



Project Update

**R**estoration involves working to bring back native habitat; for the St. Mary's River, that means re-establishing Acadian floodplain forest which once bordered this majestic Nova Scotian river.

Land-use practices in the St. Mary's River watershed have constantly been changing throughout history. People in the area have used the land for agriculture, mining and forestry for centuries. The natural communities on the river have been adapting to these

## Restoring the St. Mary's River

changes and have even been able to regain natural function after disturbances.

Restoring forests along the shoreline is an important way to keep our river healthy, and sometimes mother nature can use some help.

All landowners along the river can ensure that forest habitat is allowed to develop on the shore by keeping a buffer of 10-20 meters along the river with trees and shrubs.

There are other meas-



(photo: L. Paulseth)

ures that can be taken to help restore forests, including replanting open areas with native trees and managing invasive plants.

The ultimate goal is to have natural Acadian floodplain forest along the shores of the river. If you are interested in further information about restoration, please contact us at 425-5263.

### Campaign Highlights:

*The St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Campaign has been focused on protecting beautiful and important spaces along the St. Mary's River since 2006. Our conservation work focuses on protection of rare ecosystems like Acadian floodplain and old-growth forests, and imperiled wildlife species. We protect land by working with landowners to steward their properties on the river. The Nature Trust currently manages four properties on the St. Mary's:*

- A.M. Sandy Cameron Conservation Lands
- Hemlock Falls Conservation Lands
- C.W. Anderson Conservation Lands
- Archibald Conservation Lands

## Clean Water, Healthy Water

Healthy shorelines are part of a healthy watershed, which provides



clean water for both people and other wildlife. Intact shorelines reduce erosion and sedimentation which contribute to water pollution and lower water flow; these conditions

are detrimental to the Atlantic Salmon population and other animals. Caring for forested areas beside the river is an important way to keep our water healthy.

(photo: Gilbert van Ryckevorsel)

## Want to get involved?

**PRACTICE** good riparian stewardship (learning to care for your shoreline) and learn to recognize important natural features

**PROTECT** high priority natural areas. Consider working with us to permanently protect all or part of your property as conservation land—a natural legacy you can leave for generations

**SUPPORT** our conservation work by making a donation to the Nature Trust

**VOLUNTEER** with the Nature Trust and help us monitor conservation lands along the river

*OVER 6000 ACRES OF OUTSTANDING  
CONSERVATION LANDS PROTECTED.  
FOREVER.*

*visit [www.nsnt.ca](http://www.nsnt.ca) for more info*



**NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST**  
PROTECTING TOMORROW, TODAY

**The Nature Trust** is a non-profit organization that works to ensure natural areas exist along the river to help keep it, and the wildlife that call it home, healthy!

We couldn't do it alone! Creating and maintaining a "ribbon of green" along the St. Mary's River means we work with private landowners, community members, organizations and government.



*St. Mary's River, P. Green*

### Healthy Shorelines

**Signs of:** vegetated buffer strip of native species along the shoreline, including grasses, shrubs and trees

**Lead to:** intact shorelines, cool, shaded waters, higher water flow, habitat for a diverse range of species

## Look for healthy shorelines in your community:

### Damaged Shorelines

**Signs of:** cleared land, through mowing, ploughing or grazing, right up to the river

**Lead to:** erosion, low water flow, warmer water, sedimentation and more pollutants in the river, poor habitat for wildlife



*Annapolis River, P. Green*



### Contact Us!

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NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

PROTECTING THE NATURAL LEGACY OF THE ST. MARY'S