

Kathleen Hipwell's Bio for the AGM

I am a perpetually curious outdoorswoman with a passion for community-based ecology. In 2015, I graduated from Saint Mary's University with a B.Sc. (Honours in Biology). Currently, I am an Environmental Engineering Technology student at the Nova Scotia Community College. My background is in the ecology of parasites in sheep. My studies at NSCC have led me to love macroinvertebrates, microplastics in freshwater environments, and preserving the integrity of nature while playing outside as much as possible. Unlike many researchers, I do not have a profound or noble sounding reason for choosing my subjects of study. Sheep are cuddly, bugs are cute, and microplastics sounds really cool.

I am thoroughly enjoying my opportunity to work with the WRWEO to assess macroinvertebrate diversity, and microplastics in sediment, along the Bluff Trail. My goal is to contribute to the ongoing environmental monitoring within the Woodens River Watershed. I believe that science and stewardship go hand-in-hand and that the best way to do research is for members of the community to do analysis in their "own backyard" or kitchen, without the need of a lab or fancy equipment. I hope to modify lab-based microplastic analysis protocols so that this new field of work can be accessible to everyone.



Allyssa Poulin

I am currently a student at Cape Breton University, completing my studies to obtain a Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Environmental Studies. I have successfully graduated with a diploma in Natural Resources Environmental Technology from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Lunenburg Campus.

I am very passionate about the environment and helping others discover the beauty of wild places through the practice of stewardship. I love to share fun facts about the outdoors with people close to me and teach them the importance of protecting and stewarding our environment. I love learning new things about any subject. You can most often find me hiking, swimming, camping, biking, sailing, or snorkelling (mostly in the warmer months).

During the summer of 2016 and 2017 I worked with the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship association as a Summer Steward. Through the SMBSA organization I have worked with other organizations such as: Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO), St. Margaret's Bay Area Rails to Trails Association (SMBARTA), and the Safety Minded ATV Association. I have gained experience/knowledge in trail maintenance, engagement with trail users - including education on the importance of stewardship, data collection and recording, forest fire prevention, shoreline erosion mitigation, and invasive species control.

I am currently registered with ECO Canada as an Environmental Professional in Training (EPt), specializing in Natural Resource Management and Sustainability. I have successfully completed Project WILD and below zero certification with the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Additionally, I have volunteered with Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site helping to remove the invasive species known as Glossy Buckthorn, and survey count of White Birch for Mi'kmaq canoe builders.

I have volunteered/attended the Old Forest Conservation Science Conference put on with the help of Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute. I have participated in the Growing Green Festival by facilitating a learning session with Bluenose Coastal Action to help children learn about water pollution.



Marking loops on BWHT to guide trail users.

Devon Gillighan – Info for WRWEO AGM 2019

Devon Gillighan became involved with the WRWEO and the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail during his undergraduate degree as part of a community engagement project. While acting in a stewardship role he conducted a short practical investigative study that examined: trail usage, stewardship interactions, and identifying/analyzing negative anthropogenic environmental issues (primarily LNT and off-leash dogs). Devon strongly believes that through community engagement, practical hands on experiential education, and eco-tourism - stewardship and conservation are strengthened.

Devon is a local (kayaking, hiking, and survival training) guide and environmental educator with Kattuk Expeditions that provides safe, respectful low-impact ecotourism. Devon's work as a guide, educator and steward has led him to Sable Island where he has become involved with stewardship and community engagement regarding the island. Devon holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from Saint Mary's University. Devon is a strong proponent of environmental stewardship, monitoring and eco-tourism. He believes that science and stewardship are integrally connected, especially in maintaining community involvement and ecological protection for groundbreaking scientific research.

