

MEDUXNEKEAG
RIVER ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 5806
612 MAIN STREET
WOODSTOCK, NB
E7M 2C4

DID YOU KNOW

- The Meduxnekeag River is known locally as “the Creek”
- There are 26 fish species known to occur in the Meduxnekeag River—see our website for a full listing

UPCOMING EVENTS

OLD HOME WEEK (JULY 31 – AUGUST 6)

WATER
CLASSIFICATION
PROJECT OPEN
HOUSE AT MRA
OFFICE @ 612
MAIN STREET

SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

GREAT
CANADIAN
SHORELINE
CLEAN-UP
COMES TO
WOODSTOCK

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UP THE “CREEK” NEWS FROM AROUND THE MEDUXNEKEAG WATERSHED

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2005

MEDUXNEKEAG WATERSHED CLASSIFICATION PROJECT

The Meduxnekeag Watershed Classification project is progressing well. Water data that was collected over the past three years has been compiled. Initial analysis indicates that water quality in the Meduxnekeag is good, although there is room for improvement in some areas. Over 30 different parameters were measured, 15 of which have a Canadian Water Quality Guideline for the protection of aquatic life. The Meduxnekeag and its key tributaries meet and in most cases exceed the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines. For the substances where there are no national guidelines, the test levels show relatively consistent fluctuations and expected seasonal variations. Initial analysis of the results of the benthic testing shows a diverse and healthy macroinvertebrate community (for the non-scientist: lots of different kinds of bugs, worms and other stream bottom living critters in different stages of development), also a sign of good general water quality. Further analysis of the data is on-going, and we'll be doing another round of benthic testing this fall.

The aim of the Meduxnekeag Watershed Classification Projects is to produce **recommendations** for classification of the different watercourses within the Meduxnekeag watershed according to the consensus reached by stakeholders. To get there from here, we'll be meeting starting later this summer with landowners and other stakeholders throughout the watershed to share what we've learned and get their input. Residents and stakeholders will have a further opportunity to comment on the provisional classification recommendations, with resulting revisions being made prior to classification being recommended to the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

In most cases, the existing water quality will meet the standards, and most activities in the watershed will already be in compliance.

Open House

We're having an "open house" at the Meduxnekeag River Association office (612 Main Street) throughout Old Home Week (**July 31 - August 6**) to share what we've learned about the watershed and discuss the water classification project, next steps and an overall vision for the watershed.

Come in and have a look at our aerial photo displays of the watershed in 1945 and in 2000 and see the changes.

For more information on the water classification process please contact the office (328-8227) or see our website at www.meduxnekeag.org

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up comes to the Meduxnekeag River: You Can Help!

On September 10, 2005, we will be sponsoring an "aquatic garbage" clean up, along shorelines of both the Meduxnekeag and the St. John near Woodstock. There's a lot of debris left behind by this past Spring's high freshet, both natural and large amounts of man-made trash which have accumulated along the shorelines.

This is part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up, which was started by the Vancouver Aquarium in 1994 and has since spread to communities across the country.

We're hoping to clean-up approximately 13 kilometres: the St John from the Grafton Bridge area down to the Woodstock Marina, on both sides of the river, and the shoreline of the Meduxnekeag from the TCH to the mouth of the river.

If you are interested in helping with this clean up, or have any questions, please contact the Meduxnekeag River Association at 328-8227 (or for general information on the program visit www.vanaqua.org/cleanup).

Dinner and Auction a Success

If you weren't at the 10th Annual Meduxnekeag River Association Dinner and Auction, then you certainly missed out! Yet again, businesses and individuals in the Woodstock region donated a variety of quality items and services for the live and silent auction. We cleared nearly \$20,000, contributing significantly to our current fundraising for Phase 3 of the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve – Bell Forest.

Stephen Wilson, MRA President took the opportunity to thank the Tann Paper employees and the local medical community for their generous memorial donations to the Bell Forest purchase. The Bugle-Observer was also recognized as the sole sponsor for this year's Meduxnekeag Environmental Awareness Showcase.

The Meduxnekeag River Association would like to thank the dinner organizing committee of Carl Faulkner, Catherine Sutherland, Darlene Tapley, our M.C. Peter Porteous, the guest auctioneer, Woodstock Mayor Jeff Wright, and all the other volunteers who helped make this event the success it was. We are looking forward to seeing you all at next year's dinner.

AN HISTORICAL TOUR ALONG THE MEDUXNEKEAG

A new initiative at the Meduxnekeag River Association involves the development of an historical timeline, highlighting events of cultural and natural significance that occurred in the watershed. This timeline is being written across the front windows of the office (612 Main Street) making it not only visible to passerby's, but easily updated with peoples own bits of history. Some of the more notable times already on the window are:

- 10,000 to 12,000 years ago the glaciers retreated, forming the Meduxnekeag valley
- Meduxnekeag river used occasionally as a portage route by Maliseets
- In the 1600's the Watson Settlement pine (eastern white) began life as a small seedling
- The first bridge at Woodstock was built in 1824
- The maximum acreage for farming was cleared in the watershed around 1920
- In 1996 Butternut canker made its first appearance in the watershed

These are just a few of the important points in the region's history. Do drop by the office and add information you are aware of.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS SHOWCASE

After some delays as a result of the labour dispute in the schools, this year's Meduxnekeag Environmental Awareness Showcase took place in late May with the Grand Finale in the Civic Centre in Woodstock on June 3rd. Responding to our theme of "lose a tonne" (of CO₂), hundreds of students in five local elementary schools presented climate change solutions from recycling to alternative transportation to energy efficiency. Sponsored by the Bugle-Observer, this year's Showcase saw all participants receive a handbook and badge. Grade winners in each school were presented with t-shirts, and went on to the Grand Finale where they received further awards. The Grand Prize winners, one from each school, received bicycles. They also were invited to a meeting of Woodstock Town Council where they demonstrated their projects and received recognition from the Town.

The Showcase would not be possible without the dozens of community volunteers who go into the schools (and come to the Finale) to judge the projects. Nor would it work without the enthusiastic cooperation of the teachers. We appreciate your willingness to help. We also receive strong support each year from Tobique-Mactaquac MP Andy Savoy,

and from Hon. David Alward, Woodstock MLA and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Meduxnekeag River Association congratulates all participants in this year's Environmental Awareness Showcase. Each year the projects improve, along with an increased understanding by the students of our surrounding environment. 2005 Grand Prize winners from each of the schools are as follows:

Canterbury - Alex Gauvin

Southern Carleton - Alison Wortman

Debec - Christina Omlvec

Central Carleton - Whitney Adams

Centennial - Nicholas Wells

School winners had the chance to bring their class to the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve for a guided tour during the last two weeks of classes. Over 100 students participated. Many flowers, tree and bird species were seen, including two students seeing a bald eagle fly from a perch in one of the eastern white pine trees along the bank of the Meduxnekeag river.

WHAT'S NEW

We have added some new material to the walls of the Meduxnekeag River Association office. Most notably is a companion to the aerial photo collage from 2000. The 1944-45 aerial photo collage depicts the whole watershed as it looked 60 years ago. Visitors to the office have initial comments on the amount of farmland present 60 years ago, the existence of Island Park in the St. John River (prior to flooding for the Mactaquac Dam) and the remarkable similarity in the roads and lack of change over the past 60 years. Drop in to see the new collage, and also check out the timeline on the front window and add your significant events in Meduxnekeag history, as well as a vision for the future of the Meduxnekeag watershed.

Check us out on the web – www.meduxnekeag.org There is lots of new information, including pictures of fish found in the Meduxnekeag River, recent water quality reports and a weblog of visits to the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserves.



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The Meduxnekeag River Association was formed in Woodstock, New Brunswick in 1995 as a community-based non-profit environmental organization, incorporated in 1998, and received official charitable tax status in 2002. Our purpose:

- to promote, encourage and assist in the protection, restoration and responsible use of the Meduxnekeag River Watershed;
- to promote and encourage the protection, conservation and enhancement of wild Brook trout, Brown trout and Atlantic salmon;
- to co-operate with landowners to conserve the natural riparian zone along the Meduxnekeag and its wildlife and plant species;
- to preserve remnant *Appalachian Hardwood forests* and their inherent biodiversity and natural beauty;
- to promote public education and awareness of the value of preserving the natural qualities and biodiversity of the unique Meduxnekeag River watershed; and,
- to co-operate with and support any agency that shares a common purpose with the Association.

The Association has purchased and protected as the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve three ecologically significant properties on the Meduxnekeag. The Association hosts an annual fundraising Dinner and Auction in Woodstock every Spring; organizes an annual student Environmental Showcase competition at local elementary schools; and guides walks by student groups on the Nature Preserve trails (a well-marked 10 km network open to the public). In 2004, we began an 18-month project to develop recommendations for water classification in the Meduxnekeag watershed.



Note how little sedimentation (as evidenced by the water colour) there is in Mill Brook compared to the Meduxnekeag River and Marven Brook

Marven Brook at Route 550, after heavy rain on July 15, 2005

Mill Brook (on right) entering Meduxnekeag River at Red Bridge after heavy rain on July 15, 2005

