



Volume 5 # 1

March, 2011

The days are getting longer and the temperatures start to warm and the thoughts of fishing come to mind. Soon the boats will hit the water at the Lake Pool and Dean's Brook. Fishers will be looking to hook the "big one". Stories will follow the first few days of the "one that got away", all to be washed down with some suds. Let's ensure that all return to tell the stories by fishing "safe". Each year in Nova Scotia fishers perish because they don't (won't) wear floatation devices. Let's make 2011 a year of safety!

In 2010 we enjoyed tremendous trout fishing on the Medway River, its tributaries as well as the many lakes in the watershed. Some indicated the fishing was as good as any time in the recent past. Some of these gains are a result of the cooperation by staff at the McGowan Lake Fish Hatchery who have assisted us greatly over the past number of years with juvenile and trout eggs. Each fall, Manager Mike McNeil, invites a half dozen or so of us to fin clip 10 to 12 thousand juvenile sea run trout. In February, staff bring down 20,000 "eyed" sea run trout eggs for the incubation box at the Old Charleston Fish Hatchery.

On the flip side of this, stocking of salmon is virtually non existent. In 2010 we had salmon eggs for the Fish Friends Program at the Greenfield and Caledonia Schools. As well, we had 7,000 salmon eggs for our incubation box experiment. In 2011 Mill Village School has been added to the Fish Friends Program, however, all three schools will be using trout eggs from the McGowan Lake Hatchery. The sad part is not just the missed opportunity for the school children, its an important part of the work of our Association that goes unfulfilled. Meanwhile 70% of the space at the Mersey Biodiversity Facility in Milton lies in a vacant state.

DFO in the Gulf Region has approved several government and private stocking initiatives. In New Brunswick the Mirimichi and Nepisiguit Salmon Associations operate private hatcheries. In Nova Scotia, provincial government hatcheries look after the spawning requirements for the Margaree, Middle, Baddeck and Waugh Rivers at the Margaree and Fraser Mills Hatcheries. The Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia, where no stocking takes place, falls under the Maritime Region of DFO. The ghost of Peter Amiro past?

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Presidents report

The recession in 2010 put the kybosh on our plans for the Acid Rain Mitigation Project. This undoubtedly will slow our work to improve the pH in the Medway River. Lime Dosers and boat liming would have an immediate impact on improving the water quality. However, we must not dwell on the past but find other solutions to improve the water quality of, not only the river, but the watershed as well. In 2011, it is our intention to use “lime tumblers” to sweeten the water in some of the tributaries. To date lime tumblers have only been used in the waterways of the Old Charleston Hatchery and the results have been positive. We have requested funding support from the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund to expand this work.

The major project for 2011 is “catchment” liming of 20.4 hectares of Abitibi-Bowater land at Twin Bridges. Four hectares are at the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Medway and 16.4 are adjacent to the West Branch. In addition to measuring the water pH, testing will be done to measure the forest pH and tree growth over time. Bowater has already prepared the areas to assist us with the lime application. Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, who is contracted to carry out the research, has recommended an application of ten tonnes of pelletized limestone per hectare. The work is slated to begin this spring as soon as funding and road conditions allow.

At the March 2011 Nova Scotia Salmon Association Annual Meeting, guest speaker Dr. Fred Whoriskey, Jr. Said that in discussions with Environment Canada new thinking is emerging on the best way to lime for maximum benefit. Whole watershed

liming is being looked at to solve the acidity of the forests and waters. The benefit may have a shelf life of 100 years. Catchment liming of a smaller area is projected at 25 years. This is exciting news for us and it would make sense for Environment Canada to partner with us on the Twin Lakes Project. The idea being floated is to start with one watershed and then another until all watersheds have been covered. Medway watershed gets my vote!

To date 75 members have renewed their memberships, all members and former members were contacted by letter in January. In addition, members were asked to make a donation to our ongoing work as an association. Donations from \$10 to \$400 were received and much appreciated. 2011 will see our first fund-raising Dinner/Auction to be held in Liverpool on April 16th. Some tickets are still available so order now so you won't be disappointed.

Thanks to all those who purchased tickets for the ASF Raffle in the fall. For selling the 3rd most tickets, we received a Sage rod and reel, which, in turn, will be auctioned off at our upcoming dinner. As well, we received \$580 as our share of the tickets sold.

Yours in Conservation

Darrell Tingley



Salmon Farms Devastate Wild Stock

Open pen salmon farming in the Bay of Fundy and the south coast of Newfoundland have had devastating effects on wild salmon populations. The Bay of Fundy has been enlisted as endangered for about 10 years and now the south coast of Newfoundland is facing the same designation. Left unchecked the whole of the Atlantic Coastal Region will be impacted.

The Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia could be next on the list of areas to be impacted if Cooke Aquaculture has its way. They have proposed to add two additional pens in the Shelburne Harbour and if it proceeds, will put a death grip on wild salmon. The “carrot” Cooke is dangling in front of the provincial government, is that they will build a processing plant in Shelburne if the farming is approved. A small price to pay for the ruination of wild salmon stocks and the ecosystem!

The provincial and federal governments through Fisheries and Oceans and Inland Fisheries respectively, regulate the industry. However, at the same time they are responsible for wild stocks. Unfortunately, the majority of DFO’s current budget goes towards the farming industry and not to the preservation of wild stocks.

This is not a question of putting salmon farms out of business but to have farming done in a manner that does not impact wild salmon. Disease, pollution and escapes can be controlled if the farms are land based and contained. This will eliminate any perceived or real threats. The only question facing the fish farming industry and Cooke Aquaculture is the amount of profit for each pound of

salmon farmed.

Now is the time for the federal and provincial governments, and the industry, to become protectors of wild salmon stocks by building land based containment sites.

The future is now!

Fish Passage

For the past two years the Harmony Power Plant (NSP) has been inoperable due to mechanical failure. This makes the fish ladder ineffective as a result of low water flow into the Tail Race. DFO calls for 35 cfs and with the plant down only 15 cfs flows through the By-Pass Pipe and McGowan Fish Hatchery. Meetings took place in the late fall with DFO and NSP to find a solution to the problem. At the end of the day the problem can only be resolved by re-starting the plant or building a second fish ladder at a separate location. At this time it appears the NSP will repair the machinery and the problem should go away.

This matter is extremely important to our organization as 30% of the Medway River spawning habitat lies above the Harmony Dam. With our proposed liming project at Twin Bridges, which is above the dam, a salmon stocking project would make sense in the near future. Mersey Biodiversity Facility has the space, we have the energy and resources, all that is needed is a commitment from the powers that be at DFO.

Is 2011 the year!



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First Annual Dinner/Auction
Fund Raiser
Liverpool Fire Hall
April 16, 2011
Doors open at 6:00pm
Dinner at 7:00 pm
Silent and Live Auction
Cash Bar ... Door Prizes
For tickets call Cindy at 677-2150



Lewis Hinks, ASF Director of Operation Nova Scotia, explains the Fish Friends Program to students and staff at the Mill Village School.

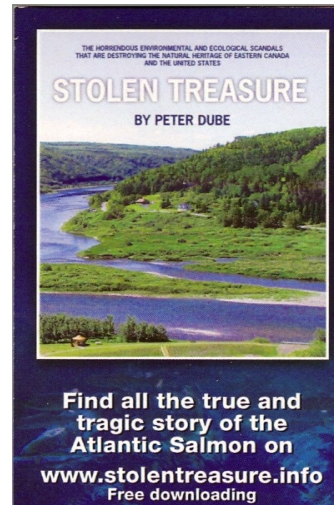
Medway Fly Contest



Danny Westhaver of Greenfield tied this winning entry.



Runner up this entry designed by Carl Cyr and tied at Danny's in Campbellton, N.B.



Membership

If you have yet to renew your membership for 2011, or if you wish to become a member of the Medway River Salmon Association, forward your membership fee of \$10 to:

MRSA
P.O. Box 93
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