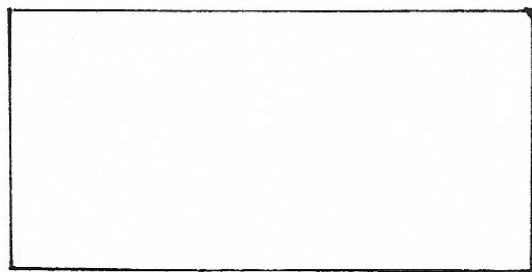
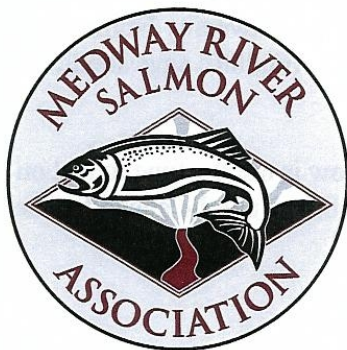


## Medway River Blues

As the first snow flies over the Medway River and the temperatures hover around zero degrees, just before the middle of November, thoughts turn to things other than salmon and/or salmon fishing. However, not for the salmon as they prepare themselves for the breeding season that lies ahead. This year the Medway River and it's tributaries will be the spawning grounds for the first gene-bank salmon, as well as, the returning wild salmon.

This is an exciting time for all of us who have an opportunity to watch this historic event unfold. The timing of the formation of the Medway River Salmon Association could not have been more appropriate. For the Executive and Environment Committee to have input in the determination of where the gene-bank salmon should be placed in the river. For the Membership to assist the Environment Committee in the physical task of placing the salmon in the river.

The best news is that this is only the beginning. Next year the remaining sexually mature gene-bank salmon at the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility will be released into the Medway River. As well, in the spring of 2008, the eggs from this year's spawning, will hatch, and the cycle for a new generation begins. The challenge for our Association is to ensure that the water quality, especially pH levels, will give the hatch the best opportunity to survive.



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## Presidents Message

What exciting times!

In the short few months since we became an Association in late March 2007, many great things have happened in our quest to re-populate Atlantic Salmon in the Medway River. Co-operation from Fisheries & Ocean's Canada, MP Gerald Keddy and MLA Vicki Conrad was welcomed and appreciated. The generosity of the membership and the community in backing our efforts is recognized and most appreciated. The tireless work of the Executive and Environment Committee ensured that we succeeded in reaching our objectives for the year and put in place priorities for 2008.

The cumulative effect of the correspondence and meetings with DFO and federal and provincial politicians paid off with agreement to proceed with an aggressive program to re-populate the Medway River. This year in October approximately 270 sexually mature gene-bank salmon were placed in six (6) sites on the river. Later in October the staff at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility placed in excess of seven thousand (7,000) parr in eleven (11) sites in the river. The Environment Committee, with membership assistance, helped out with the placement of the gene-bank salmon.

In addition, agreement was reached with DFO to hold back the remaining parr, estimated to be in excess of eight thousand (8,000), so that a science project can be worked out over the winter months for the resulting smolt. To this end a meeting between our Environment Committee and DFO Biologists will take place in January 2008. The parr will develop to smolt over the winter at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility.

The final project agreed upon was to have thirty (30) sexually mature gene-bank salmon [fifteen (15) female & fifteen (15) male] bred at the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility and the resultant eggs transferred to the Mersey Biodiversity Facility for rearing. If all goes according to plan over sixty thousand (60,000) eggs should result from this exercise.

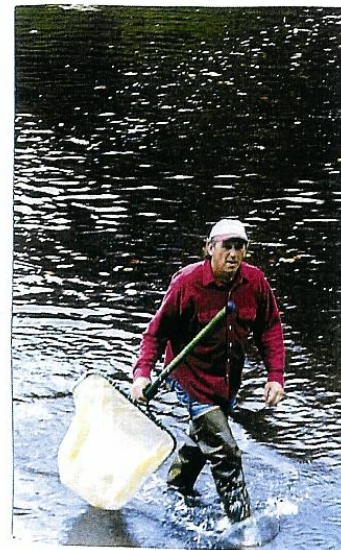
Yes, quite a year and its only November! However, now is not the time to rest on our laurels, but to prepare for the future and the great things that lie ahead for the salmon and the Medway River.

Darrell Tingley, President

## Gene-Bank Salmon Release

On October 11, 2007 in excess of 275 sexually mature gene-bank salmon from the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility were released into the Medway River. DFO staff from the Mersey and Coldbrook Biodiversity Facilities oversaw the release operations. The salmon were released in four sites below Ponhook Lake – Lake Pool, below Dean’s Brook, above Big Salmon and below Limestone Brook. Above Ponhook Lake the fish were released at South Brookfield and at a site in the Westfield River.

Twelve (12) members of the Medway River Salmon Association assisted DFO staff in the release of the gene-bank salmon.



## Parr Release

On October 19, 2007 Fisheries & Ocean's staff at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility released in excess of seven-thousand (7,000) parr\* into the Medway River. The parr were released in eleven (11) sites above and below Ponhook Lake. This release was the result of the 2006 spawning of twenty-five (25) gene-bank salmon from the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility and the rearing of same at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility.

\* Number is approximate until the officially released by DFO.

The remaining parr, estimated to be in excess of eight-thousand (8,000), remain at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility, and most likely, will be released in the spring as smolt. A science project will be developed over the winter for these smolt. The Medway River Salmon Association's Environment Committee will be involved in the development of the science project.

## Gene-Bank Breeding

After a great deal of discussion and with the support of MP Gerald Keddy and MLA Vicki Conrad we were able to convince Fisheries & Ocean's to spawn thirty (30) gene-bank salmon at the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility. The resultant eggs will be reared at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility. Again, as with the smolt, a science project will have to be developed between the parties.

## Outstanding Matters

The one major issue that remains outstanding between our Association and Fisheries & Ocean's is the necessity to have a count done on the Medway River. Currently the numbers retrieved from Morgan Fall's, on the LaHave River, are used to guesstimate the number of salmon in the Medway River. We have requested, on more than one occasion, that a "smolt wheel" or electro-fishing take place so that we are dealing with real versus imaginary numbers.

Hopefully, one of the obstacles will go away and the budget for DFO will be increased so necessary equipment can be purchased.

## Adopt - A - Stream

Since 1988, the Adopt-A-Stream program has been administered by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association on behalf of the province's main recreational angling organizations.

Adopt-A-Stream's strategy is two-fold:

The program encourages and supports communities working on long-term land and water-use issues to ensure that best management practices are adopted.

The program provides direct assistance in the form of project funding and technical advice for hands-on projects that physically restore ecological function and productive capacity to aquatic and riparian habitats.

Projects may include re-establishing natural meander patterns, stabilizing stream banks, restoring fish populations, and installing special devices to improve habitat for fish as well as other aquatic and land-based wildlife living in and around water courses.



On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Medway River Environment Committee showed Adopt-A-Stream Project Manager Amy Weston three (3) tributaries of the Medway River Limestone Brook, 15 Mile Brook and Harmony Brook. To receive first hand advice will assist the Environment Committee in preparing a funding proposal for the 2008 year. Applications for funding must be in by February 20, 2008 and a proposal will be forthcoming at the January membership meeting.

## McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery

Early in 2007 members of the Executive and the Environment Committee of the Medway River Salmon Association met with Mike McNeil, Manager, McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery to review the operations of the hatchery and to have a better overall understanding of the work and objectives. Discussions also took place on the possibility of a “trout” release for the Medway River later in the year. Arrangements were made in September to have a number of sea run trout “clipped” for release into the Medway River.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> the Environment Committee, assisted by members of the Association, eleven (11) in total, went to the hatchery and clipped in excess of ten-thousand (10,000) sea runs. On October 31<sup>st</sup> ten (10) members of the Association assisted hatchery staff in the release of the sea run trout. The trout were deposited in the Medway River and tributaries from the Mill Village Fire Hall to the boat lunch just below Dean’s Brook.

### Clipping



## Release



The Medway River Blues is a tri annual publication of the Medway River Salmon Association.

Articles and opinions are welcome.

You can contact us at: P.O. Box 93  
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B0J 2H0

If you would like to become a member of the Medway River Salmon Association or if you would like more information about our Organization please send your name and mailing address to:

Medway River Salmon Association  
P.O. Box  
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Membership fee is \$10.00

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