Working to Protect NB Water for 50 Years

The importance of watershed protection

April 12, 2021





Conservation Council of New Brunswick

- Saint John River (1969)
- Environ. Protection Act (1980)
- Underground Storage Tanks (1987)
- Bay of Fundy
- Bay of Chaluer/Northumberland Strait work
- Clean Water Act (1989)
  - Lakes and rivers (2002)
- Shale gas and water (2010-16)
- Comprehensive watershed based protections , i.e. water classification plus new legislation (2016-2020)
- Provincial Water Strategy, 2018
- Shediac Bay Watershed Plan, Feb 2021

We asked them what they love about their water



Full polling results available at https://www.conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

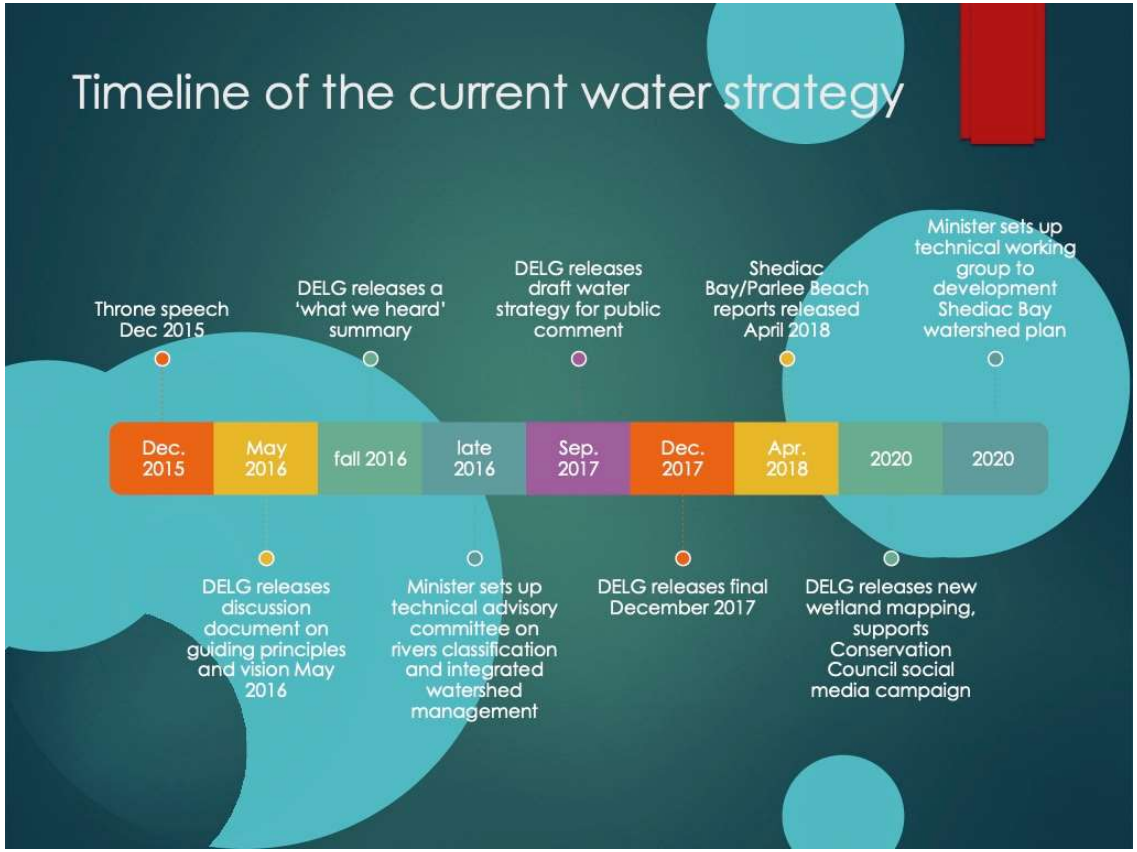
We asked them what worried them the most?



Full polling results available at https://www.conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

What are the risks to water in NB?

- Climate change
  - flooding, drought
- Large-scale clearcutting
- Pollution release
  - sewage and septic tanks
  - nutrient and chemical run off from farms
  - forestry pollution, including herbicide runoff, loss of stream cover
- Roads and highways
- Loss of shorelines
  - wetlands, salt marshes, caused (mostly) by improper development


Timeline of the current water strategy
Throne speech Dec 2015
DELG releases a 'what we heard' summary
DELG releases draft water strategy for public comment
Shediac Bay/Parlee Beach reports released April 2018
Minister sets up technical working group to development Shediac Bay watershed plan
Dec. 2015
May 2016
fall 2016
late 2016
Sep. 2017
Dec. 2017
Apr. 2018
2020
2020
DELG releases discussion document on guiding principles and vision May 2016
Minister sets up technical advisory committee on rivers classification and integrated watershed management
DELG releases final December 2017
DELG releases new wetland mapping, supports Conservation Council social media campaign

What does NB need to protect freshwater?

- Modern, comprehensive water protection strategy and regulations/legislations
- Watershed-based integrated management plans, and, in some instances sub-watershed plans
- Strategic partnership with federal government departments like Environmental and Climate Change, Fisheries and Oceans

What is a watershed plan?

- A strategy and a work plan for achieving water protection goals that provides assessment and management information for a geographically defined watershed.
- It includes the analysis, actions, participants and resources with respect to both the development and the implementation of the plan.
- It sets out to help answer these questions:
  - what is the current state of our water?
  - what objectives are we trying to meet with this plan?
  - what are the key threats to water quality in our watershed?
  - what actions need to be taken to reduce pollution and respond to those threats?
  - who is going to do what?
  - how did we make out?
- Most watershed plans also include regular progress reports

Further reading

- https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Water-Eau/WaterStrategy-StrategieSurLeau/RecommendationsForEnhancedWatershedManagementNB.pdf
- Lake Simcoe plan: https://www.ontario.ca/document/lake-simcoe-protection-plan
- Eastern Charlotte Waterways: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58d16e7b6b8f5bad3a9b65ad/t/5d3b3b8f7ee7d00001f2bf96/1564163788123/Magaguadavic-River-Watershed-Management.compressed.pdf
- Shediac Bay draft plan: https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/Promo/Parlee_Beach/pdfs/draft-shediac-bay-watershed-management-plan.pdf