



2003 Annual Report on Program Activities

2003 Original Project Objectives and Project Results

1. Petitcodiac River Restoration Campaign

- To raise **awareness** on the urgent need to save the Petitcodiac River at the **provincial level**;
- To obtain a **commitment from the provincial and the federal** governments to restore fish passage at the Petitcodiac causeway once the \$3 million EIA is completed in 2005;
- To **actively take part in the EIA** once governments commit to taking action after 2005;
- To continue **researching the legality of the causeway** and, subject to funding, take appropriate action to have the province comply with its Fisheries Act obligations of providing adequate fish passage and protecting fish habitat in the Petitcodiac River watershed.

2003 Project Results

- On January 28, 2003, announced our intention to leave the Petitcodiac River EIA process at the end of February should the provincial and federal governments not commit to restoring the Petitcodiac River following the end of this million dollar 3-year study in 2005.
- **Riverkeeper visited Fredericton** and delivered educational kits on the Petitcodiac River to all 55 New Brunswick MLAs. Also delivered a list of “Top 10 Good Reasons” to commit along with a list of the “Top 10 Most Common Excuses” given against taking action.
- Continued to rally local public support in favour of restoring the Petitcodiac River, with a federal liberal party survey revealing that **support for “free flow” at the Petitcodiac causeway was at an all-time high: 83%** as opposed to 47% in 1999 and 59% in 2001.
- With no commitments received from the Province, **Riverkeeper leaves the EIA process** in late February by ceremoniously throwing a snowball across the Petitcodiac River in Moncton.
- Researched and filed in March a detailed submission for the second annual Canada’s Top 10 Most Endangered River project, responding to an invitation from the program sponsors Earthwild International and Wildcanada.net.
- Riverkeeper canvasses all regional candidates in the provincial election campaign (May to June 9th, 2003). Many local candidates respond, and all provincial parties finally come on board to commit to “swift action” once the Petitcodiac River EIA is completed in the spring of 2005. **Riverkeeper returns to the EIA** process in late May, 2003.
- Riverkeeper researchers and makes numerous submissions to the EIA process throughout the year, providing detailed comments on the draft “terms of references” for each of the three components of the river study: bio-physical, socio-economic and modelling.
- On July 7th 2003, the Petitcodiac was designated **Canada’s Most Endangered River**. The Petitcodiac received provincial, national and international coverage as a result of this news: Globe & Mail, National Geographic website, all New Brunswick print and TV newscasts.
- Continued fundraising to support a potential legal action in the Petitcodiac causeway case.
- Organised a regional and national action alert in December 2003 (through Wildcanada.net) to bring the plight of the Petitcodiac River to the attention of Prime Minister elect Paul Martin. Over 1000 letters sent to the Prime Minister, copied to the Premier of New Brunswick.

2. Communications, Public Education and River Appreciation

- To maintain a continuous public presence on leading river issues in the **news media**;
- To conduct ongoing **public education campaigns** in the schools and communities of the watershed and to undertake, subject to funding, research projects on the **species of the endangered Petitcodiac** and an “**Exploring the Opportunities Series**” with the restoration;
- To organize and celebrate the first ever **National Rivers Day** in various locations of the Petitcodiac River Watershed and take part in **International Year of Freshwater** activities;

2003 Project Results

- Continued to receive **excellent media coverage throughout the year** (between 5 and 15 media hits/month – radio, newsprint, television newscasts and public television) on various stories related to the Petitcodiac River. Received national news coverage on the Canada’s Most Endangered River story as well as the Moncton Landfill court decision.
- Presentations to the region’s **schools and community groups** in 2003 included: L’*école* Amirault (entire school for the 2002 Petitcodiac River Award presentation), L’*école* Ste-Thérèse (8 classes), Gulf of Maine Council members, Dames d’Acadie – Dieppe chapter, the Canadian Bar Association – New Brunswick chapter, l’*Université* de Moncton (2 classes).
- Continued to update our **petitcodiac.org web site** dedicated to the Petitcodiac River, unveiling a new “campaign” section dedicated to the subject of abandoned dams.
- **Distributed over 4000 pamphlets and aerial photo postcards** in the watershed.
- Canvassed over **3000 homes in the Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview** region to talk about the Petitcodiac and to solicit their financial support for the river restoration campaign.
- Organised two **river appreciation activities** in the watershed in April (Earth Day) and June (Canadian Rivers Day). The Earth Day ceremony featured three mothers who delivered a message for the Petitcodiac on our waterfront, while the Canadian Rivers Day event featured a drawing contest on the “Petitcodiac River in 50 years” and a kayak / canoe excursion on the river (Belliveau Village wharf). Several hundred people took part in these events.
- The educational projects on the *Species of the endangered Petitcodiac* and the “*Exploring the Opportunities Series*” where put on hold due to funding constraints. To be produced in 2004.
- Presented the **2003 Petitcodiac River Award** to Environment Canada’s Office of Enforcement for the agency’s work in protecting the Petitcodiac ecosystem.

3. Monitoring and Environmental Investigations

- To continue identifying the **major environmental issues** in the watershed, monitoring the river system for pollution sources and undertaking **environmental investigations** as necessary to protect the ecological integrity of the Petitcodiac River watershed.
- To continue working with Environment Canada’s Enforcement Branch and the City of Moncton to have the **former Moncton landfill** toxic leachate discharges cease;
- To continue working to have the Greater Moncton **Sewerage Treatment System upgraded** to tertiary treatment and continue taking actions to control other discharges in the Watershed;
- To undertake an investigation in to the **Memramcook causeway** and to take measures necessary to have fish passage restored and fish habitat protected in this river system;
- To continue researching and developing public education initiatives which establish the link between **health and the environment** in relation to pollution in our watershed.

2003 Project Results

- Researched and published the second annual list and report of the **Worst Pollution Sources of the Petitcodiac River System in 2003** (unveiled in January, 2004).
- Collaborated with Environment Canada's Enforcement Branch into the alleged violation of the Fisheries Act at the former Moncton landfill. **On September 22nd, 2003 the City of Moncton plead guilty** to these charges, paid a fine of \$35,000 and agreed to a remedial plan that will cost upwards of \$700,000. The consulting firm GEMTEC and its Chief Engineer, in the meantime, plead not-guilty to these charges. This matter is still before the courts.
- Collaborated again with Environment Canada's Enforcement Branch into an alleged violation of the Fisheries Act near a textile mill in Moncton. Riverkeeper initiated this investigation in the summer of 2002, collecting samples that showed acute levels of toxicity being discharged into Humphreys Brook. **In September, Environment Canada laid charges against Newco Construction Ltd.** in relation to this case. This matter is also still before the courts.
- As a result of this investigation, the textile mill (Tandem Fabrics Ltd.) complied with an order from Environment Canada, in December 2003, to redirect its toxic textile mill effluent to the Greater Moncton Sewage Treatment Plant, at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. The City of Moncton also upgraded its nearby sewerage infrastructure that had been found to periodically discharge untreated sewage effluent directly into Humphreys Brook.
- Continued an investigation into the **Greater Moncton Sewage Treatment Plant** discharges and compiled evidence into Fisheries Act violations at the **Memramcook causeway**.
- Filed an official complaint into alleged violations of the New Brunswick Clean Water Act for **wetland disturbance activities** taking place near the traffic circle in Moncton, across from the Crystal Palace. After weeks of delay, the NB Department of the Environment and Local Government finally issued an order for the activities to cease and the wetland to be restored.
- Participated at the public hearing on Moncton's plans to enact a pesticides by-law and encouraged the City to declare a **cosmetic pesticide ban**. Also made a presentation to the Dieppe City Council public hearing on a proposed golf course, urging the City and the developer to adopt organic golf course maintenance practices.

4. Stream Rehabilitation Projects

- To continue implementing, subject to funding, **stream clean up, stream rehabilitation** and watershed improvement projects in 2003.

2003 Project Results

- Received **special funding to implement three different projects** aimed at improving the ecological integrity and the water quality of streams in this watershed (Report on the State of our Watershed – Cdn. \$2,000, Assessment of the Abandoned Navy Dam in Riverview – Cdn. \$35,000, and the second phase of a Pilot Project to Decommission an Abandoned Dam on Humphreys Brook – Cdn. \$4,000). A project co-ordinator was hired to assist in the delivery of these projects: Léa Olsen (Gulf of Maine and Abandoned Navy Dam Project).
- Researched and wrote a report on the state of our watershed for the Gulf of Maine Council.
- Undertook a **detailed assessment into the future of the abandoned Navy Dam in Riverview** (project financed by the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund). Conducted a detailed assessment on removing this abandoned dam in the summer and fall of 2003, completing a topographical survey, a sediment management plan, a deconstruction plan and a fish survey. Final project results published in March 2004.

- Completed the **second phase of the abandoned Humphreys Brook dam project**, conducting public meetings and publishing the final project report in February 2003 (Project funded by Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program). Achieved public consensus on the proposal to remove this abandoned dam, and obtained the owner's permission (Tandem Fabrics Ltd.) to raise the funds necessary for this purpose. Attempts to raise funds to decommission this abandoned dam continued in 2003.

5. Fundraising and Community Support

- To continue developing a strong and active membership base, with the objective of increasing our support from 420 members to **700 members** by the year end;
- To work with the local business community, municipalities, community groups and individuals **to increase our local fundraising support in 2003**;
- To continue soliciting funds at the regional, national and international levels in order to meet our overall target of raising **\$150,000 towards our program activities in 2003**.

2003 Project Results

- Organized the Petitcodiac Riverkeeper's **second Annual General Meeting** of the members in February 2003. Prepared the organization's financial and narrative reports for 2002.
- Produced two editions of our information **Newsletter** for our members and supporters.
- Our goal of increasing our membership from 420 to 700 members was missed by a few dozen members in 2003. At the end of December, **635 members** were enlisted with the Petitcodiac Riverkeeper, which represents a **50 percent increase** from the previous year.
- Continued to develop ties with the local business community by participating in the Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce networking activities. Sent information **letters to over 900 local businesses and professionals** in the Greater Moncton region in November to solicit their support in favour of the restoration of the Petitcodiac River and its Tidal Bore.
- Organised our **third annual auction** to benefit the Petitcodiac Riverkeeper in November.
- Continued to build relationships with national and US **environmental foundations**, attracting support from New England's Kendall Foundation (US\$ 20,000 in 2003).
- Conducted an extensive candidate search to fill a key job opening with our organisation, to replace our outgoing Administrative Assistant and to enable the Executive Director / Riverkeeper position to be split into two positions. This search was completed in mid-December, and our **new Executive Director/Office Manager** began working in January 2004.
- Raised over \$118,000 in program and project funds in 2003, below our objective of \$150,000, which resulted in an operating deficit of just over \$11,000 at year's end. We were however successful in obtaining our largest ever municipal grant (\$5,000 from Dieppe).

6. Waterkeeper Alliance

- To continue developing the **Waterkeeper Alliance** movement in Canada.

2003 Project Results

- Assisted the launch of the **Fundy Baykeeper program** in May 2003.
- Continued to strengthen our ties with the **Waterkeeper Alliance**, participating in the Annual Waterkeeper Alliance Conference in Toronto in June, and the Waterkeeper Alliance Board meetings (Riverkeeper Daniel LeBlanc serves as its "international" representative).

Sentinelles Petitcodiac Riverkeeper

2003 Staff and Volunteers

Riverkeeper Staff

Daniel LeBlanc, Executive Director and Riverkeeper

Chantal Poirier, Administrative Assistant

Contractual Staff

Léa Olsen, Project Co-ordinator (Various projects – January 2002 to January 2003)

Dany Doiron, Webmaster (Summer Project – July to August 2003)

Board of Directors (2003/04)

Ronald Babin, Chair (Moncton)

Eric McMackin, Vice Chair, Petitcodiac

Carol Doucet, Secretary-Treasurer (At-large, Dieppe)

George Wybouw, Outgoing Chair, (At-large, Ammon)

Joseph Knockwood, Fort Folly

Ken Eagles, Salisbury

Terry Parker, Hillsborough (2004/05 Board Member added in November 2003)