



As of April 1, 2010 another fishing season opened on the Medway River. Early reports show that the river is chocked full of trout. Weather and water temperature/levels were the best in recent memory. Good sea trout runs have been reported. Very few out-migrating Kelt have been hooked which most likely means they left in March. In fact, as of April 7th, smolt have been moving towards the estuary. Despite the warm weather and early spring, the water seemed cool to Ronnie Zwicker and Horace MacPherson , as they went for a dip!

On April 8, 2010 the Executive and Environment Committee approved the Medway River Acid Rain Mitigation Project. The business plan, prepared by Doug Lohnes, Horace MacPherson and Jim Sapp, estimates the project to cost one million, seven hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) over ten years. The capital costs in year one will bear a great majority of the overall costs, with the two sixty-five (65) ton dozers landed at the Port of Halifax, representing three-hundred and ninety-three thousand dollars (\$393,000). Annual costs for limestone, maintenance and other associated costs are estimated at one hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars (\$121,000)

The focus of the project is the main stem of the Medway River. The liming will be done by dosers located just below Eel Lake at Harmony Bridge and just above or below the Greenfield Bridge on Highway 210. In addition, the plan calls for the liming of Ponhook Lake by boat. The Nova Scotia Salmon Association, at its Annual General Meeting in March 2010, approved a resolution to purchase a liming boat from Franzefoss Miljokalk of Norway. This is the same company that manufactures the lime dozers.

From our research this is the largest Acid Rain Mitigation Project ever attempted in North America. For that reason, plus the positive results from the West River Sheet Harbour single dozer liming project, we expect that the scientific community will be very much interested in the results . Likewise the wild Atlantic Salmon Associations and Organizations, will want to partner with the Medway River Salmon Association in its efforts to sweeten the water to enhance the opportunity for the return of Atlantic Salmon, in great numbers, to the Medway Watershed.

Conservation with pride, is the motto, as we go forward with the ambitious project!

## Presidents Report:

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been, or will be, invested by Salmon Associations and others in Nova Scotia to ensure the survival and re-population of Atlantic Salmon to our Rivers. In the first week of April 2010, another escape of a few hundred thousand penned fish from an Aquaculture Farm of Coffin Island, Queen's County, Nova Scotia. This is the same operation that experienced a previous escape of over five hundred thousand fish during Hurricane Juan. Worst of all, during the most recent incident, the company did all it could to cover up the escape and keep it from fishery departments and the general public.

This has to be the last straw and the government must be prepared to take financial and other means to resolve the problem once and for all. Our Association has written Sterling Belliveau, Minister of the Environment for Nova Scotia and has requested that (a) the operation be closed down or (b) the owners be required to move to a land based operation in Queens County. Also, a penalty should be imposed on the company for the escape and cover-up, to be shared with Salmon Associations, in the Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia.

Efforts to have a Rotary Screw Trap (Smolt Wheel) in the Medway River for this year have failed to materialize. Despite extra-ordinary efforts by Alex Levy of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), a permit from Nav Waters of the Department of Transportation had failed to surface on a timely basis. Regardless the early spring would have produced inferior results with the Smolt heading for the estuary as early as the first week of April. To ensure success in 2011 ourselves and DFO will start the process in the late fall to ensure permits are in place and be ready in the event the weather next year has the same warming trend as this year.

To date, no action to resolve the "fish passage" issue at the McGowan Lake Power Plant has been forthcoming. No word from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Nova Scotia or Nova Scotia Power on a resolution to the problem. The Medway River Salmon Association had to get a permit from the Environment Department to put a dam in the Old Charleston Fish Hatchery which is not on the Medway River or a tributary of. Go figure!

Two changes were made to fishing regulations for the Medway River in 2010, however, the questions of invasive species and single hook lure remain unresolved. These issues will once again be a topic of discussion at the spring and fall meeting of the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee. With patience we shall succeed in protecting migrating Kelt, and those detractors, some day will awaken and support our approach to conservation.

Tell me it isn't so ....black-flies in April, may flies yes, but black flies!

In Conservation:  
Darrell Tingley

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## Fish Friends

The Atlantic Salmon Federation, Fisheries & Oceans Canada and the Medway River Salmon Association incorporated the first "Fish Friends" project for the Greenfield Elementary School. 300 salmon eggs from the Mersey Biodiversity Facility in Milton were delivered to the school on March 5, 2010. Many thanks to Marsha Freeman and staff for taking on the project.

Below Lewis Hinks ASF, Regional Director shows the students the salmon eggs before placing them in the aquarium.



## Fish Rearing

In 2010 the MRSA has added salmon eggs to the incubation box experiment. There were 7,000 "eyed" salmon eggs as the result of breeding one male and one female hatchery reared salmon, at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility in November, 2009. (Part of 28 gene-bank salmon not released in 2008)

Shown below are Mersey staff and members of the MRSA Environment Committee completing the transfer from the hatchery to incubation box.



## Wanted-Project Manager

The Medway River Salmon Association is accepting applications for the position of Project Manager of the Medway River Acid Rain Mitigation Project. If interested, send resume to: MRSA, P.O. Box 93, Mill Village, N.S., B0J 2H0. Or e-mail to: [dwtpres@aol.com](mailto:dwtpres@aol.com)

## 2011 ?????

The success of the incubation box experiment, in conjunction with the "Fish Friends" experiments with salmon eggs in the Greenfield and Caledonia Schools, warrants the continuation of these projects in 2011.

Trusting all parties will be on board in 2011 !

### Affiliate of the Year

The Medway River Salmon Association was awarded the Affiliate of the Year by the Nova Scotia Salmon Association at its Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 6, 2010.

Shown making the presentation to Darrell Tingley, President, Medway River Salmon Association, is Amy Weston, NSSA Adopt-A-Stream Program Manager.



### Partnership

The Nova Scotia Liquor Commission has formed a partnership agreement with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association to provide much needed funding to the Adopt-A-Stream Program. One hundred thousand dollars per year, over the next five years, has been committed by NSLC to the program. The first \$100,000 has been presented to the NSSA at the Annual Dinner/Auction on March 31st.



Have you purchased your Eco friendly products yet?

20,000 Trout Eggs



Who will Captain the new liming boat the SS NSSA GF ?



In February, 2010 20,000 Sea Run Trout Eggs were placed in an Incubation Box by staff of the McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery and the MRSA Environment Committee.