



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

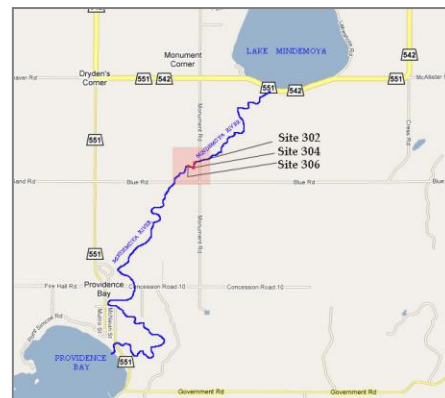
The Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association is a community based, non-profit organization. We recognize that 70% of the island's streams and rivers have been negatively affected by historical, poor land-use practices, and local fisheries have diminished as a result. Our goal is to create, through 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.

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Summer 2010 completed projects

Mindemoya River - North of Providence Bay

This summer we completed 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', as identified in the 2007 island-wide Class Environmental Assessment. This stretch of river had been heavily eroded because of cattle access.



The work itinerary for these sites included: repairing and building from scratch 300 meters of cedar rail fencing, topped off with a cattle crossing that is made from erosion-preventing geo-textile matting and cobble stone; extensive repair of the stream bank, that involved bank grading (to a 2:1 slope) and reinforcement using large boulders; and re-greening of the banks using grass seed and hundreds of tree saplings and shrubs including White Ash, Highbush Cranberry, Cedar, and Speckled Alder. Pictured below are the Ontario Stewardship Rangers from Killarney Provincial Park; just a few of the groups who volunteered their time to help us complete this project

Before



During Construction



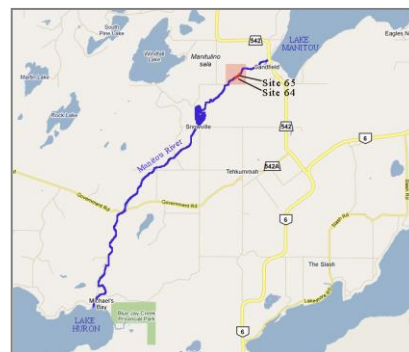
After



Manitou River- Southwest of Sandfield

Two more sites (M 64/65) on the Manitou River were completed this summer. These river sites, are located upstream from where the Case Road crosses the Manitou River in Sandfield. Because the water level is so low in this river, the purpose of restoration was to constrict the river, make it deeper and therefore accessible for migrating fish, and to add fish habitat in and on the flat limestone bedrock.

The itinerary for these sites included an erosion-free access ford, improvements to the existing cattle-watering ramp, 11 excavated pools, 2 LUNKERS, vortex weirs, W-weirs, and wing deflectors. The weir and deflectors will assist in narrowing the stream, while the pools and LUNKERS will provide valuable habitat for fish and invertebrates



Visit our new website www.manitoulinstreams.com!

Mill Creek- Meldrum Bay.

This summer, we partnered with the Dawson Citizen Improvement Association, 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. This community stewardship project was taken on to offset the habitat loss of the break wall at the marina in the town of Meldrum Bay, under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' policy of "no-net-loss". The middle section of this creek was void of riparian and canopy zones due to a marshy area that was created by a previous beaver population. The creek was shallow and contained few suitable spawning areas

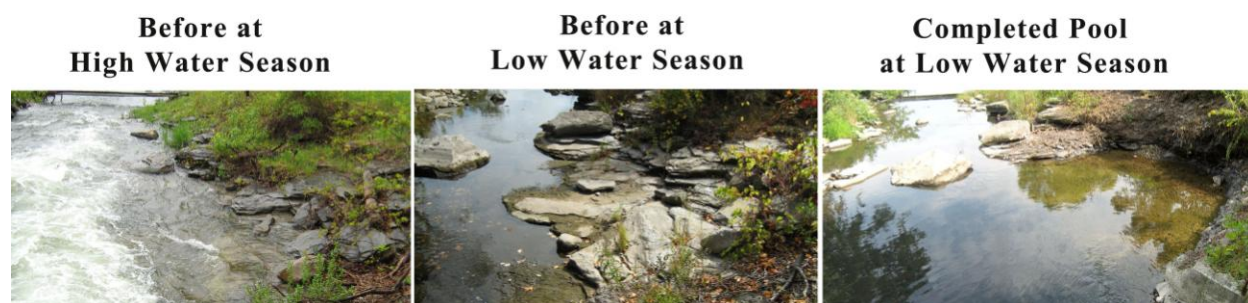
The itinerary of this project included channelling the stream to make it deeper, rebuilding the stream bank to make it more narrow, removing an uninhabited beaver dam, adding spawning gravel, and in-stream structures such as root wads and boulders. In addition to the several rock weirs added, (that encourage sediment scouring) wing deflectors were also added to the stream, which will encourage bank stabilization in the marshy area.



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Bass Lake Creek- Sheguiandah

This summer, we worked with the Little Current Fish and Game Club to put in an addition onto the lower Bass Lake Creek site. The addition was a 5 x 7 X 1.3 meter spawning pool that was chiselled out of the bedrock, along the north edge of the bank. The deep pool will stay wet during periods of low water, and will stay cool in the hot summer climate. Also, 30cm of spawning gravel was added to the pool, making it prime real-estate for a spawning fish.



Summer 2010 upcoming project

Mouth of the Mindemoya River- Providence Bay

The mouth of the Mindemoya River in Providence Bay, ON is often obstructed by a large sand bar, created by coastal wave action and lack of water coming downstream. This loss of water during the summer dry season and into the fall reduces the velocity of the river. For this reason, the river is not able to scour the sand effectively from the mouth. This results in the low velocity water taking a path parallel with the beach, then it eventually makes a shallow trickle out into Lake Huron. This shallow mouth is approximately 3 inches deep and cannot accommodate the spawning salmon who often die on the resulting sand bar due to a lack of access to critical upstream spawning areas.



To solve this problem, Manitoulin Streams has partnered with several local organizations to appeal to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Natural Resources, to allow a 5-year blanket approval create a temporary fish passageway, until a more long-term solution can be implemented. The local partner organizations include: the Little Current Fish and Game Club, the United Fish and Game Club, the Gore Bay Fish and Game Club, and Central Manitoulin Municipality. The municipality of Central Manitoulin will be providing the excavation equipment and skills needed to create this passageway.

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Funding and Membership

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 completed the paperwork for this initiative, and the process takes approximately 6-8 months.

Online Donations

There is now an easier way to donate to Manitoulin Streams. 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!



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.

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