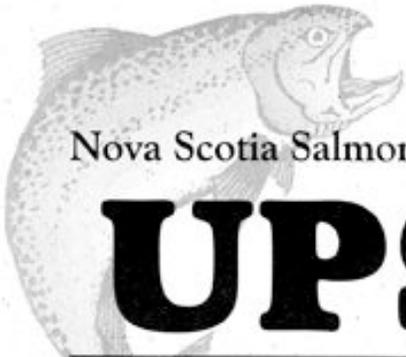


Fall 2006



Nova Scotia Salmon Association

# UPSTREAM

A Commitment by Nature to Conservation

## President's Creel

In hopes of having a more successful salmon season than I have been having so far I am doing a rain dance and am looking forward to our fall rivers filled with salmon.

We have had several success stories over the past few months including the West River Project, the "Lime" Golf Tournament, the Acid Rain Workshop and Adopt -a -Stream. These projects and many others were made possible by hard working and committed volunteer directors and other salmon conservation minded people. The salmon angling community needs to say "thank you" to these hard working individuals for jobs well done.

On a different note, I have always been a person with a positive attitude in support of DFO. However, I am now finding it challenging to support this federal government department for several reasons.

As a conservation organization, NSSA has taken a precautionary approach to salmon angling in the province by passing resolutions dealing with barbless (pinched) hooks, reduction of retention tags and protection of the spring migration of MSW salmon in the River Phillip. After many meetings around the province since last March, including meetings with both Gulf and Maritime Regions of DFO and NS Inland Fisheries, I am unable to report anything positive. Whatever happened to the "precautionary" approach that was coined by DFO in past deliberations? Where is the promised long awaited "Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy" and where is the "Wild Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund"? We have been waiting for over 16 months. I have a copy of the 7th internal draft of the policy but the message coming from Ottawa appears to be "It's too expensive. Put it on hold".

A well respected, long time salmon conservationist, wrote a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on May 10th of this year asking for answers concerning these topics. A reply was received last week. Await time of five months!

Hopefully, you can see why I now find it a challenge to speak positively about DFO Ottawa. It is now time to take the gloves off and challenge DFO to meet its responsibility to protect and preserve wild Atlantic salmon. We cannot afford to take "No", for an answer. We want positive results from Ottawa!

Respectively submitted,

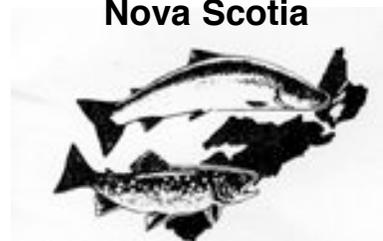
Carl Purcell  
President, NSSA



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## Nova Scotia



## Salmon Association

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# **1ST ANNUAL LIMEY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association held its first fundraising golf tournament on Thursday September 14th at the Granite Springs Golf Club in Bayside, NS. The tournament was held in support of the West River Sheet Harbour liming project with all funds raised dedicated to this project.

Since the spring a committee of NSSA Board Members as well as friends of the association with experience in hosting these types of events have been working tirelessly. Tournament Chairman Kevin Umlah explained, "This being our first attempt, much of the ground work had to be put in place, but in the end, all aspects of the tournament came together for a successful conclusion". Even the weatherman was on side as the golfers enjoyed a perfect fall day on the course.

Fifteen teams of four players participated and were able to negotiate the difficult Granite Springs layout in just over four hours. NSSA President Carl Purcell was heard to remark, " I don't golf a lot, but that was the best fun I've had on a golf course ever". The group enjoyed a fine meal of chicken and ribs by the Granite Springs food and beverage team and the day concluded with the presentation of prizes. The team from Royal Lepage/Anchor Realty recorded the low score of the day, while the team from the NSSA Board of Directors was recognized as the "Most Honest". In the end, everyone had an enjoyable day and look forward to next year's event.

The committee has estimated that once all the bills have been paid the association should have raised over \$20,000 in aid of the West River project. NSSA director and project manager George Ferguson and ASF Regional Director Lewis Hinks agreed, "This event should secure the necessary support to enable the operational funding for the West River project".

Kevin Umlah

## **WEST RIVER SHEET HARBOUR PROJECT**



The West River Sheet Harbour Project has reached its first year milestone and has proven that lime dosing is a very effective means to mitigate and neutralize the impact of acid rain. Beginning in the fall of 2005, with a dosage of 3 grams of lime per cubic meter of river flow and gradually increasing in .5-gram increments until a ph of 5.5 was reached at the river mouth, the dosing plant is currently administering 6grams of lime per cubic meter of river flow. A ph of 5.5 at the river mouth has been achieved and we are confident this can be maintained.

Cost of liming in year one was \$27,375 with projected annual costs closer to our estimated budget of \$32,500.

Fund Raising will be our biggest hurdle. NSSA's 1st annual Limey golf tournament was the catalyst for future fund raising efforts. We also received funds from the Nova Scotia Sports Fish Habitat Stamp fund (\$5,000), Cobequid Salmon Association (\$1000) and the Ecology Action Centre (\$1,000) .A recent donation of a 5,500 watt generator from Liftow Atlantic, courtesy of Fred Barton was very much appreciated!

Field season monitoring revealed some encouraging surprises----more smolt leaving the river then expected (235), many many trout and sightings of adult salmon. A significant increase in salmon population is not expected until the 2008-2009-field season. Juvenile Atlantic Salmon in the West River, Sheet Harbour are thought to spend 2 to 3 years in freshwater before leaving as smolts. They then spend 1 to 2 years in the saltwater before returning for their first spawn. Therefore, the first run of returning salmon, post liming, will be from 3 to 5 years. Aquatic invertebrate populations should respond faster and the 2007 field season will show a significant population increase. More invertebrates! More Fish Food! Healthier fish!

This winter the Acid Rain Mitigation Committee will investigate various methods of reseeding the salmon population of West River Sheet Harbour. A catch 22 situation at the very least! Do we leave the river alone to reseed its self or do we stock the river to give the salmon population a jump-start? Does the need to prove that liming is beneficial to salmon stocks out weigh the need to reestablish a sport fishery? I am confident that the Acid Rain Mitigation Committee will steer the project in the right direction.

Data from year one will be compiled into a report and presented to the membership at our Spring AGM. Hope to see you there!!

George Ferguson



# NEWS FROM ASF

It has been a busy and productive year for ASF with many wild Atlantic salmon runs showing promising increases in large salmon.

Since installing the lime doser on West River Sheet Harbour in September 2005, the river's pH has risen from 4.1 to 5.4, a level that will support wild Atlantic salmon production. Liming is improving the salmon's chances of survival until lakes and rivers can restore themselves naturally.

ASF and the Nova Scotia Salmon Association held a well-attended acid rain mitigation workshop in May. We examined science around acid rain impacts, potential for liming to mitigate negative effects, various liming techniques, their applicability for specific situations and economics of the individual techniques. A transcript of the sessions, including recommendations, will soon be available.

In June ASF released a report titled "Status of North American Wild Atlantic Salmon in 2006" in which we emphasized the need for more research into the ocean phase of the salmon's life cycle and urged all Atlantic salmon nations to support at-sea research. The information was well received by the media, public and governments.

ASF's ocean tracking research continued and another 200 smolts were tagged with receivers and followed as they migrated to the ocean across the unpredictable waters of the Strait of Belle Isle between Labrador and Newfoundland's northern tip. This research determines how many tagged smolts exit to the Atlantic through this route. Through our Adopt-a-Smolt campaign we raised \$50,000 and must continue to raise funds to continue our tracking research to determine what is killing salmon at sea.

Fish Friends had a successful year with more than 70 schools participating. The program received good media coverage, especially in Cape Breton.

We are still waiting on the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund (ASEF) that was originally announced in 2005. With our Regional Councils, we provided DFO with an administrative framework that would work efficiently and ensure the maximum dollar amount goes to actual salmon conservation projects.

After a seven-year closure the Penobscot River in Maine was opened in September to a month-long experimental catch and release salmon fishery. This has generated a lot of interest at the local, national, and international levels. As part of the Penobscot River Restoration Project Trust, we've made progress towards raising the money to buy three dams to open up 500 miles of habitat.

This is the last year of our five-year Conservation Agreement with Greenland. ASF has been working with the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) and other partners to continue the agreement by raising funds to develop alternative employment for fishermen who have ceased salmon fishing commercially. Since the fishery was suspended, there have been increases in the numbers of large salmon returning to North American rivers to spawn. Anglers have reported seeing an increase in large Atlantic salmon and many thought that this was the best angling season in 25 years.

We continue to work with our Regional Councils to ensure that salmon saved from Greenland nets make it to their spawning beds. One way is through our live release programs where anglers are encouraged to release both salmon and grilse and private camps and outfitters are recognized for promoting live release.

Once again, thank you for your continued work on behalf of wild Atlantic salmon.

Lewis Hinks  
ASF Regional Director

## Atlantic Salmon Live Release Tag Return

The first winners of the Atlantic Salmon Live Release Tag Return were presented with their prizes at the Sackville River Association dinner by Murray Hill, Director of Inland Fisheries.

### *Winners were:*

- 1st Prize – **Ernie Hill of Beaver Bank**  
Winner of a framed Nova Scotia Fishing Fly  
Tied and framed by Bill Carpin
- 2nd Prize – **Larry Shortt of Lower Sackville,**  
Winner of a "Leaper" Salmon book
- 3rd Prize – **Bob Boudreau of Halifax**  
Winner of a "Leaper" Salmon book.

This program, open to residents of Nova Scotia, is designed to encourage the live release of our Atlantic salmon. The participant must turn in 7 of 8 salmon tags in order to be eligible to win. For more information on this program please visit the NSSA website.



*Murray Hill presenting Ernie Hill (on right) with framed Nova Scotia Fishing Fly.*



# ADOPT-A-STREAM '06 – A VERY GOOD YEAR.

All across the province, community groups continue to be actively involved in restoring their local river systems. This past field season 22 groups undertook fish habitat projects with support from the Adopt-A-Stream program.

One example is the North Colchester River Restoration Project. For the past six years, the NCRRP has benefited from the energy and experience of crew supervisor Jim Fraser. Fraser operates a mixed farm near Tatamagouche, but in the summers he has done double duty, working for 8 or 9 weeks overseeing a crew of 5 young people. This year alone the crew installed 60 structures – such as digger logs, deflectors, and bank logs – in the Balmoral and MacKays tributaries to the Waughs River, and Mattatall Lake Brook in the French River system.

Christiane Feix, the group's secretary, credits Fraser's ability to motivate the students. "Jim's leadership is a big contribution. It brings a lot of success to the project because he gets along so well with all the students."

This is no accident. The group takes a mentorship approach, aiming to rehire some of the high school students from the previous year as well as a few new ones.

"We are creating meaningful jobs for youth in our area, which increases environmental awareness, in particular about water and its connection to our drinking water as well fish habitat," says Feix.

"The project seems to instil a purpose in the youth because they see they are making a contribution to the community as well as the fish and wildlife. They really took ownership, and referred to it as 'our river.' And they talk about it at school. We had at least 20 applicants this year which speaks to how much they value the opportunity."

The freedom to take this kind of initiative and to draw on the best local resources is part of what makes Adopt-a-Stream work. As the field season wrapped up this fall, reports from the various community groups indicated the year was a success. The majority of the projects focused on in-stream habitat restoration, but other types of work included riparian replanting, fish passage, and proper cattle crossings. A conservative estimate of the total amount of habitat area improved this field season is 160,000 square meters.

In addition to all the great project work underway, there have been a couple of recent developments in the Adopt-A-Stream program worth mentioning.

*continued on page 5*

## SACKVILLE RIVERS ASSOCIATION 3RD ANNUAL DINNER/AUCTION

On September 15th, 2006, Sackville Rivers Association held its 3rd Annual Dinner/Auction at the Sackville Legion, Lower Sackville, N.S. This annual event has become without a doubt one of the most popular Dinner/Auctions in the Metro area. Two hundred patrons began the evening with a smoked salmon reception (sponsored by Lloyd MacLellan Construction Services Ltd) and viewing of the live and silent auction items. These ranged from a deluxe VIA Rail return trip to Montreal, angling items, original artwork, to a hand made child's rocking chair and more. A sit down dinner (sponsored by Atlantic Measuring Technologies) was served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Calais Branch, Royal Canadian Legion. The live and silent auctions, raffles, 50/50 draw and door prizes made it difficult to come away from this event empty handed.



***Thanks to all those who helped organize this dinner and to those who provided items for the auctions. SRA was able to raise over***

***\$14,000.00!***

***With your support we all make a difference!***

*Both young and old enjoyed the evening at the SRA dinner and auction.*

### ***Adopt a Stream continued from page 4***

The newly established Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund –that’s the \$5 levy on recreational fishing licenses – provided \$205,000 to Adopt-A-Stream projects this year. NSSA’s program management costs were covered by the Inland Fisheries Division of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Another source of project funding is habitat compensation money from certain construction developments, as required by federal fisheries legislation. Recent beneficiaries include Adopt-A-Stream projects in the Tusket, St. Margaret’s Bay, and Bedford Basin watershed areas.

Adopt-A-Stream also made a breakthrough in the red tapedepartment this year, with a “blanket” permit from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour for most watercourse alterations supported by our program. This means community groups no longer have to spend their time and money making separate applications for each project.

All this bodes extremely well for the continued success of the program.

Watch future issues of Upstream for highlights from other Adopt-A-Stream projects.

**Amy Weston is the NSSA Adopt-A-Stream Program Manager.**



**ABOVE** Cheticamp River Salmon Association project biologist Julie Malouin and crew member Nicholas Aucoin at a crib structure installed to establish a bank and focus the channel in Aucoin’s Brook.



**LEFT:** Tyler Fraser, a summer worker on the North Colchester Restoration Project, describes digger logs to visitors gathered for the group’s August 3rd “open house” on the Balmoral Brook site.



**RIGHT:** This cow immediately tried out a new stream crossing installed by the Clean Annapolis River Project on a farm on Munro’s Brook, a tributary to the Annapolis.



**FAR RIGHT:** The Cumberland County River Enhancement Association took on an innovative solution to a half-century-old barrier to fish passage on Davidson Brook, a tributary to River Philip. Using a combination of techniques including expansion putty, an excavator-mounted jack hammer, and hand-held jack hammering, CCREA carved a series of step pools through a bedrock falls over which the brook was rerouted when a road was put through more than 50 years ago. Already trout and juvenile salmon have negotiated the new ladder. The success of the project will be determined during the fall migration.

## Affiliates Corner

# The Cumberland County River Enhancement Association

The Cumberland County River Enhancement Association (CCREA) is based in Amherst, and has been a registered non-profit group since 1987. CCREA is an affiliate of the NSSA and a Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada. Its mandate is to restore and enhance the watersheds of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.

CCREA's work focuses on habitat restoration for Atlantic salmon and brook trout and supports numerous activities to ensure that its work is done in a holistic manner. The CCREA focuses on the River Philip watershed to make the most of available funding, but has worked on other watersheds in the Northumberland Strait and Bay of Fundy Regions. These include: The Wallace River, Shinimicas River, Pugwash River, Maccan River Farrell River, and the Apple River.

*Below is a summary of ongoing and past projects.*

- Ongoing Community Aquatic Monitoring Program to records water quality and biodiversity in the Pugwash and River Philip estuaries.
- Ongoing program of water quality monitoring throughout the watershed
- Ongoing freshwater aquatic habitat restoration program on River Philip working with Adopt-A-Stream program, various government departments, landowners and private funders to restore and protect freshwater salmonid habitat (since 1996)
- Co-Authored an environmental overview report (EOR) for the Baie Verte region of the Northumberland Strait in early winter 2006.
- Received two years of funding from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at risk to conduct freshwater habitat and electro-fishing surveys, and work with landowners to develop a habitat restoration plan for the Maccan River Watershed. This watershed is one of the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon rivers that falls under the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon Recovery Team's jurisdiction

- CCREA sits on the recovery team for Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon.
- Initiated the Polly Brook Habitat Restoration Research Project. In collaboration with DFO and Mount Allison University it is examining the effects of in-stream habitat restoration on Atlantic salmon juvenile densities, redd deposition, and juvenile fitness. The final report is nearing completion.

One project for the 2006 field season is a fish ladder constructed in Davidson brook, a tributary to the River Philip. For the past 50 years, the upper 30 km<sup>2</sup> of Davidson brook has been blocked to migrating Atlantic salmon by two waterfalls. This obstacle was caused unnaturally when the Nova Scotia Department of Transport diverted Davidson brook from its original channel over the two waterfalls. Electro-fishing surveys of several hundred metres of in-stream habitat conducted in 2004-5 revealed no juvenile Atlantic salmon above the two waterfalls. Since completion of fish passage, the movement of trout through the ladder has been confirmed, and electro-fishing above the ladder had also confirmed that Atlantic salmon parr have also migrated through. Further electro-fishing surveys and redd counts are planned for above the ladder in November as well as visual observations of the ladder for adult Atlantic salmon movement.

Future work will focus on the River Philip and will consist of adult Atlantic salmon population assessment, an integrated watershed and coastal management plan for the watershed, and a complete geomorphic watershed assessment to guide future restoration work and watershed planning.

For more information on CCREA, its projects or to become a member please contact the association:

Cumberland County River Enhancement Association  
35 Hill Street  
Amherst, NS, B4H 2N2 Phone:902-667-3563  
riptide@ns.sympatico.ca

## NEWSLETTER SURVEY

The NSSA, in an effort to reduce mailing costs, is looking at another means of getting our newsletter to our members. This would be via our website as our Newsletters are posted at:

<http://www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca/theassociation/newsletter.asp>.

If you would like to receive e-mail notification that the Newsletter is on the website please take the time to let us know by sending an e-mail to [nssamember@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:nssamember@ns.sympatico.ca) and simply state, "send newsletter".



"Childs play!! Dylan Shortt downloading Upstream Newsletter from NSSA website".



# NSSA "MEMBER GET A MEMBER" CHALLENGE

**NOTE - The Challenge is open to NSSA Members only.**

Here's an opportunity to help increase NSSA Membership and to win some great prizes in return. All you have to do is sign up "new members" for NSSA. (Renewals of present members do not count). Simply use the form below, check off Member Get A Member, include your name in the "Signed up By" space and forward the new member's name, address, phone number and e-mail address to:

**Nova Scotia Salmon Association  
Member NSSA Members Get A Member  
P.O. Box 396, Chester,  
Nova Scotia, B0J 1J0**

Also include the \$20.00 membership fee or \$5.00 fee for Junior Members.  
Contest closes October 31, 2006.

There will be first and second prizes awarded to the persons who sign up the most members. (In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by a random draw.)

## PRIZES:

1st Prize: Sage fly rod – Model DS2 890-4 (4 piece, 9ft, 8 weight, value \$395.00.

2nd Prize: Book "Leaper" by Charles Gaines & Monte Burke, value \$75.00

### NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Renewal:  New Member:  Junior Member  Adopt-A-Stream Fund:

Member Get A Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed up by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$20.00 (Cdn)  Junior Membership: \$5.00 (Cdn)

I wish to donate: \$20  \$50  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable Donor # 0620856-54

**The deadline for signing up new members is rapidly approaching (October 31, 2006).  
So sign up those new members and get the information to us ASAP.**



# NSSA MEMBERSHIP

Reminder!!! NSSA memberships expire on March 31, 2007. If your membership card has expired please take a minute to renew. If you have renewed please pass this to a friend and encourage them to join NSSA.

**NSSA Junior Member** – The youth of today are the protectors of our Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout tomorrow.

The NSSA would like to encourage more of our youth to become members and we now have Junior Membership for those under the age of 16 years. This is an opportunity to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and teach them to be stewards of the environment. Membership is \$5.00 and they will receive a membership card and decal.

To renew your membership or to become a member of NSSA please complete and return the coupon to:

**Nova Scotia Salmon Association,  
P.O. Box 396, Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 1J0.**

*Should you wish to become more involved with the NSSA please contact us  
- there is always plenty to do!*

## NOVA SCOTIA SALMON ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Renewal:  New Member:  Junior Member  Adopt-A-Stream Fund:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$20.00 (Cdn)  Junior Membership: \$5.00 (Cdn) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate: \$20  \$50  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable Donor # 0620856-54

