

## Recognizing Community Champions of Environmental Stewardship

We recognize the community champions below for their contribution to local environmental stewardship within the North River Watershed. The North River watershed is a large watershed located between Charlottetown and Winsloe. It is an important watershed as it is used by the City of Charlottetown to supply residential and commercial water supply. This watershed is frequently used by angler's who fish Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout, Striped Bass, Groundfish and Gasperaux. Most importantly this watershed is home to a wealth of biodiversity which keeps our communities healthy and functioning. We would also like to recognize the PEI's Wildlife Conservation Fund, which supports the effort to recognize champions. The funds from purchasing a conservation license plate from Access PEI are put towards The Wildlife Conservation Fund and we are grateful for this contribution from Islanders who recognize the exceptionally unique quality of this island's ecological community.



### George Bassett

George conserves a beautiful piece of land along the North River in Miltonvale Park. He lives in Charlottetown now but owned a sheep farm for many of years on this property. He used to Sheppard the sheep down to the river to drink from the clean waters. These clean waters are also home to many species, including Atlantic Salmon. Anglers are commonly seen fishing off of Milton Bridge throughout summer and fall, as it is an iconic place to catch brook trout. After the sheep farm Mr. Bassett has had the land reforested in softwoods under a provincial forestry program. Now established, there are hardwoods like yellow birch and oak growing up. While relaxing alongside the river on his land, one can hear migratory songbirds singing and coyote pups learning to howl in the distance. Thank you Mr. George Bassett for your many years of wisdom and conservation on this land.



### Roger MacNeill

The late Mr. George MacNiell passed his land onto his son Roger, who remembers the cattle foraging all the way down to the river's edge before drinking up the cool clean waters that run into the North River. His land has not seen cattle on it for some time, but the remnants of an old dam where the water was pooled still hold memories, and today are providing habitat for the local populations of Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon that spawn nearby. Mr. MacNiell's upland habitat is rich with a mixed hardwoods and softwoods, some species are old growth which means they are over 100 years old. On your way for a walk down to the river you can meet one of the largest and most beautiful Tamarack trees growing on his land. Thank you Mr. Roger MacNiell for recognizing the true value of this land and keeping it conserved for future generations.



### Miriam Lank

Mrs. Miriam Lank and her late husband Billy Lank, farmed the land next to the river for generations. They always left a large buffer zone between the field edge and the river, that was over 60 Meters wide. They are both passionate about the environment and he fished the river for trout on occasion. As of right now, many other community members fish off the banks. The path down to the river's edge through Mrs. Lank's land is one well-trodden. On a summer's evening at the end of the path there is always at least one angler minding the waters for a bite. Now the land is rented for produce, she still insists on keeping a large buffer zone down to the river's edge which protects the ecosystem. She lives in Hyde Point along the coast and is planning to reforest her coastline to mitigate the effects of sea level rise from climate change. She is a recognizable community champion and her insight is inspiring. Thank You Billy and Miriam Lank for taking the time, the right actions and the best management practices to keep benefitting our ecosystem.



### Larry Cosgrave and Linda "Liz" Vaine

Mr. Cosgrave and his wife Liz live alongside the Watt's Creek tributary, a historical Salmon river within the North River watershed. He and Liz are in enormous support of the local island ecology. They rent their land for local honeybee colonies and on a warm summer's day there are swarms of honeybees suckling freshwater off the sphagnum moss that grows upon an old half sunken log on the river's edge. Here the river's edge is also abundant with delicious blackberries, and if you look deep into the river, you will see Brook Trout darting up and down the channel. There are hummingbirds nesting here in the summer, and they can be seen enjoying the nectar from the wildflowers that embrace this river. Thank you Larry and Liz for your careful and tender watch over the local ecology. The species that thrive on your land are always demonstrating joy.

