#### Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (SAB)

- Non-profit group dedicated to conservation, protection, and enhancement of wildlife habitat in eastern Prince Edward Island.
- Established in 1954, celebrating our 70th Anniversary this year.
- Rich history in leadership and environmental work in eastern PEI.
- Provincially and nationally acknowledged with awards.



Timing of Public Meetings for the Forestry Commission is not ideal.

#### PEI FORESTRY COMMISSION

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Islanders are invited to provide feedback on forestry priorities at upcoming public meetings. Have <u>your</u> say on island forests!

#### DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Tuesday, May 14, 7-9pm - Malcolm Darrach Community Centre, 1 Avonlea Drive, Charlottetown

Thursday, May 16, 7-9pm - Town Hall Boardroom, 18 Community Street, O'Leary

Tuesday, May 21, 7-9pm - Village Musical Acadien, 1745 Rte 124, Abram-Village

Thursday, May 23, 7-9pm - Credit Union Place, 511 Notre-Dame Street, Summerside

Tuesday, May 28, 7-9pm - Cavendish Farms Wellness Centre, 21 Sullivan Drive, Montague

Thursday, May 30, 7-9pm - Eastern Kings Community Centre, 85 Munn Road, Souris

# Eastern Kings, PEI

- Eastern Kings is a heavily forested area compared to other regions of PEI.
- Souris Wildlife has been planting trees annually for decades, with a focus on riparian zones.



### Species and Quantity of Trees

- Our trees have been provided by J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery, MacPhail Woods Forestry Project
- The nurseries are under capacity for what is necessary if we are going to meet the demands of climate change.
- We'd like to have more native hardwood species available that make old growth forests.



## Funding Concerns

### Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action Budget

• 2023-2024 Budget Forecast: Approximately \$140 million.

#### Forests, Fish, and Wildlife Budget

- 2023-2024 Budget Forecast: Approximately \$14 million.
- Proportion of Total Budget: About 10% of the \$140 million.
- **Concern:** Department is not receiving adequate funds.



### Forests and Fire Protection

- Eastern PEI heavily impacted by Hurricane Fiona. Woodlands now contain significant amounts of deadwood.
- Limited Equipment; insufficient for facing major fires like those Nova Scotia dealt with last year.
- Current Budget: \$1 million.
  - 0.007% of the \$140 million total Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action budget.
    - To pay for training, supplies, etc.,



## Department of Agriculture

- Some agricultural land in the eastern Kings area is owned by the province.
  - Managed by the Department of Forestry.
- The Department of Agriculture is better suited to manage agricultural land effectively.
- Example: Basin Head Marine Protected Area (MPA).



### Agricultural Land Challenges – Clear Cutting

- Land Pressure and Competition: Farmers in the area face intense competition for land from developers causing land prices beyond farmers' reach.
- Land Management Challenges: The need for extended crop rotations forces farmers to clear wooded areas to maintain productive farmland, exacerbating deforestation concerns.
- We see the problem. Unsure how to solve it, but it should be addressed.



### New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot

- A 4.8-km loop trail near Souris Line Road, Prince Edward Island.
- Currently in poor condition and has not been maintained for over 20 years.
- Original Purpose from the 1970's
  - To provide a walking trail for selfeducation.
  - To demonstrate plots for landowners to enhance their woodlots.
- Missed Opportunities
- Potential Focus Areas
  - Selective harvesting.
  - Biodiversity enhancement.
  - Soil and water conservation.



### Townshend Woodlot (Souris Line Road)

- Accessibility to the Townshend Woodlot on Souris Line Road has been limited for the past 10 years.
- Hurricane Fiona
- **Recreational Use:** The woodlot should be open for walkers and sightseers, providing a valuable recreational space for the community.
- **Birdwatching:** The area is a unique habitat for bird species, attracting birders who can only find certain birds in this specific location.



## Industrial Windmills

- Environmental Impact
  - Habitat fragmentation
  - Destruction of old growth forests
  - Need for urgent action to address these impacts
- Concerns About Windmill Placement
  - Windmills should not be placed in woods, especially old growth forests
  - Specific reasons include:
    - Habitat fragmentation
    - Increased risk of fire
    - Disruption during nesting periods



### Damaged Signage at the New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot





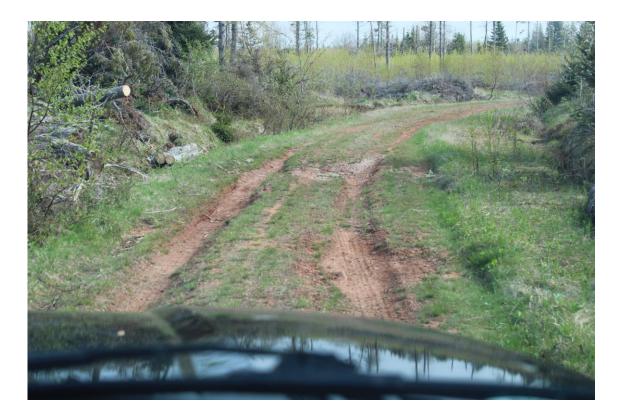
# **Forest Fire Hazards**





# **Poorly Kept Road**





### **Unmarked Roads and Unclear Trails**

