

# **Petitcodiac River Appreciation Day**

***Saturday, November 5, 2022***

***At the MONCTON PRESS CLUB***

***160 Assomption Blvd***

**As Presented by Nature Moncton,  
in partnership with the CCNB-South East Chapter**

## **8:00 a.m.: Welcoming the Tidal Bore**

The Tidal Bore is scheduled to arrive shortly after 8:00 a.m. The actual time will vary. The NB RCMP Pipes and Drums will be waiting for it to approach and appropriately greet its arrival as it passes. For those interested, come see a salute from the river to us, an auspicious way to begin our tribute to the Petitcodiac River.

## **8:30: Introduction by Moderator Nelson Poirier and Greetings from Nature Moncton President Fred Richards.**

**Ginette Petitpas Taylor – MP for Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe**

**Mike Holland – Minister of Natural Resources, GNB**

## **8:50: Indigenous Blessing Ceremony – Nicole Porter, Fort Folly**

***Be prepared to be amazed - from where we were, to where we are!***

## **9:00 - 9:30: Yesterday to Today - Marc Chamberlain, Heritage Development Officer, Resurgo Moncton**

A “bend’ in the Petitcodiac River where the tides allowed ships to come in and out, and which brought people to an area which over time became a place called Moncton.

Marc Chamberlain, Heritage Development Officer at Resurgo Moncton, will give a presentation accentuated by various monuments scattered downstream along the river. The novelty here is that the presentation will move backwards in time though forward in space as he moves from one monument to the next in the order they are presented along the river, beginning with the Moncton 100 Monument in Bore Park, and ending with the very first peoples to have settled along the banks of the Petitcodiac.

**9:30 – 10:00: River over Troubled Waters, Something is Going Wrong -- Gary Griffin, Citizen Scientist**

Gary Griffin was one of the first to sound the alarm, beginning in 1968 immediately after the causeway construction. DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) researcher Dr. Paul Elson had researched the river closely for 20+ years until 1966, so the preconstruction status of the river was well known. In 1968, Gary monitored the fishway designed to let fish pass upstream, and immediately found dead salmon in the mud pools below the new structure due to currents that prevented them from finding the fishway. Gary will review the state of the famed Atlantic Salmon and other species before causeway construction, and his findings after construction in 1968.

**10:00 – 10:15: COFFEE BREAK (coffee, tea, and water are complimentary)**

**SILENT AUCTION opens (West room)**

**10:15 – 10:45: The River Restoration Campaign -- Daniel LeBlanc**

As the founding Petitcodiac Riverkeeper, Daniel LeBlanc directed the epic campaign that triggered the project to restore the mighty Petitcodiac in 2008, putting an end to one of Canada’s longest environmental battles.

His presentation will include highlights of this campaign at the leading edge of environmental law enforcement and environmental communications. The river and the community owe Daniel LeBlanc significant gratitude for his skillful leadership efforts. Daniel has also had a long-lasting passion for resurrecting the tidal bore as a world-class attraction for sport and surfing and will briefly mention that aspect of the restoration.

**10:45 – 11:15: In Celebration of the Petitcodiac River from a Bay of Fundy Tidal Perspective - Paul Gaudet, Manager of Interpretive Services, Hopewell Rocks Tidal Exploration Site.**

Whereas the Bay of Fundy and the Petitcodiac River are inexorably connected, Paul will speak from the perspective of how tides work and why they are so high in the Bay of Fundy. He will mention some of the nuances and quirks as a result of the Bay having the highest tides in the world and will bring life to his comments with photographs, videos and some audience participation.

**11:15 – 11:45: Strategic Bridge Engineering - Planning to let the River run Free - Mike Pauley, Senior Engineer, NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure**

Michael Pauley P.Eng., PMP is a Civil Engineer and is employed with the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. He is the Assistant Director of Operations/ Project Manager - P3's as well as the New Brunswick Highway Corporation Provincial Advisor. He has over 27 years of Project Management experience in both Buildings and Transportation and specializes in Alternative Service Delivery projects such as this project.

Mike has been directly and intimately involved in the planning and execution of the Petitcodiac Causeway Project which has come to be described as one of the world's largest and complex river restoration projects. Today, Mike will provide an update on the project and discuss some of the exciting work that was completed in 2021, including the

redirection of the Petitcodiac River to its new channel under the new bridge, and what we can expect to see in the future.

**11:45 – 12:30: LUNCH BREAK (coffee, tea, water are complimentary)**

**SILENT AUCTION continues (West room)**

**12:30 – 1:15: Fort Folly Habitat Recovery -Tim Robinson, FFHR**

One of the main factors driving the decision to open the causeway gates and eventually replace part of the structure with a bridge was the desire to restore free passage to the Petitcodiac's native community of co-evolved migratory fish. These included endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon, species at risk such as Striped Bass and American Eels, and other fish species less well known that are equally dependent upon the free movement between freshwater and the marine environment to successfully complete their lifecycle. Once this barrier was opened in 2010, habitat within the Petitcodiac watershed was eligible to become part of an expansion of wider management and recovery efforts for these species within the inner Bay of Fundy. Ten years later, Fort Folly Habitat Recovery is providing an overview of what has been done, what the results have been, and what is planned going forward to further promote recovery of the river and the species it is home to.

**1:15 – 1:45: A Clean River – Kevin Rice, General Manager, TransAqua**

Kevin Rice is responsible for TransAqua (The Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission) and its multi-million dollar transformation from a Primary Chemically Enhanced wastewater treatment process to a Secondary Biological wastewater treatment process, enabling it to reduce the amount of Total Suspended Solids by 50% and Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand by 75% by meeting federal regulations by the end of 2020. The \$90.4 Million Upgrade and Modernization Project is significantly reducing the amount of solids and increasing the oxygen levels

in TransAqua's effluent entering the Petitcodiac River, increasing the opportunity for aquatic life to flourish. TransAqua's new Ultraviolet Disinfection process will remove harmful pathogens to where the effluent is expected to meet the Canadian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines.

**1:45 – 2:00: COFFEE BREAK (coffee, tea, water are complimentary)**

**SILENT AUCTION continues (West room)**

**2:00 – 2:30: Trails, Trails, Trails - Marc Leger, Regional Trails Coordinator Plan 360**

Recreation outdoors and connecting with nature are increasingly prescribed as ways to improve individual health and well-being but the question remains... how can we make it easier for people to be active outside? More and more, trails are becoming valued infrastructure that can facilitate these activities and improve the quality of life in our region. Here in Southeast NB, we have endless opportunities to create incredible trails and experiences that will enable people to connect with nature, be healthier, and better understand the rich history of our area. This approach has made the Petitcodiac River and its tributaries an ideal site for the creation of a trail system that will let us all better appreciate what we really have around us.

**2:30 p.m.: Silent auction closes; successful bids collected.**

**2:30 – 3:00: Keeping it healthy – Taking the pulse of the Petitcodiac River – The Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance – Dr. Alyre Chiasson, Professor Emeritus, Université de Moncton.**

From an early focus on water quality in the early 1990s, the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance currently pursues the broader mandate of watershed health and stewardship. Science based, the group has undertaken actions not only of benefit to aquatic organisms within the river but also to

inhabitants of the riparian zone, such as painted turtles. Active in schools and in community events the group strives to educate all on the vital importance of the river in our lives and for the generations to follow. A brief historical overview of the group will be presented as well as the challenges we face in the current and immediate future.

**3:00 p.m.: Wind up and concluding remarks – Nature Moncton**

**Silent auction - successful bids posted; auction items collected.**

**Grand Prize Draw awarded.**