

# *Richmond/Grand River Watershed Committee News*

## *Volume 1, 2004*

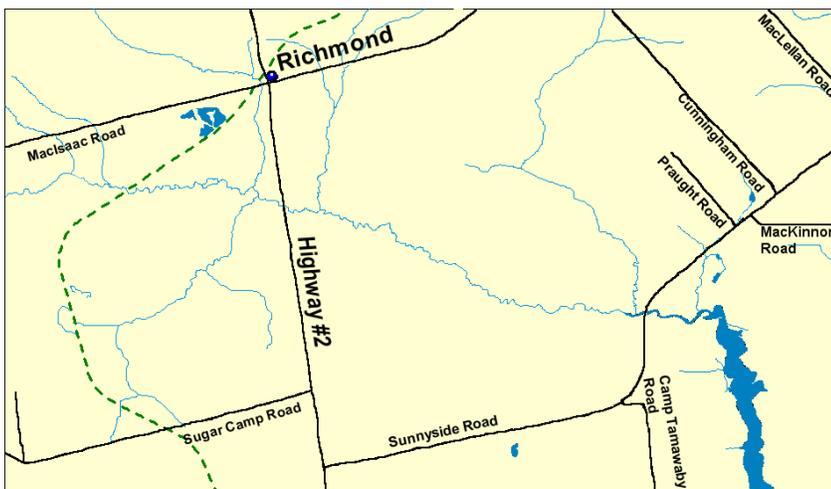
Are you a mother, father, a grandparent. When you were young, did you spend your time outside? Did you have walks through the woods, go canoeing, sailing, swimming, fishing, hunting, and digging for clams with your parents, grandparents, neighbors or with other children. Have you sat back recently and thought about how much the environment has changed since you were a young one? Do you ever wonder what it will be like when your children, grandchildren get to be your age? Will they enjoy clean drinking water as we do? The future of our environment will depend on decisions that Islanders make today.



Photo courtesy of John Sylvester

### **WHO ARE WE?**

The Richmond/Grand River Watershed Committee is the result of a group of individuals recognizing the importance of restoring Little Trout River and surrounding areas.



- Little Trout River shown in blue.
- Confederation trail shown in green dashes.

Little Trout River is especially unique because it is the last remaining stream which flows into Malpeque Bay (via Grand River) that still has a wild Atlantic salmon run. It also has a sea run trout population. However due to deterioration of the stream there is a decrease in fish abundance. The stream has many blockages and high levels of silt build up which has decreased the speed of water flow causing many particles to settle on the bottom of the streambeds. All streams do consist of some sediment that are picked up in high stream flow conditions and



flushed out of the stream; however when a stream such as Little Trout River becomes highly overloaded with silt it becomes a problem for the fish when this silt is deposited on their spawning grounds and rearing habitat. Also, silt can suffocate fish eggs and kill insects that serve as fish food. When silt gets carried into the water, it often carries bacteria, chemicals, and fertilizers with it that could also have a huge impact on our commercial fishery in the Grand River area, which contains a number of species; oysters, clams, smelts, eels, lobster etc.

Many, many years of new technology- highway construction, building construction, agriculture, food processing plants, human waste and garbage sites have all contributed to the conditions of our waterways today. Decisions were made not knowing the consequences of our actions. It's not too late. For a number of years now, individuals, communities, farmers, forestry, government, etc. have been making decisions and taken action to improve our environment. For example, some important steps taken is the Waste Watch program, which enable us to effectively reduce the amount of waste being buried in landfills, which will help preserve our drinking water. Farmers have seen great impact to their land where valuable topsoil is lost in a run of a year. Some have replanted or left hedge rows to trap this soil from the rain, wind and snow melt. Crop rotation and buffer zones are helping to protect water quality. Highway construction has demonstrated new techniques to reduce soil erosion.

So, here we are, the Richmond/Grand River Watershed Committee taking action to improve water quality, to protect fish, wildlife and plants and to improve the habitat in which they live. We know that by taking these steps not only the surrounding environment will benefit but we, and the following generations will be able to continue to enjoy our traditional activities, and hopefully not have to worry about water pollution or contamination. For not only our recreational activities can be affected, but also our drinking water, commercial fishing industry, agricultural, wildlife, tourism, etc.

## UPDATES

Two public meetings (including land owners and local residence) were held at the Richmond Community Center to discuss the benefits of a watershed program. A watershed survey was started to help pinpoint problem areas that will require work. Many blockages were removed between the tidal water and the # 2 highway that were holding large amounts of silt and also causing access problems for fish. To reduce this amount of silt we placed down brushmats (made up of conifer trees or brush tied together and staked in place) downstream and upstream. These brushmats will trap and stabilize sediments and will restore natural stream meander. To help increase the fish population of Little Trout River, 1100 brook trout, supplied by the O'Leary Wildlife Federation were released in the fall of 2004. In the next year we intend to place native trees and shrubs along the rivers length, this will reduce the amount of riverbank erosion and runoff from entering the river.



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## OUR GOALS

- Improve and protect water quality.
- Improve and protect fish and wildlife habitat.
- Maintain Little Trout River as a wilderness area.
- Provide recreational opportunities.
- Support the development of a larger watershed organization.
- Develop a larger stake-holder management plan.
- To increase levels of environmental awareness.



before



after

The Richmond/Grand River Watershed Committee would like to give thanks to all land owners in granting access to their properties, and for the volunteers for giving their time in helping us on the restoration of Little Trout River.

The Richmond/Grand River Watershed Committee would also like to thank the cooperate supporters that helped make this years project.



Upcoming Meetings will be posted. Everyone who is interested in taking part is welcome. If you would like more information, or wish to contribute or volunteer to this project please contact:

Cyril Penton, President  
Wendall Bridges, Vice President  
Kevin Arsenault, Treasurer