



# ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023





# ACAP SAINT JOHN MISSION & VISION

Over the past three decades, ACAP Saint John has been able to accomplish tremendous work to improve the environment, build community awareness and engagement in environmental issues, complete background and baseline research, and grow our own presence throughout the region.

Although the organization has gone through many changes over the years, we continue to stay true to the founding vision of the organization. Today, our mandate is to partner and work with the community to help find solutions to the environmental challenges within the Saint John region and the Wolastoq watershed.



The primary goals of ACAP Saint John are:

- To engage the multi-sectoral community of Greater Saint John in the collaborative management and restoration of our watersheds; and,
- To promote a sustainable community that embraces the inter-dependence of the unique social, economic, and environmental characteristics of the region's watersheds.

Our Strategies:

- We regenerate and monitor aquatic and terrestrial landscapes;
- We work with, and for communities to restore and improve habitat, and sustainability; and,
- We engage the attention, enthusiasm and support of the people of Saint John.

# 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## ACAP Saint John Annual General Meeting

July 5, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Diamond Jubilee Cruise Terminal

**Present:** Anne Bardou, Craig Silliphant, Lisa Hrabluk, Gordon Dalzell,  
Brian Comeau, Leah Fitzgerald, Greg Marquis, Jennifer  
Bainbridge, Sarah Brown, Roxanne MacKinnon.

**Regrets:** Taylor Kormann, Nicole Ross, Derrick Mitchell

Item	Minutes	Action item
<b>1. President's Comments</b>	Anne welcomes everyone to the meeting. The structure is a little different this year as the business portion is being held prior to the celebration of ACAP's 30th anniversary.	
<b>2. Approval of minutes</b>	Greg moves to accept the minutes as presented, Lisa seconds. Motion carries.	
<b>3. Approval of reports</b>	Gordon moves to accept the reports as presented, Craig seconds. Motion carries.	
<b>4. Approval of audited statements</b>	Anne - we had a meeting last week with the auditor from Teed Saunders & Doyle and Roland was there to represent ACAP. A change was made to deferred revenue reporting in the audit so it matches up with the financial statements. Gordon moves to accept. Greg had a question about CRA filing - it will be done with audited statements. Lisa seconds. Motion carries.	
<b>5. Approval of Updated By-laws</b>	Gordon asks if any changes were made since bylaws were presented at the previous meeting. The changes were in line with the last discussion. Greg asked about conflict of interest, which will be included in a future expectations document for directors. Right to Information requests are only applicable to projects with government funding, and only information on the work would be provided, if asked. Greg moved, Jenn seconded. Motion carries.	
<b>6. Nominating Committee Report</b>	Nicole Ross nominated by Renee Morais as Renee's replacement. Brian moves, Sarah seconds. Motion carries. Angelique Simpson has stepped down from the board. Gordon - would be good to have the same skillset. Anne - last year we passed a motion to be able to nominate and accept during regular meetings. We will look to replace her this year.	Nominating committee will seek new board members.

# 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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<b>7. Elections of officers</b>	Taylor nominated for one year term as treasurer. Taylor has accepted the nomination prior to the meeting. Leah nominated for two-year term as secretary to allow for alternating year elections. Leah accepts nomination. Lisa moves both appointments, Greg seconds. Motion carries.	
<b>8. Meeting schedule for upcoming year</b>	Four regular meetings (September, December, March, May). Third Wednesdays work for most. We will continue to offer hybrid. Secretary will send out meeting invites.	
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	Lisa moves to adjourn. Craig seconds.	

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that 2 years have already gone by in my tenure as President of the ACAP Saint John Board. It has been an honour to serve in this capacity and contribute to this organisation that I have admired for so many years.

Since its inception in 1992, ACAP Saint John has been at the forefront of community-led environmental action. As with most organisations, it is necessary from time to time to do a little introspection to lead us forward. The current environmental challenges are immense and with that in mind, a strategic planning process is under way at the Board of Directors level to help orient and assist the work of ACAP Saint John moving forward.

ACAP Saint John must also strive to provide its employees with a challenging, dynamic, safe, and supportive work environment. To this end, we have reviewed existing policies and developed new tools to pursue this goal. This would not have been possible without the vital help and expertise of Board members who worked alongside the Executive Director, Roxanne MacKinnon, to develop a human resource manual and a health and safety manual. We must also ensure that employees receive fair and competitive compensation. Employee benefits are also an important piece of the puzzle for a healthy and supportive work place. A review of both these important components was done and executed.

I would like to thank all the Directors of the ACAP Saint John Board for volunteering their precious time and knowledge. As most work full time, I understand that it is not always easy to sacrifice family and personal time to attend meetings and workshops, and I truly appreciate what you are doing for ACAP Saint John and the Greater Saint John community. Your sustained interest and input are invaluable. A special thank you to the retiring board members that have been with us for many years. We will miss you, and hope to see you at the many community events held by ACAP Saint John and its partners throughout the year.

To the Staff of ACAP Saint John, those who have recently joined the team, and those who have moved on, I want to express my appreciation and amazement. You are the heart and soul of ACAP Saint John. Without you, we could not do this important work.

Together for community and nature,

Anne Bardou  
President



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



As the NGO world goes, the uncertainty of how each year will come to be is always present. This past year was not a record setting year financially but none the less, I believe our projects were highly successful, we continued to build our reputation and awareness in our community, and looked internally to grow policies and strengthen our strategies to fulfill our mission. As we moved into the new 2023 fiscal year, we were once again reminded of the uncertainty and ever-changing environment we work in and are proud to see three full time members expanding their careers and fostering new changes at ACAP Saint John.

Over the 2022 fiscal year, we were able to accomplish many successful projects to build environmental awareness and complete on-the-ground work to restore and improve our local environment - from building natural asset inventories, installing green infrastructure and planting trees, monitoring our waterways, to of course, engaging with our community, we were certainly busy! This year saw us wrap up our two Harbour Baseline projects which were beginning to feel like core ACAP work and have provided extremely valuable data for future studies and provided the groundwork for a few potential new projects going forward.

I would be remised if I didn't take the chance to thank all the ACAP Saint John staff for their incredible work and dedication to our organization. It truly takes an amazing team of people to do the work that we do and we certainly would not be able to accomplish everything we did without each and every one of you. I would also like to thank both staff and the Board of Directors for your outgoing support as I work through my Masters and all the headaches and schedule shifting that involves. Lastly, thank you to the Board of Directors that tireless helped developed new policies for ACAP Saint John to formalize our daily operations and provide clarity to current and future staff.

With that, onto 2023 and new exciting projects to continue to push environmental change and combat biodiversity and habitat loss!

**Roxanne MacKinnon,  
Executive Director**

# PARTNERS, SPONSORS & DONORS

ACAP Saint John is sincerely grateful for the generous financial and in-kind contributions we have received from environmentally conscientious businesses, foundations and grant agencies. The following list acknowledges those who have assisted us in improving the quality of life in Saint John over the past year.







## STAFF 2022-2023

THE SUCCESS OF ACAP SAINT JOHN IS DUE TO THE DEDICATED FULL-TIME AND SEASONAL STAFF, WHO STRIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



**ROXANNE MACKINNON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Roxanne MacKinnon took over as Executive Director of ACAP Saint John in 2020 after working for four years as ACAP's Urban Ecology Coordinator. She brings a passion for community education and volunteer engagement, and her desire for improving water quality and aquatic habitats to her work. Roxanne has a background in field biology and watershed management, and has years of experience in designing, implementing, and managing community-based projects throughout New Brunswick. Since running a non-profit is not challenging enough, she is also completing her Masters of Science in Environmental Management part-time.

# STAFF 2022-2023



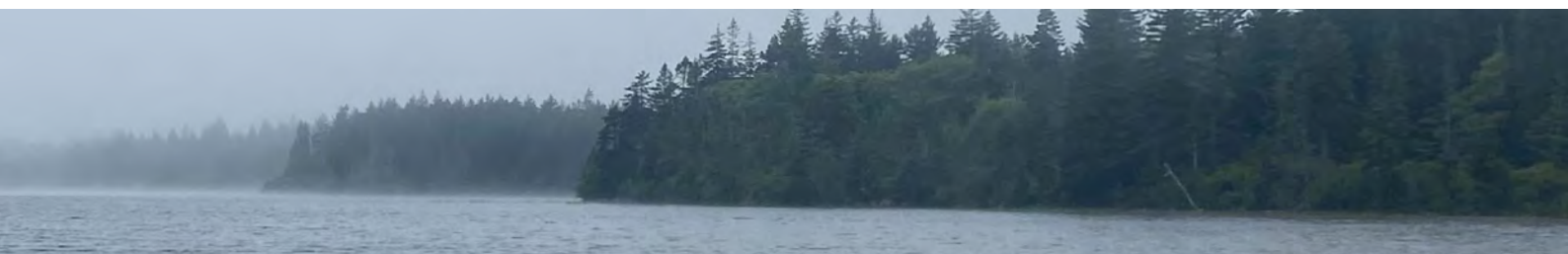
## SHAUNA SANDS

Shauna, who was born and raised in Saint John, has always been passionate about marine species and their environment. She holds a B.Sc from the University of New Brunswick Saint John (majoring in Marine Biology) and also a diploma in Wildlife Conservation Technology from Holland College. Her interests include topics related to wildlife management and conservation, marine mammals (particularly cetaceans) and educational outreach. In her spare time, Shauna enjoys exploring new places with her dog Toby!



## BAILEY BROGAN

Bailey joined ACAP in 2018 as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Team. Bailey holds a Bachelor of Science in Environment and Natural Resources from the University of New Brunswick and has worked for various watershed organizations, municipalities and environmental consulting firms in NB. During her tenure with ACAP Saint John she developed three climate change adaptation plans in the Greater Saint John Area, led natural infrastructure implementation projects and developed a natural asset inventory for the City of Saint John. Bailey has moved on as the Assistant Planner for the Town of Hampton, and hopes to bring these skills to her new position to promote sustainable development. In her spare time, she enjoys kayaking and running with her dog Maggie.



# STAFF 2022-2023



AIDEN ISBILL

Aiden, from Belleisle, has always been passionate about ecology, wildlife and the environments they live in. He earned a BSc in Environment and Natural Resources, with a major in Wildlife Conservation, from the University of New Brunswick. He also holds a diploma in Wildlife Conservation Technology from Holland College. Aiden joined ACAP full time in 2020 as the Restoration Coordinator. He works on a wide array of projects managing restoration projects, fish habitat and population assessments, collecting in-field data, and conducting geographic information systems work. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, fishing, and exploring nature.



SHAYELIN BRAYDON

Shayelin grew up in Grand Bay-Westfield along the Wolastoq where she spent much of her time playing outdoors. Shayelin received her BBA from UNBSJ in 2019, shortly after, she decided to pursue her passion for nature through NBCC Miramichi's Environmental Technology Program. There, she was able to gain a better understanding of the natural world around her, and how industry and humans impact it. Shayelin enjoys studying water quality, conducting habitat assessments, and restoration work. In her free time Shayelin can be found biking, exploring the great outdoors, as well as hanging out with friends and family.

# STAFF 2021-2023



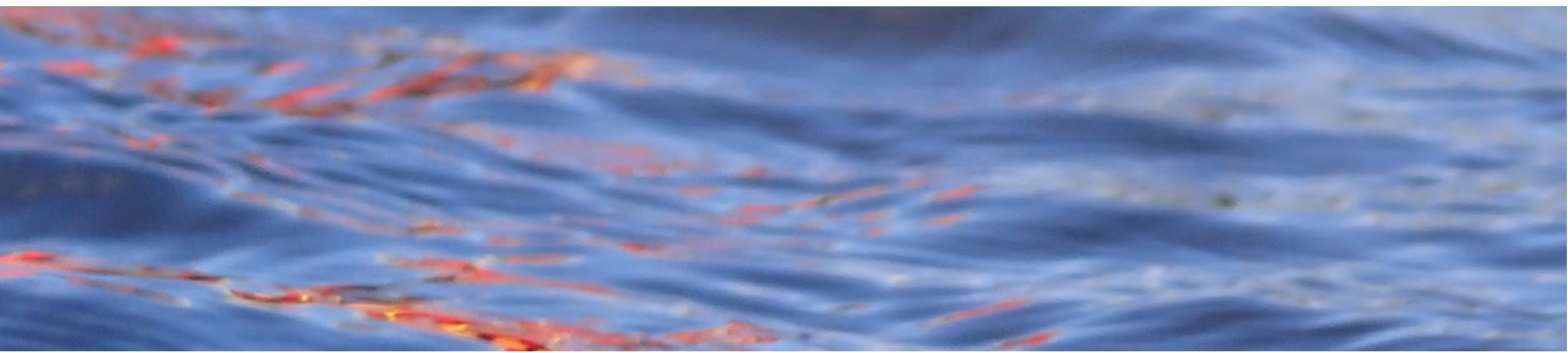
JAMYLYNN MCDONALD

Jamylynn joined the team at ACAP Saint John in 2019 and is thrilled to be working on various projects including climate change adaptation planning and implementation, education and outreach programming, as well as collaborative projects with the St. John River Society. She completed her undergraduate degree in 2014 from the University of Toronto studying Earth Science, and completed her Masters in Climate Change from the University of Waterloo in 2019. The internship for her Masters brought her to Saint John and the ACAP team. In her free time she enjoys yoga and outdoor adventuring!



TINA LEMIEUX

Tina is a born and raised Saint Johner that has a love for nature and office tasks. She started as the Office Manager at ACAP in November of 2021. She has a background with other office, administrative and management work along with coaching certificates through the International Coaching Federation from 2017 to 2020. She has been happily taking over a lot of the office tasks so that the rest of the ACAP team can get out into the field, but also enjoys being in the field to help. In her spare time she enjoys crafts, walks on Bayshore beach, and spending time with her grandson.



# STAFF 2022-2023



## AREN HEMMING

Aren is a travel and adventure photographer who grew up exploring the outdoors in her home province of New Brunswick and during their world travels. Aren attended a Sustainable Saint John meeting in 2016 where she was first introduced to ACAP Saint John, jumping forward to 2022 when they became a Media and Marketing intern at ACAP through the ONE Future program.

Since the end of their internship Aren has continued to be involved with ACAP and looks forward to staying connected and helping in the future.

Their favorite part of working with ACAP was fishing, cleanups and getting to document all of the cool things ACAP does in our community through photography and videography.

Aren will be attending NBCC's Environmental Technology program in the fall of 2023 where other present and former ACAP staff have done their education.

Check out some of Aren's travel photography on Instagram: @arensophia



## VINCENT SCULLY

Vincent graduated in 2021 with a B.A. in Environment and Geography at Bishop's University. Although he was born and raised in Quebec, he considers Saint John as a second home because of his father's roots in the area.

During his internship, he was a climate change Communication/Education Intern. He also had the opportunity to take part in many different activities including native tree plantings and maintenance, gardening, community cleanups, Saint John Harbour monitoring (of water quality, fish, and seals.), and classroom education. He enjoys playing his ukulele, reading books, the outdoors, and learning about climate change issues.



## ANNIE MCMULLAN

Annie grew up along the Kennebecasis River and has always had a passion for all things aquatics. She is in her final year of the Aquatic Resources program at St.FX and completing a double major in public policy and social research. Annie's main interests are North Atlantic right whales, sharks, social inequality issues involving water, Indigenous sovereignty and more.



# STAFF 2022-2023

## KAYA GUPTIL

Kaya came to ACAP as a Co-op Student from Kennebecasis Valley High School for the 2022/2023 field season. She very much loved getting out in the field with the other ACAP staff and all the dogs that visited the office. She enjoyed learning about trees and fish most of all. In her spare time she loves to be out in nature. Kaya applied to Holland College to take Wildlife Conservation Technology in the fall of 2023.



## ARINA FOMENKO

Originally born in Ukraine, Arina, came to New Brunswick following her dream of becoming a chemical technologist. While being an NBCC student she joined the ACAP team as a Co-op student for the summer of 2022! Her scientific interest and desire to contribute to environmental monitoring, as well as her kindness, made her a valuable team member.



## CZARINA ZAMORA

Czarina, studying Chemical Technology at NBCC, was born in the Philippines and came to Saint John in 2021 as an international student. She has a B.Sc. in Pharmacy license and a diploma. She previously worked as a quality controller, pollution control officer, and safety officer in a gas manufacturing plant in the Philippines. She became increasingly passionate and interested in waste management and water quality while she worked for ACAP.



## MATTHEW WATSON

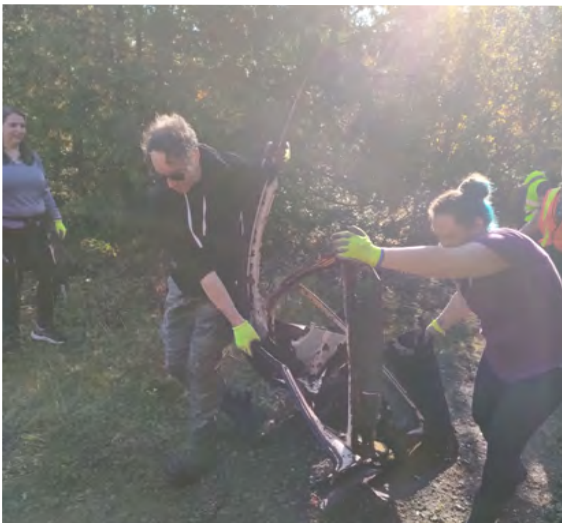
Matthew is a second year Electrical Engineering student at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS who loves to learn and teach others about reducing their environmental footprint! During the summer, he tagged along and helped out the team during the busy field season; assisting in field work, managing our social media accounts and educating youth in the community about environmentalism. Matthew enjoys goaltending in hockey, playing volleyball, being outdoors and hanging out with friends and family!



# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

In 2022, we continued our essential role as environmental stewardship leaders throughout the Greater Saint John area by building on the success of past projects while incorporating new environmental issues and interests into our community-focused initiatives. The overarching goal of the various projects that come together to feed into our engagement and outreach activities is to increase environmental awareness and inspire actions by engaging with our local community. Read more about how we engaged our community:



### COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS

The year 2022 was an exceptional year for community clean-ups. Using a wide array of channels including social media, ACAP Saint John's website, local media outlets, and community outreach events, ACAP Saint John successfully mobilized over 1,200 volunteers to remove over 5,330 kg (11,750 lbs.) of debris from the environment and our waterways. With supplies provided by ACAP Saint John, 36 clean-up activities took place around Greater Saint John, amounting to more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service.

### TREE PLANTING EFFORTS

ACAP Saint John was able to plant over 3,300 native tree species to reforest and restore degraded areas in and around the Greater Saint John Area. This was accomplished through the great effort of our amazing 200+ volunteers who put hard work into making a difference by planting many of the trees in their own communities. These trees, planted in areas best suited to their growth, will provide key environmental services such as stormwater and pollutant absorption and filtering, carbon sequestration, neighbourhood cooling, and creation of enjoyable green spaces for people and wildlife.





# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Alongside the hands-on volunteer opportunities, ACAP Saint John staff also visited numerous school and community groups, conducting hands-on sessions to engage and educate participants about regional environmental issues and introduce them to our projects. Throughout the year, ACAP Saint John was able to engage with over 700 participants, primarily youth, in these school and community group visits. In addition to these youth-focused activities, ACAP Saint John staff visited multiple community markets to further expand awareness of our initiatives and environmental issues. Through these visits, we managed to directly interact with an additional 150 community members. We also indirectly reached a wider audience who briefly stopped by to peruse our materials, even though they didn't engage in longer discussions about our work.



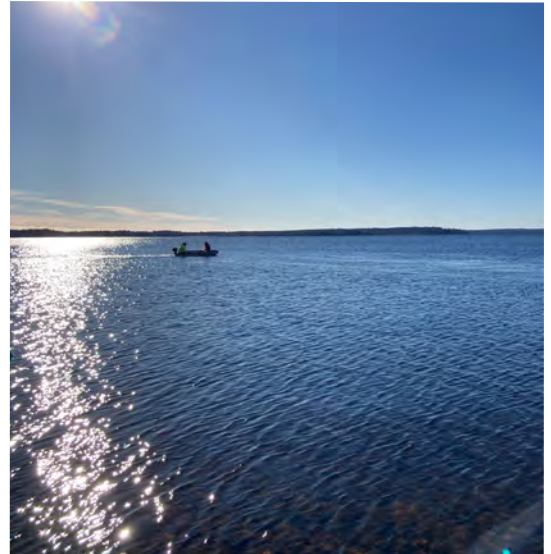
## DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTAL

We also utilized ACAP Saint John's social media platforms to enhance online environmental education and awareness. Our digital reach was exceptional, with our posts reaching 42,290 followers. We saw active engagement from over 6,000 individuals who commented, liked, or reached out through our social media.

# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## SOURCE WATER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Over the past two years, we've collaborated with Boreal Environmental and Saint John Water to update the City's management plans for Loch Lomond and Spruce Lake, the City's primary drinking water sources. The project entailed extensive research and land-based activity analysis to identify land uses and areas of concern. Based on this research, we recommended and implemented an expanded water quality monitoring program in the fall, which will continue into the 2023 field seasons and beyond. We also initiated restorative native tree planting on degraded land to improve forest and ecosystem health. As we progress, we will finalize the updated management plan and provide the city with recommendations to safeguard this valuable resource into the



## GREENING THE REGION

Green infrastructure (GI) presents a natural approach to managing and filtering stormwater, reducing both flooding and strain on the city's piping network while improving water quality entering our waterways. In our environment, GI techniques also contribute to urban biodiversity, creating green spaces, enhancing pollinator habitats, and promoting social benefits.

Over the 2022 field season, ACAP Saint John worked with the community to incorporate unique green infrastructure solutions into the urban environment. Overall, the project engaged over 400 individuals who helped install two native gardens, planting over 300 native plants and 1,400 trees. The first garden completed through this project was at the depave site (2021) where we were able to plant a biodiversity garden. The second was a rain garden at Glen Falls School to help reduce flooding in the school's playground. In addition to the rain garden, we installed two infiltration trenches on the school grounds to further reduce flooding.

Through this project, ACAP Saint John has had the opportunity to pilot stormwater methods, confirming the effectiveness of GI as a means of climate change adaptation at both community and municipal levels. Further discussions with community members, city councillors and institutions over the course of this project has highlighted the need for these solutions and we are committed to further promoting and advancing this vital work in Saint John.



# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## HARBOUR MONITORING

The 2022 field season marked the conclusion of the five-year Harbour Baseline project. The project has developed a comprehensive field program within the Saint John Harbour, capturing aquatic environmental data on water quality, fish communities, and sediment PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon), aligned with Fisheries and Oceans' Coastal Environmental Monitoring Program over the past four field seasons (2019-2022). Water quality was analyzed at 22 sites, with 13 of these sites also being sampled for sediment contaminants and eight being surveyed for fish communities using beach seines and fyke nets.

Most harbour sites typically exhibited good water quality, whereas Marsh Creek and Little River carried on with their historical trend of diminished water quality due to the continued input of industrial and municipal effluents. Average E. coli concentrations exceeded the recommended guidelines at 14 sites, which suggests a chronic fecal contamination issue. Sediment samples also revealed high levels of contamination at six sites, particularly at Marsh Creek which remains polluted with creosote.



Over the last five years, we are proud to have counted a total of 41,715 fish and invertebrates, representing 38 species, in our fyke and seine nets. Spar Cove had the highest abundance, but the lowest richness and diversity. Conversely, species diversity was highest at Inner Harbour, Little River, Marsh Creek and Tin Can Beach. Lengths and counts of the most common species (Atlantic silverside, Sand shrimp, Atlantic tomcod) varied depending on when and where they were captured, potentially due to changing environmental conditions. Overall, this project provided us with a valuable connection to the Saint John Harbour, its supported species, and its water and sediment quality. With this data in hand, we can collaborate with the Port, industry, and other organizations to ensure the vitality of our harbourfront and its dependent populations.

# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## HARBOUR SEAL MONITORING



In 2022, we wrapped up our five-year seal monitoring effort, focusing on haul-out sites (tide-exposed rocks) in and around the Saint John Harbour. The population abundance of harbour seals in Atlantic Canada is currently listed as unknown, with limited information on their behaviour, feeding habits, and distribution in the area. The goals of this project were to establish a baseline of Harbour seal sightings to fulfil the mandate of the Coastal Environmental Baseline Project (CEBP) and to examine the seasonal trends and distribution of seals in the Saint John Harbour. Six sites were chosen for sightings and observations, with counts of seals hauled out on the rocks conducted and recorded during afternoon low tides.

When comparing our observation numbers to those collected in the 1990s, we consistently observed an increased number of hauled-out seals, suggesting population growth over the years. We also noticed seasonal variations in seal abundance across different haul-out sites throughout the year. The CEBP has provided an update to research completed 30 years ago and continuing this work is essential for understanding changes in the ecosystem over time.

## INNER BAY OF FUNDY SALMON

The Inner Bay of Fundy (iBoF) salmon, an endangered subspecies of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) that does not migrate outside the Bay of Fundy, inhabits several rivers within the upper Bay of Fundy, seven of which are located in ACAP Saint John's region. In 2019, we began conducting stream assessments, monitoring, and restoration efforts along these seven rivers from Mispic to St. Martin's. Building on the success of that project, we extended our monitoring and restoration work to two rivers, Black River and Gardner Creek, which were previously considered to have extirpated salmon populations.

In 2022, we adjusted our environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling schedule to coincide with the recognized salmon spawning period. This change yielded very positive eDNA results for Black River throughout the sampling period, while Gardner Creek displayed positive results later in the spawning period. These were the first positive results in Gardner Creek as of yet. This new data brings hope for the potential survival of self-sustaining wild salmon populations in these rivers.

In addition, we implemented a restorative planting program using native trees and shrubs in the upper regions of both watersheds. This initiative aims to stabilize riverbanks and create healthy riparian zones, thereby leading to improved fish habitats. The restoration and study of these under-managed rivers and their salmon populations are paramount for the survival of the iBoF salmon. Our continued efforts in this regard are contributing towards this vital conservation goal.



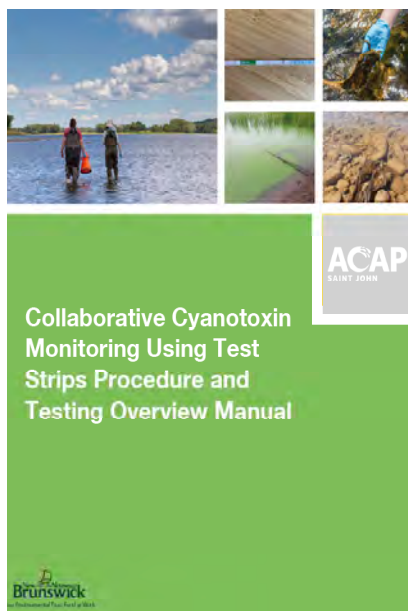
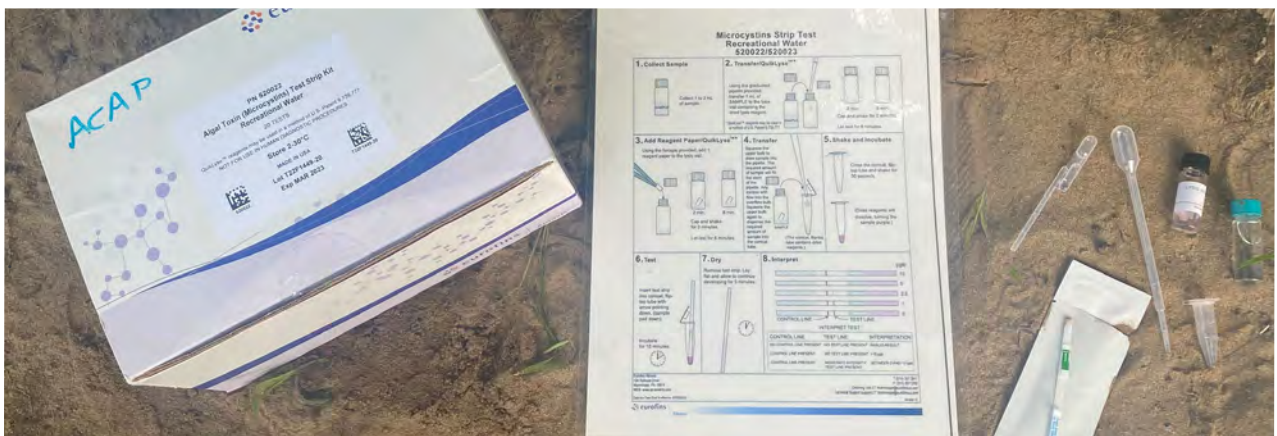
# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## CYANOBACTERIA

Since 2019, ACAP Saint John has spearheaded efforts to monitor cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins (toxins made by cyanobacteria) in the Wolastoq Watershed. Starting in 2022, we renewed our partnership with seven other watershed groups in the lower Wolastoq area to conduct monitoring for cyanotoxins, expand organizational capabilities, and enhance public awareness of the risks posed by cyanobacteria.

For this new monitoring program, we attempted to find testing kits that could easily be utilized by all participating watershed groups. Testing kits for two of the most common cyanotoxins were found and a monitoring program was created for all groups to implement. During the 2022 field season, this collaborative effort yielded 93 cyanotoxin samples, with a small percentage showing the presence of toxins. As we continue this joint effort over the next two years, we aim to continue to strengthen capabilities within our watershed organizations and ensure long-term continuation of this crucial monitoring.

Along with the monitoring aspect of this project, we continue to build public awareness about cyanobacteria and the necessary precautions for safe use of our stunning waterways. This has taken on many different forms across both ACAP Saint John's and our partners' initiatives, and we consistently discovered that many people are genuinely concerned about this issue and want more timely information. In the upcoming year of this project, we plan to broaden our outreach efforts and continue to push for consistent messaging across all groups.



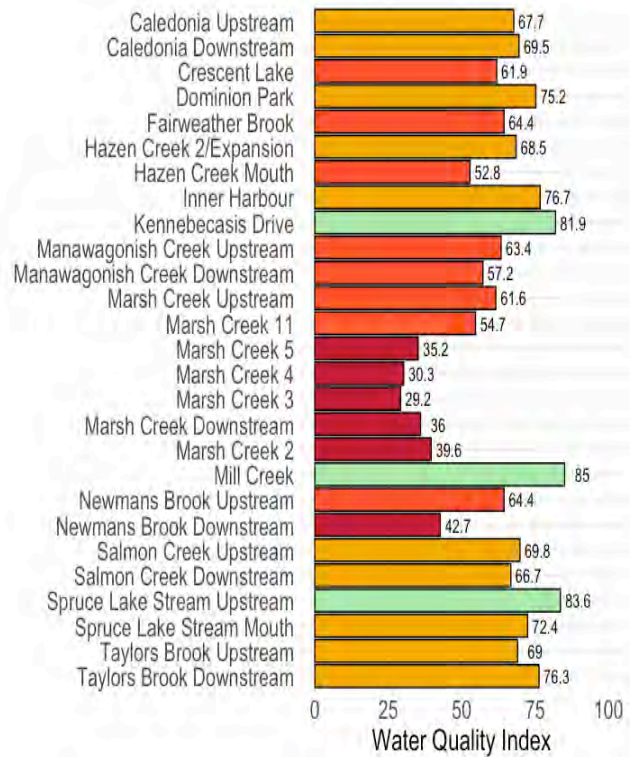
# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

In 2022, ACAP Saint John carried out water quality monitoring at nearly 30 locations across ten different watersheds in and around the Saint John area. As many of the sites are located within the industrial areas of the city, they tend to be threatened by riparian degradation, stormwater inputs, and modifications to natural flow, all of which impact their overall water quality. The data collected revealed that the majority of our sites had fair or marginal water quality, which tells us that these sites are often or always threatened. With that, no sites had excellent water quality in 2022, and 24 of our 27 sites showed a decline in water quality in comparison to 2021. E. coli and nutrient concentrations were much higher in 2022 than in 2021, a rise likely caused by runoff and stormwater inputs from rainfall events that happened before or during sampling events.

The issues regarding sewer and municipal inputs that we observed in 2022 are part of a longstanding problem that has been documented consistently by ACAP Saint John over the years. Fortunately, in 2022, the City of Saint John began to update some of the outdated infrastructure that has contributed to the diminished water quality that we've been observing. Despite the urban nature of these watercourses, many of our monitored sites within Saint John and the surrounding area likely have the potential to support healthy aquatic life. This is due to typically low average temperatures, high levels of dissolved oxygen, and acceptable pH and turbidity observed across most sites. To realize the full potential of the Wolastoq and its tributaries, steps such as infrastructure upgrades and reducing stormwater inputs are needed.

2022 Water Quality Index Scores



# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## MITIGATING MICROPLASTICS

This two-year project aimed to improve freshwater quality in the Saint John region by taking direct action in removing plastics from our waterways. We achieved this through community clean-ups, encouraging behavioural changes concerning plastic usage, and providing practical ways for community members to mitigate microplastics pollution. A vital component of this project's success was our education and outreach efforts around the issues of plastics and, in particular, microplastics. We targeted our education initiatives at young people and community members, providing information about the environmental threats posed by single-use plastics and how microplastics end up in our waterways. Overall, we were able to engage with over 14,000 people through education initiatives, presentations, clean-up events, and social media posts.

Building on previous microplastics research, we identified that microfibers, derived from items such as clothing, rope, and other textile products, were the most prevalent form of microplastics found in Saint John's waterways. To address this issue and raise awareness, we implemented a citizen science project that engaged the local community. We distributed Lint-Luv-Rs, a microplastic filter, to 60 households across the Saint John region for installation on their washing machines. Over the past year, these community members have weighed and reported the collected lint to help quantify the amount of microfibers removed. Astonishingly, our project has estimated that around 74,295,000 microfibers have been captured! This data highlights the profound impact that small-scale individual actions can have on our environment, and we aim to encourage the use of these filters throughout the region.



We put Roxanne's lint under the microscope!

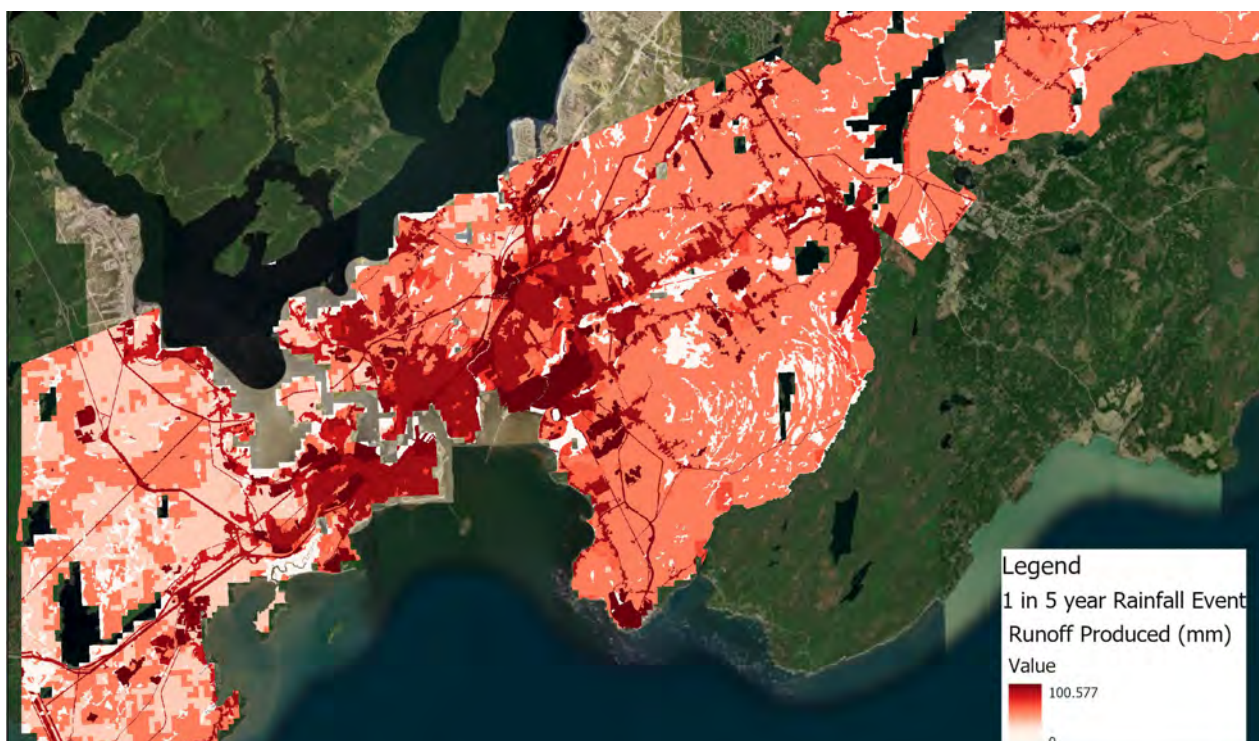
# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## NATURAL ASSET INVENTORY

Following the successful development of the City of Saint John Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2020, ACAP Saint John set out to identify the ecosystem services provided by existing natural assets, thereby contributing to the development of a comprehensive management framework for natural resources in Saint John. Natural assets are a type of GI that can be used to adapt to climate change and include forests, wetlands, parks, waterbodies, shorelines, and riparian areas. Other forms of GI include enhanced assets such as rain gardens and bioswales, as well as engineered assets like permeable pavements and rain barrels.

In collaboration with representatives from the City and the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative, a natural asset management roadmap was created. The resulting roadmap had 21 actions that will guide the City in managing natural assets across various sectors. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was used to map natural assets categorically and spatially. The total area of each asset type was catalogued, and their relative proportions were calculated. Notably, the majority of the City's natural assets are located within the drinking water service area (Loch Lomond and Spruce Lake Watersheds).

Additionally, ACAP Saint John utilized the Urban Flood Risk Mitigation Model from InVEST to identify areas in Saint John that are at a higher risk of flooding due to heavy rainfall. The analysis was conducted on a watershed-by-watershed basis and quantified in terms of average runoff retention. More urbanized areas in the lower West, Central Peninsula, and the East side showed higher stormwater runoff and lower stormwater retention. By identifying the location and value of the City's natural assets, we have taken a significant step towards improving the management and protection of these crucial ecosystems. This work lays a robust foundation for enhancing the City's resilience and ensuring a sustainable future for Saint John.





# PROJECTS 2022-2023

## WOLASTOQ RIVER SUMMIT



ACAP Saint John was proud to partner with WWF-Canada again this year to be the co-host for the Wolastoq River Summit. This jam packed two day event allow participants to dive into emerging issues and the great work being done both nationally and within the watershed with two panel discussions, and small breakout conversations on the first day of the summit. On the second day, participants got an up close look at some our restoration and GIsites with an all-day field trip.





# SECRETARY'S REPORT



Board of Directors of ACAP Saint John for fiscal year  
2022-2023:

Anne Barbou, President  
Craig Silliphant, Vice President  
Taylor Kormann, Treasurer  
Leah Fitzgerald, Secretary  
Brian Comeau, Past President

Jennifer Bainbridge  
Sarah Brown  
Gordon Dalzell  
Lisa Hrabluk  
Greg Marquis  
Derrick Mitchell  
Nicole Ross

Over the past year, the board of directors have met four times for regular meetings and twice for sessions to develop the strategic vision for ACAP. We held our annual general meeting as a celebration of the organization's 30th anniversary, with past staff, board members and special guests present for an overview of ACAP's accomplishments and some of our plans for the future.

This year, we say goodbye to long serving directors Derrick Mitchell, Greg Marquis, Brian Comeau and Gordon Dalzell. Sarah Brown and Jennifer Bainbridge have also left the board in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Fitzgerald, Secretary  
ACAP Saint John

# TREASURER'S REPORT



Year over year, our revenues saw a decline from \$862,171 to \$663,350 and as such, expenditures also decreased from \$837,580 to \$636,580. This decline is likely a reflection of the end of COVID spending and several projects ending without 2023 renewal. The AEI Nutrients program which brought in \$127,439 in 2022 was not renewed for 2023 along with the WWF 2 Billion Trees program which brought in \$107,720 in 2022 but was not renewed in 2023.

Locally, this year the Saint John Water project saw a significant increase from \$5243.00 to \$20,593.00 and we received \$27,164.00 in new funding for the St. John River Summit Project as well as \$45,875 for the new HSP iBoF project.

Without any additional change or further investment, our Guaranteed Investment Certificate remained the same year over year staying at \$1,505. Overall our financial positioning continues to remain strong and we will head into 2023 - 2024 fiscal with a surplus of \$9,773.



ACAP Saint John has completed another fiscal year and I'm pleased to report that our Auditors, Teed Saunders Doyle, has provided us with a clean audit report for the 2022-2023 financial statements.

Taylor Kormann, Treasurer  
ACAP Saint John



# ACAP

SAINT JOHN



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