

Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group

Groupe de surveillance du bassin de la Petitcodiac

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Hi and welcome!!!

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Petitcodiac watershed monitoring group's very first newsletter that will be published every two months.

In this newsletter, you will find information on a variety of topics, including: group activities, results from past sampling, volunteer profiles, current environmental issues, upcoming activities in the region, links to interesting web sites and much more.

The PWMG will also have a web site this year. On this site, you will find information on the different sampling sites. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to update the information pertaining to your site. I will give you the address of this site very soon.

The year 1999 marks the third year of activity for the PWMG. Again this year we need volunteers to monitor water quality. You will find more information about the sampling activities for the upcoming year in this publication.

In the mean time, if you have any questions or comments regarding this newsletter or our web site, please contact me by phone at 858-4529, by email (pwmg@nbnet.nb.ca) or drop by, my office is located in the Environment Canada building on the Université de Moncton campus (room 108).

Finally, I would just like to remind you that the next newsletter will be published at the end of October.

Hope you enjoy and see you next time!

Isabelle Frenette
Project coordinator

Annual meeting

The PWMG's annual meeting took place on Tuesday, July 27 1999. A total of 15 people participated in this meeting. During this meeting, the group's new coordinator took some time to introduce herself and to explain what her duties and responsibilities will be as coordinator for the upcoming year. She also stressed the importance of community volunteers for the success of this project.

Following this brief introduction, Monique Breau from the Department of the Environment gave a presentation on Watercourse Classification in New Brunswick (see Water classification) a new challenge that the group will be taking on for the next two years.

Jerry Choate, also with the Department of the Environment followed with a presentation on preliminary results from the past two years of water sampling in the watershed (see Results).

We would like to thank all those who took time and participated in this meeting, we hope the information was of value to you!

Volunteers and sampling for 1999

Recently, citizens have become more involved in environmental protection and monitoring, they are becoming responsible for their local environment by participating in local activities. Volunteer efforts are very important in this project because they provide good quality data and they build stewardship of local waters.

This year again, the PWMG needs your support to ensure the continuing success of our objectives. For the third year in a row, the PWMG will need volunteers to conduct water quality monitoring at different sites in the watershed.

The first sampling, by volunteers, will take place on August 29 1999. If your interested in participating or if you know anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Isabelle at 858-4529.

Executive committee

Are you interested in becoming a member of our executive committee? We are looking to fill the following positions: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

The role of the executive committee is to administer the group's activities and decisions on operation. However, day to day decisions and operations are the responsibility of the group's coordinator. The committee will also be responsible for finance matters, administration and annual meeting preparations. As a member of the executive you will be asked to attend 4 meetings per year. Each position is for one year with the possibility of a renewal the following year.

Anyone interested in being a member of the executive is asked to please contact Isabelle at 858-4529.

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Preliminary results from 1997 and 1998

At the group's annual meeting, Jerry Choate of the New Brunswick Department of the Environment gave a presentation on preliminary sampling results for the watershed in 1997 and 1998. According to Mr. Choate, the water quality of the watershed as changed little since the 1970's. To evaluate the water quality, he compared sampling results with median values used to categorize existing water quality. The following parameters were examined: total phosphorus, total organic carbon, dissolved oxygen and fecal coliforms.

Water type	Total Phosphorus (mg/l)	Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	Dissolved oxygen (mg/l)	Fecal Coliforms (no./100 ml)
Excellent	<0.017	<10	>6	<100
Good	0.017-0.033	10-15	5-6	100-200
Poor	>0.033	>15	<5	>200

Highlights of water quality (1997-1998) :

- o Excellent quality: Pollett and Little River and Turtle Creek
- o Good quality: Sections of Petitcodiac and North River
- o Poor quality: Halls and Jonathan Creek and Rabbit and Humphreys Brook

Results indicate that water quality along the Pollett and Little River and Turtle Creek (excluding the head pond) is generally of excellent quality. Results showed good water quality in the Petitcodiac (upstream and at the mouth of Turtle Creek) and North River. Finally, water in Jonathan and Halls Creek and Humphreys and Rabbit Brook is generally of poor quality.

A final report of these findings should be published by the end of the year.

Water classification for New Brunswick

This year, the PWMG will be taking on a new challenge: Water Classification of the different tributaries in the watershed.

The Water Classification Regulation defines classification as « ...a water management method used to harmonize the use and protection of watercourses. In general, it involves categorizing watercourses into classes, and then managing those watercourses according to goals or standards set for each class ».

This year, the PWMG is undertaking water classification of the Petitcodiac watershed in collaboration with the New Brunswick Department of the Environment. This classification will allow us to provide a framework to protect the waters of the watershed, improve consistency in managing our water resources, ensure clean sustainable water for many uses and promote public stewardship of our lakes and rivers. The classification of water will categorize each watercourse in categories based on goal-setting objectives.

There are three main types of information needed to begin classification : existing water quality data, land and water uses in the watershed and input from stakeholders. Water classification depends entirely on the initiative and support of individuals and groups from the community. If you would like to find out more about Water classification call Isabelle at 858-4529.

Following are the 6 classes* for water quality management :

- O Outstanding natural water
- AP Designated drinking water supplies
- AL All lakes not classified as O or AP
- A Excellent water quality
- B Good water quality
- C Acceptable water quality

*All of the classes established in the Regulation have aquatic life standars that require the protection of aquatic life.

(References: Overview of the Water Classification Regulation by the Department of the Environment and The Water Classification Guide book by Eastern Charlotte Waterways)

Comments? Suggestions? Questions?
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