



### Hello, Everybody!!!



Summer is finally here! In terms of water quantity, this summer looks to be promising with all the rain we received in the past months, but water conservation should still be the name of the game!

Again, this winter has been very busy with our group completing the preliminary water classification report for the Petitcodiac River watershed. Since April we've been meeting with the municipalities and community groups to explain the contents of the report and to gather their input on the subject.

Our group will undertake the second season of water quality sampling in the water courses included within the Memramcook River watershed. Contrary to last year, we will try to involve more local citizens in the sampling effort. Last year, logistical problems at the laboratory made it difficult for us to involve volunteers in the sampling process.

In all, this summer looks like it's going to be another busy and interesting one. Finally, in hopes of seeing you out there this summer,

Eric R Arseneau  
PWMG Coordinator



#### Newsletter content

- Joint initiative between the Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group and the Petitcodiac Riverkeepers
- New! Education program
- A new wetland policy in the works for New Brunswick
- International conference on the modeling of the Petitcodiac River
- Community workshop on public policy
- Clean up of Rabbit Brook



### Joint initiative between the Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group and the Petitcodiac River Keepers

A joint effort between the PWMG and the PRK to rehabilitate the Halls creek watershed as resulted in a generous grant provided by the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund (2001-2002). Halls creek is an important tributary to the Petitcodiac river.

In previous years, water samples taken by PWMG indicated poor water quality for Halls creek and its tributaries, justifying its rehabilitation. Mathieu D'Astous, Halls creek project coordinator has worked in the past year on the preliminary steps in rehabilitating water quality and aquatic habitats within the watershed. In order to understand the current state of the watershed, he undertook with the help of field technicians, habitat surveys, macro-invertebrate sampling, a general inventory to uncover erosion sources, pollution, garbage and stream bank conditions. To start the rehabilitation process, a stream clean-up of Rabbit brook and Humphreys brook was done. Also, to inform the general public of the environmental conditions found in the watershed, an education consultant was hired. She met with several local community groups and schools to educate them on the Halls creek watershed ecosystem. In March (2002), Mathieu completed a report which described the general state of the watershed. This report was submitted to the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, the PWMG, the PRK and the community. If you would like a copy of Mathieu's report, please contact us.

### Questions, comments, suggestions?

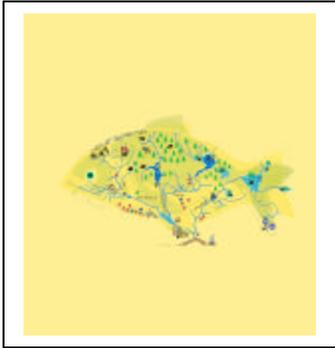
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# Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group

## Groupe de surveillance du bassin de la Petitcodiac



### New ! New ! New ! New !

A new education program for the Halls Creek watershed is now available! Within the Halls Creek Rehabilitation Project, we now offer an education program for schools and the general public. The program consists of 6 modules such as : *The Watershed, The Water Cycle, Habitats, Biodiversity, Pollution and History.* These interesting topics are coupled with captivating and fun visual tools that explain in simple terms the environmental challenges faced by the Halls Creek Watershed. If you would like more information, contact us and we will gladly provide it to you!



### A new wetland policy in the works for New Brunswick

Wetlands are important natural features because of their ability to purify water and to support various plant and animal species. The NB government is currently working on a new wet land policy for the province. The major points of this policy are:

Maintenance of Wetland Function: To manage human activity on or near wetlands in a manner which will achieve no loss of provincially significant wetland habitat and no net loss of wetland function for all other wetlands.

Securement, Stewardship, Education and Awareness: To promote and facilitate the development of wetland stewardship, awareness, and education through government initiatives and cooperative relationships with local citizens, stakeholder groups, the private sector, and municipal, provincial, and federal governments.

### International conference on the modeling of the Petitcodiac River

On March 3rd, 4th and 5th, scientists from all over the world, local environmental groups and government representatives gathered in Moncton for a modeling workshop. The objective of this conference was to assess the feasibility of modeling the Petitcodiac River and the costs associated with this exercise. Different models and techniques were discussed to help model the river. Most of the models presented were based on water and sediment movement in the river and in the estuary. The modeling of the Petitcodiac river would serve to predict some of the changes to the river channel if the gates were eventually removed or opened. The gathering of information required to make the models function will start this year. The results from modeling will be used to answer questions related to the Environmental Impact Assessment study. In all, this workshop was very interesting in terms of the information exchanged and the various methods used by different scientists.



### Did you know that...?

- Wetlands are the most productive habitats on the planet, even more than tropical forests !!!
- Wetlands cover about 4% of New-Brunswick!!!
- 65% of coastal marshes in New-Brunswick have been lost, mostly because of their conversion to agricultural lands.





## Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group Groupe de surveillance du bassin de la Petitcodiac

### Community workshop on the elaboration of public policies

The PWMG was pleased to be associated with the Petitcodiac Riverkeepers in organizing a community workshop on how to elaborate good public policies. This workshop was sponsored by Environment Canada and Health Canada. Nicole Comeau, the coordinator of this workshop, went to a 2-day training session in Bathurst to learn more about public policies and the way they are implemented.

A 1-day community workshop was held in Moncton (UdeM) on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2002. The workshop welcomed participants from local community groups that all work towards the development of public policies in their fields (Environment & Health) of interest. The workshop was a success with a dozen representatives from various community groups. Without your participation this workshop would not have been possible, thanks!



### Rabbit Brook Spring Clean-up 2002



On June 13<sup>th</sup>, a group of Scouts from the Notre Dame de la Paix parish along with the PWMG took part in the clean-up of Rabbit Brook. The clean-up yielded about 15 garbage bags containing paper, wood, metals, etc. PWMG would like to thank the Scouts for their help and support this year.

**The PWMG web site is now available in french !!**

The web site for the PWMG is now available in french !! You can check out the new site at [www.gsbp.20m.com](http://www.gsbp.20m.com). On the web site you will be able to get more information on PWMG's on-going projects and on our vision which is :

"To achieve a healthy ecosystem for the Petitcodiac watershed in the context of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem"



### Upcoming Activities

- **June 29<sup>th</sup> 2002**, is the deadline to submit your comments on the *Draft Guidelines* for the Environmental Assessment that will look at modifications to the Petitcodiac River Causeway. You can contact the project managers by e-mail at [EIA-EIE@gnb.ca](mailto:EIA-EIE@gnb.ca).