



... FOR THE SAKE OF WATER QUALITY AND THE FISHERIES RESOURCES ON MANITOULIN ISLAND AND THE GREAT LAKES THAT SURROUND IT

The Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association is a community based, non-profit organization. We recognize that 70% of the island's streams and rivers have been negatively affected by historical, poor land-use practices, and local fisheries have diminished as a result. Our goal is to create, through the rehabilitation and enhancement of important cold water streams, healthy and self-sustaining river ecosystems that contribute to the ecological, economic and social health of Manitoulin Island. Through education, partnership and participation, our hope is to create a legacy of community ownership for these streams that will be passed from one generation to the next.

NEW! Check out our new glossary at the back of the newsletter! Terms which appear in **bold** throughout the text will have an available explanation.

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Visit our new website www.manitoulinstreams.com!

What's New & Exciting?

Shaking things up!

Beginning this past April, there was a change in management. Seija Dechanes, our Project Coordinator, has left us for a year on maternity leave. Both she and the new bouncing baby are happy and healthy! Marcus Mohr, the Website and Media Coordinator was awarded her position and local resident Mary Ellen Shain has come onboard as the new Media Coordinator. You may recognize her as a former summer student with the OFAH in 2008, advocating invasive species awareness on the island. In this position, she will be responsible for developing stream awareness projects, partnering with local businesses to increase mutual economic development and keeping our members updated about our activities. Her position has been generously funded through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). She's thrilled to be a part of the team!



Ted Williamson (left), Rob Hare (centre), and Seija Deshcnenes (right)

Winner of a Top OFAH Conservation Award

Manitoulin Streams was awarded the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' (OFAH) most prestigious conservation award: the Mary Pickford Trophy.

This trophy was awarded to us for placing as the top conservation club (out of 650 other member clubs) during 2009. The trophy was presented to us at the OFAH Annual General Meeting on March 20, 2010 by President Rob Hare, who noted during the ceremony that the trophy was named after the late actress and avid angler Mary Pickford in order to commemorate "the spirit, determination, and the deep, caring nature of OFAH conservationists in Ontario," adding: "Conservation work takes volunteers, donations, and most importantly dedication."



We have one of Ontario's Top Stewardship Volunteers!

Our chair, Mr. Paul S. Moffatt has been recognized as one of Ontario's top stewardship volunteers. On April 30, 2010, he received a letter from Mitch Baldwin, Manager of Provincial Stewardship and Incentives with the MNR, congratulating him on his nomination for the Russell B. Piper award.

In the letter, Mr. Baldwin states that Mr. Moffatt is an "exemplary stewardship council member and a tireless volunteer". He then closed the letter by stating to Paul: "The Ontario Stewardship program would like to acknowledge your outstanding efforts in your community and the extensive contribution you have made



Paul Moffatt (left) assisting in the fish-egg release at Norton's Creek.

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to stewardship and conservation. These contributions benefit all of us in the province of Ontario. Thank you" .

Paul, we would also like to add a big "Thank You" from all of us at Manitoulin Streams! We couldn't do any of this without you!

5000 Eyed Brook Trout Egg Release a Success!

In December of 2009, we released 5,000 eyed brook trout eggs into Norton's Creek. This was done using the scientifically designed Jordan/Scotty incubator boxes; they work by protecting the eggs while they develop in the stream, and allowing the **fry** to easily exit the structure after they hatch. The benefit of this system is that the fry will **imprint** on the stream, which will encourage them to return here as adults when they are ready to spawn. This task was taken on by Manitoulin Streams, staff from the MNR Espanola area office, the Little Current Fish and Game Club, the Lake Manitou Area Association and individual volunteers.

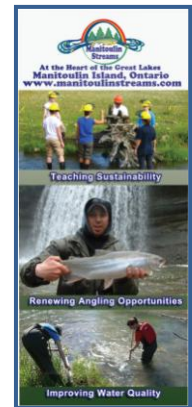


Placing a delicate egg in the tiny cells of the Scotty Box requires patients and precision

In May 2010, the Scotty incubation boxes were removed from Norton's Creek and we calculated the success rate by counting the number of un-hatched eggs and dead fry. We are happy to announce that 97.8% successfully hatched and escaped the incubation box! The fry still have a tough struggle ahead of them as they develop into adults, potentially facing predators and limited food resources. However, maturing within a high-quality stream (diverse habitat, proper depth, tree cover, and cold temperature) such as Norton's Creek, will increase their chance of survival.

New Pamphlet

We have created a new Manitoulin Streams pamphlet! This pamphlet features larger photos of our most current activities. It also highlights broad types of stream improvements techniques that we utilize, and how they directly improve stream quality. The pamphlet will be available in early August.



Online Donations

You asked for a fast and safe way to donate to Manitoulin Streams, and contribute to your local community; so we made it happen! On the front page of our website (www.manitoulinstreams.com), you will find a "Donate" button on the left panel. We are using the trusted security and fraud prevention system "PayPal" to protect your financial information. Check out our website for assistance.



Your donations will be used to buy the materials required for stream restoration, improving local fisheries. Please invest in your community!

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Exhibits and Media We have recently had some great opportunities to show off our projects!

Stewardship Workshop

On April 17, 2010 we set-up shop at the Manitoulin Area Stewardship (MASC) workshop in Mindemoya. This was a fantastic public event, attracting people from all fields concerned with conservation including forestry, farming, horticulture, sport fishing and hunting. We made many new connections, signed up a few new members, and discussed potential projects with new landowners.

Earth Day Tree-Giveaway

On April 24th, 2010 Marcus and Mary Ellen trekked over to Azilda for an Earth Day Tree-Giveaway, generously sponsored by the Azilda Botanix Greenhouse. We spoke to hundreds of new people about Manitoulin Streams projects and our Stream Detective Adventure happening this summer. This off-island promotion will generate more interest for tourism to the island, which is a benefit for everyone! For more details about the Stream Detective Adventure, you can find our description online at www.manitoulinstreams.com.



Manitoulin Tourism Association

On May 13, the volunteers for the Manitoulin Tourism Association (MTA) were touring around the Island, getting acquainted with the island geography and destinations. In Assiginack, Mary Ellen hopped onto the bus and delivered a presentation about the history and community involved with Manitoulin Streams. We were pleased to find out that some of the MTA volunteers are long-standing members of our association! The volunteers can be found at various locations this summer, including the welcome centres, information booths and the Chi-Cheemaun.

On May 16, 2010, Marcus attended the Manitoulin Tourism Association general meeting. Here, he delivered an update of this summer's projects and public tours; the information, for which, can be found below.

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and Forestry

On June 15, 2010 we had a visit from the folks at the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and forestry, as well as the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC). Over the years, both organizations have become proud sponsors of Manitoulin Streams projects and have generously helped to fund our coordinator positions. For this tour, we met the group on site M35, which we completed last year, and

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then we walked to M37, which had been completed in 2005. Taking along large photos to display what the stream looked like before restoration, it was easy to see how their funding has made a big difference.

Farmer's Market

On June 19, Mary Ellen and Marcus set up shop at the Farmer's Market in Mindemoya. This gave us the opportunity to speak with locals and new visitors, of which there were a plenty! Many people were eager to learn about our restoration plans for Mindemoya River this summer. Thank you to the farmer's Market Association for providing us with a booth!

Ontario Out of Doors Magazine

You may have noticed us in the May 2010 edition of Ontario Out of Doors Magazine! The Conservation Corner article appeared on page 18, entitled "A Young Organization Making a Big Difference". The article highlighted our grass-roots beginnings and the huge successes we've made over the last 10 years. Clip out the article and put it on your fridge, and feel proud that you helped make it happen!



Meetings, Results, Funding and Future Plans

A New Board Member

We would like to announce the addition of our newest board member, Therese Trainor. Previously she was a resident and lecturer of finance in Montreal for 19 years, periodically vacationing on the island. In 2008 she officially called herself an islander when she moved to Kagawong. Therese has already proved herself to be a valuable member of the organization! For more information about Therese, check out the "Board Member" section of our website.

Seeking Charity Status

Currently, the Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association is registered as a not-for-profit corporation. We would like to announce our intention to register for 501(c)(3) Charity Status with Revenue Canada. The benefit to gaining this status will be the ability to write tax receipts to you, our donors, who will be eligible for deductions on your taxes. We have begun the paperwork for this initiative, and the process takes approximately 6-8 months.

Funding

Manitoulin Streams would like to thank the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP), for their recent generous donation of \$19,050.00. This money will be used to purchase materials for our restoration projects this summer. As well, we would like to thank Manitoulin Transport for their donation of \$5,000.

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Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation continues to fund us through a reimbursement of 41.63% on all rehabilitation construction costs and materials.

The LaCloche and Manitoulin Business Assistance Corporation (LAMBAC) assisted us with a \$3000.00 bridge financing for coordinator positions, while final approval came from other funding sources. A final amount of \$17,000 is expected from FedNor for coordination position salaries.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) has funded us \$120,000.00 for in-stream work, which is the highest allocation in the province.

Manitoulin Streams/OFAH Memberships

Manitoulin Streams is making the call for people to renew their memberships. Memberships are \$25 and the funds are used to restore streams and the fisheries in your community. Remember that Manitoulin Streams is an OFAH club member which means that when you purchase a Manitoulin Streams membership, you automatically receive an OFAH membership (valued at \$46.50) for FREE. This membership also includes: a subscription to the OFAH's publication, Ontario Out of Doors Magazine; \$3,000,000 member's public liability insurance through the OFAH for outdoor activities like fishing, hunting and hiking; personalized OFAH membership card and an OFAH decal; discounts on hotels, clothing, insurance and much more.

Fun this summer

Tours

If you're looking for something fun to do this summer, why not take a tour of a stream that you helped restore? New this summer, we will be offering guided (on select sites) and self-guided (from the road) tours of our restoration sites. During these tours, you will learn about ecology related to streams and stream rehabilitation techniques. A complementary detailed pamphlet will soon be available to download on our website, or you can call us for a hard-copy (supplies are limited). If you want to try something more interactive, join us on our Stream Adventure Tour. It's a 2-hour guided tour where you will find clues that solve a puzzle, learn how to create fish habitat in the stream and receive a stream detective prize. It's fun for all ages.

Volunteer - Community Stewardship Day

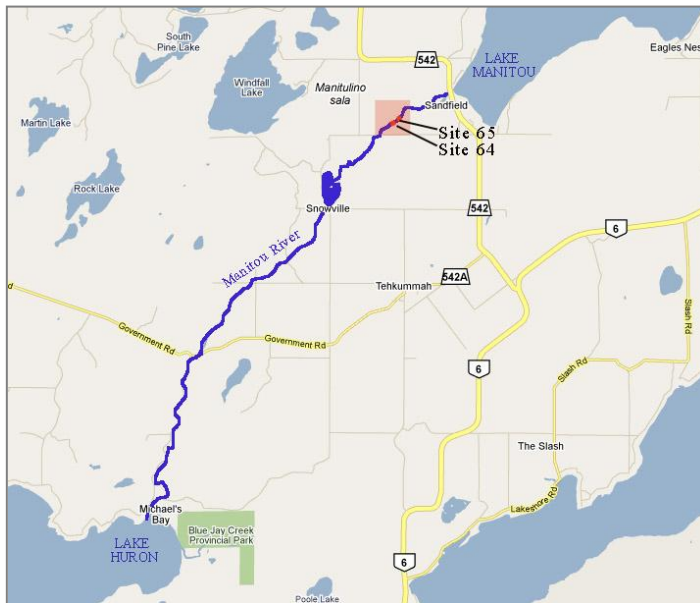
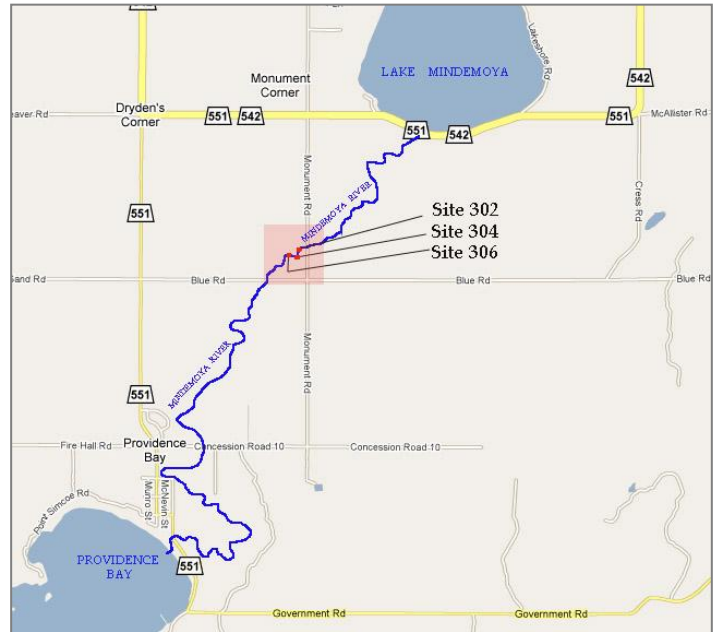
If you like to have fun by getting your hands dirty and would like to give back to your community, then sign up for our Community Stewardship Day. On **Thursday July 29th, 2010 at 10am-2pm** we would like everyone to join us at the **junction of Monument Road and the Mindemoya River** to build cedar rail fences and plant trees along the Mindemoya River, **rain or shine**. No previous experience is required and it is an all-ages event. Beverages and a light snacks will be generously provided by Island Foodland in Mindemoya. Please call us if you are interested in the event, or sign up on our Facebook page! This will be a great learning experience and a lot of fun!

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Work this summer

Mindemoya River - Central Manitoulin

This summer we begin work at three sites (MIN 302/304/306) on the Mindemoya River. These river stretches are located between Monument Road Bridge and the Blue Road Bridge in Mindemoya. Mindemoya River is the 5th waterway on our 'Top 10 Priority List'. The site rehabilitation plan has been engineered by the Great Lakes Environmental Services Inc, and the contractor who won the bid is 'Ferguson Aggregate & Construction'. The work itinerary includes rebuilding the stream bank, installing cedar rail fences, replanting trees in the riparian zone, building rock weirs, pools and covering the bottom with spawning gravel. The Project is expected to be finished by summer's end.



Manitou River- Central Manitoulin

Two more sites (M 64/65) on the Manitou River will be completed this summer. The site rehabilitation plan has been engineered by the Great Lakes Environmental Services Inc., and the contractor who won the bid is 'C. Pearson & Son'. These river sites are located between Sandfield and Case Road in Central Manitoulin. The itinerary for these sites includes an erosion-free access **ford**, several excavated pools, bank grading, **LUNKERS**, deflectors and much more. This project is expected to be complete by the summer's end.

Mill Creek- Meldrum Bay.

This summer, we will be partnering with the Dawson Citizen Improvement Association, in a plan to rehabilitate Mill Creek (sometimes called South Creek). This creek is spring-fed and feeds into Lake Huron at the South end of Meldrum Bay. The itinerary of this project includes stabilizing the stream bank, increasing depth, planting vegetation to promote shade of the creek, the establishment of rock weirs and pools. The goal is to make this stream more hospitable to spawning fish in order to offset the habitat lost from the new break walls in Meldrum Bay. This project is expected to be completed before the summer's end.

Bass Lake Creek- Sheguiandah

This summer, we will be putting an addition onto the lower Bass Lake Creek site. The addition will be a 5 x 7 meter spawning pool that will be chiselled out of the bedrock. The deep water will provide great protection from birds and heavy water flows , and provide excellent spawning ground.

Glossary

Ford: A shallow place in a body of water, such as a river, where a vehicle or cattle can cross over. While the stream bed is usually stable, the stream bank is typically eroded and in need of stabilization. To create a stabilized ford, the stream bank is graded and then reinforced with erosion-preventing material.

Fry: Young fish. In this stage, the fish have already hatched from their eggs, but are still too young and small to reproduce. Because of their small size, fry are highly vulnerable to predation.

Imprinting: A process whereby a juvenile animal (eg, a fry, hatchling, or infant) will remember unique chemical or physical attributes about their environment, affecting their reproductive behaviour later in life. For example, salmon remember the unique chemical signature of the stream from which they were hatched. As adults, these fish will travel back to this stream to spawn. The type of imprinting is very specific to each species, thus there are many different types in the animal kingdom.

LUNKER: A permanent structure used to restore a stream. The structure can be made of wood or rock, and is embedded in the side of the stream with a portion of it hanging over the water. This prevents soil erosion and provides shelter to fish.

Riparian Zone: A sensitive zone which lies between land and a waterbody. The integrity of the zone is critically important to a stream because it affects how the stream functions. The plants which grow in this area have root structures which hold onto soil and prevent erosion. These plants will also slow down heavy rainwater travelling towards the stream, absorbing toxic chemicals and heavy fertilizers that may runoff from near-by industrial areas. This zone also serves as habitat to insects which provide food for fish, and the tall trees which grow here provide shade which keeps the stream cool.

Manitoulin Streams Coordinators Marcus Mohr & Mary Ellen Shain

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