

Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group

Coordinator's Corner

I am happy to present you with our most recent newsletter concerning the activities surrounding the Petitcodiac and Memramcook river watersheds. In this number, you will find several interesting articles about water quality results, news from our Annual General Meeting, held in May 2003 etc.

Secondly, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Peter Sawyer, who has been the president of our organization for the past four years. During this time, Peter has been a very involved president that brought a technical as well as moral assistance to all PWMG employees and volunteers.

From all members and employees at PWMG, we say thank you for all the work you've done !

Eric Arseneau

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Newsletter content

- Coordinator's Corner
- Fish Friends Program
- Rabbit Brook
- PWMG's new president
- New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund
- Publication of Memramcook provisional report
- PWMG Membership



Rabbit Brook by Georges Brun

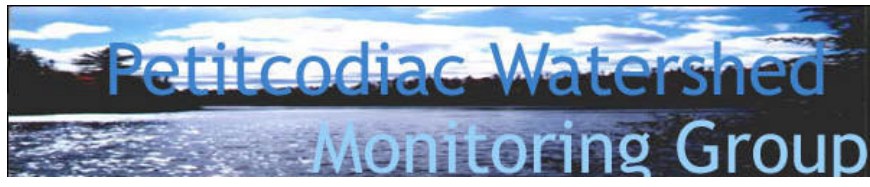
The Rabbit Brook Committee began was formed in 1995. The committee was concerned about the piping of the Rabbit Brook waterway, and lobbied all levels of governments in order to prevent this act from occurring again. Media campaigns in the local newspaper along with radio and TV reports were put together to reach out and educate the public. Clean up campaigns have also been organized with citizens, staff and students of Beaverbrook School. The Rabbit Brook Committee also identified problem storm sewer outlets that were contaminating the brook with sewage. Further more, fish passage impediments were also identified. Corrective measures were put in place to remediate these situations. Throughout the years, various other organizations were brought in to gather baseline data on the brook (i.e. PWMG, Halls creek rehabilitation project, Petitcodiac River Keepers etc.).

In 2001 discussions with stakeholders began in order the protect the brooks buffer zone by building a nature trail along it. However, an important loss of buffer zone and waterway occurred in the summer of 2002. Approximately 120 feet of stream was piped under Plaza Blvd, and compensation for this has yet to be addressed. Other issues still remain, and if you're interested in receiving more information or participating in the group's effort, a meeting for stakeholders is tentatively planned for the 3rd or 4th week of September. All are invited, please contact Georges Brun at 384-9354 for more information.

Current News

Questions, comments, suggestions?

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PWMG's New President

Winston Jones, a dairy farmer residing in the Coverdale area, has become the new PWMG president. Mr. Jones has taken part in PWMG's activities for many years, as well as the Moncton Soils & Crops and many other environmental and agricultural organizations. He is replacing Peter Sawyer, who was PWMG's president for the past 4 years.



New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund

This year, the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund has awarded PWMG with a grant of \$50,000. This grant will go towards setting up a long term water quality monitoring program for the Petitcodiac and Memramcook river watersheds. This will be done in collaboration with l'Université de Moncton. NBETF's grant will also help PWMG with a pilot project using insects as indications of the water quality in a watercourse, as well as to continue work with the Moncton Soils & Crops to form an agro-conservation club within the Petitcodiac watershed. PWMG would like to thank the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund for their generous grant.

PWMG Membership

The PWMG is now offering memberships to our group. The sign-up cost per individual is 5\$ and 10\$ per non-profit organization. This yearly membership will allow you or your organization to receive information on events and dates of our Annual General Meeting and other meetings, to assist to these, and vote on decisions concerning PWMG's activities. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact us and we will provide you with the necessary information.

Why become a member ?

- ✓ participate and vote during the annual general meeting (AGM) and special meetings of PWMG;
- ✓ participate in any activity or program of PWMG;
- ✓ serve if elected on the board of directors.

We would like to thank all of our present members for taking part and encourage others to join.

Did you know that ...?

- Water consumption usually drops 18-25% after a water meter is installed.
- Once evaporated, a water molecule spends about 10 days in the air.
- Canadians are the trustees of almost 25% of all of the world's wetlands, currently covering 16% of the land area of Canada.

taken from http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/e_quickfacts.htm Environment Canada website

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Provisional Water Quality Reports

The Memramcook Watershed Provisional Water Quality Report has been published in French this year. After public consultations in the Memramcook river watershed and having looked at the present water quality and land use, every watercourse in the watershed has been given a provisional classification according to the New Brunswick Water Classification Program

- O** Outstanding natural waters
- AP** Designated drinking water supplies
- AL** All lakes not classified as either **O** or **AP**
- A** Excellent water quality
- B** Good water quality
- C** Acceptable water quality

Here are a few highlights:

- Breau Creek Category B
- Meadow Brook Category A
- Smith Creek Category A and B
- Stony Creek Category A
- South Branch Memramcook River Category A
- Main Branch Memramcook River Category A, B, C

If you would like to comment on these provisional classes for the Memramcook area, please contact us. For more details, visit our website : www.pwmg-gsbp.org/reportm.html (only available in French at the moment)

The Petitcodiac Watershed Provisional Water Quality Report is also now available in French.



Fish Friends 2003



On June 17th students from Lisa Deluca's Grade 6 class at Beaverbrook School, who were participating in the Atlantic Salmon Federation's Fish Friends Program, released their fish in Pollett River. The class started out with 300 salmon eggs kept in an aquarium, from which about 280 eggs hatched. The class took care of them and the students were able to watch them grow during the school year, and release them into the Pollett River afterwards. This is a great educational program that allows students to learn about the importance of healthy watercourses and their impact on aquatic life.

Check out our website!

The PWMG website now features news about our group, as well as highlights of our provisional water quality sampling reports (also available in French).

The message board is back for 2003! Become a member and you can post your questions or comments! <http://pwmg.proboards7.com/>

Upcoming Activities

- **Bank Stabilization project in collaboration with the Moncton Fish and Game**
- **Water Sampling in the Memramcook and Petitcodiac river watersheds**

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"Votre fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement au travail"