

Field Supervisor Report 2023

Hello all, my name is Ethan Haakman and I am the Field Supervisor for the Hunter-Clyde Watershed Group. I am currently going into my second year of Wildlife Conservation Technology at Holland College. Although this is my first year with Hunter-Clyde, I have past experience with other watersheds from previous summers. All my life I have been deeply immersed and in tune with nature, so working in the field with an amazing crew all summer filled my heart with gratitude. I hope you all enjoy reading this report as much as I enjoyed looking back at the summer and writing it.

May 23, 2023 – May 31st, 2023

Planted a total of 404 trees and shrubs at two different sites, including MacLeod Road and St. Patrick's Road. At both sites, the majority of Red Maple were caged in for protection along with a select few Yellow Birch and Eastern Cedar. On MacLeod Road, 260 trees and shrubs were planted; the species and number of plants were:

- 30 Red Maple
- 30 Red Elderberry
- 30 Eastern Larch
- 18 Purple Chokeberry
- 12 Black Chokeberry
- 12 Black Spruce
- 5 White Spruce
- 18 Winterberry Holly
- 24 Common Elderberry
- 6 Eastern Cedar
- 24 Wild Rose
- 12 Balsam Fir
- Hemlock
- 12 Yellow Birch
- 15 Red Oak (plugs)

A total of 144 trees and shrubs were planted at St. Patrick's Road; the species and number of plants at St. Patricks Road were:

- 6 Red Elderberry
- 24 Eastern Larch
- 30 White Spruce
- 12 Winterberry Holly
- 6 Common Elderberry

- 18 Red Maple
- 12 Willow
- 6 Eastern Cedar
- 12 White Birch
- 18 Wild rose

Apart from the larger planting projects, several smaller tasks were completed throughout this period. The crew checked coverboards for any signs of wildlife, sampled Rosewood for Macroinvertebrates, cut Dogwood stakes at Campbells Pond, and limbed a downed Red Maple on MacLeod Road. On the 25th, Ethan and Taylor did the YSI and depth loggers, then completed a tree check on the woods side of the Farmhouse Inlet.

- Red Maple: 9/9
- Yellow Birch: $\frac{3}{4}$ (YB07 dead)
- Hemlock $\frac{3}{4}$ (HEM05 dead)

June 1, 2023 - June 9, 2023

A stream assessment was performed between MacLeod Road and Clyde Road. Although Fiona caused many blockages and messes throughout the stream, it is not of utmost priority to clear this section as it falls above the dam and no sea-run trout can access it. Multiple brush mat banks and tree planting sites along the stream were found as well.



On June 5, 2023, a trail was cut and cleared on Karen's property. We also planted 30 or so trees along the trail as she had lost a number of trees from the hurricane. In the afternoon, the crew conducted macroinvertebrate samples at Moffatts and Johnsons. In the following two days, the crew used a winch and saws to turn a downed tree on the Butterworths property into a cover log slightly downstream from where it was downed. More stream clearing was done at Clyde,

between the two bridges at the Rosewood entrance. The crew also met with Parks Canada to discuss tree planting around Krummholz.

On June 8, 2023, HCWG, TREC, and Parks Canada worked conjointly to remove Garlic Mustard in Cavendish; A total of 475 lb of Garlic Mustard was removed. Finally, to finish the week the crew helped with Environmental Fun Day at Rackhams pond in the morning and sampled macroinvertebrates at Line Road in the afternoon.

June 12, 2023 – June 16, 2023

This week was full of stream clearing and macroinvertebrate samples. Taylor and Ethan stream cleared on Clyde every day except Tuesday. On Tuesday, the crew did macroinvertebrate samples at Campbells Pond, Route 13, Hopedale, and Macleod Road.

June 18, 2023 – June 24, 2023

On June 19, 2023, the crew finished macroinvertebrate samples and planted trees around a spring in Moffats to provide shade and a more biodiverse habitat.

The following day, half the crew put out stationary bat monitors at a few different sites while the other half of the crew did tree maintenance at St. Patricks Road. Tree maintenance involved cutting the long grass around the first- and second-year trees that were planted in the beaver meadow; this prevents the trees from getting out competed by the grass.

June 21, 2023, was spent clearing the trails in the woodlot at Farmhouse Inn where many large hardwood trees had fallen from Fiona. Many trees were planted in the same woodlot the previous fall after the hurricane, so planting more this season was not needed. Later that night, Taylor and Ethan drove a mobile bat transect to monitor the species in our watershed.

Thursday and Friday were spent doing YSI and stream clearing Clyde. The depth loggers were removed from their sites to collect the water monitoring data.

June 25, 2023 – July 1, 2023

On Monday and Tuesday, the crew finished clearing trails at Farmhouse Inn and continued to clear at Clyde. The bat monitors were also taken down and cover boards were checked.

The images to the right shows a before and after comparison of one area on Clyde that was cleared.



June 28, 2023: Goose Banding

June 29 and 30, two crew members did the regular YSI route and put out the depth loggers, while the other members removed Nightshade from Campbells Pond. Nightshade is an invasive species of plant that grows along the water's edge, 32 large bags of Nightshade were removed in these two days.

July 4, 2023 – July 8, 2023

Tuesday and Wednesday, the crew did stream enhancement at Clyde for half of both days, the other half of the days was mostly made of small jobs at the office, such as building nest boxes and identifying macroinvertebrates.

Thursday, the entire crew attended Watershed Training to further their knowledge of why our work is so important. To end the week, more stream clearing was done at Clyde.

July 10, 2023 – July 15, 2023

Monday marked the final day clearing at Clyde, with many other streams to be cleared and the thousands of meters we cleared already, we thought that it would be ideal to move onto the next site. On Tuesday, the crew planted at three different sites:

Property on Line Rd. These trees were planted as hedgerows to protect the property from high winds.

- 12 Balsam Fir
- 12 White Spruce
- 3 White Birch
- 3 Northern Red Oak

Headwater at Johnsons.

- 6 Black Chokeberry
- 6 Red Elderberry
- 6 Balsam Fir
- 6 White Spruce
- 6 Spirea
- 6 Northern Red Oak

Beaver meadow at Clyde.

- 12 Common Elderberry
- 6 Willow
- 6 Winterberry Holly
- 6 Cedar

- 6 Eastern Larch
- 1 Dogwood
- 2 White Ash
- 3 Red Maple

July 16, 2023 – July 22, 2023

On Monday, the crew commenced the clearing of the stream running parallel to Line Road. Apart from a few large blockages within the first 500m, the stream was relatively clear, and progress was being made at a very fast pace.

The next day was made up mostly of tree planting on three properties along the shoreline of North Rustico Harbour, and one meadow with a spring running through it. The trees that were included in the shoreline properties were:

- 6 Bayberry
- 12 Wild Rose
- 3 Willow
- 16 White Spruce
- 4 White Birch
- 2 Red Maple

The trees included in the meadow:

- 6 Black Chokeberry
- 3 Common Elderberry
- 6 Red Elderberry
- 4 Meadow Sweet
- 6 Balsam Fir
- 6 White Spruce
- 6 White Birch
- 2 Spirea
- 3 White Ash

Images to the right shows our watershed technicians planting trees on one of the properties in the North Rustico Harbour.



Wednesday, the crew continued stream enhancement at Line Road. After work we did an open office event, where a total of 93 trees were given away for donations. The crew then did a moth survey at Buote Natural Heritage Woods.

On Thursday, half the crew did YSI and culvert assessments while the other half did an invasive species survey on Line Road. The next day, the crew spent half the day removing the invasive species found the day before on the survey, and beach cleanup on the other half of the day.

July 23, 2023 – July 29, 2023

Monday, Tuesday, and Friday were spent stream clearing on Johnsons; half the day on Tuesday was spent doing beach cleanup in Anglo Rustico. Wednesday was a rainy day, so the crew did some smaller tasks around the office, and Thursday was YSI and beach cleanup in Anglo Rustico.

July 30, 2023 – August 5, 2023

On Monday, a small portion of the morning was spent tree planting on a shoreline in North Rustico:

- 6 Bayberry
- 6 Wild Rose
- 3 White Birch

The rest of the day included finishing stream clearing at Johnsons and installing fishing line disposal bins.

Tuesday morning, a few crew members attended Wild Child at Strathgartney while the rest of the crew did stream assessment at Shaw. In the afternoon when the rest of the crew finished up at Wild Child, they met up and continued to remove invasive species at Line Road. Some of the invasive species at Line Road included:

- Bittersweet Nightshade
- Cucumber Root
- Invasive Jewelweed
- Multiflora Rose

Wednesday, the crew continued to clear at Shaw. The next morning, two people did YSI while the rest of the crew planted trees on a property in Anglo Rustico; this was a fairly large planting site.

- 12 Black Chokeberry
- 2 Bayberry
- 12 Common Elderberry

- 6 Wild Rose
- 6 Meadowsweet
- 12 Balsam Fir
- 12 White Spruce
- 6 White Birch
- 12 Red Maple

The afternoon was beach cleanup in Anglo Rustico.
The crew finished the week by stream clearing at Moffatts.

August 6, 2023 – August 12, 2023

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday were spent stream clearing at Moffatts and Rosewood. Wednesday while it was raining, three crew members did a runoff survey at 7 different sites around the watershed that have been known for bad runoff. Runoff occurs when rain carries sediment from farmers' fields into the streams. Surveys can be done to find the exact location of where the sediment is being dumped into the stream and what field it is coming from. Working with landowners to find a solution is the ultimate end goal.

August 13, 2023 – August 19, 2023

Monday and Tuesday were spent doing beach cleanup in Anglo Rustico. Wednesday and Thursday were a continuation of stream clearing at Rosewood and the weekly YSI. Images below show the large amount of debris that have been washed up in Anglo Rustico, mostly due hurricane Fiona.



August 20, 2023 – August 26, 2023

On Monday, a trail cam was set up at Farmhouse Inn to track wildlife presence in the area. The crew planted Milkweed seeds at Rosewood, planted trees at Rosewood, and moved the location of the coverboards.

Trees planted at Rosewood included:

- 6 Red Elderberry
- 6 Winterberry
- 6 Balsam Fir
- 6 Eastern Large
- 6 Red Maple

Tuesday morning and Wednesday were stream clearing at Rosewood, Tuesday afternoon was scat and print identification at Beach Hut. Thursday was our weekly YSI.

Friday was tree planting at Line and Shaw to rewild these properties and shoreline planting. To finish off the last day with the summer students we had a BBQ with the crew!

Trees planted in these 3 locations include:

- 26 Chokeberry
- 2 Northern Bayberry
- 2 Meadowsweet Spiraea
- 6 Winterberry
- 8 White birch
- 11 Red Maple

For the next Field Supervisor, whoever that may be, don't take this job for granted! Appreciate every day that you can work here, and never get on Harriet's bad side.