

WARNING

High levels of E. coli in some of our rivers



In the process of evaluating the microbiology of our local rivers and streams, the levels of E. Coli are measured. E. Coli is a bacterium which is only found in the digestive tracts of humans and animals. If a river is contaminated with E. coli, fecal matter is finding a way into it. The level of these bacteria in some of our rivers is higher than the recommended guidelines of the CCME (the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment). This warning applies to all rivers and streams that the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance has tested and found to be higher than 200 E. Coli /100 ml.

Most E. Coli are harmless, but there are a few that are deadly. For the most part it is safe to swim, boat or pursue other recreational activities in a river, lake or stream containing small amounts E. Coli. There is a greater risk of exposure to pathogenic E. Coli in rivers where the E. Coli levels are high. Symptoms of exposure to pathogenic E. coli include the following: diarrhea, respiratory infections, infections of the eyes, ears, sinuses, or throat, skin infections or irritations, and gastrointestinal disorders.

While it is important to avoid drinking water contaminated by E. coli, it is also important to note that these bacteria can enter the body through the eyes, ears, nose and any breaks in the skin. The Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance will continue to monitor E. Coli levels within the Petitcodiac and Memramcook watersheds. Please check regularly to view changes to the notices posted on this web-site before undertaking activities in our rivers. The following is a list of local rivers and streams that have been found to contain high levels of bacteria at least once this summer.

- *Rabbit Brook*
- *Memramcook River*
- *Stony Creek*
- *Meadow Creek*
- *Fox Creek*
- *Humphreys Brook*
- *Memramcook River South*
- *Smith Creek*
- *Breau Creek*
- *Jonathan Creek (Flows through Centennial Park)*

