

MEDWAY RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

Queens County
Nova Scotia

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The association President keeps the membership up to date through the Medway River Blues publication, also [archived here](#) on this web site. Between times, though, things can happen quickly. This page is a good place to keep up with the very latest developments, be they with the Medway River Salmon Association activities or with other events that affect our interests. Here then is the latest.

Posted 28 Mar 2011

The Medway Fly, the winning entry tied by Danny Westhaver of Greenfield, Nova Scotia, is now on sale as a fund raiser for the MRSA. See it on our [Items For Sale](#) page and [below](#).

Posted 23 Mar 2011

Today is the first day following the release of the federal budget yesterday. The following letter has been sent to our federal MP, Mr. GERAL KEDDY, and is posted here for your information.

Morning Mr Keddy

Reading page 1 of today's Chronicle Herald on the spending cuts to DFO gives me great concern for the future of wild Atlantic Salmon. Currently, DFO is working on shoestring budget, and to eliminate 9.1 million more this year, 18.9 million next year and a whopping 56.8 million the year after spells trouble. The Mersey Biodiversity Facility is, at the present time, running at only 30% capacity. I foresee the termination of this facility in Milton with these cuts.

As the Member of Parliament for the Medway Watershed and the Milton Biodiversity Facility will you guarantee these cuts will not impact:

- The continuing work to build wild Atlantic Salmon stocks;
- The maintenance of the Milton Biodiversity Facility and its staff;
- Increase capacity use at the Milton Biodiversity Facility to 100%;
- Ensure that the Medway River/Watershed will have enhanced opportunities through stocking and Acid Rain Mitigation initiatives;
- That 100% of the Medway River will be passable to salmon and any and all obstacles will be removed or repaired.

Mr Keddy, these issues must be addressed, prior to the termination of an election campaign. Myself, our membership, DFO Management/Staff, Environmental Groups, Salmon/River Organizations, Schools with Fish Friends Projects and concerned citizens will want to know the answers before we vote.

Yours in conservation;

Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association

Posted 11 Mar 2011

At the first meeting of the Environment Committee since the January Annual Meeting, Darren Conrad was elected Chairperson of the Committee. Amongst the items discussed at this meeting were: Acid Rain Mitigation ie Catchment Liming/Lime Tumblers/Whole Forest Liming, Stocking, Harmony Power Plant & Fish Ladder, Fish Friends, Smolt Wheel and Bass Tournament.

Posted 10 Mar 2011

The following letter dated March 10, 2011, was sent by President Darrell Tingley to our MLA, Vicki Conrad. The content is self explanatory. More will be posted on this site in due course.

Morning Ms Conrad:

At a meeting of the Environment Committee of the Medway River Salmon Association, March 10, 2011, a discussion took place about the proposed mining initiative in the Medway Watershed.

At this time we have very little information about this project and the potential harm to the watershed. To this end we think that a public meeting is in order to get the details and scope of the project to make an informed decision.

Our members and the residents of the communities in the area must have full information and disclosure before any project startup.

We trust you will support such a meeting.

Yours in conservation

Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association

Posted 06 Mar 2011

A Nova Scotia Salmon Association meeting was held on March 5, 2011, in Halifax. Guest speaker Dr. Fred Whoriskey, Director Ocean Tracking Network, Dalhousie University was asked to speak on "What will the Future be for Wild Atlantic Salmon Ten Years from Now". The most interesting part of his presentation for those of us in the South Shore was the new thinking on how to win the battle against acid rain. The new approach would be whole watershed liming, starting with one watershed then expanding beyond. Trees will grow faster, which in turn will eat carbon to the point carbon credits will be earned. The waterways, likewise, will be nourished with sweet water, proving benefits to water and plant life. The projected benefit will be for 100 years. Our proposed liming strategy of the Twin Bridges area of Bowater land is exactly on point.

One of the topics Alan McNeill, Inland Fisheries, spoke of was the province's salmon stocking initiatives. In addition to the Margaree Hatchery placing 37,300 smolts and 114,000 parr into the river system, collections of salmon in 2010 from the Middle, Baddeck, St. Francis and Waugh Rivers were taken to Fraser Mills Hatchery in Antigonish County for spawning. These rivers are in the Gulf Region of DFO.

Other reports were made on the West River Sheet Harbour Project, Adopt-A-Stream. Resolutions were passed on closing the West River Sheet Harbour to angling from April 1st to May 15th and mandatory that salmon rivers be fished with a single shank, single hook, single point barbless hook.

Carl Purcell was re-elected President and Darrell Tingley, President, Medway River Salmon Association, was re-elected Director.

[Click here](#) to read Darrell Tingley's report to the meeting.

Posted on 01 Mar 2011

The following is an email written to Premier Darryl Dexter by a concerned citizen. The content is self explanatory. The response below it is from the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. It is posted here for your information.

From: Ken Farmer Sent: February-11-11 7:53 PM
To: 'premier@gov.ns.ca'
Subject: vote fundy

Dear Mr. Premier. Hi, my name is Ken Farmer from Dartmouth. I just watched your interview on the news about getting people to vote Bay Of Fundy in the 7 Wonders competition. I agree this choice is worthy in many regards, and I would definitely vote this way, but I can't. The reason I cannot consciously vote this way is because prior to the early nineteen eighties the population of wild Atlantic salmon in the Inner Bay of Fundy (a distinct species) has gone from 40,000 adult fish to less than 200. This happened to coincide with the start up of ocean based salmon farms. These operations have been the sole reason for these large runs of fish (approx 7000 in the Stewiacke River) to all but disappear. This species, The Inner Bay salmon do not migrate as other salmon do to waters off Greenland, but stay in the Bay of Fundy in their ocean journey. They are ultimately exposed to all the negative effects of open penned salmon farms. I wish to keep my letter brief in asking you to research this issue,

look at mandating land-based operations and show leadership in creating a more environmentally sustainable atmosphere. This is not just a local problem, but is one being addressed worldwide. I believe your government is committed to the environment, as well as the other important business of the day. I am a fan of the Bay of Fundy, but only with the Inner Bay salmon. Our rivers are clean and will support the historical levels mentioned. Please respond. Thanks Ken

From: Hon. Sterling W (DFA) Belliveau [mailto:MIN_DFA@gov.ns.ca]
Sent: March-01-11 2:11 PM
To: Ken farmer
Subject: Our Reference F123/021411007

Dear Mr. Farmer:

Thank you for your recent e-mail, addressed to the Honourable Darrell Dexter, regarding the aquaculture of Atlantic salmon in the Bay of Fundy. As Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Premier has asked that I respond to you on his behalf.

I certainly share your concern for the environment, the Bay of Fundy and Inner Bay of Fundy salmon. Challenges with survivability at sea, for which there are many potential causes, continues to be the major factor impacting the health of Atlantic salmon stocks. Applications for marine-based aquaculture operations receive extensive scrutiny from technical staff in my department and from those in numerous other agencies including Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada and Environment Canada.

Government is committed to the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry; one that creates wealth in communities while respecting the environment and sharing our coastal resources. A site is only approved when, as Minister, I am assured and convinced that doing so will not cause an unacceptable impact to the benthic environment or to the broader environment. Again, thank you for writing to us on this issue.

Yours sincerely,
Original Signed By:
Sterling W.W. Belliveau
c. Honourable D. Dexter, Premier

Posted on 22 Feb 2011

On Friday February 18, 2011 the Environment Committee, in conjunction with staff of the McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery, placed 20,000 trout eggs in the Incubation Box at the Old Charleston Fish Hatchery.

Fish Friends comes to Mill Village:

At about the same time on the same day, MRSA representatives attended the Mill Village Consolidated School where, as part of the Fish Friends project, a quantity of salmon eggs were placed in a specially assigned aquarium there to hatch at a later date, all under the care of the children. A subsequent article appeared in the Queens County Advance and can be read by clicking [here](#). Here are some additional photos taken at the event.



Lewis Hinks, ASF Nova Scotia Director of Operations, shows students of the Mill Village Elementary School trout eggs for the Fish Friends Program at the school.



Students check out the eggs after being placed in the schools aquarium.



Three generations of the Dobson family are involved with the project. From left are Joy Melanson, grandson Riley Melanson who is part of the Grade 2 class, and Harold Dobson who donated \$1000 to bring the equipment to house the eggs.

Posted on 17 Feb 2011

The following letter, dated February 8, 2011, was mailed to members and is posted here for information. Budget details referred to within the letter are pending. February 8, 2011

Re: Land Based Liming Initiative

Abitibi-Bowater and Medway River Salmon Association have reached an agreement in principle to carry out a land based liming project on 20.4 hectares of land at Twin Bridges, Annapolis County. The land is below the headwaters of the Medway River at Alma Lake and part of the land (4 hectares) is at the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Medway River. The remaining 16.4 hectares are on the south/west side of the West Branch. Twin Bridges is just above Bowater's Base Camp.

The project will consist of the following steps:

- > Abitibi-Bowater will circle cut the 20.4 hectares of land, phase one of which is complete. At the end of 100 years the land will have five 20 year growth cycles. The land will be accessible by small vehicle for liming purposes. The liming will start spring 2011.
- > The recommended dosage of lime per hectare is ten ton. The recommended lime for land based spreading is pelletized and is available from Mosher Limestone Company in Upper Musquodoboit. The lime will be transported to a central site and then dispersed by Abitibi-Bowater to work areas throughout the site(s). Members of the MRSA Environment Committee, and others, will spread the limestone by machine and hand.
- > The projected benefits to the soil and water limed is a period of 25 years.
- > Mersey Tobeatic research Institute will pre measure the soil and water for pH. Soil and tree growth, as well as, water quality will be measured on an ongoing basis thereafter. The results will be shared with Forestry, Environmental, Government and Fishing Associations/Organizations.

Attached, is the budget for the project, and we ask you to partner with us to make this novel liming experiment a success.

Yours in Conservation,
Darrell Tingley
President, Medway River Salmon Association

Posted on 11 Feb 2011

Cormorants are beautiful birds, but they decimate smolt populations in rivers. Photos of the contents of one cormorant from Oneida Lake, WI.



Posted on 10 Feb 2011

There was an excellent opinion article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald today. Written by Jim Gourlay, a past president of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, it is entitled Aquaculture versus wild salmon: an inconvenient truth. Linked [here](#), the link will expire soon.

Posted on 10 Feb 2011



On Monday, February 7, 2011, 300 "eyed" trout eggs were taken from the McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery to the Greenfield Elementary School for the school aquarium. This is the 2nd year for the Fish Friends Project and is a co-operative arrangement between the school, ASF and the MRSA.



Marsha Freeman, Vice Principal, releases the eggs into the aquarium.

Posted on 06 Feb 2011

Medway Fly Contest Winner Announced:



The winning entry (above) in the Medway River Salmon Association "Medway Fly Contest" was designed and tied by Danny Westhaver of Greenfield, N.S. The "Medway Fly" will be used in promotional and fundraising activities for the Association. Duplicates of the winning fly will be available for sale at the 1st Annual Dinner/Auction on April 16, 2011, in Liverpool.



The "runner up" in the contest was an entry from Carl "Legend" Cyr designed by Cyr of Campbellton, N.B. and tied at George's in Campbellton.



3rd place goes to Danny Westhaver of Greenfield.

The judges for the contest were George Ferguson, Vice President, Nova Scotia Salmon Association, John Hart, President, Margaree Salmon Association and Larry Shortt Sackville Rivers and "Fishing Fever" in Halifax. Many thanks for all those who participated in the contest. Others receiving votes in the contest were sent in by Billy and Larry Stevens of Port Medway, N.S. Special thanks to Mike Noddin, Lunenburg Framing, for the great photography.

Posted on 04 Feb 2011

A cheque in the amount of \$580.00 has been received from the Atlantic Salmon Federation for our share of the ASF Raffle Tickets sold. In addition, we have received a Sage "Flight" Fly Rod and a Sage 1880 Fly Reel, for selling the 3rd most tickets by a group/association. The rod & reel will be "live auctioned" at the 1st Annual Dinner/Auction of the MRSA on April 16th at the Liverpool Fire Hall. Tickets are available from Cindy Nauss at 677-2150 or cindynauss@eastlink.ca. Only 100 tickets are available so order early so you won't be disappointed. Tickets are only \$25.00 each. The winner of the Medway Fly contest was Danny Westhaver of Greenfield. Runner up was Carl "Legend" Cyr of Campbellton, N.B. The judges for the winning entry were George Ferguson, NSSA, VP, John Hart, President, Margaree Salmon Association, and Larry Shortt, Sackville Rivers. The 2011 recruitment campaign and project donations are going well. Over 65 members have renewed their membership and donations from \$10.00 to \$400.00 have been received. If you haven't renewed your membership or sent a donation please do so as many liming projects are scheduled for this year.

Posted on 30 Jan 2011

In the Sunday January 30, 2011, edition of the Halifax Chronicle Herald, two articles appeared about coastal fish farming and invasive species. The links will shortly expire but the stories can currently be accessed through: [Watershed Invaders](#); and [Keep Salmon Farms Out Of The Ocean](#).

Posted on 26 Jan 2011

This year's 2011 Annual General meeting was held on January 25, 2011, at the Mill Village Fire Hall. [Click here](#) for pictures and details.

Posted on 14 Jan 2011:

Between December 20-26, 2010, 138,000 juvenile farmed atlantic salmon escaped from an aquaculture pen operation near White Head Island, N.B., at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Bill Taylor, President, ASF, said the best solution to the problem of escapes would be to locate salmon farms on land. This would also eliminate the spread of sea lice and disease to wild salmon. <http://thechronicleherald.ca/Business/1220777.html>

Darrell

Posted 03 Jan 2011:

To All Members & Former Members:

Re: Membership - Medway River Salmon Association As we enter 2011 it is more important than 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 require our utmost attention. The designation of Nova Scotia rivers as endangered places due diligence on ourselves, 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, six or seven 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. The Wildlife Division of Nova Scotia Natural Resources was to carry out a predation study/experiment on the Medway River in conjunction with Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Environment Nova Scotia, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the Medway River Salmon Association. To date a couple of meetings took place in 2009, however, 2010 was void of any activity. Will 2011 be the year? In 2011 we are committed to lime several tributaries of the Medway River. This is an expensive but necessary step in the habitat and salmon population restorations. We will request funding from various organizations, however, if necessary we should be prepared to dig a little deeper into our own pockets to accomplish this. Sweet water, predation control, unencumbered fish passage and stocking should help bring the Medway back to its past glory. Please renew your membership for 2011 and make a donation to help fund our liming initiatives. Yours in Conservation,

Darrell Tingley President, Medway River Salmon Association

TO PURCHASE OF RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE PRINT AND COMPLETE [THIS MAIL-IN PAGE](#) (Ed.)

Posted 30 Dec 2010:

Hi All

The ASF Raffle draw results are in and the only winner from the tickets sold by MRSA is Dell Nauss, ticket # 2761, a high quality fishing rod. To check the full results go to the [Atlantic Salmon Federation](#) web site...ASF [Raffle results](#).

Congratulations Dell !

Thanks for participating and showing your support in the fight for the enhancement of Atlantic Salmon.

Darrell

Posted 29 Dec 2010:

Morning All

Its 7:50 am and I'm reviewing the Fly-Tying Bible by Peter Gathercole. It has 100 deadly trout and salmon flies (photographs and patterns). A couple of flies in his book are as follows: Prince Nymph (T); Shoat's Tail (S); Black Pennell (T) (S); Brassie (T) and Willie Gunn (S). All this to say that the deadline is fast approaching for the Medway Fly contest. It would be a shame if we did not have a large selection of flies to select from, especially, since we have some of Nova Scotia's finest fly tyers.

The intention behind the "Medway Fly" is to use the winner as a fund raiser... (1) by auctioning off the winner (2) by selling duplicates for \$10.00...a card explaining the Medway River Salmon Association's push to revive the once internationally famous salmon river. The monies will be used to fund projects to improve habitat and water quality. The contest is open world wide so you will be up against some stiff competition.

Contest entrants must be rec'd by January 15, 2011. A panel of experts will determine the winner. More than one entry will be accepted.

Send entry to MRSA, Box 93, Mill Village, N.S., B0J 2H0

Darrell

ps. a few more flies from the Bible: Dave's Hopper (T); Soldier Palmer (T); Woolly Bugger (T); Munro Killer (S); Silver Rat (S) and Goddard Caddis (T) (S)

Posted 23 Dec 2010:

President Darrell Tingley's New Year's wish list:

Enjoy the holidays and for the New Year may the following come true:

- : Improved fish passage at the Harmony Power Plant
- : Medway Salmon Eggs for the Fish Friends Program at the Greenfield and Caledonia Schools
- : Sweetened water through liming initiatives
- : A Southern Uplands Recovery Program that includes stocking
- : A return to normal weather
- : A return of a great number of Medway Salmon from Greenland
- : The same level of Trout Fishing in the spring as 2010
- : The continued feeding of Small Mouth Bass to the Eagles
- : May the big one not get away and your feet stay dry.
- : Your health allow you to keep the Devil at bay

Darrell

Posted 20 Dec 2010:

News from the Atlantic Salmon Federation

A present for all seasons: three major dams on the Penobscot River in Maine have been purchased for \$24M in order to decommission them. This major milestone taking place today follows more than a decade of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and many other organizations working together.

<http://asf.ca/news.php?id=625>

For a backgrounder on the Penobscot Project, the best chance to restore wild Atlantic salmon runs in the U.S., visit the resources page:

<http://asf.ca/news.php?id=624>

To keep track of breaking news on wild Atlantic salmon, use the Atlantic Salmon Federation's presence on Facebook. Log in, search for Atlantic Salmon Federation, and press "LIKE" to keep in touch with developments.

ASF's Webworks is an updating service on the world of the wild Atlantic salmon. If you wish to be added or removed from the list, email asfwebworks@asf.ca

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