

## **Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance (Susan Linkletter, Project Manager)**

The Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance is working with 10 other environmental groups in the Petitcodiac River watershed to restore natural biodiversity to the Petitcodiac River and its tributaries.

In 1967 a causeway was built across the Petitcodiac river between Moncton and Riverview New Brunswick. Since the causeway was built one species of freshwater clam has become extinct, the Inner bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon has become endangered and nine other species of migrating fish have been cut off from their historical spawning grounds. But this is all about to change.

In 2008 the Provincial government of New Brunswick under the leadership of Premier Shawn Graham announced that in 2010 the causeway gates will be permanently opened for two ice free seasons and then it will be replaced with a bridge.

Conservation and environmental groups that have an interest in the work that is going on in this area have all come together to bring back migrating fish species to this watershed including the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon which is now a protected species under SARA. Preliminary monitoring work will begin this fall with habitat assessments and electrofishing surveys to be done to collect baseline data in the Petitcodiac River Watershed. In the spring of 2010 hatchery raised salmon fry will be released into rivers above the causeway and Inner bay of Fundy Salmon from streams below the causeway will be caught and reared in captivity to harvest eggs that will be used in a larger stocking effort in the portions of the watershed above the causeway in 2011.

Conservation groups that are coming together to assist in this effort come from all sectors. They include non-profit organizations such as the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance, Petitcodiac Riverkeepers, Petitcodiac Sport and Game Club, and Moncton Fish and Game. Fort Folly First Nation is also involved in the effort, as is the department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Never before has such a diverse group of organizations come together for one objective: to prevent the extinction of the Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon.