



## Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance has a New coordinator

Having lived in the Petitcodiac River Watershed all my life I am already familiar with the local issues surrounding water quality in South-eastern New Brunswick. I am also a certified organic farmer, my farm is located in Salisbury New Brunswick where I live with my husband and four children.

My work with the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance has kept me busy this winter. Despite the fact that I have only been working here for about three months, along with Luc Richard, the Interim Project Coordinator, my days have been full with

the preparation of the year-end reports and the funding proposals for the upcoming year.

The water sampling season is starting late this year because of the abundance of snow still in the woods which has made traveling through the woods difficult, and water levels too high to allow us to sample safely. However, I have already started to get out and familiarize myself with some of the rivers and streams in the Petitcodiac and Memramcook Watersheds. I am also looking forward to getting to know the people who live along these watercourses. So if you see



Project coordinator Susan Linkletter

me sampling in your area, don't hesitate to come over and say hello. I would like to meet you and work with you to keep our watercourses clean and healthy.

# Current News

## Ten Things That Threaten the Water Quality of our Watershed

1. Untreated wastewater run-off from streets and parking lots
2. Raw Sewage from improperly maintained septic systems or cross connections
3. Agricultural Run-off
4. Lawn and Garden Chemicals
5. Damage to riparian zones.
6. Snow melts containing high concentrations of road salts.
7. Littering
8. Sedimentation
9. Illegal blockage of fish passage
10. Watershed Citizen Indifference

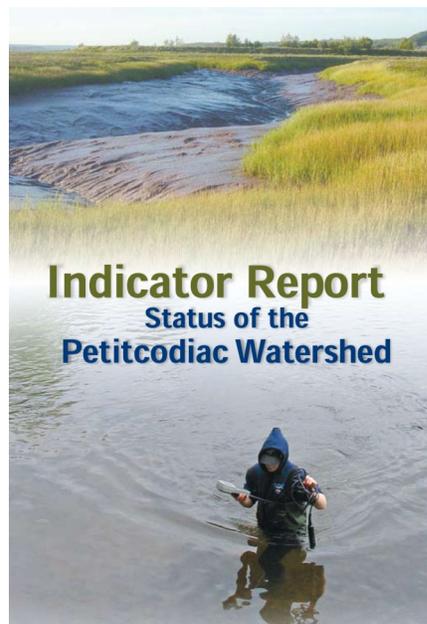


# Hot off the presses!

The [Indicator Report on the status of the Petitcodiac Watershed](#) is now available . You can get your copy by calling our office, or you can view a copy on our website:

[petitcodiacwatershed.com](http://petitcodiacwatershed.com)

Learn about our water quality indices, and what they tell us about our watershed.



Water Quality Report for the Petitcodiac and Memramcook Watersheds, 2007



A more detailed account of our water quality monitoring results can be found in our [Water Quality Report for 2007](#).

Also new this year is our [Greening Your Greens Best Management Practices for Environmentally Friendly Golf Courses](#). Have a look, and make sure that your favorite golf course is on par with us!



## Projects we hope to do with you this summer

### [Greening Your Greens](#)

The PWA is looking to continue working with local area golf courses this summer to help them adopt environmentally friendly best management practices

### [City Stream Watch](#)

The PWA is starting a City Streamwatch program which will include an in depth detailed study of one of Moncton's urban streams. Stay tuned for more details.

### [Jonathan Creek Culvert Inventory Study](#)

The PWA plans to begin Phase II of this project. See the results of last years work on our website.

# Chemicals and Lawncare

Chemicals are not necessary for lush green lawns but the lawn – care industry has sold most of us on the idea that we need them. When lawn care chemicals are over applied, they can run off from lawns and enter our watercourses or the water table. Once in our watercourses, these chemicals can have detrimental effects on the insects that make up the bottom of the aquatic food chain. Synthetic fertilizers contain chemicals that dissolve readily into water-soluble nutrients that are available immediately to growing turf, but on average only 20% of it can be used before it drains out of the turf root zone, and into the watershed. This nutrient waste is causing freshwater rivers and streams to become choked with algae. As the algae dies and decomposes it uses up all the available oxygen in those freshwater streams. Water from freshwater streams in turn provide most of the oxygen available to the aquatic organisms that live in the ocean. Atlantic Canada is not immune to the effects of algae blooms. Fish kills have been documented on our coast due to toxins produced by algae, and local beach closures to clam diggers are annual events because of their contamination by toxins produced by algae.

There are alternatives to many of the chemicals that are used by the lawn care industry

today. Healthy lawn soils will naturally ward off diseases and pests, and greatly increase water retention at the same time. A soil test may be a good place to start for most homeowners. A soil test will reveal the organic content of the soil from which the grass must grow. If the soil's organic content is below 10 percent, compost should be added to raise it. It is the organic component of the soil, which is home to billions of microbes that break down organic matter into the nutrients required by grass to grow. Compost contains these microbes, as well as the nutrients and a host of micronutrients not available in bags of synthetic fertilizers. In areas of lawn that are visibly poor spread compost at least an inch thick, other areas will only need a thin layer of compost a year. Don't worry, you can't apply too much. Most homeowners can make their own compost using leaves and food waste from their kitchen.

A good soil test will also indicate the pH of your soil. Most turf prefers a pH around 6.5. The soils in Atlantic Canada are often slightly acidic, or below the pH of 7. If the pH of your soil is below 6 lime should be added, usually the recommended application rate is included with a soil test. Wood ashes are very alkaline and can also be used to raise soil pH but be careful not to apply too much. About 2 cups for every 100

square feet of soil should be enough for most lawns. A pH less than 6 or more than 7 inhibits nutrient breakdown and release. Nutrients are wasted if they are applied to lawns with soils that cannot make those nutrients available to the roots of the plants that need them. These nutrients are then lost to the water table or end up in our rivers and streams which cause algae growth. Soil tests can be done locally from the department of agriculture offices located at the Moncton coliseum.

Homeowners should also consider using organic slow release fertilizers made from natural plant, animal, or mineral sources. The advantage of a slow release fertilizer is that they tend to release minerals at roughly the same rate that plants can use them and are then less likely to pollute groundwater or surface waters through the excessive nutrient leaching common with synthetic fertilizers. It is important to note though, that although they are a better choice than synthetic fertilizers, organic fertilizers can still pollute watercourses if they are over applied. Ideally only one kg of soluble nitrogen should be applied per 400 square meters. In short, chemicals are not necessary for healthy lawns, they only treat cosmetic symptoms of soil problems. Learn about what makes a soil healthy, and this will give you a healthy lawn.



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*Maintaining a healthy  
 environment for the greater good of  
 our watersheds*

*Find us on the web  
[petitcodiacwatershed.org](http://petitcodiacwatershed.org)*

## Be a Friend to Your Watershed, Support the work of the PWA.

### Membership Form

### Membership Options

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Tel:

E-mail:

Fees:

Fish Friend : \$20.00

(Free quarterly newsletter)

River Rescuer: \$50.00

(Free quarterly newsletter and a mug)

Watershed Supporter:

**\$100.00**

( Quarterly newsletter, mug, t-shirt, and our annual report)

Corporate Watershed

Supporter

**\$250.00**

(All of the above plus get free advertising on our website for your business.)