

# Salmon could be returning to the Medway River

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Acid rain is a common problem throughout Nova Scotia, but one of the areas its effects most are Nova Scotia's Rivers. Out of the 65 salmon rivers on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, at least 50 have felt some loss, including Queens County's own Medway River.

With almost of all of the rivers in jeopardy, members of the Medway River Salmon Association have come together to try and reverse the damage and regain revenue by liming the riverbed.

The association's President Darrell Tingley brought forth this idea to the Region of Queens Municipality during a Committee of the Whole meeting on May 11th. He believes that the project will benefit Queens County in many

ways.

Not only will the project repopulate the diminishing fish population and local fisherman will once again be able to enjoy the sport of salmon fishing, but it will also help the area's tourism. The Medway River was a prime spot for both local, but tourist fishing. People from not only Nova Scotia and Canada, but also other countries would visit the region. Fishing lodges lined the river, with approximately 20 guides employed along the river. With the fish population disappearing, so did the business it provided.

"[The project] will bring some life back into the surrounding communi-

ties," said Tingley "If we could repopulate the salmon, it would not only be tourism for Queens County, but Nova Scotia through sports fishery."

The association has already been successful to some degree with their experiments in trout restocking, with numbers increasing quite a bit through their efforts. It is suspected that the benefits of liming to improve the water quality will last for at least 10 years, if successful.

About \$1.7 million is needed to support the association's plan over the mentioned 10-year period, with annual costs at about \$20,000. Tingley believes that support can come from not only

Queens County, but also a variety of sources such as the provincial and federal governments if the project proves to be financially worthy.

District 8 Councilor Doug Adams who lives along the Medway River voiced his support, "Liming is a wonderful idea. You can lime the river all the way down from the McGowan River to Mill Village, it will improve all species of things in the river."

Along with Adams, the idea was well liked throughout the council. Since the 2010/2011 budget has already been determined, council will discuss the issue as a possible addition to the 2010/2011 budget.