

# Middle Musquodoboit Watershed



Volume 2 - Issue 1

## Newsletter

Winter 2022

The Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee (MMWAC) is pleased to provide this second newsletter issue to inform you, the residents of the Middle Musquodoboit water supply watershed area about activities and other matters relative to the protection of the water supply. We hope you find it informative.

If you have any questions regarding the health of the water supply, please contact one of the MMWAC members listed in the table on the opposite page.

This newsletter issue is about signs you may have noticed popping up around the watershed lately and one that draws your attention to a very interesting community project.

### Middle Musquodoboit Public Water Supply Area Signs

Since 2018, six new signs like the one shown in the picture, above right, have been showing up throughout the watershed area, to compliment the sign that has been on the fence at the water supply plant for many years (MS1—location shown in the Map below right). These signs are placed in strategic areas to remind water supply area travellers of the extent of the watershed area, and who to contact for more information and in the event of an emergency spill with potential to impact the water supply (e.g., petroleum products).

Additional Middle Musquodoboit signs installed in 2018 were MMS2, situated in the field in front of the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables office; MMS3 at the Musquodoboit Valley Provincial Park; and MMS5 at Burke's Loop off the Sheet Harbour Road (Rt. 224). Additional signs installed in 2020 were MMS4, in Upper Musquodoboit on Highway 224, just west of Caribou Road; MMS6 at the dry hydrant platform in Lindsay Lake on Mooseland Road; and MMS7, at the dry hydrant platform on the northwest side of the Elmsvale Bridge over the Musquodoboit River on Mooseland Rd.

Placement of another sign for the headwater portion of the watershed area in the community of Dean along route 336 is being explored and is expected to be posted this year.



Water Supply Area Information Sign (MMS4) Near Caribou Road



Locations of Water Supply Area Information Signs Throughout the Watershed Area



## Lindsay Brook Fish Habitat Restoration Nova Scotia Salmon Association / Adopt-a-Stream Project

Another sign that was recently posted (shown right) draws attention to a project that members of the Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee (MMWAC) engaged in to protect fish habitat, drinking water supply water quality and farmland at Lindsay Brook. The restoration work on this project was completed in December 2020.

This project was initiated by a MMWAC recommendation to rehabilitate a portion of the Lindsay Brook streambank that runs through pasture land, which had been damaged by cattle that had been allowed to access the brook by a previous landowner. Allowing cattle to access the brook resulted in the erosion of the streambank, which produced sediment that fell into the brook, undermining fish spawning habitat and causing general degradation of the water quality of Lindsay Brook (left photo below). Even after the cattle were removed, the bank continued to erode, especially under high water conditions (right photo below), which resulted in loss of pasture land.

Concerns about the streambank degradation and subsequent destruction of fish habitat at this Lindsay Brook location were raised at a MMWAC meeting by the Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS) member. Other members of the



MMWAC echoed the concerns, adding degradation of the water supply's water quality and loss of pasture land to the list of issues.

MRWS consultations with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) Adopt a Stream Program (AaS) in 2018 and 2019 about many Lindsay Brook issues determined the Higginsville bridge site a priority for restoration.

The restoration project was led by the MRWS with managerial and funding support from the NSSA AaS, which included a Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change permit allowing in-stream work. The project was a collaborative effort carried out by local community volunteers and MMWAC representatives from the agriculture industry, Halifax Water and the

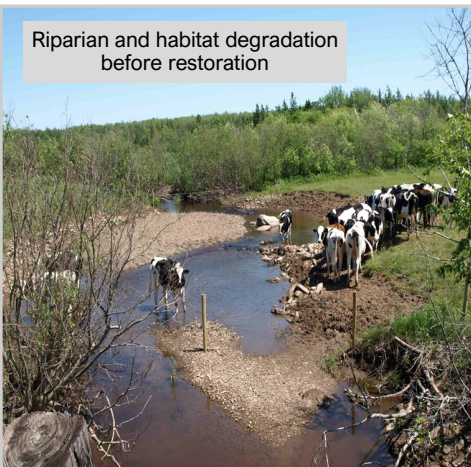
Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.

The restoration site is located on the true left bank of the brook, a few metres upstream of the Lindsay Brook bridge on Higginsville Road in Brookvale.

The bank stabilization work included placing rip rap along the brook's true left bank using armour rock, cobble rock and smaller fill along 45 metres of the bank of the brook (middle photo below). Once the bank was stabilized, the riparian zone (adjacent the streambank) was planted with 75 trees, consisting of 10 varieties. Each tree was staked, mulched and surrounded with mesh screening to protect them from animals (right photo below).

This rehabilitation project improved 1350 square metres of stream habitat and 495 square metres of riparian habitat. The species habitat targeted for restoration was primarily for Brook trout, Atlantic salmon and American eel; and secondarily for Lamprey eels, Creek chub, White suckers, Golden shiner and Sticklebacks.

Thanks to the support from the NSSA AaS program, the local community and members of the MMWAC, this portion of Lindsay Brook has been restored to benefit drinking water supply customers and the farming and fish communities of the Middle Musquodoboit watershed area.



### Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee Members

Member	Representing	Contact Info
Hugh Parker	Musquodoboit River Watershed Society	<a href="mailto:marijadamberts@gmail.com">marijadamberts@gmail.com</a>
Mark Sutherland	Agricultural Industry Sector	<a href="mailto:mark.sutherland@ns.sympatico.ca">mark.sutherland@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Kerry-Anne Taylor	Customer Representative	<a href="mailto:kerryt@halifaxwater.ca">kerryt@halifaxwater.ca</a>
Andrew Faulkner	HRM Planning & Development Services	<a href="mailto:faulkna@halifax.ca">faulkna@halifax.ca</a>
Mike Allen	Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change	<a href="mailto:Mike.Allen@novascotia.ca">Mike.Allen@novascotia.ca</a>
Barry Geddes	Halifax Water Watershed Manager	<a href="mailto:barryg@halifaxwater.ca">barryg@halifaxwater.ca</a>
Anna McCarron	Halifax Water Source Water Planner	<a href="mailto:annam@halifaxwater.ca">annam@halifaxwater.ca</a>
Matthew McFetridge	Nova Scotia Natural Resources and Renewables	<a href="mailto:Matthew.McFetridge@novascotia.ca">Matthew.McFetridge@novascotia.ca</a>