



# TIDINGS

Bringing you Quarterly Updates from the Watershed



**2024 Photo Contest: Grand Prize Winner!**  
**Land, by Kelly Arsenault**

## Swim For The South Shore

Grab your goggles and put on your swimsuits. The registration for the 4th annual swim for the south shore is now open! We are so thankful to all of our sponsors and participants that made last year's event another success, we really couldn't do it without you.

This 1km swim will take place at the boat launch in Victoria-By-The-Sea on Saturday August 24th at 12 noon. For more information or to register visit the event website at:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/91974/swim-for-the-south-shore-2024>

## Passing The Torch

It has been a busy few months here at SSWA as our longtime field supervisor Matt Meenink transitioned into the role of coordinator. We wish Juliana all the best with her further schooling and future endeavors.

## Trail Cam Wildlife Monitoring

In our ongoing efforts to understand and protect the natural treasures of the Island's South Shore watersheds, we continually seek innovative tools and methods to monitor wildlife activity and ecosystem health. One such tool that has proven invaluable to our endeavors is the trail camera.

Trail cameras, also known as game cameras or wildlife cameras, are compact, motion-activated devices equipped with a high-resolution lens and infrared technology. These cameras are strategically placed in various locations throughout our watershed to capture images and videos of wildlife in their natural habitat, providing us with valuable insights into the biodiversity and ecological dynamics of our region.



So, why are trail cameras particularly helpful to watershed groups like ours on PEI's South Shore?

First and foremost, trail cameras serve as our eyes in the wilderness, allowing us to observe wildlife behavior without disturbing or intruding upon their natural habitats. This non-invasive monitoring approach is essential for studying elusive and nocturnal species, such as foxes, coyotes, and owls.

Furthermore, trail cameras provide us with a unique opportunity to document the presence and movements of species that may be of conservation concern. By analyzing the data collected from these cameras, we can identify wildlife corridors, habitat preferences, and potential threats to sensitive species, enabling us to develop informed conservation strategies to protect our region's biodiversity.

In addition to their scientific value, trail cameras also have educational and outreach benefits. The captivating images and videos captured by these cameras offer a glimpse into the hidden world of wildlife, sparking curiosity and fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural wonders of our watershed. We utilize these visual resources in educational programs, public presentations, and outreach events to engage our community and inspire conservation action.

As stewards of the South Shore watershed, we are committed to leveraging technology and innovation to better understand and safeguard our natural heritage. Trail cameras are just one of the many tools at our disposal, but their impact is profound, helping us unravel the mysteries of our watershed and empower our community to become active participants in its conservation.

## Join the Watershed Community!

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of the South Shore Watershed Association. Whether you have volunteered your time, made a donation, or simply supported our work, you have helped us make a positive impact on our environment and our community.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year and beyond as we continue to protect and enhance the natural resources of our watershed.



Planting will begin in the spring of 2025 and will continue for a total of 6 planting years up until 2031. Each year the goal is to plant approximately 300,000 trees! Applying is easy! It can be done over the phone or online at this provincial webpage: PEI - 2 Billion Trees Landowner Application. Expect a response within 4-6 weeks, followed by a scheduled field visit to assess your property.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out: PEI 2 Billion Trees Coordinator, Hailey Blacquiere ([hdblacquiere@gov.pe.ca](mailto:hdblacquiere@gov.pe.ca)) or PEI Watershed Alliance 2 Billion Trees Coordinator, Kassidy Matheson ([peiwaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:peiwaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com) or 902-940-9239)

Let's grow together for a greener tomorrow!

## PEI 2 Billion Trees!

Would you like to start a biodiverse forest on your property, create a wildlife corridor or protect your bank from erosion? Look no further than the PEI 2 Billion Trees program to get you started!

This program, run by our provincial Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, offers free tree seedlings and planting labour if you meet the following: Afforestation planting (we do not underplant in existing woodlands in this program). You must accept a minimum of 50 trees. The trees are spaced close together, on average 2.4m apart. At windier sites it may be best to plant even closer 2m (we don't landscape plant with them). There are currently six tree species available: white spruce, *Picea glauca*; white pine, *Pinus strobus*; eastern hemlock, *Tsuga Canadensi*; white birch, *Betula papyrifera*; yellow birch, *Betula alleghaniensis*; and red maple, *Acer rubrum*.



2023 SSWA Crew



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(NOTE: RENEWALS ARE NOT DUE UNTIL MARCH)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Civic address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee     \$ 10.00

Donation             \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL                 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SOUTH SHORE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION!**

 **SSWA issues charitable tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more**

 **For e-transfers, email to [financial@sswa.ca](mailto:financial@sswa.ca)**

**PO Box 123, Crapaud, PEI, C0A 1J0 / Charitable reg. no. 81018-9407-RR000**