

January 2012

To All Members/Former Members:

Re: Membership Medway River Salmon Association

As we enter 2012 it is as important as ever that we have a large and active membership. The challenges facing our Association and the salmon populations on the Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia are the same as in previous years. These challenges require our upmost attention. With the designation of Nova Scotia rivers as endangered, this places due diligence on our Association as well as the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the Atlantic Salmon Federation to work with Government and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to find solutions to the dwindling populations in our rivers.

The problems are not foreign to the experts. We have been told since April 2007 that mortality at sea is the primary issue facing east coast salmon populations. Some of the experts (DFO) have whispered seals as the main problem. Yes, 6 or 7 million seals in the Atlantic Ocean can and will have an impact, as will predation in the river systems by cormorants, mergansers, invasive species and humans. Illegal introductions of Small Mouth Bass and Chain Pickerel continue to plague lake and river systems in Nova Scotia.

We are trying to do our part. In 2011 the Medway River Salmon Association adopted the following projects to work towards funding and watershed improvement:

- Hosted a successful 'Annual Dinner and Auction',
- Received grants from NSSA (\$2,000) and Reg. of Queens (\$1,500),
- Received approval for funding a *specific* project – when the project is complete funding will be forthcoming from the NS Fisheries & Aquaculture, Sportfish Habitat Fund (\$10,000),
- Continued with the Fish Friends Program in Mill Village, Caledonia and Greenfield schools,
- Organized membership to monitor parts of Medway River for impurities,
- Participated, along with DFO and Queens Co. Fish and Game, in releasing salmon into the Medway River ,
- Dispersed lime along the river bank on River Road near Ponhook lodge,
- Installed lime tumblers in designated brooks that feed into Medway River,
- Dispersed lime at the Twin Bridge site,
- Attended various meeting important to the Assoc., ie Recreational Fishery Advisory Council ; 12% by 2015 in NS; RBC Blue Water Funding; DFO, Mersey Biodiversity Facility to name a few,
- Worked in conjunction with NSCC Env. Tech. Class and McGowan Fish Hatchery clipping fish 10,000+/- trout.

As you can see the Association has been very busy over the past year. But it doesn't stop here! We are committed to continue with the liming projects knowing these are expensive but necessary steps in the habitat and salmon population restoration.

We will continue to request funds from various organizations and from you, the membership, to help bring the Medway back to its past glory. There is a long road ahead! But together we can do it.

Please renew your membership (\$10.00 per annum) for 2012 and make a donation to help fund our liming initiatives.

Yours in Conservation

Original signed by
Darrell Tingley,
President, MRSA