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Professor sheds light on watershed groups

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The Guardian



Dr. Darren Bardati discusses his findings on 30 watershed groups surveyed across the Island before a group at the Cornwall Civic Centre. Guardian photo by Nathan Rochford

Increased long-term funding and heightened environmental regulations are two of the most important barriers facing watershed group across the province, says one Island scientist.

Darren Bardati, director of environmental sciences at UPEI, spoke recently on the subject of watersheds at the Cornwall Civic Centre while presenting the findings from a research project he completed in 2009 studying 30 watershed groups across P.E.I. "It's time for government to take watershed groups more seriously," Bardati said, adding watershed groups are a way of preserving important parts of P.E.I.'s natural environment for future generations.

He added there are ongoing discussions with the provincial government on implementing a watershed strategy.

This would mean more accountability in the way groups are formed, maintained and "how their existence is communicated to the public."

Likewise, a need for balance within the groups is something Bardati says should be looked at.

"A lot of people were raising the issue of the need to balance the effectiveness of what the watershed groups are doing well right now," Bardati said.

Those issues aside, Bardati feels his research will be one small part of a larger movement toward making watershed groups on P.E.I., stronger.

"I'm positive about the future of watershed groups on P.E.I.," he said.

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