



Volume 4 # 3

November 2010

The first 10 days of November, 2010 have not been kind to Medway River or its inhabitants. Flood waters have spilled the Medway over roads, into the woods and around homes wreaking havoc to the habitat, infrastructure and properties. At the writing of this newsletter the river has just peaked and the total damage is yet unknown. Nature has a way of letting us know just how vulnerable we are.

The Acid Rain Mitigation Project has yet to get any financial traction. In respect to the feds its gone from the local MP, to the Minister of Environment, who in turn suggested it was the Minister of Fisheries, who in turn said it fell into the parameters of Fisheries and Oceans who in turn said they had no money. Provincially, the matter is still ongoing and is in the hands of Economic and Rural Development. No major corporations have come on side, however, some “in kind” assistance has been offered.

What is most frustrating is the lack of funding to restore wild Atlantic Salmon while millions of dollars are available for the fish farming community from both Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial government. The latest provincially, was a “gift” of \$750,000, to Fish Farm Corporations to counteract negative publicity. Strangely that same amount of money would have covered our capital costs for the liming project!

It would be easy to become discouraged and just throw one’s hands into the air and say “forget it”. However, that approach will do nothing to assist in the restoration of wild Atlantic Salmon in the Medway River. Until financial help comes we must find alternate means to sweeten the water to enable reproduction. Others are working on mortality at sea issues and when both ends meet we shall have healthy river runs once again in the Medway.

In the interim we will have to contend with fish farming and its negative effects on wild salmon and trout populations.

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Presidents Report:

Its gotta be the low pressure that's getting me down. Or could it be the shenanigans of Fisheries and Oceans? Maybe it was the car problems that caused me to miss the NSSA Board of Directors meeting in Antigonish and the collection of salmon for the Fish Friends Program. Then again, I can thank the car problem for missing the "non attempt" and being pushed over the edge.

Maybe I should better explain what is a "non attempt". After badgering DFO, they agreed to collect two female and one or two male salmon (grilse) from the Medway River and take them to the Mersey Biodiversity Facility. Some of resultant eggs, 300 or so, would go to each the Greenfield and Caledonia schools for the Fish Friends program. The collection was to take place at the Lake Pool. No problem. However, changes started to happen once the details were put to "higher ups".

The next word received by the members of the Environment Committee, who were assisting DFO in the collection, was to meet in the parking lot in South Brookfield. On the 26th day of October at 11:00 am, DFO led by Shane O'Neil, advised those in attendance that the collection would take place in the Westfield River. That would be last preference, of the Medway River Salmon Association of 29 locations. None of our recommended sites were above Ponhook Lake. One must remember before the end of October it was one of the driest years on record. Needless to say the attempt failed, as did the attempt in the Medway River at Westfield, and then Shane O'Neil dispersed the group when they reached the Lake Pool.

As of the date of writing this report nothing more has been forthcoming from DFO, other than they are having another look. The Acadia First Nation is furious with the pathetic approach. The schools in Greenfield and Caledonia are in the dark and we are losing faith in the Population Ecology Group of DFO, to get it right. Stocking is anything but new, so what is behind the failed attempt in the Medway River this year?

Some members believe that the last thing DFO wants is a healthy and vibrant population in the Medway. This way they can work with the fish farmers to set cages just off the mouth of the river. Others believe that DFO believes their own rhetoric that no salmon exist in the Medway. Whatever is behind the outlandish behaviour its hard to comprehend or understand!

On the matter of stocking, reports coming out of British Columbia suggest that "overstocking" may be happening. In the Gulf Region of DFO stocking is taking place at a number of sites on an annual basis. However, when it comes to the Maritime Region of DFO, which the Medway is in, the answer is always no. One argument made is that it will hurt diversity and then in the next breath argue that the river is void of salmon, or that ocean mortality must be resolved first. My guess, with the millions of salmon returning to the west coast, they must have it figured out!

What's with the Maritime Region DFO, anyway?

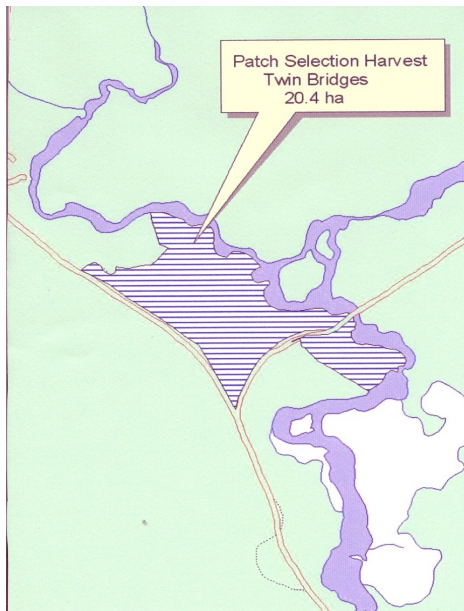
Yours in Conservation;

Darrell Tingley

Twin Bridges Project

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On October 27, 2010 representatives from Abitibi-Bowater, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, Nova Scotia Salmon Association Adopt-A-Stream and Medway River Salmon Association visited a 20.4 hectare site at Twin Bridges.



16.4 hectares border the West Branch Medway River and 4 hectares are after the confluence of the West and East Branches Medway River.

Starting in November 2010 Abitibi-Bowater will commence a patch selection harvest of the site. This will open up the area to allow movement throughout and the application of limestone. MTRI recommends an application of limestone of 5/10t per ha. Hopefully, we will be able to lime the 4 hectare site before winter sets in.

pH and Alkalinity tests of the soil and water will be taken in advance of the lime application and every six months thereafter. Research on aquatic and plant life on five year intervals will compliment the study.

Harmony Power Dam

Fisheries and Oceans called a meeting of representatives of Nova Scotia Power, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Queens County Fish & Game Association and the Medway River Salmon Association on October, 27, 2010 at the Harmony Power Dam site. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the effectiveness of the current Fish Ladder in light of the fact that the Power Plant has been inoperable for the past two years. It has been our position that the flow to the Tail Race is insufficient to attract migrating fish to the Fish Ladder without the plant operational.

The flow requirements of 35 cfs (20 cfs Hydro Plant, 10 cfs By-Pass Pipe and 5 cfs Hatchery) were provided to MRSA in 2008 by Nova Scotia Power. At the meeting David Longard, DFO, said his main concern is 35 cfs flowing from McGowan Lake to Eel Lake, regardless of location of flow. In other words 20 cfs could come from the Conversion Dam, 10 cfs By-Pass Pipe and 5 cfs Hatchery. Needless to say disagreement exists and we have called for further meetings to resolve some of the outstanding issues.

A permit review of the Harmony Power Dam takes place in 2013, however, that in no way should take away from the responsibility to allow for fish passage without obstruction in the meantime in accordance with the Fisheries Act. DFO has the responsibility to enforce the Act and Nova Scotia Power must comply with the Act. What was evident at the meeting was that DFO/NSP were in harmony to let things slide by until another day. Shame!

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Medway Fly

Competition is now open for the design of the "Medway Fly". The fly should represent the green initiatives being undertaken or being considered by the MRSA. This is an open competition and entries received by January 10, 2011 will be considered.

A panel of experts will judge the entries and the winner will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting January 18, 2011.

Please send your entries to MRSA, P.O. Box 93, Mill Village, N.S., B0J 2H0

Winner will receive a paid up life time membership in our Association.

Sea Run Trout

On October 20, 2010 members clipped 12,000 sea run trout at the McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery. The release date for the fingerlings was set for November 9, 2010, however, the date been moved to later in the month as a result of flooding conditions. Many thanks to Mike McNeil and Hatchery for their assistance and co-operation.

Membership

If you like to become a member of the Medway River Salmon Association or financially support our work contact us at MRSA, P.O. Box 93, Mill Village, N.S., B0J 2H0 or medwayriver@hotmail.com

Memberships for 2011 are now available. Yearly membership fees are \$10.00

<http://medwayriversalmonassociation.org/>

Atlantic Salmon Federation

Raffle
2010

25 Great Prizes

GRAND PRIZE

Bella Vista Lodge in Argentina
(2 rods - 5 nights/4 days)

FOUR

Spectacular Salmon Fishing Trips

FIVE

"Restigouche Evening" Prints

TEN

High Quality Fishing Rods

FIVE

High Quality Fishing Reels

Visit www.asf.ca



If you wish to purchase a ticket in the ASF Raffle @ 1 for \$20.00 or a book of 6 for \$100.00 please call 902-634-3172 or e-mail medwayriver@hotmail.com with your request. This fund-raiser supports both the Atlantic Salmon federation and the Medway River Salmon Association. Draw date is December 29, 2010.



