

Annual Report 2021-22



**Sackville Rivers Association
Annual Report 2021-22
Message from the President**

This past year has seen Sackville Rivers continuing to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our world has changed in ways we could not foresee. We have met the challenge. We became more adept at meeting virtually while we continued necessary field work, trail work, education, community outreach, and advocacy work to improve Sackville River and its watershed.

During this second difficult COVID year, we have witnessed some truly remarkable things. It was amazing how people who were restricted to home came to realize the importance of nature. Our community started to spend more time on the trails and by the river. They learned how much nature can heal us, and from that they learned the importance of protecting the environment.

We saw the highest number of returning wild Atlantic Salmon in the last decade. More habitat was restored in Sackville River. We are thankful to the volunteers and community who continue to support us in our activities, especially our trail and river clean ups. I would like to thank Al Owen for his leadership in restoring the Rankin Brook section of the watershed. The work done at Rankin Brook stands as an outstanding achievement of what just a few people can do to restore the local environment. We continue to see an increase in the usage of active transportation trails. People spent more time outdoors walking and biking the Sackville Greenway and the Bedford-Sackville Connector.

COVID and closed schools did not stop our education programs. Fish Friends lessons went online and reached students and provided teachers with support. This is an exciting direction as we were able to reach more classrooms through virtual programming. In the community, over 200 members of the public attended our displays and activities fostering a better understanding of our watershed and all its treasures.

None of this work would have been possible without the help of our coordinator, Damon, our directors, and our volunteers. We are grateful for the steadfast support of our local HRM Councillors, provincial MLAs, and Members of Parliament. We welcomed four new, young directors to the board this past year. We appreciate their passion for the environment and overall enthusiasm serving to rejuvenate Sackville Rivers Association. We see this reflected in their bold, new ideas regarding fundraising, grant writing, new branding, and social media.

Cheers,

Walter N. Regan



**Sackville Rivers Association
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River Restoration**

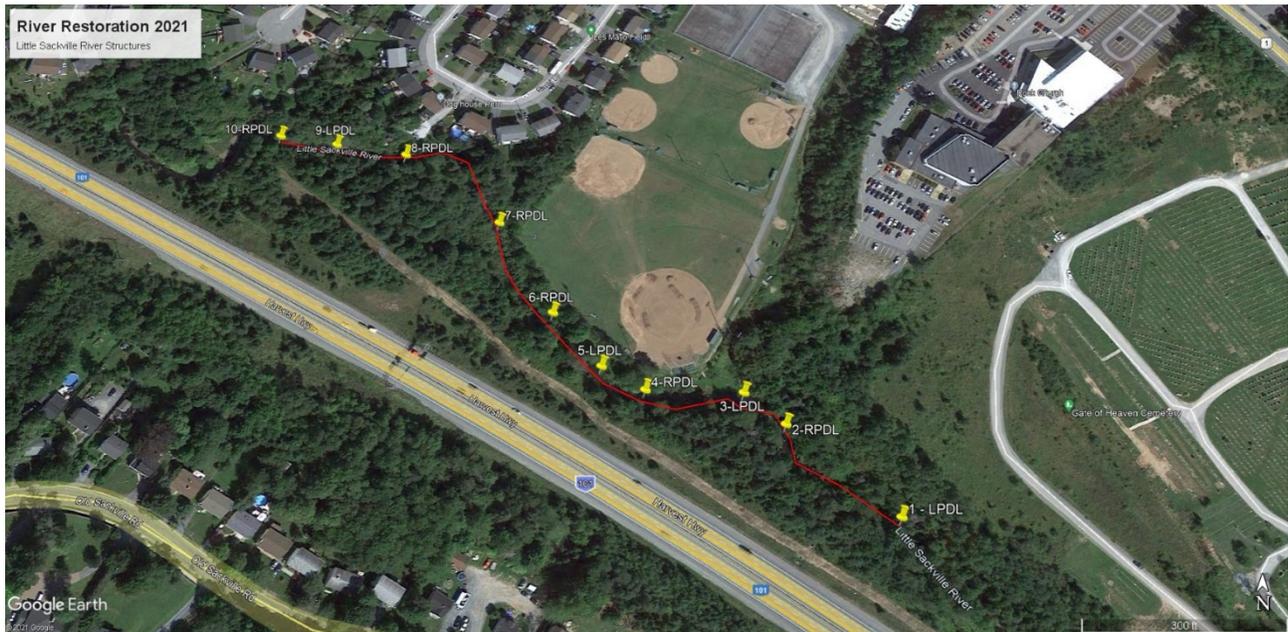
A primary goal of SRA is to protect, restore, and remediate Sackville River and its watershed. We recognize healthy river systems are good for people and for the environment.

2021

- As part of river restoration in 2021, work in Little Sackville River (LSR), our most important feeder brook to Sackville River with regards to water quality and rearing habitat. This included the installation of diggerlogs and deflectors for habitat restoration and the removal of garbage and debris jams to increase flow and fish passage.
- Eighteen structures in total were installed in LSR (10 diggerlogs and 8 deflectors) at 10 sites. This work in a reach of approximately 330m of brook restored approximately 1,800m² of fish habitat. Work took place in the reach behind the Les Mayo Ballfields.
- This project will benefit the entire Sackville River Watershed by increasing the overall productivity of the watershed (Sackville River and its many feeder brooks). All the work planned was outlined in the Sackville River Watershed Restoration Plan (SRWRP). SRWRP is SRA's current guiding plan for restoration work on tributaries on the Sackville River Watershed. The work was done using the established methods and practices in the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Stream manual.
- The project was made possible by funding from Adopt-A-Stream, Service Canada Summer Jobs, McLean Foundation, Echo Foundation, Susan and Graham Foundation, Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, and Bedford Bay Limited.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the project start date for river restoration in 2021 had been delayed, but we still met our project goals.
- The year 2021 was a great year for our salmon counts at the Sackville River Fishway with 46 salmon counted in total (3 large and 43 grilse, our largest yearly total count since 2011!).

2022

- For 2022, our restoration efforts will be concentrated on Little Sandy Lake Brook in Upper Hammonds Plains.
- Funders for this project so far are Adopt-A-Stream, Service Canada Summer Jobs, Echo Foundation, Susan and Graham Smith Foundation, and Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation.



Volunteering

- For 2021, volunteer events for SRA were still reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SRA directors, coordinators, and work crew performed a major cleanup of an abandoned encampment along Sackville River near Highway 101 over the summer. Almost 100 bags of trash were removed.
- The last cleanup we held was along the Sackville Greenway in the spring of 2022 to celebrate Earth Day. Thanks to all who came out!
- Volunteering events will be held this year almost as normal, COVID depending.

Fundraising

- Despite missing the last two years due to the pandemic, the Spring Duck Run Race held on May 7, 2022, was a huge success for the two partners, SRA and Acadia Recreation Club. In total we had 107 corporate ducks and 443 family ducks race down our new event location on Little Sackville River behind the Superstore ballfields. The event was held along the Sackville Greenway and was attended by over 100 people.
- The dinner auction is expected to continue as in previous years on September 16, 2022, after missing the event in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.
- There has been an uptick in personal and private support for SRA in these hard times. Thank you to all the kind support offered in the past year to help SRA stay in the game.

**Sackville Rivers Association
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Trails**

Trails Committee works toward the establishment of a Conservation Corridor along the Sackville River by providing access to and appreciation of the river.

Highlights

- 199 people passed the SRA booth in 6 hours on trail count and survey day, 57 surveys completed, trail was rated 5/5 – July 2021
- Sackville Greenway Trail used by HRM Recreation for storybook walk – Summer 2021
- 16 trees planted by HRM arborists in trail-realignment area between True North bridge and Range Park – October 2021
- Trail plan for Sections A and B Phase 1 completed by WSP consultants, open house with 67 members of public giving input – February 2022
- Final report on Bedford-Sackville Connector Greenway upgrade received from Design Point consultants
- Sackville Business Association provided trail head signage for Sackville Greenway Trail
- HRM Active Transportation provided wayfinding signage for Sackville Greenway Trail
- HRM filed report on inspection of the trail bridges, all in good order
- Posters displayed at World Rivers Day event and Sandy Lake Wetlands Awareness Day
- 2022 Earth Day trail and riverbank cleanup on Sackville Greenway Trail with ~40 people who collected 36 bags of garbage and 3 bags of recycling
- SRA staff and volunteers completed over 270 hours of time on trail initiatives, maintenance, inspections, patrols, and grant writing
- Trail counters on Bedford-Sackville Connector Greenway indicate over 26,000 users per year passed by Lynn Court trailhead in 2021 (this is a 48% increase over 2019)



Sackville Rivers Association Annual Report 2021-22 Education and Outreach

One key to a sustainable future is a well-informed populace who value the natural environment. SRA works toward this goal by providing educational opportunities on topics relating to environment for young and old alike. We offer community outreach sessions, host regular talks on environmental issues, and operate an online educational program.



Highlights

- We continue to add to our elementary online Fish Friends program. New lessons include Food Chains, Form and Function, and Natural and Human Impacts.
- All 8 Nova Scotian school boards were contacted about our free online program.
- Sackville High School Green Team housed an aquarium to raise brook trout for SRA. We visited the 15-member team regularly to share what was going on in the tank and to release approximately 300 trout in late April 2022.
- Our organization hosted regular Zoom talks on a variety of environmental topics including the following.
 - Recycling: What Goes Where
 - Solar Energy for Your Home
 - Outdoor Nature Wellness
 - Sandy Lake: The Forgotten Park
- Working with the Trails Committee, we produced a five-minute video for Sackville Snow Days 2022 described our work on the river. It currently has over 70 views on YouTube.
- We showcased our association and environmental issues at several events throughout the year including the following.
 - Sandy Lake: July 2021
 - We informed over 25 members of the public on SRA projects with a colourful outdoor display at Sandy Lake Beach.
 - World Rivers Day: September 2021
 - 30 people experienced a full day of events and displays held primarily at Sackville Heights Community Centre.
 - World Wetlands Day: February 2022
 - Our information kiosk at Sunnyside Mall attracted over 50 passersby.
 - World Fish Migration Day: May 2022
 - Over 50 members of the community visited the fish ladder to learn more about the migratory habits of Atlantic Salmon, American Eel, and Gaspereau.

Sackville Rivers Association Annual Report 2021-22 Advocacy

Sackville Rivers Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1988. We are dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and management of the Sackville River watershed. Much of the watershed, the river, and its tributaries have suffered from neglect and past development practices.

Highlights

- Range Park opening
- We continue to lobby to expand the present 1,000 acre Sandy Lake Park to 2,800 acres.
- Lewis Lake has made the final list as Sackville River Wilderness Area. We are working hand in hands with our partner, CPAWS-NS, to ensure the NS government will designate this land as Upper Sackville's first provincial park.
- We continue to advocate for Sackville River and Little Sackville River flood plain zone to be passed by HRM council.
- We continue to work with our local partner, Sackville Business Association, in various initiatives including Sackville Snow Days, Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting, and Meet & Greet.
- As a director of Lucasville Greenway Society, Walter is advocating for the establishment of a 7km active transportation trail in Lucasville.
- Walter and other directors have had many articles and interviews over the last year celebrating the successes and challenges we face in our watershed.
- We worked with Imagine Our Harbour and Halifax Water to discuss combined sewer overflows into Halifax Harbour. We are encouraging Halifax Water to develop and install a public notification system.
- As a member our Our HRM Alliance, we participated in the review of the Halifax Regional Plan.
- SRA continues to advocate for the Bedford Rifle Range to become a federal park reserve. We are working with DND and the federal government to encourage an automatic flip to a federal park when the range closes.



**Sackville Rivers Association
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Strategic Planning**



The five key elements of strategic planning of SRA are the following.

- Defining our vision
- Crafting our values
- Determining desired outcomes
- Declaring explicit accountability
- Establishing leading key performance indicators

Highlights

- A major accomplishment was the updating and redevelopment of SRA Operating and Procedures Manual, originally written in 2003-04. This was a big endeavour.
- An exit survey was developed to be taken by the directors who did not reoffer in the past few years.
- An end of season survey was developed and sent to the summer crew as they were finishing their work term. This was very successful.
- A link was established with the Sackville High School Green Team, a student-based environmental group. SRA is going to continue to work with these students to encourage environmental stewardship.
- The ongoing partnership between SRA and SBA was further strengthened through an SRA-hosted SBA Meet & Greet at SHCC, direct involvement and continuing sponsorship of Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting and Sackville Snow Days. SRA is working with SBA on a possible future joint project.
- SRA Occupational Health and Safety Manual in the process of being modernized, but it was not completed this fiscal year.
- We began using Asana, an online task management software.

Sackville Rivers Association Annual Report 2021-22 Fundraising

For the past several months, SRA's fundraising committee has been meeting to plan fundraising events and new fundraising programs. Here is a look at some of this year's highlights as well as what is in store for next year.

Highlights

- A Night Out for Sackville Rivers
 - On April 22, SRA hosted a fundraising event in partnership with Ol' Biddy's Brewhouse and Mediterra Kitchen which raised over \$650 for the association.
- Spring Duck Run Race
 - On May 7, we saw the return of the Spring Duck Run Race hosted with our partners at Acadia Hall. The race featured 107 corporate ducks and 443 family ducks. The event turned a profit of roughly \$10,000.
- T-Shirt Crowdfunding
 - With the launch of the new logo, the fundraising committee started a crowdfunding initiative to raise funds with new SRA t-shirts.

Coming Up

- Online Rafflebox 50/50 launching in June
- Return of Sackville Rivers Dinner Auction



**Sackville Rivers Association
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Communications**



Committee Goals

1. Set and follow a full activity plan for the year with the help of the entire board.
2. Create a media list, and send a press release for every activity.
3. Create an actual plan and strategy for the committee including objectives, target audience, messaging, content, and channels by April 1, 2022.
4. Send out a bimonthly newsletter with stories, events, and volunteer calls to action from each committee to members beginning April 2022.
5. Print newsletters for the library, Superstore, Sobeys, seniors' centre, and other community boards/locations.
6. Have a consistent socials plan one month in advance, posting three times a week.
7. Create a simple way for members to submit content for social media.

These goals were set for the calendar year of 2022 and have not been reached yet.

Committee Purpose

- Building brand, reputation, awareness of SRA
- Positioning SRA as an expert on the watershed
- Recruiting new members and engaging already-members
- Raising awareness of local climate issues and how to help
- Engaging volunteers in local work
- Highlighting our expertise and generosity from board, members, volunteers

Platform	November 2021	May 2022	Increase
Facebook	7 likes, 8 followers	92 likes, 144 followers	147.33*%
Instagram	164 followers	267 followers	62.80%
Twitter	1,809 followers	1,848 followers	2.16%

* A new Facebook page was created to face outwardly as opposed to the old FB group.

Graphics Created

- World Rivers Day
- Members' Meetings
- Giving Tuesday
- SBA Meet & Greet
- Duck Feeding Notice
- Earth Day Event
- Spring Duck Run
- AGM
- Business Card/Email Signature/Magnet
- World Fish Migration Day

Sackville Rivers Association

Income Statement 04/01/2021 to 03/31/2022

General Revenue

Donation General With Tax Receipt	\$23,600.00
General Registered Charity	\$146.00
Grant From Registered Charity	\$8,500.00
Donation From Registered Charity	\$104.30
Don/Grant General No Tax-Receipt	\$6,221.83
Donation Indiv No Tax-Receipt	\$1,971.12
Donation Non-Profit No Tax Receipt	\$500.00
Gov Revenue Federal	\$82,734.53
Gov Revenue Provincial	\$400.00
Gov Revenue Municipal	\$9,971.00
Interest Income	\$214.32
Membership Revenue	\$1,762.00
Event Revenue	\$100.00
Miscellaneous General	\$12,500.00
Rental Of Equipment	\$4,250.00
Total Revenue	\$152,975.10

Expenses

Payroll	\$84,091.96
Conference/Workshops	\$88.15
Gifts & Awards	\$200.00
Food Expenses	\$100.00
Volunteer Mileage	\$32.71
Staff Mileage	\$543.19
Interest & bank charges	\$144.22
Venue Rental	\$200.00
Memberships	\$809.52
Insurance	\$2,465.00
Office Supplies&Expenses	\$914.83
Computer/Office Repairs	\$438.00
Office Rental	\$3,734.60
Telephone, Fax, Internet	\$2,261.53
Utilities - Non Telephone	\$163.20
Bookkeeping Services	\$2,250.00
Construction	\$27,216.85
Honorariums	\$200.00
Consumable Supplies	\$1,779.89
Depreciation	\$2,786.00
Expenses Total	\$130,419.65

NET INCOME \$22,555.45

Balance Sheet March 31, 2022

Assets

Current Assets	
SRA General Account (106)	\$51,942.56
Petty Cash	\$200.00
HST Recoverable	\$3,516.83
Reserve Fund (GIC)	\$15,583.01
Accured Interest Receivable	\$31.00
Electro Fisher	\$15,480.00
Accum. Amort - Electro Fisher	-\$4,334.00
Electro Fisher	\$11,146.00

Total Current Assets \$82,419.40
TOTAL ASSET \$82,419.40

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$1,586.47
TD Visa	\$115.00
Deferred Revenue	\$100.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,801.47

Equity

Retained Surplus/Deficit	\$58,062.48
Current Surplus/Deficit	\$22,555.45
TOTAL EQUITY	\$80,617.93

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$82,419.40

SRA finished the 21-22 fiscal year with a surplus of \$22,555. As of the year end SRA had cash and GIC's totalling \$67,725. We finished the year with more than enough cash to cover all liabilities and are fiscally strong heading into the 22-23 year. SRA is currently in good standing with CRA, and all remittances are current.