



PWMG's Got a Brand New Name

As people kept forgetting and/or stammering out the name of our organisation, *Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group*, we thought a name change was in order. During our Annual General Meeting on June 1st, we voted for a new name:

PETITCODIAC WATERSHED ALLIANCE

This name reflects the vision that was discussed during the board day in April, one that seeks out relationships with various stakeholders within the Petitcodiac watershed. In fact, the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance has a history of working with other groups, such as the

Jonathan Creek Committee, the Rabbit Brook Committee and the Riverkeepers.

It was also time to seek out a new president as Winston Jones, now a board member, had held office for three years. David MacDonald was nominated, and has accepted to become our new president. David has been an active member of the Moncton Fish and Game Association for over 12 years. Through his involvement, David's concern for the environment has grown, and he would like to work toward retaining and restoring our natural systems. George Lyons, a Moncton area lawyer, has also

joined the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance board. Welcome !

We are currently seeking a vice-president and a secretary. If you would like to get involved with our group, we would love to have you ! We are also looking for field work, office work or fundraising volunteers. Please contact us for more information. Call 384-3369 or email petitcodiac@rogers.com

Thank you Winston for your time, your support and your continued interest in the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance !



Coordinator's corner

It's been quite an active summer for the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance. Even though I've only been with the organisation for the past four months, replacing Bronwyn Pavey until

mid-september, I can imagine that this is usually the way things are here: always lots to do, and not enough time !

We've been quite fortunate this summer to have four students helping out

with our projects. The field season started with massive amounts of rain, 101.8 mm fell on June 3rd and 4th. This resulted in high water levels in the streams, delaying our field work by about two weeks. (cont p.3.)

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The English Rabbit Brook

by Colin Wilce, author of The Valley and Daffodils

As a young child, in the early 1960's, I used to sit on my Grandfather's knee on the front steps of his house, overlooking the valley of Lydbrook, listening to the stories he made up regarding the valley, and the brook that ran through it down to the River Wye at Lower Lydbrook on the border between England and Wales. He used the parts of the valley in his stories: Dances Corner, Goose's Neck and Dam Bottom.

As I grew up in Lydbrook, I continued to dream of Grandfather's stories. Then I discovered 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame. This became, and still is, my favourite book. From my schoolyard, I looked across the River Wye to a large wood that I imagined to be The Wild Wood referred to in the book. Even now, some forty years later, I still imagine



Lydbrook

Ratty and Mole every time I drive past. A secret ambition of mine was always to write books for children but there was always some reason for not making the effort. Then it happened. One evening, as I made up stories for my children at bed time, my 8 year old daughter asked, "Dad could you write us a book?" My six year old son repeated the question and as an almost instant response, I said, "YES!" I have published the first volume in my Rabbit Brook Tales series. Based on the valley I was raised in, and the place names my Grandfather had so enjoyed relating stories about, I have created a world of rabbits who enjoy adventures and celebrations in the valley of Rabbit Brook. I surfed the Net to find reference to my

books, I found a real Rabbit Brook, your Rabbit Brook. I read as many articles as possible so that I could find out about your area and e-mailed you to find out about your Rabbit Brook. I was sorry to hear that it is not as clean as it could be. As I currently prepare to publish the second volume in the Rabbit Brook series, my thoughts are with you and the hard work you are so obviously putting in to improving the environment of your area. My Rabbit Brook is an imaginary area based on one of the most beautiful areas of England and Wales. Your Rabbit Brook may not be as scenic but I am sure you aspire to make it as environmentally friendly as possible. If you ever feel you are a long way away from achieving the Rabbit Brook you want, please remember that it has taken me 46 years to arrive at my Rabbit Brook. I wish you all the very best, Colin Wilce (cwilce@tiscali.co.uk)

Bay of Fundy Biosphere Reserve Update

The Bay of Fundy is a unique and significant natural region. An initiative began in 2001 to prepare a nomination under the UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere Program". The Bay of Fundy Biosphere Reserve (BoFBR) would be dedicated to conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable economic development. So what's the **latest news** ?

Dr. Yves Gagnon, Chair of Sustainability at Université de Moncton will chair the BoFBR initiative planning group. Three

draft proposal documents have been completed: the main document, a summary document and an atlas of the area. They have been reviewed by all incorporated communities within the proposed area, and have received a strong level of support at that level. Provincial departments such as Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Parks, Intergovernmental Affairs and Agriculture and Aquaculture have reviewed the documents. An interdepartmental workshop

was held on September 5th to exchange comments and suggestions. On completing the editing process and submission to the NB cabinet, the documents will be ready for submission to UNESCO. Before the year's end, a final meeting will be held at Université de Moncton for stakeholders to discuss next steps prior to submitting the document to UNESCO Canada.

CONGRATULATIONS: there is light at the end of the tunnel !!

Getting closer to an answer...

WHEN will something be done about the causeway ? Daniel LeBlanc of the Riverkeepers is pressing for answers as the provincial election is nearing. A two question survey was distributed to the region's MLAs two weeks ago asking candidates and political parties to promise to make a decision on the River. 15 out of 25 candidates responded favourably to the questionnaire. None of the Conservative candidates answered the

survey. However, the party responded that it is committed to the Environmental Impact Assessment process and to selecting the best option when it will be fully complete. For more details: www.petitcodiac.org. Don't forget to vote on September 18th !!

Daniel, the founding Executive Director and Riverkeeper, will soon be stepping down after seven and a half years with



the Riverkeepers. Congratulations for your success Daniel, and good luck with your future projects !

Coordinator's corner continued

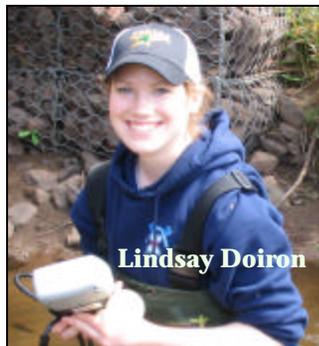
(...cont.) Two big projects occupied most of our summer.

North Branch Hall's Creek (NBHC) Aquatic Habitat Assessment

Lindsay and Philippe were our habitat assessment specialists, walking the



Philippe St-Onge



Lindsay Doiron

(NBHC) many times during the summer. The lands around North Branch will soon be developed, and we would like to work with the developer to ensure that the current habitat conditions will be maintained or improved. During an electrofishing survey, we found brook trout, blacknose dace, lake chub, American eel, common shiner and



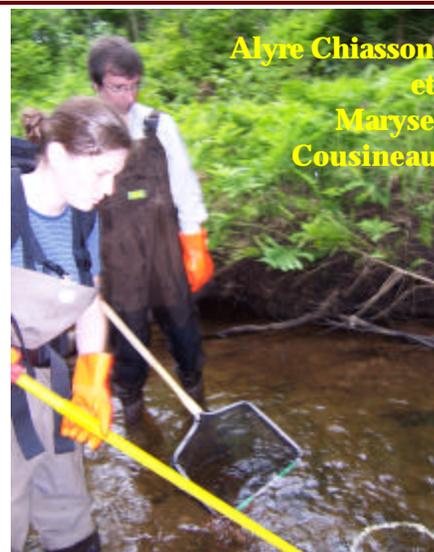
Fresh water gasteropod, Halls Creek

three-spined stickleback. Almost 100 bird species and/or nests were observed in the forested area surrounding the creek in June by Marc-

André Villard, a biology professor at Université de Moncton. Such an amazing natural area, right in our backyard !!

Culvert study

Maryse, Jolène and I studied fish passage through area culverts. Armed with an electrofisher, some buckets, a fish net and loads of bug spray, we looked at culverts on the Fox Creek, Rabbit Brook, Jonathan Creek and NBHC. A minimum of 15 fish of the same species were caught, marked and released on the other side of the culvert. Two days later, we returned to the same area to fish again to see if the fish had returned to their habitat through the culvert. We found that some fish had returned at 4 culverts. In one instance, no fish were found. This may be because water levels in the culvert were too low. We will take a closer look at the results this Fall. I would like to thank Alyre Chiasson for all of his help, and also for lending us his truck and loads of equipment, including the electrofisher. Also a huge thanks to



**Alyre Chiasson
et
Maryse
Cousineau**

Université de Moncton for letting us run around in the labs ! We could not have realized this project without your help. I would also like to thank the student Jolène Léger for all of her help. Good luck with your masters !

Long-term water quality monitoring continued once a month. I fell in the stream three times with my waders on a miserable rainy day in July. Fun times ! High levels of *E. coli* were still found in Rabbit Brook. We will further analyse the data this fall.

I'll be finishing up my contract on the 15th. This summer was a great learning experience !!

Sophie LeBlanc

Upcoming events

16 September: Geology and fossils with Arie Wissink in the Joggins area. www.monctonnaturalistsclub.org/field_trips.htm

16-17 September: EcoArts Festival, Cape Jourimain. Contact: Ramsey Hart, tel (506) 539-2288. <http://capejourimain.ca>

16-24 September: Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. <http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup/home.php>

17 September: Solar home tour. Ferguson's Cove, NS. For more information: solar-homes@ecologyaction.ca.

20 September: Stormwater management of the Cocagne Sustainable Development Group. Daniel Savard, 7:00 pm. Music room of



Ned Bear, EcoArts festival

the Blanche-Bourgeois School in Cocagne (off Route 535). Contact: Jocelyne (506) 576-8247.

13-15 October: NB Environmental Network AGA, Rural renaissance: cultivating your community. http://www.nben.ca/whatsnew_index.htm



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WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

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*To achieve a healthy environment for the
greater good of the Petitcodiac Watershed*

Address:

Find us on the web !
www.pwmg-gsbp.org



Become a Friend of the Watershed!

Membership form
Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance 2006-2007

Checks should be made
payable to **PWMG-GSBP
Inc.** and sent to:

PWMG-GSBP Inc.
PO Box 23046
Moncton, NB
E1A 6S8

Name: _____

Organization/ Job Title (optional) _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____ (very important)

Fees:

- * **Fish Friend** \$20, Includes quarterly newsletter, occasional updates
- * **River Rescuer** \$50, Includes quarterly newsletter, updates, members only mug
- * **Watershed Supporter** \$100, Includes quarterly newsletter, updates, annual report (State of the Watershed), members only t-shirt "Are you using the right protection for your watershed?"
- * **Corporate/ Watershed Supporter** \$250+, all of the above plus announcement on our regularly visited website

** all memberships include voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting

