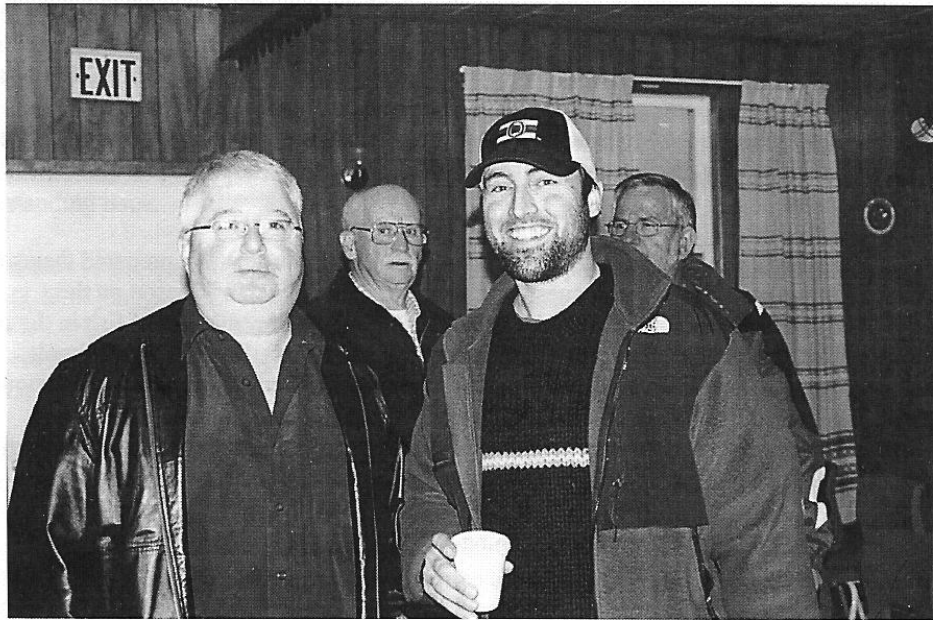


Volume 1 # 1

Medway River Blues

Welcome to the first issue of the Medway River Blues the official newsletter of the Medway River Salmon Association. An Association, to be effective, must have regular contact with the membership through membership meetings and communiques. To this end the Executive Committee will publish the Medway River Blues three times each year. The newsletter will be sent to the membership between the January, May and September membership meetings. Articles and/or photographs etc. are welcome by the Editorial Board. Comments would be appreciated.

Founding Meeting



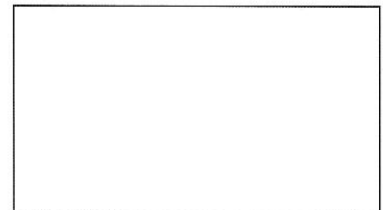
Front Row: Dell Nauss, Vice President; John Whitelaw, Secretary
Back Row: Raymond Alexander, Environment Committee; Reg Rafuse, Treasurer

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

EDITOR: Darrell Tingley

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Dell Nauss, John Whitelaw and Reg Rafuse

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 93
Mill Village, N.S.
B0J 2H0



Presidents Message

On March 27, 2007 the Medway River Salmon Association was formed. On this date a Founding Meeting was held, officers/ committees (elected, selected), by-laws approved and resolutions passed setting out the work of the Association for the year ahead. Fifty-one (51) members/guests attended, including the President and Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

Resolutions passed at the inaugural meeting focused on conservation issues, such as, liming, stocking and enforcement. In addition, the membership approved a Hook & Release Salmon Season from June 1st to July 15th upstream from the Bridge at the 103 Highway and downstream from the Harmony Mills Bridge. A resolution on a Crested Cormorant (Shag) cull was defeated.

The resolutions dealing with Enforcement, Stocking and a Hook & Release Season were dealt with at a Fisheries & Oceans Canada Zone Management Advisory Committee Meeting (ZMAC) on May 1, 2007 in Bridgewater. The first issue raised at the ZMAC meeting was the acceptance of the Medway and Petite Riviere Salmon Associations to the Advisory Committee. That was about the extent of our success of our first Zone Management Advisory Committee Meeting. Although Enforcement on the Medway had improved prior to the meeting and continued after the meeting following our discussions with Bill Wolfe, Conservation & Protection, Fisheries & Oceans, Liverpool.

Knowing our agenda prior to the ZMAC, Fisheries & Oceans unfortunately, prepared themselves only for a negative response to our request for a Hook & Release Fishing Season on the Medway. The main reason stated for not having a season was the low number of fish in the river (some perceived or real difficulty with a parr collection in 2004/05). Had the use of Smolt Wheels or Electro-fishing been carried out to determine the numbers of wild stock the rationale would have been understood and accepted. The irony of the situation is that on one hand Fisheries & Oceans claimed that very few fish existed in the river, however, they refused our request for a stocking program.

It should be noted that all other rivers requesting a Hook & Release or Kill season were approved, including the Petite Riviere!

Not to be deterred our Executive and Environment Committees have continued our efforts to have the Medway River water quality improved, salmon populations enhanced and eventually a return to salmon fishing on the river.

The Medway River Salmon Association will work with all Organizations, Government's and Agencies to ensure the best possible results for our membership.

Darrell Tingley, President

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

On July 24, 2007 the Executive and Environment Committee of the Medway River Salmon Association met with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) representatives, Peter Amiro, Biologist; Shane O'Neil, Biologist and in charge of Biodiversity Facilities and Bev Davison Manager Mersey Biodiversity Facility.

The following agenda was approved:

Wild Status Assessment
Tagging Smolt/Salmon
640 Medway Salmon Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility
34 Thousand Eggs Milton Biodiversity Facility
Future Stocking Medway River

Despite it was a suggestion of DFO following the ZMAC Meeting of May 1, 2007 the representatives voiced disagreement for an Assessment due to the low number of salmon in the river system. The was challenged by the Environment Committee and Electro-Fishing and/or Smolt Wheels be put in place for 2008 to determine "wild status". This remains as an outstanding issue.

In respect to the issue of Tagging Smolt/Salmon DFO representatives would be in favour of a Kelt (Slink) tagging initiative, possibly in 2008. A successful tagging project of Kelt took place on the LaHave River in 2007. Eventually, it may be possible to track salmon from Nova Scotia Rivers to Greenland and back, by hooking up with the Ocean Tracking Network being developed by Dalhousie University..

In the years 2004/05 Juvenile collections of Salmon were taken from the Medway River in a Gene-Bank experiment. The Fry/Parr were taken to the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility and raised. As of this date it appears 150 to 160 mature salmon will be released back into the Medway River this fall. The objective of this exercise, is that, these salmon will seek mates and spawn in the river. The Environment Committee has requested and has been accepted to participate in the site selection and release of these salmon.

In 2006 twenty-five (25) of the mature salmon at the Coldbrook Facility were bred (10 males and 15 females). The resulting spawning netted 34,000 eggs which were sent to the Mersey Biodiversity Facility for rearing. Assuming a twenty-five (25) percent mortality rate, the remaining fish are scheduled to be released into the Medway River this fall. The Environment Committee was advised to keep these fish longer would require a research project for the resulting smolt. The same response was given for any future stocking programs ie must be related to a "Research Project."

Bottom line - at least we know what challenges lie ahead.

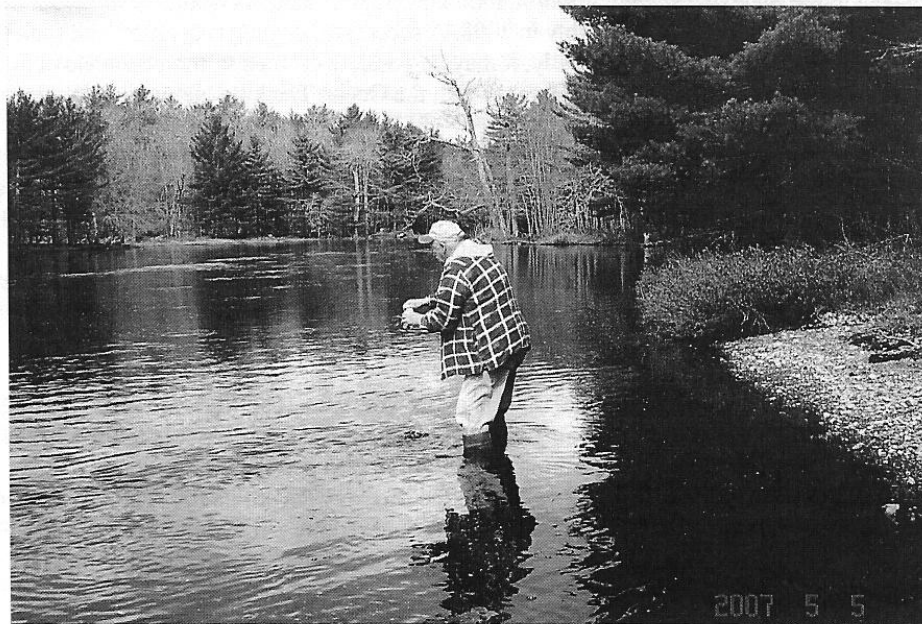
PH Test Results

The Environment Committee began collecting water samples for testing the PH Levels in April, 2007. In the month of April samples were only collected on the main stem from Ponhook to Mill Village. In the months of May through July samples were collected in the main stem, as well as, from Ponhook to McGowan Lake and its tributaries.

As anticipated the test results showed that the PH Levels improved in each subsequent month. Throughout the testing period Harmony Lake had the best test results ranging from the mid 5's to the low 6's. Murray and 18 Mile Brooks performed at the lower end of the scale coming in below 5 on all tests. Testing will continue on a monthly basis throughout the rest of the year.

The test results will be valuable when the Environment Committee considers its Liming Strategy later this fall. The Committee will take into consideration the release of the 150-160 mature salmon from the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility and the fry/parr release this fall or next spring from the Mersey Biodiversity Facility. As well the Committee will reflect upon the membership's reporting of parr on the river this spring.

Prior to any Liming Project the Committee must seek approval from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Raymond Alexander, Environment Committee, collects a water sample from "The Rolls" in May, 2007

Keddy Supports Stocking / Fishing

In a letter to The Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans dated July 6, 2007 Gerald Keddy, MP South Shore- St. Margaret's requested that a stocking program of Atlantic Salmon for the Medway River take place at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility and that local fishers have an opportunity to angle Salmon once again on the Medway. The following excerpts are from Mr. Keddy's letter:

" With the release of the endangered Atlantic Whitefish into the Petite Riviere Watershed, ...that the tanks are now vacant" "I write to you to advocate for these tanks to be filled with Atlantic Salmon to help in their efforts for quality stock re-building programs at the Facility".

" As you are aware, due to a number of factors including acid rain, predators, and other marine mortality issues, the Atlantic Salmon populations on the Medway River have been reduced to the point where an angling season has not been possible for over 10 years. On numerous occasions, DFO has stated that present budgets and policy do not allow for proper stock re-building on salmon rivers, such as the Medway."

" Your assistance in obtaining sufficient budget support to fill the vacant tanks at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility with Atlantic Salmon will not only allow salmon populations to reach proper conservation levels, it will also allow local fishers to return to an angling opportunity, as mandated in the 2001 DFO Sport Fishing Policy, on the Medway River."

The Medway River Salmon Association has advocated from the outset for proper funding for DFO, so that, stocking and equipment purchases are possible for the future success of salmon populations in Nova Scotia. In particular to our area we have requested on several occasions that the Mersey tanks be used for salmon re-population and the Medway River eventually return to a fishing opportunity.

Next Meeting

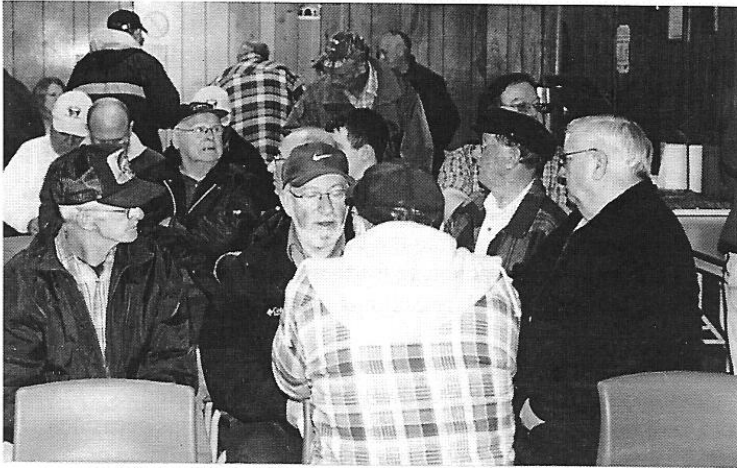
The next meeting of the Medway River Salmon Association will be held in Caledonia.

Place: Caledonia Fire Hall

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2007

Time: 7:00 pm

More Founding Meeting Photo's



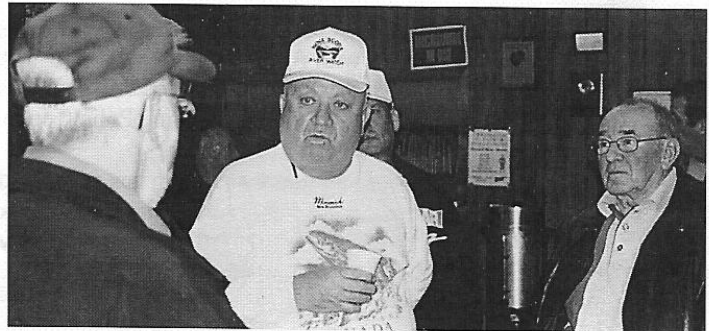
Members chat before meeting



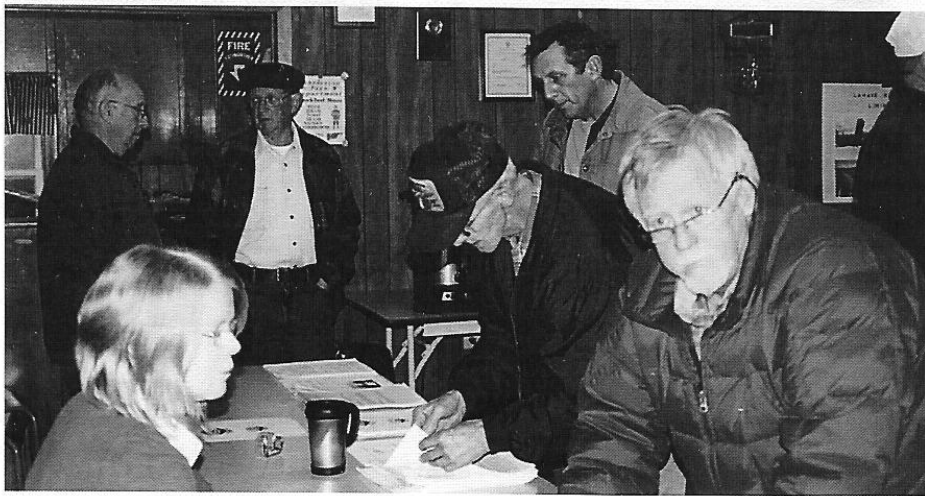
When's the meeting starting?



Waiting for Business



River Watch !





HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member from Queens.

RESOLUTION NO. 2606

MS. VICKI CONRAD: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas we recognize the importance of sustaining our rivers and the fish that inhabit these rivers; and

Whereas the Medway River Salmon Association was recently formed to enable this river to be, once again, a viable salmon fishing river; and

Whereas all of the people in the community, and the Medway River Salmon Association, recognize how important it is to preserve this very important river in Queens County;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize **Darrell Tingley**, President; **Dell Nauss**, Vice-president; **Reg Rafuse**, Treasurer; **John Whitelaw**, Secretary of the Medway River Salmon Association; and all of the members of the community who recently attended this very important founding meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed? It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Compliments of Vicki Conrad, MLA for Queens

Congratulations to the Medway River Salmon Association on the formation of your Association. We are sure that the challenges that lie ahead will be met head on and your goals will be achieved. A determined and active membership ensures success.

Director

Larry Shortt

Phone: (902) 864-0360
Fax: (902) 864-1779

99 Rankin Drive
Lr Sackville, N.S.
B4C 3A7
E-Mail: lshortt@ns.sympatico.ca



Nova Scotia



Salmon Association

HARRY FREEMAN
& Son Limited

PO Box 100, Greenfield
Queens County, Nova Scotia
B0T 1E0 Canada
tel: 902 685 2792
fax: 902 685 2644
cell: 902 521 1121
richard.freeman@freemanlumber.com

Richard J. Freeman
Counsel

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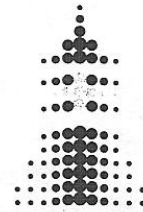
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MEMBER



Lighthouse
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Liana Bishop

PRINT SALES REPRESENTATIVE

tel: 902 543 2457 fax: 902 543 2228
toll free: 1 888 543 2457
e-mail: lbishop@lighthouse.ns.ca

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If you would like to become a member of the Medway River Salmon Association please send the \$10.00 membership fee along with your name, mailing address and telephone number to:

Medway River Salmon Association
P.O. Box 93
Mill Village, N.S.
B0J 2H0