

Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group

Groupe de surveillance du bassin de la Petitcodiac

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Newsletter

Greetings!

Since the last newsletter, things have been moving at a fast pace. Stream clean ups, building a new web page for the group, water sampling and presentations to various groups have kept me busy for the last three months. Since my arrival with PWMG, I must say that I am very impressed with the quality of volunteers that PWMG possess, they are all hard working and committed to the Petitcodiac Watershed.

In this issue of current news, we will look at the North River stream cleanup, PWMG's new web site, water quality news for the Petitcodiac and Memramcook watersheds, and various other things that PWMG's as been involved in the past few months.

In conclusion, I would like to take this time to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

If you have any comments / suggestions or you want to donate your time to the group's activities, do not hesitate to contact me at 384-3369 or by e-mail at: pwmg@nbnet.nb.ca.

Happy Holidays !
Eric

North River fall clean up a huge success!

On October 14, 2000, a group of people gathered at the North River site near Moncton to continue the stream clean up that was started in the spring of 2000. The spring clean up yielded 5 tons of refuse, while in the fall the group gathered another 3 to 4 tons of debris. The fall clean up was done in conjunction with the RiverKeepers who received a grant from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund to fund this activity and other stream clean ups in and around the Moncton area on October 14.

Examples of some of the items that where found; old cars, old oil containers, mattresses, metal cans and containers, sheet rock etc. The most unusual things that where found where parts of a toilet and a dead dog!

After the clean up, volunteers where treated to pizza and pop. PWMG would like to thank Modern Construction of Moncton who generously provided a Backhoe, a dump truck and one employee to help us take all the trash away to the Westmorland-Albert solid waste facility.

Present at this event where, John Hawley (Mill Creek Watershed Committee); Jean-guy Deveau (Environment Canada); Ken Branch (Moncton flight college); Roger Frenette (Allstate Insurance); Brad Firth (Fisheries and Oceans); Todd Matchim (Université de Moncton); Léa Olsen; Eric R Arseneau (PWMG); Robyn Foster (ACAP St-John); and the 12 member crew from Katimavik who gave us a huge helping hand.

To all those people, thank you for your help and support!

http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/pwmg/pwmg_intro.html

Questions, comments, suggestions?

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Grand Opening of the “*Parc Ecologique du Millénaire*” on the UdeM campus

On October 11, 2000 the “*Parc Ecologique du Millénaire*” was inaugurated on the UdeM campus. Yvon Fontaine UdeM president, professor Ronald Babin (project coordinator) and their 18 partners inaugurated the site by planting the first of 600 trees that will eventually cover the 2.5 acres lot donated by the University. The site is located behind the P.A. Landry and Lafrance buildings on the Université de Moncton campus. The park will be accessible to hikers and cyclists. Eventually, the park will enclose an ecological interpretation center and an aquatic observation center. Work will be done to link the nature park with the linear parks of Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe and eventually to the Transcanada trail. This project was conceived in conjunction with “*La Fondation Médias Verts*” which is mainly composed of young volunteers interested in communications, the arts and teaching. For more information about the park, you can communicate with professor Ronald Babin at 858-4025.

PWMG attends a workshop in Hammond River

On November 30th and December 1st, 2000, PWMG attended a workshop at the Hammond River Conservation Center. The goal of the workshop was to examine the approaches of various watershed groups to Water Classification, and to reach consensus on improved methods based on experience. After some interactions between the different watershed groups, we realized that a standard approach towards the Water Classification would be difficult because of the unique features and characteristics associated with different watersheds. Instead of having a rigid approach we all agreed that a tailored/flexible approach was best. These types of workshops are great venues at which to bounce ideas off people that have been managing watersheds. Their knowledge and experience certainly helped PWMG’s staff at being more productive and efficient when managing two watersheds like the Petitcodiac and Memramcook.

PWMG attends the Annual Fundy Model Forest Fair in Sussex

The FMF held a fair on December 9, 2000 in the Sussex mall. The event was a success with over 10 FMF partners present. The objective of this fair was to give the public a chance to meet FMF partners. PWMG received a warm welcome in Sussex and was glad to participate in this activity.

Water Sampling:

Water sampling for 2000 was completed October 29. Although the weather was miserable, our dedicated group of volunteers went out once again to collect water from our precious rivers and brooks. Once again PWMG is grateful for this, and thanks you all for coming out! Results for August, September and October 2000 have been received from the province and are currently being processed by PWMG. The next issue of current news will feature an article summarizing water quality results from 1999 and 2000. Hopefully a preliminary draft of the N.B. Water Classification for the Petitcodiac and Memramcook watersheds will be available in the end of March 2001. Until then, if you would like more information about this, feel free to give me (Eric) a call at the office (384-3369).

Upcoming activities:

- In the next few months, PWMG will be meeting with various groups to discuss the N.B. Water Classification Report. If you or anyone wants to meet with PWMG to discuss this matter or any other watershed issues, please contact Eric at 384-3369 or by E-mail at: pwmg@nbnet.nb.ca or visit our updated web site at http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/pwmg/pwmg_intro.html.

