

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 your 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 self-education.
 - 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

