

Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group

Groupe de surveillance du bassin de la Petitcodiac

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Hello!

It must be mentioned that this winter has been a very productive one for the PWMG. Since last summer, the group has had the privilege of working with various groups, organizations and individuals while working towards a healthy aquatic ecosystem for the entire Petitcodiac River and Memramcook River watersheds. One such example would be the formation of the Mill Creek Watershed Group. The group's first general meeting was held on March 6, 2001 and 24 concerned citizens turned out to show their support towards this initiative. The PWMG fully supports this group and is encouraging the formation of similar groups over the next couple of years within the two watersheds. With help from the PWMG and it's members the Mill Creek Watershed Group will work towards the restoration of this waterway to a healthy state. Within this edition you will find a lot of information has been made available (ex. water quality, conference results, etc.) and I hope you will find it useful. In conclusion, I wish you a good spring season and a good day!

If you have any comments / suggestions or you want to donate your time to the group's activities, contact us at 384-3369 or by e-mail at: pwmg@nbnet.nb.ca.

Eric R Arseneau, PWMG Coordinator

PRELIMINARY WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR THE PETITCODIAC AND MEMRAMCOOK WATERSHEDS

The preliminary water quality results based on the samples taken from 1997 to 2000 for the Petitcodiac and Memramcook watersheds have been compiled in two separate reports entitled "Water quality and hydrological analysis" and "Summary water quality analyses: Petitcodiac Watershed". These reports will be made available within the month of April. Generally, the quality of the rivers and streams in the outer reaches of the watershed are in relatively good condition. However, as you move into the watershed towards areas of greater development and urbanization, the water quality usually begins to diminish. For example, the Pollett and Little Rivers have excellent water quality, while Rabbit Brook and Humphrey's Brook have relatively poor water quality because they run through areas of high urban development. If you would like more information on this subject please do not hesitate to contact us.

PWMG ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The Action Plan Development Workshop for the Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group originally scheduled for March 10th, 2001 was postponed until March 17th, 2001 due to a severe winter storm.

Peter Sawyer, the PWMG President, began the workshop with some opening thoughts followed by a presentation by Jane Tims from the Department of Environment and Local Government on the *New Brunswick Water Classification Program* and the role of stakeholders in this process. Eric R Arseneau, the Project Coordinator for the PWMG then presented the preliminary water quality results, followed by a presentation by Gerry Munn and Kelly Cummings from the Hammond River Angling Association on action items that they have put in place to improve the water quality within their watershed.

During the afternoon workshops many important points were raised regarding work that should be done along the different rivers and streams. The workshop seemed to be very successful, having gathered information and ideas from 30 different individuals on their opinions of what they felt should be done for the various streams and rivers within the watershed.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to participate in this workshop, without your help and input the success of this workshop would have been impossible. We are looking forward to putting your ideas into action. A sincere thanks also goes out to all of the facilitators who helped make this workshop go so smoothly.

If you were unable to attend the workshop and you would like to give your comments, suggestions or you would simply like more information feel free to contact the PWMG.

http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/pwmg/pwmg_intro.html

Questions, comments, suggestions?

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PWMG GIVES A PRESENTATION TO CLAUDE D. TAYLOR SCHOOL

The Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group visited the Claude D. Taylor School on February 13th, 2001. The purpose of this visit was to give a presentation on fish habitat and water quality to the students of the school. Going along with the theme for Heritage Week, "Our Rivers", the students were asked to consider the effects that different human activities could have on fish habitat and water quality. The presentation was given to over 400 students and teachers from the Claude D. Taylor School. The PWMG would like to thank everyone at Claude D. Taylor School for inviting us to talk about fish habitat and water quality. They had very interesting questions and concerns about water quality and fish habitat. The PWMG would like to extend our appreciation to the Claude D. Taylor School for having invited us. Finally, we would also like to thank Mr. Peter Hardie from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for helping us with the preparation of this presentation.

MILL CREEK WATERSHED GROUP GENERAL MEETING A SUCCESS!

Since our last newsletter there have been great advances for the *Mill Creek Watershed Group*. On March 6th, 2001 they held their first general meeting and had an excellent turn out with 24 individuals present. The group president, John Hawley, and the supportive group of individuals that showed up for the meeting have taken the first steps towards the establishment of an organized sub-watershed committee. The PWMG had a poster presentation set up at this meeting to show the members of the *Mill Creek Watershed Group* the work we are doing in the watersheds of the Petitcodiac and Memramcook rivers.

The importance of groups such as these is invaluable towards the improvement of the overall water quality of the entire Petitcodiac and Memramcook watersheds. By focusing on smaller tributaries, such as Mill Creek, water quality concerns within the watershed can be identified and solutions to problems can be developed and implemented more efficiently.

It cannot be stressed enough that the success of these watershed groups depends immensely on the support of the community. Congratulations and good luck to all of those involved with the *Mill Creek Watershed Group*, we are looking forward to working with you in the near future.

PWMG ATTENDS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

The Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group attended the Sustainable Community Conference hosted by the *Dieppe, Moncton, Riverview Action 2000 Program*. The conference took place at the Université de Moncton on February 3rd, 2001. It was a follow-up to the conference held in 1997 entitled "*A Sustainable City: Choices and Solutions*", which defined and examined problems associated with the increasing urban population around the world.

The main goal of the "*2001 Sustainable Community Conference*" was to generate community discussions on local sustainable issues to formulate action plans for the improvement of the sustainability of the tri-community (Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview). The conference provided us with the opportunity to listen to and take part in various presentations and workshops on Water Resources, Transportation and Energy, Culture and History, Waste Management and Land use Planning.

Spring is in the air

The first day of spring was March 20th, 2001 and you know what that means. With spring here, the sampling season is just around the corner. If everything goes as planned, the PWMG is anticipating the addition of 5 or 6 sampling sites in the Memramcook River watershed to get a better idea of the state of the water quality in this area. If you are interested in collecting water samples in this area or at any of the other sampling sites within the watershed please do not hesitate to contact us by phoning 384-3369 or sending an e-mail to pwmg@nbnet.nb.ca. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who are dedicated to the protection of the environment.

Upcoming activities:

- Did you know that a faucet that drips once every second wastes over 10,000 liters of water each year, that's 20,000 bottles of water (500 mL bottles). **National Water Day was March 22nd, 2001** lets do our part to protect our most precious resource...water!
- The **PWMG Annual Meeting** will be held June 9th, 2001. For more information contact Eric or Kevin at 384-3369.
- If you would like to have your event advertised in our next newsletter, please forward your article to the PWMG address.

