

Buffer zone benefits

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to see changes made so that resource use on PEI becomes sustainable.

"It bothers me considerably to think that the decisions are being made by the ones who will not be affected. Students in high schools and universities will inherit this mess," he said.

Todd Dupuis, of the PEI Atlantic Salmon Federation estimates that approximately two to three million tons of topsoil is lost each year on PEI due to erosion. This reduces the fertility of remaining soil, meaning that fields will eventually become less productive.

Some farmers and landowners on PEI recognize the volatile nature of this problem, and voluntarily establish buffer zones and use sound ecological practices. The Morell River Management Co-op has created a 60 metre conservation zones and use sound ecological practices. The Morell River Management Co-op has created a 60 metre conservation zone which runs along both sides of the river for a total of 44 km. Yet even this accom-

plishment is not without problems. Guignon asserts that the lack of similar protection upstream has threatened the quality of the river despite their diligent efforts.

Many farmers, foresters, and landowners oppose any legislation which they feel will restrict their ability to operate profitably. Buffer zones will take potentially arable land out of production. Ironically, however, buffer zones will help retain the productivity of soil in the long term. They will also protect fish stocks and habitats, add to the aesthetic quality of Island landscapes, and keep harmful substances from polluting our waterways.

The issue of mandatory buffer zones will be addressed in the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Students interested in voicing concerns on this issue should contact in the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Students interested in voicing concerns on this issue should contact their local MLAs.

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