

Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group

Coordinator's Corner

March 31st 2004 was the end of the fiscal year for PWMG. During the last year, the organization has been active in numerous projects across the Petitcodiac and Memramcook river watersheds. For example, last summer in collaboration with l'Université de Moncton, our organization started a long term water quality monitoring program within the Petitcodiac and Memramcook watersheds since the NB Water Classification Project was completed in the summer of 2002. The difference with previous years, is that bacterial analysis (i.e. E. coli and Total coliforms) were done in-house with the help of the university. Furthermore, stream rehabilitation projects were also undertaken with the help of the Moncton Fish and Game Club. Several other projects were also initiated by PWMG and will surely come to term this year.

Finally, I would like to remind all interested parties that PWMG's annual meeting will be held June 1, 2004 at l'Université de Moncton (Rémi-Rossignol build. Room R221) at 7 pm. Remember, to vote at this meeting you must be a PWMG member. A one year membership is 5\$ for an individual and 10\$ for an organization. A membership form can be downloaded from our web site at www.pwmg-gsbp.org. Our organization is still actively looking for individuals to fill various positions on its board of directors. No previous experience is needed. The time commitment associated is approximately one meeting a month with a hiatus during the summer months. If participating as a board member interests you, please don't hesitate in contacting me (Eric) at 384-3369 or by e-mail at pwmg@nbnet.nb.ca for more information.

Eric R Arseneau
PWMG-GSBP Inc.
Project Coordinator

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Rabbit Brook

Rabbit Brook a small urban stream located within the Halls creek watershed has been getting a lot of attention these days. For years a group of dedicated citizens have been fighting to save this little brook from complete destruction. After recent incidents along the brook that have prompted local citizens to take action once again, local authorities have finally taken notice. In November of 2003, local stakeholders met with officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to discuss the future of Rabbit brook. Since this initial meeting, other agencies have gotten involved (i.e. N.-B. Environment and Local Government, N.B. Natural Resources, the City of Moncton, etc.) to try and find a solution to stop the destruction of this brook.

To date, two points have been put forward to help resolve the Rabbit brook issue; 1- Federal, Provincial, and Municipal agencies should meet every three months to review reports concerning the Halls creek watershed; 2- A sediment and erosion control workshop for developers is to be held by the City of Moncton (Eng. Dept.) in collaboration with DFO.

In the mean time, local stakeholders and residents remain cautiously optimistic and hope for a long-term solution to a long time problem.

Current News

Questions, comments, suggestions?

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West Branch Halls Creek Bank Stabilization Project

In the summer of 2003, the PWMG undertook a joint bank stabilization project along West Branch Halls creek adjacent to Mapleton Park. Approximately 20 meters of stream bank was rehabilitated with geotextile and armor rock. Finally, this project would not have been possible without the in-kind support from Modern construction (rocks), the Moncton Fish and Game Club (coordination) and the City of Moncton (backhoe). Thank you!



Before



After

Mosquito Control in the Greater Moncton area

On April 13 2004, the Greater Moncton Pest Control Commission (GMPCC) held a public information forum to discuss its mosquito control program for 2004. Representatives from New Brunswick Health and Wellness, New Brunswick Environment and Local Government, the City of Moncton and the GMPCC all took part in these discussions. Since the discovery of birds infected with the West Nile virus in N.B. last summer, efforts to control mosquito populations are on the rise. For more information on this years mosquito control program and ways to control mosquito's in your neighborhood, check out the GMPCC web site at www.greatermonctonmosquitocontrol.com

Petitcodiac Environmental Assessment

A fish passage workshop was held on April 17 2004 at the Moncton Lions Senior Citizens Center. Fish passage requirements and fishway technology were discussed by the Environmental Impact Assessment experts. An overview of migration patterns for 10 diadromous fish species identified in the Petitcodiac river was also presented. This workshop yielded information that suggests that the implementation of a technological solution to fish passage will not be feasible on the Petitcodiac river because of its elevated silt content, tide and diverse fish population. For more information on this workshop or on the Petitcodiac Environmental Impact Assessment, check out their web site at www.petitcodiac.com

Did you know that ...?

- 16 mosquito species occur in the Greater Moncton Area, over 3300 worldwide.
- A single female mosquito can lay over 200 eggs at a time, which can survive for more than five years before hatching.
- All mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle.

Quick facts on the Petitcodiac river watershed

- The Petitcodiac river is host to approximately 10 species of diadromous fish.
- Rabbit brook has 50% of its original stream bed under ground above Mapleton Rd.



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Water Quality Results (July-November 2003)

A total of 20 sites were sampled between July and November 2003 within the Petitcodiac and Memramcook river watersheds. Each site was examined for E. coli, Dissolved Oxygen, Water temperature and Total coliforms.

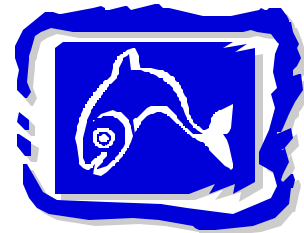
Water type	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	E. coli (MPN/100mL)	Total Coliforms (MPN/100mL)
Excellent	>6	< 100	< 100
Good	5-6	100-200	100-200
Poor	<5	>200	>200

Bacteria levels for Rabbit brook, Humphrey's brook, West branch Halls creek and Fox creek all show poor water quality. These watercourses are all under intense urban development. For example, in the case of Rabbit brook E.coli levels are more than ten times the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines Limit for recreational use which is 200 MPN/100 ml. On another note, good water quality along the Little river, Pollett river, North river, Meadow brook and sections of the Memramcook river was observed. Mill creek in Riverview is the only watercourse that showed excellent water quality in 2003.

A more detailed summary will be available shortly on our web site (www.pwmg-gsbp.org).

Quick facts on water pollution sources in Halls creek

- Sewer cross connections
- Improper culvert installation
- Removal of buffer zones due to urban development
- Aquatic habitat destruction due to urban development
- Natural occurrences
- Etc.



Upcoming Activities

- PWMG-GSBP Inc. Annual meeting on June 1st 2004 at 7:00 pm at L'Université de Moncton (Rémi-Rossignol Building room R221). Hope to see you there!
- Fundy Model Forest is hosting an Integrated Watershed Planning Conference from June 17-19. For more information please contact Jeanne Moore at 506-432-7561.



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