

Current News

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Coordinator's Corner

In retrospect, It's been an interesting year, full of tantalizing meetings and miles of red tape. But like every year we managed through the rough and coasted through the smooth and here we are with another year under our belt.

Honestly, it's been a good year. Maybe we didn't get all the funding we were hoping for but we managed to complete a couple of good projects and we set up some more for the coming year. There has been more and more competition for funds at the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) and that just makes us work harder to bring innovative and useful projects forward.

This said, the group has been keeping busy with various stream rehabilitation projects and the writing of new funding proposals. This year announces new project possibilities. We've applied for a long term water quality monitoring project for our watershed and we also applied to put into service a water quality data base via our web site. This database would enable stakeholders to lookup water related information that would otherwise be difficult to access. Furthermore, we are also looking into partnerships with other municipal organizations to improve the health of local streams and to promote the environment through education.

Another interesting thing to look for this spring is the result of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report for the Petitcodiac River. It will be interesting to see how quickly the recommendations from the study will be implemented by the deciding parties. Current information on the EIA is available at www.petitcodiac.com.

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Questions, comments, suggestions?

Contact us !

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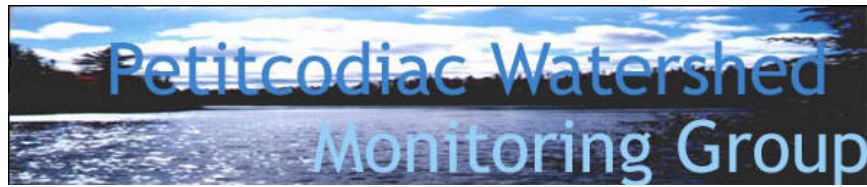
EIA Revisions

The New-Brunswick department of Environment and Local Government has revised it's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. It appears that the government hasn't changed the involved process like some would prefer but improving it so as to make the current EIA procedure more user-friendly and transparent. A few environmental groups believed that some projects found loopholes under the old system. In making the EIA process more transparent, many entrepreneurs were concerned that it would only delay or even cut short harmless projects. To see a list of current projects that are under EIA review, visit the following address:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0377/002/0003-e.asp>

Visit our website, we're always looking for new members and ideas!!

www.pwmg-gsbp.org



Petitcodiac EIA Workshop

From the EIA public consultation held on November 6th 2004, it appears the Petitcodiac river will once again flow freely. Four possible options were considered to resolve the issue of fish migration for which the EIA was called and only two of them would respect the project objective of restoring fish passage.

The first option of changing the fishway was rejected for lack of existing technology. Opening the gates during peak season was also rejected because the migration periods for all fish species found in the river would only see the gates closed one day a year. The two remaining options include the permanent opening of the gates and the construction of a partial bridge. These last two options will be given an in-depth study and the final report is due out this spring.

For more information visit www.petitcodiac.com

What's going on along the river?

Have you seen anything unusual or interesting along the river? Maybe a few hares or pheasants. Some people have seen deer, foxes and eagles. What about you? Do you take note of the birds you see or maybe the tracks. We are sure others would like to hear what you have all seen. We'll try to post this information in our next newsletter and on our web site. Contact us with your info. pwmq@nbnet.nb.ca

Upcoming Activities

- April 2nd Dieppe Fly Fishing Forum 2005 (10 am to 4 pm at the Dieppe Community College)
- April & May SOS Water Sankwan - Project Ripples Workshop (Moncton library)
- April 22 Earth Day

Environmental Education

Early in December 2004 we decided to dig out the environmental education program we developed two years ago. A well made education document we couldn't let go to waste so we studied the document and material and went through with another tour of the French schools in the area.

The program was a brief but complete examination into the scientific knowledge attached to the Hall's Creek watershed. Even if some of the material wasn't applicable to the rest of the Petitcodiac River watershed we nonetheless found a way to present that information in a manner which anyone could relate. The modules focused on six different aspects i.e. The watershed, the water cycle, habitat, biodiversity, pollution, and a short history of Moncton.

In total, 6 schools were visited over a 6 week period and **1500 students** from levels 1 through 8 were presented to. Students and teachers alike greatly appreciated the presentations and showed their appreciation and commented on the amount of new knowledge they had acquired.

Given the awesome response, we are definitely considering having the document translated so we can make more presentations in Anglophone schools in the area. We are also looking at improving the visual material included with the presentation to include an electronic slide presentation.