.



## **HRAA Membership Profile**

We've been working over the past couple of months to update our membership records. As of year-end the profile of our membership is as follows:

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>#</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>#</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
<b>Regular</b>	199	55%	<b>Rothsay, Quis, Hampton</b>	226	62%
<b>Family</b>	68	19%	<b>Saint John</b>	91	25%
<b>Senior</b>	46	12%	<b>Other NB</b>	38	10%
<b>Life</b>	44	12%	<b>Outside NB</b>	9	3%
<b>Junior</b>	4	1%			
<b>Staff</b>	3	1%			
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>364</u></b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>364</u></b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>

## **2016 Annual Dues**

The HRAA Executive and Board have reduced the rates for initial memberships and annual dues as follows:

Junior (under 16)	\$5
Regular	\$10
Family	\$15
Senior (65+)	\$5

Lifetime memberships remain unchanged at \$150. Since we have been remiss in sending dues notices in recent years, the Executive and Board have decided to waive dues arrears for 2015 and prior. There are several ways you can pay your 2016 dues: **1)** Call Sean, Lee or Hannah at 832-1230 and pay using VISA or MasterCard; **2)** Mail your cheque or money order to HRAA, 10 Porter Rd., Nauwigewauk, NB, E5N 6X1; or **3)** Drop into the Conservation Centre at 10 Porter Road during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) and pay with cash, cheque, VISA or MC. There will also be someone on hand to accept your dues payment at the Centre on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 while fly tying is being held. Feel free to drop over for a coffee, even if you are not a fly tyer.

## **Dieppe Fly Fishing Forum**

The Dieppe Fly Tying Club is hosting the thirteenth Fly Fishing Forum on April 1st to 3rd, 2016 at the Moncton Coliseum. The HRAA Board has decided to reserve a booth again this year. The principal objective of the Forum is to promote the sport of fly fishing in general and to attract underrepresented demographic groups like women and youth to this activity; while this continues to be the main focus, the Forum has also become the harbinger of Spring for fly fishing enthusiasts throughout the Maritimes. Since the beginning of the Dieppe Fly Fishing Forum, more than \$125,000 has been given back to different conservation and river associations across New Brunswick. We look forward to seeing many of our members at the show... be sure to stop by our booth! Here is a link for further information: <http://www.flyfishingforum.ca/welcome.htm>.

## **Upcoming events**

- **Weekly fly tying – Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.**
- **Scotch 505 – Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.**
- **Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.**
- **HRAA Spring Tackle Swap – March 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- **Dieppe Fly Fishing Forum – April 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> @ The Moncton Coliseum**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction – Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Spring River Cleanup – To be announced**
- **2016 Hammond River Nature Camp – July & August**

## Featured fly- Gray Ghost



When it comes to streamer patterns, the reputable Gray Ghost originated by Carrie Stevens tops many a fly fisherman's list of go to flies to catch large trout. Not only does this pattern excel at catching trout, it has also proven effective at fooling spring salmon that are gorging on Smelt, which is exactly the baitfish this fly imitates so well. According to Graydon R. Hilyard's book on Carrie Stevens, it was actually not the Gray Ghost that she caught the 6 pound 13oz Brook Trout on that helped make her famous, but another pattern, Shang's Go Getum. Regardless, the Gray Ghost lives up to the hype when it comes to putting a fish on the end of your line.

The secret to tying an effective Gray Ghost is in how it is built. The wings, shoulders and jungle fowl eyes must be proportioned and glued together before hand, then ,when it comes time, they must not be set atop of the hook, but rather on the sides of the hook in order to properly resemble the slender body of a smelt. When tying the floss body, as with any other fly, it is important to build up the shank of the hook with white floss or thread or even a layer of flat silver tinsel can be used to make the body stand out even more when wet.

*Pictured at left: The upper Gray Ghost is an original Carrie Stevens fly. The lower was tied by Steve Delaney (the wing is raised slightly to display the body).*

### Materials:

**Hook:** 2/0 10X Long Partridge Carrie Stevens (trolling). 6X Long hooks for casting sized flies.

**Body:** Pumpkin Orange Uni Floss

**Rib:** Medium Flat Silver Tinsel

**Wing:** Peacock Herl from the stem of a Peacock Eye Feather, Golden Pheasant Crest, 4 Bronze Grey Hackles

**Shoulders:** Silver Pheasant Body Feather

**Eyes:** Jungle Fowl

**Belly:** White Bucktail or Goat Hair

**Throat:** White Hackle Fibers and 2 Golden Pheasant Crests

### **HRAA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs**

#### **Executive Committee**

*President:* Jody Middleton

*Secretary:* Steve Delaney

*1st VP:* Derrick Mitchell

*Treasurer:* Ian McGavney

*2nd VP:* JC Cormier

*Past-Pres.:* Al Guay

#### **Directors**

*Hardy Cameron*

*Rob Dekany*

*Steve Gillis*

*Adam Chateauvert*

*Jim Gillespie*

*Joe Tilley*

#### **Committee Chairs**

*Annual Dinner & Auction:* Melissa Crilley

*Membership:* Paul Daigle

*Maintenance:* Al Guay

*Hammond River Classic:* Joe Tilley

*Newsletter:* Paul Daigle

### **HRAA's Office Location:**

*10 Porter Road  
Nauwigewauk, NB  
E5N 6X1*

### **Contact Info:**

*Tel:* 832-1230

*Fax:* 832-2077

*Email:* [info@hraa.ca](mailto:info@hraa.ca)

*Web:* [www.hraa.ca](http://www.hraa.ca)

### **Office Hours:**

*9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Monday to Friday*

## Thank you to our many sponsors



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