

# MEDUXNEKEAG RIVER ASSOCIATION INC.

## Up the Creek



### The LUSH Educational Loop

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 LUSH held an awareness event on behalf of the Meduxnekeag River Association Inc. at the LUSH store in the MicMac Mall in Dartmouth NS. The event helped us bring awareness to the great preservation and environmental education programming happening in our community that is not happening at this scale in any other community in New Brunswick. It also helped us recognize our new partnership with LUSH, who help fund non-profit grassroots organizations with the funds raised by their Charity Pot.

The Meduxnekeag River Association received a grant from LUSH in April 2017 to help expand education initiatives and environmental monitoring throughout the preserve.

With the grant we were able to expand the gold trail and showcase the impact different forestry practices have on the biodiversity within a forest through educational plaques. The gold trail or LUSH Educational Loop as we like to call it is open for public use. It is located in the Bell Flats Preserve at 120 Bell Settlement Road. Please note there is no off-road parking at this site.

The trail is 1.5 km with an easy difficulty level. It is great for all ages with: 4 bridges; many hand rails; views of the Meduxnekeag River; beautiful examples of Appalachian Hardwood forests, and grown up plantation. Educational signage will be added to the loop in the spring of 2018. This trail also features wide bridges to make for easy snowshoeing.

The LUSH Education Loop will be officially opened next spring, once the educational signs are in place. Please watch our Facebook page for more information.

### Trail News

In 2017, with the help of our three summer students and many volunteers, many upgrades were made to the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve Trail System: we built new bridges on the Red, Yellow, Orange and Gold trails, added new hand rails and re-routed the upper portion of the Orange trail. Maintenance planning is currently underway for 2018, if you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer at [Meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.com](mailto:Meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.com) or 328-8227.



2017 was also a record year for trail use, with over 1400 people signing into our sign in books at trail heads since their installation in July! We estimate approximately 50% of users sign, with many frequent users opting to sign in only once. Continue using the preserve even during the winter months! We understand it can be difficult to get motivated to put on all your snow gear and go outside but we promise it will be worth it. The preserve is a winter wonderland just waiting to be explored and BONUS I can personally guarantee you won't need your bug spray! For the best snowshoeing experience we recommend using the Red\*, Blue, Yellow, Orange\*\*, Bell Forest and Gold (located in Bell Flats). There is no off the road parking at Bell Forest or the Gold trail.

Please be advised that the Black and Purple trails are closed during the winter months because of the steep rock slopes and stream tendencies to flood bridges and sections of trail.

\*The red trail has some narrow, low bridges that may be difficult to cross on snowshoes.

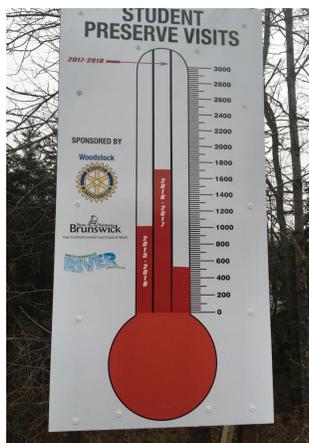
\*\*The Orange trail can be accessed from the yellow trail, as the Leonard Woods Parking lot may not be plowed.

Coming in 2018 Hiking Icons on Exit 185 of the Trans Canada to help direct tourist into Woodstock and out onto the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve!

## Education

Many of you may have seen our new education thermometer at the Wilson Mountain preserve recording student trips to the preserve. Our goal for the 2017-2018 school year is to reach 3000 student visits, this is a very ambitious goal which is almost double the amount from last year, but we are off to a good start with over 400 students visiting the Preserve in the Fall. Our goal is further being supported by the Woodstock Rotary Club who has generously provided funding to cover the cost of bringing students out to the Preserve.

Again this year we are offering winter snowshoeing tours on the Bell Forest Preserve which allows students the unique opportunity of following animal tracks and exploring biologically sensitive sections of forest that we can't in any other season.



### Meduxnekeag Environmental Showcase

This year's theme is "Climate Change in Your Community"! The complete curriculum package can be found on our website and we look forward to a record number of student participants. New this year-the Meduxnekeag River Association Inc. will be providing every student with a tri-fold presentation board for their projects, in an effort to encourage every student to participate and have the means to showcase their knowledge in the best possible way.

## New Website

Have you heard...The Meduxnekeag River Association Inc. has launched a new website! Our cool new look will make finding information and sharing your pictures of the Meduxnekeag River and Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve a breeze. Visit today to find information on annual activities, local animals, education initiatives and much much more. [www.meduxnekeag.org](http://www.meduxnekeag.org)



## Summer Employment Opportunities

For the last 25 years the Meduxnekeag River Association Inc. has been supporting local youth by providing meaningful summer employment for students studying or planning on studying in the fields of Forestry, Science, Environmental Management and Education. These students have been instrumental in creating the low impact trail systems that are now used as outdoor classrooms for local students and outdoor adventures for local citizens as well as tourists. This summer we will be looking for students to help us to continue to develop and maintain the walking trails, perform environmental monitoring studies, and help with our outdoor education programs. Applicants must be comfortable working outdoors, be self motivating and be able to work unsupervised. Fluency in both official languages is a benefit but not a requirement. Positions are sponsored by SEED and Canada Summer jobs. Interested applicants can send their resume to George at [Meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.com](mailto:Meduxnekeag@nb.aibn.com).

### Canada 150 Legacy Grant

In November the Meduxnekeag River Association with Woodstock High School successfully applied for a \$50 000 Canada 150 High School Legacy Grant with the goal of changing the high school, one of ASD-W oldest schools, into a carbon neutral building! Enthusiastic Environmental Science students with the help of the MRA will perform a three staged project: School Energy Audit, Carbon Use Reduction, and Carbon Offset.



Students are currently working on altering and combining different energy audits to create an energy audit that will specifically meet the needs of the high school. The Meduxnekeag River Association is also working to make connections for collaboration with other Environmental organizations that can offer assistance to the students. We are also preparing a curriculum piece to allow students to visit the pre-

serve as part of their Environmental science class.

### Meduxnekeag Clothing

Looking for a great new tshirt or hoodie AND want to support local? We have just the thing for you! 100% of proceeds from our tshirts and hoodies go back into the preserve, helping to fund trail maintenance, habitat surveys, watershed clean up, land protection and education programming.



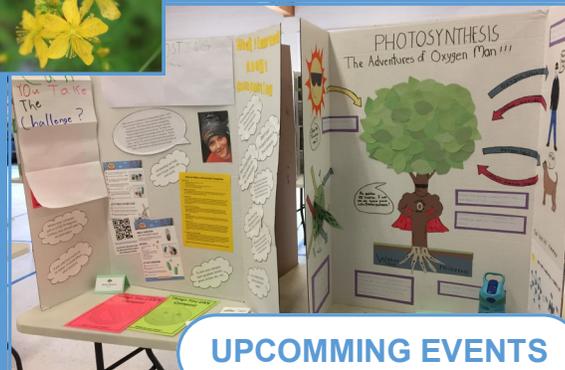
## Improving our understanding of fish passage barriers at stream crossings in the watershed

Our devoted followers may recall that the MRA was one of the first watershed groups in the Province to undertake a stream crossing, otherwise known as 'culvert' inventory, in 2007. The purpose of this field work is to identify the condition of stream crossings (roads, trails, etc.) as it relates to the movement of fish species. Fish don't like, and often can't use, culverts that are raised, or perched above the stream on the end, have barriers within the culvert or don't have sufficient flow to allow passage. It is important that fish and other aquatic species are able to travel along rivers and streams unhindered – this is often part of their yearly movements, or life cycle, and is a significant driver of overall aquatic and watershed health.



Well a decade has passed and everyone around us has caught up to that piece of work, to the point that we undertook the assessment again this past fall in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC US). TNC has been completing these inventories throughout the State of Maine, and given the trans-boundary nature of the Meduxnekeag (it

starts in two places in Maine) we were approached to be a part of the project. An updated field protocol, supported by real-time data uploading (Thanks Apple products) allowed us to participate in this effort. The analysis isn't complete yet, but we do know that this information will be invaluable to the salmonoid habitat assessment work we collaborated on with the Houlton Band of Maliseets, the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council and others over the past two years. It will provide a more complete picture of problem areas, specifically barriers to fish passage down river of salmonoid habitat. And, this information will help us and our partners prioritize habitat restoration activities throughout the watershed.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 1, 2018:** Meduxnekeag River Association Inc. Annual General Meeting. 7pm at Connell House Woodstock NB. Everyone welcome!

**March 18, 2018:** Family Snowshoe/Art in Nature Workshop in Partnership with the Nature Trust of NB and the Multicultural Association of Carlton County. 1:30-3:30 at the Beardsley Hill Nature Preserve Bedell NB. Everyone welcome!

**April 14, 2018:** Meduxnekeag River Association Inc. Annual Dinner and Auction. 6pm at the Nights of Columbus Hall. Tickets will be available in March.

**April 28, 2018:** The 16th Meduxnekeag Environmental Grand Showcase 12:30 NBCC Woodstock. Everyone welcome! **Volunteer Judges needed.**

**May 20, 2018:** Annual Wild Flower Walk led by Jim Goltz at the Bell Forest Nature Preserve (200 Bell Settlement Road). Everyone welcome!

### Ice Observations

For the third year in a row the Meduxnekeag River Association will be supporting the River Watch program through collection of ice observations along the Meduxnekeag, Saint John (Woodstock to Grand Falls) and Tobique Rivers. In the lead-up-to and during the Spring Freshet we will be out twice a week to gather information on the movement and condition of ice in the rivers.

The collected information will be sent to the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government and will be used to inform the public and a diversity of river stakeholders about the Spring Freshet. We are one of a handful of groups around the province contracted to provide this service on an ever increasing number of monitored rivers.

## You say Meduxnekeag; I say...

In the 1890s, the New Brunswick historian W. O. Raymond wrote the following account of the Meduxnekeag name.

"The earliest notice of the MEDUXNAKIC is that contained in the narrative of John Gyles, published at Boston nearly two hundred years ago ... [where it is]... called 'MEDEOCKSEENECASIS'"

"The form of the word MEDOCKSEENECASIS as given by Gyles, is worthy of consideration as being the oldest on record and likely, for that reason, to be the original form.

"The termination "asis" is a diminutive and it is possible MEDOCSEENECASIS is merely a form of the MEDOCTECASIS or Little Meductic (Meductic being the ... [Maliseet] ...name of Eel River).

"The usual interpretation of the word MEDUXNAKIC is "rocky at its mouth". Professor W. F. Ganong and Deward Jack, two of the leading authorities, agree that this is the probable meaning of the word.

"Next mention ... occurs in the description of the St. John river written in the year 1783 by Captain John Munro, a loyalist ... [who writes] ...The next river on the west side is MADOCHENQUICK"

"Our next authorities are the older maps or plans in the Crown Land Office. On one of these, made by Isaac Hedden, Esquire, in 1790, the creek is marked 'RIVER MEDUCTXNICOOK' and the island opposite MEDUCTXNICOOK ISLAND. In a plan made a few years later by George Sproule, surveyor general, the creek is marked MEDUCTSINICICK, and in two other plans of similar date we have respectively MEDUCKSINIKECK and MEDUCTXNICK. Still another form occurs in the journal kept by Wm. F. Odell, Esquire, in which were recorded his surveying operations during the year 1818 by direction of the boundary commissioners. Mr. Odell said 'on my return from Mars Hill homeward, I halted the party on the 12th October, at the mouth of the MADUCTSINICIK River.'



to the MEDUXNAKIC in connection with appropriations for roads and bridges. But there is still the same lack of uniformity of spelling; road commissioners, supervisors, legislators, all seemed to have agreed that it was better never to write the word twice alike. Witness the following:

MEDUCTSNICICK (Journal of 1793)

MEDUCTICNICICK (Journal of 1816)

MADXWAWICK (Journal of 1817)

MEDUCTINICIKICK (Journal of 1818)

MADISHNAKICK (Journal of 1820)

MADUXNEKEEK (Journal of 1823)

MEDUXNIKEEK, MEDUXNIKICK (Journal of 1827)

MADUCXSNIKIC, MADUCKSNEKIC, MADUCKSNEKICK (Journal of 1828)

"But with all these variations we note there is as yet no sign of the termination *keag*. The form MEDUXNAKEAG apparently came into existence about the time of the negotiations in 1840 which led to the settlement of the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick under the Ashburton Treaty. Dr. Gesner adopted the spelling in his history of New Brunswick, [and] our provincial map makers did the same."

Raymond's list, long as it is, doesn't exhaust the possible spellings! Other sources record the original Maliseet word as MEDUKSENEEKIK, and offer these other versions: MADOKENQUIK, MADOCHEMQUICK, MADUSHNAKEEK, MADAZNIKIK, MADUZNEKEAG, and MADUXNIKEAG.

Some time during the 20th Century, after W. O. Raymond compiled his list, the spelling of the river's name took another form and became standardized as the **MEDUXNEKEAG**. For generations of Woodstock residents, it has been known much more simply as "the Creek", distinguishing it from the St. John – "the River".



"Peter Fisher adopts another and a simpler form of spelling in his little work Sketches of New Brunswick (published 1825) ... [writing it as] ... 'the river MADAXNIKIK.

"The journals of the House of Assembly make frequent references



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