

# SALMON LETTER

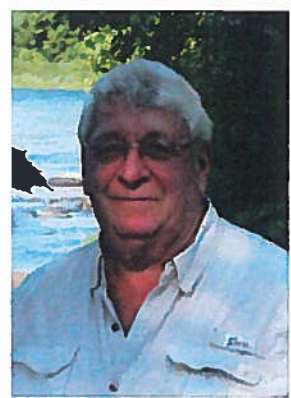
Volume 18, Issue 1

MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION

March, 2013

## CELEBRATING MSA's 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*by Manley Price,  
MSA Chairman*



It has been a long winter! Thankfully, we had the Boston Dinner in February to get together with friends and fellow anglers, and through a shared longing to talk about salmon

fishing, we experienced a touch of what is to come. Now we can say the opening of the season is just around the corner ... which makes it all the more tolerable to put in the few weeks until April 15th.

This time of year is especially busy at MSA offices. Many meetings are taking place; details of field work are being finalized; applications for summer projects are being submitted; membership renewals are being processed; fund-raising events are being planned. But emphasis right now is on the recently launched MSA Campaign 60 to raise funds for the Miramichi River and its Salmon for decades to come.

The MSA relies on financial support from its members for most projects and initiatives. The generosity of people who share a respect and concern for the Atlantic Salmon as a key symbol of our world's environment is extremely important to carry out Campaign 60 over coming months. As well, strong membership growth is a crucial element to our future success. I am extremely grateful to all MSA members, for it is you who accept responsibility for protection and preservation of the Miramichi Salmon simply because it is a unique example of the wonders of Nature. Thank you for being with us!

In celebration of our 60th anniversary, including our usual annual events, other activities will also be organized, so please stay tuned and visit the [www.miramichisalmon.ca](http://www.miramichisalmon.ca) website to keep advised as details unfold. It is certainly a year worth celebrating!

## MSA CAMPAIGN 60 MIRAMICHI FOREVER FUNDS

*by Bud Bird, MSA Chairman Emeritus*

*"Salmon conservation is not just a concern for our time, but rather a mission that has no end, from one generation to the next, literally forever."*

With this theme of recognition, that the care of our environment – as epitomized by New Brunswick's famed Miramichi River and its treasured Atlantic salmon – is a work that is never done, the Miramichi Salmon Association has launched a major fund-raising campaign among its members and supporters to help perpetuate conservation of these wondrous resources for generations to come.

During this 60th anniversary year, the MSA will endeavour to add \$1 million to each of two Miramichi Forever Funds in Canada and the United States. These contributions will build on existing reserves to ensure the financial capability to continue MSA's programs of protection and preservation indefinitely over the long-term future. (Please see insert.)

Helping to lead our campaign as Honorary Chairman is former New Brunswick Premier, Hon. Frank McKenna, who is currently Chair of TD Bank Group and also previously Canada's Ambassador to the United States. Directing the USA portion of the campaign will be Mr. John Dillon, former President and CEO of International Paper.

*To carry out Campaign 60 over coming months, MSA is building voluntary campaign teams to establish contact with all prospective supporters. May we respectfully urge you to consider active participation with fellow MSA volunteers in this project to help achieve Campaign 60's goals. Your volunteer participation on a Campaign 60 team would be greatly appreciated. An update follows on the next two pages to let you know how the campaign is progressing to date.*



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## MSA Campaign 60

### MIRAMICHI FOREVER FUNDS

*"Preserving the Miramichi Salmon, in perpetuity"*

#### First Progress Report – March 8, 2013

- All Areas to Date:**
- Introductory mailings – 99% circulated
  - Team volunteers – 110 active so far
  - Individual donations – 56 - Total amount - \$435,750
  - New Members – Life 34; Regular 67
- Maritime Provinces:**
- Six teams in operation – 504 MSA members to contact
  - Individual donations – 44 Total amount – \$340,850
  - New Members – Life 31; Regular 54
- United States:**
- Teams now building – 420 MSA members to contact
  - Individual donations – 10 - Total amount \$84,000
  - New Members – Life 2; Regular 13
- Quebec/  
Ontario/West:**
- Teams now building – 79 MSA members to contact
  - Individual donations – 2 Total amount \$10,900
  - New Members – Life 1; Regular 0



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## Campaign Volunteers and Teams

**“Please join our ranks - we need you!”**

### NEW BRUNSWICK

#### **Carleton County -**

Carl Ash; Josh Barrett; Andrew McCain; Joe Palmer; Rick Pryde;  
Gary H. Stairs; Greg Thornton; Stephen Wilson

#### **Fredericton -**

David Balmain; Ralph Bartlett; Alex Bobak; Cal Bruce; Dan Cain;  
Elaine Colter; Michael Connors; Mark Coy; Brian Green; Eric Hicks;  
Bonny Hoyt-Hallet; Jim Hughson; Kenny Kyle; Graham McCleave;  
Richard McGuigan; Chris Munn; George Peppin; Charles Sargeant;  
David Wilson

#### **Miramichi -**

Alvin Bell; Derek Burchill; Byron Coughlan; Brock Curtis; Gayden Curtis;  
Charles Hubbard; Axel Lerche; Muriel MacKenzie; James McQuaid;  
Derek Munn; Debbie Norton; Ian Oliver; Vince Swazey; Betty Ward;  
Allan Wilson

#### **Moncton -**

Jim Anderson; Ross Bingham; Andrew Clarke; Dave Creighton;  
Mark Delaney; Jacquie Girouard; Alan Graham; Eric LeDrew; Louis Leger;  
Denis Losier; Ian MacBeath; Doug MacDonald; Jacques Pinet; Brian Ritchie;  
Ray Woodill; Peter Worth

#### **Saint John -**

Paul Baker; Tom Benjamin; Grant Brenan; Lino Celeste; Kevin Harris;  
Ed Keyes; Brian Moore; Gordon Moulard; David Oxley; Jim Peters

### NOVA SCOTIA -

Sandy Beveridge; Laurie Carr; Mike Crosby; George Fraser;  
Glenn Jessome; Jim Lawley; Scott McCrea; Alex Mills;  
David Riley; Susan Storrington; James Storrington; Robin Wilber

### UNITED STATES -

John Anderson; Kit Barrow; Jim Blackwell; Tony Boynton; Bill Brice;  
Andy Dumaine; Bill Haldane; Steve Hibbard; Jim Ladd; Wayne Miller;  
Louis Newell; Skip Rod; Jeff Sherer; John Swan; Gary Tanner; Paul Valeri;  
Martyn Vickers; Jonathan Winthrop; Arne Youngberg

### QUEBEC/

### ONTARIO/WEST -

Warren Creswell; Shawn Riley

### CAMPAIGN SUPPORT -

Hon. Frank McKenna; Bud Bird; John Dillon; Manley Price;  
Mark Hambrook; Stephen Tonning; Nola Chiasson; Jo-Anne Linton;  
Angela Carver



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## EDITORIAL MIRAMICHI LEADER

by Mr. Greg Mulock, Editor

February 13, 2013

### *Enhancing our Most Iconic Natural Resource*

*As a way of marking their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Miramichi Salmon Association has embarked on a \$2 million fundraising campaign. This money is for existing programming and new initiatives. Given how the Miramichi River is renowned for its salmon fishery, we commend them for their continued forward thinking to strive to protect and grow a valuable natural resource.*

*The money from what is being billed as MSA Campaign 60 is earmarked for the two Miramichi Forever Funds, one of which is right here in New Brunswick and the other based in Boston, MA.*

*People travel to the Miramichi region from near and far – from all over the world, actually – to fish salmon. This makes the river arguably not only Miramichi's most iconic resource but perhaps its most valuable, at least in relation to tourism. You think of Miramichi and you automatically think of the river, and the king of Sport Fish. It adds up to a very important image and brand by which to market Miramichi.*

*Frank McKenna, the nationally known former premier of New Brunswick, is on board as the campaign's honorary chairman. Considering he's also a former Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly for Chatham, he's certainly the right man for this job, as the importance and significance of the river and its salmon are not lost on him.*

*“On their own, the river and the salmon are uniquely special, but taken together as the Miramichi Salmon they present a single image of two natural treasures that are world renowned,” he said in a news release. “As with all such cherished resources, each one of us bears responsibility to pass them on to future generations in as good or better condition as we found them.”*

*Some other heavy hitters are involved, too. Bud Bird, MSA chairman emeritus, will lead the Canadian part of the campaign. Being an avid sport fisherman and former minister of natural resources in this province, he's someone else fully in tune with the magic of the river.*

*The American part of the campaign will be led by John Dillon, the former chief executive officer of International Paper.*

*“The lasting bonds which have been formed between residents of both nations through the common cause of conservation, go far to exemplify the reality that our environmental world is truly without boundaries”, said Mr. Dillon, and we couldn't agree more.*

*The two Miramichi Forever funds presently have \$680,000 and \$620,000 in each respectively, as reported in last week's Times & Transcript by report Gail Harding. The intent of the Miramichi Forever Funds is to continue to receive and allocate discretionary donations, endowment contributions, long-term trust commitments and bequests from individuals, families, companies and institutions who want to see the conservation of the Miramichi salmon continue forever.*

*The Miramichi Salmon Association has been essential in regards to conservation efforts up and down this watershed. This fundraising campaign is important for them to continue their work – and to preserve a delicate eco system for generations to come, an eco system which plays a vital role in our region's economy. We wish the association success with its campaign, and hope they benefit from the generosity of those who believe in the river.*



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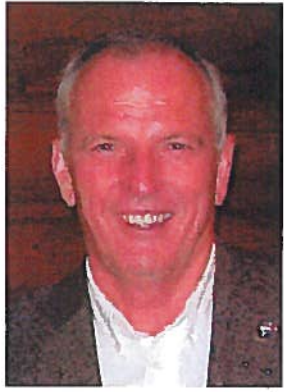
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## MIRAMICHI SALMON RETURNS IN 2012

*by Mark Hambrook, MSA President*



Most people realize that the adult salmon numbers were not great in 2012, especially grilse numbers which were down throughout most of the Eastern North America rivers. There was obviously a regional event that occurred to affect the grilse returns to so

many rivers. We are now getting some information as to what the actual salmon numbers were in 2012 on the Miramichi and it is quite alarming. Only 8,000 grilse returned to the Miramichi River along with 13,500 large salmon and this is the lowest return of grilse in over 40 years of record keeping. The next worst year was in 2009 where only 11,520 grilse returned and yet in 2010, we had the best return of grilse since 1993 when 52,730 grilse returned to the river and in 2011, when 45,880 grilse returned. The returns of large salmon were down, but not to the same extent as grilse. In 2002, we had only 12,090 large salmon and in 2008, 13,290 salmon compared to 13,500 in 2012. In 2011, we saw the highest number of large salmon returning in 20 years at 34,090 fish.

Should we be concerned about these numbers? Certainly we need to be concerned, especially if we do not understand why the fish are not returning. So what do we know - and what do we not know? Let's look at the things we *do* know. Spawning requirements have been met on the Southwest Miramichi for more than a decade and the Northwest Miramichi has only met spawning requirements twice in the past decade, but salmon fry and parr levels have been very good on both branches for the same period of time. Smolt runs on the Southwest Miramichi have been recorded from 2000 to 2010, and smolt production generally met or exceeded the target levels during that time. Smolt counting has switched to the Northwest Miramichi for the past two years and in

2011 targets were met; in 2012 only a partial count was obtained due to a wash out. An alarming trend, however, has been observed by Atlantic Salmon Federation researchers in their smolt tracking program. The program has been in place for a decade and smolts were implanted with tiny transmitters in Rocky Brook on the Southwest Miramichi and their movement recorded as they migrated down the river to the ocean and through the Strait of Belle Isle between Newfoundland and Labrador. For the first few years, approximately 70% of the smolts survived to Miramichi Bay, but in recent years only 50% are surviving to the Bay. The logical explanation for this decreased survival is either increased predation, mortality from disease or the inability to cope with the transition to salt water. This might explain some of the decline in grilse returns in 2012, but it does not explain the terrific returns in 2010 and 2011.

The answer to the poor return of salmon and grilse in 2012 lies in climatic changes, perhaps in the river, but more likely in the ocean. Many people believe that because of the very warm water temperatures in the river last summer, that salmon decided not to enter the river and went back to the ocean and plan to return in 2013 in huge numbers. I'm not convinced that this would happen, but I would be pleasantly surprised if that did occur. The more likely cause is unfavourable sea water temperatures at crucial times during the first winter at sea causing mortality. My friend and colleague John Bagnall has written an article in this issue of the Salmonletter that may explain the correlation between sea temperatures off Labrador and salmon survival.

To sum up 2012 – it was not a great year, but over 50% of the spawning target was met and if the run recovers in 2013, we may not see an adverse affect from one bad year. A poor grilse year usually means a poor large salmon year the following season, but that prediction has been incorrect in the past. Based on John's article, then 2013 should be a pretty average year for salmon returns to the Miramichi and other rivers in the area that have good smolt runs.



# MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION SALMON LETTER



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## THE NORTH ATLANTIC OSCILLATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON SALMON RETURNS

by John Bagnall

The low grilse and salmon returns of 2012 were worrisome, and may have led people to think that the excellent returns of 2010 and 2011 were a mirage. However, there is a strong possibility that there is a logical explanation for the apparent disaster. The North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) is an index of atmospheric pressure differences between the southern and northern areas of the North Atlantic Ocean. When the NAO is strongly positive, Arctic winds off the Canadian tundra whip across the Labrador Sea where post-smolt salmon and future large female salmon are spending the winter. Britain and Europe are warmed by the heat that is convected from the water, but the sea surface temperature plummets. When the NAO is negative, the winds stay north, and the water stays warm. Europe freezes, but the salmon experience a large area of the 4 to 8 degree water that they prefer. They grow fat and survive very well.

outstanding. 2010 had the lowest cumulative December, January and February NAO on record at  $-9.9$ , and if we'd had decent water conditions, the fishing would have been outstanding. Instead, the rivers were low and many of the fish that returned died of heat in the pools. 2011 was tied for the 15th lowest value on record at  $-4.7$ , and no one was complaining about the fishing quality last year (2011). December of 2011 plus January and February 2012 had the highest cumulative monthly mean value NAO since 1865 at  $+6.5$ . It must have been brutally cold in the Labrador Sea. Grilse were smaller and returned in very low numbers. The good news is that the NAO is currently negative, and the cumulative winter value will be around zero – not great, but much better than last year. Plus, if the cold water during last year caused grilse to grow slowly and delay maturity, we may see a lot of smallish male salmon in 2013.

Records for the NAO go back to 1865. When we added the December, January and February mean daily NAO values, the 1960s were particularly low, and salmon returns were

*(Sincere appreciation is extended to John Bagnall, President of the New Brunswick Salmon Council and biologist with the firm AMEC Environment & Infrastructure in Fredericton, NB)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Miramichi Ice Breaker** – Saturday, April 27: A 2013 Season Opener! Mark your calendars now for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Miramichi Ice Breaker at the Woodmen's Museum in Boiestown, a celebration of a new fishing season on the Miramichi River!

**Annual Freeman Dunnett Moncton Conservation Dinner** – Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza, Main Street, Moncton, always a wonderful opportunity for Moncton and area fishing enthusiasts to gather to share stories and experiences, and perhaps even join in on the bidding of the many interesting and appealing items in the Live and Silent Auctions.

**First Cast MSA** – Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Fourth Annual First Cast MSA is an outstanding, totally free two-day event that matches newcomers (e.g. your grandchildren, friends, or your spouse) with yourselves as mentors. The Saturday session, learning conservation and fly-casting, will be at the Atlantic Salmon Museum in Doaktown. A full day of supervised fishing on the Miramichi River follows on Sunday.

**Miramichi Salmon Classic** – July 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic is a four-day event with three days of fishing on the different pools in the Miramichi River and its tributaries – a different pool for every session. This event kicks off with a banquet on Sunday evening at the Rodd Inn, with lunches included on the three days. Fee is \$350 – a “reel” deal!

**Fredericton Conservation Dinner** – The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Fredericton Dinner will be held in September (date to be announced). This is MSA's largest event with a capacity crowd of over 500 guests, and always delivers a great conservation message from our guest of honour.

**Saint John Autumn Run Dinner** – This is a joint ASF/MSA dinner with all proceeds dedicated to the continued expansion of smolt tracking research and assessment on the Miramichi River. It is a pleasure to work with ASF on this year end event.

*Stay tuned for additional 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events!*



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## THERE MUST BE A STRIPED BASS ANGLING SEASON IN MIRAMICHI IN 2013

by *Mark Hambrook*

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is contemplating opening an angling season for striped bass in the Miramichi River and Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2013. There has been a lot of pressure on DFO to open the fishery from many groups, and I will try to provide a summary of events that has taken us to this level of interest in striped bass.

The Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence striped bass population is considered one distinct population with only one spawning area, the tidal portion of the Northwest Miramichi River. Adults spawn in late May or early June and the eggs hatch in 2 to 3 days and feed in the estuary. By July, the young bass are moving downstream and into salt water, spreading along the coast in both directions and can reach parts of Nova Scotia by fall. Striped bass prefer warm water; if the waters are too cool during the summer, they will not grow large enough to survive the winter. The Gulf of St. Lawrence can super-chill during the winter and all striped bass have to enter rivers to overwinter, usually in the estuary near the mixing zone of fresh and salt water. They stop feeding when the temperature drops below 10°C. Immature bass eventually move back out into salt water in the spring and older sexually mature fish will migrate to the Northwest Miramichi to spawn.

The spawning requirement for this population is 21,600 spawning adults in 5 out of 6 years. When DFO placed a fishing moratorium on all striped bass harvesting in 2000, the number of spawners had dropped to about 2,000 bass. The moratorium took some time to turn the population around, but by 2007 the numbers began to improve and spawning targets were met each year thereafter. An assessment did not take place in 2010, although large quantities of bass were observed and DFO was satisfied that sufficient spawners were present. By 2011, striped bass numbers were reaching 200,000 spawners and the compliant rule of 5 out of 6 years was finally met for spawning escapement. DFO did not open the angling season in 2012, citing the lack of older fish in the population. A compounding factor was that the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recommended that the population of striped bass be placed on the Endangered Species List as "threatened" in 2004, just as the population ironically was beginning to rebound. DFO resisted putting the

bass on the Endangered Species List because of the recovery and in the fall of 2012, COSEWIC re-evaluated the status. The new designation is "special concern" and was only placed on the population because of the one spawning location factor. This rating now means that a fishery can occur as long as there is a management plan to ensure the bass are not overfished.

In 2012, DFO was unable to completely assess the striped bass stocks as the spawning occurred early, but I can vouch that the number was the highest ever - no one in living memory has ever seen more striped bass in the Miramichi than last year. The recovery is continuing and spawning is being exceeded by a factor of 10 times. Under this overwhelming evidence, citizens have a right to demand some type of fishery.

I am particularly concerned about having 200,000 striped bass in the Northwest Miramichi during the time the salmon smolts are migrating out to sea. There are only 500,000 to 600,000 smolts and the bass are eating voraciously at this time of year. Thankfully, there are millions of smelts in the river and the bass are feeding heavily on them. But if each bass only ate only one smolt, it could reduce the number of smolts by 50% on the Northwest at a time when sea mortality is high on smolts from all rivers. Striped bass are also in the Southwest Miramichi, but not to the same extent as in the Northwest. ASF has observed a drop in smolt survival from the head of tide on the Southwest Miramichi to Miramichi Bay, going from 70% to 50% survival from the early 2000's to present, just as the bass numbers have increased. That amounts to a loss of 250,000 more smolts today than 10 years earlier, assuming the total run is around 1.5 million smolts.

I believe that a recreational striped bass fishery can be permitted on the Miramichi and other parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in a responsible manner so that bass numbers never drop below spawning requirements. DFO should and must open a recreational fishery in 2013. This will increase angling opportunities and promote sport fishing. Maintaining the moratorium is hurting our salmon population and sure enough, COSEWIC is now recommending that our salmon stocks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence be placed on the Endangered Species List!



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## A MIRAMICHI HISTORY LESSON FROM FLOYD AND LILLIAN WEAVER

*Greg Sprague, MSA Director*

In the fall of 1952, three men met in a Boston restaurant. Two of these men were wealthy Boston area businessmen, the third was a twenty-three year old from central New Brunswick. This group of people had absolutely nothing in common in their lives except for one overarching passion – the Atlantic Salmon. Ted Crosby was in the conveyor belt business and owned the Wasson Bar camps on the Main SW Miramichi River. Kingsbury Brown was in the coal business and owned the Six Mile Brook camp on the Cains River. Floyd Weaver guided for Ted Crosby at Wasson Bar and was in Boston for a few days to do some work on Mr. Crosby's home in West Newton.

Over dinner they discussed their favorite topic – fishing on the Miramichi and in particular the serious decline in the fishery in recent years. Some of the causes for this drop in fish numbers were glaringly obvious. Fish could only get up river after the commercial nets were lifted each Friday evening for the weekend. Fishing was good early each week but once the weekend run passed there were no fish to be seen. But the entire blame couldn't be placed on the commercial fishery. Anglers were limited by law to four fish per day but there was no tagging system in place and so this regulation was largely ignored. A fisherman could easily catch four in one pool and then move to a second pool later in the day and catch four more. No one would be the wiser unless they were overheard bragging about catching eleven fish yesterday (as happened to one prominent Frederictonian).

So over dinner these three gentlemen decided that the time for action had come. Rather than talking and complaining they needed to come up with a plan if there were going to be any salmon left in the river for anglers in future generations (not to mention jobs for guides and sports for the outfitters).

Out of this impromptu meeting in a Boston restaurant sixty-one years ago came the bold plan to create the Miramichi Salmon Association, a group of anglers, outfitters, guides, camp owners and other individuals from Canada and the USA interested in conserving the Atlantic Salmon and the Miramichi River, who could work together and present a strong united front when negotiating with various government agencies and other interested parties such as the

commercial fishermen. Ted Crosby felt that such an initiative could not be seen to be led by Americans so he, Kingsbury and Floyd put together a list of influential and well respected Canadians who shared their passion for protecting the salmon and its habitat who they could approach to take a lead role in organizing the MSA: Charlie Wade, Clayton Stewart, Vern Johnson (IP/Miramichi Lumber Co), Malcolm Neil and Jack Fenety to name a few. The plan worked and in October of 1953 the Miramichi Salmon Association was incorporated.



*Floyd and Lillian Weaver with their prized buffalo rug.*

I heard this story for the first time in February, 2013, after Lillian Weaver called me. She had seen my name in the Fredericton Daily Gleaner talking about the 2013 MSA calendar and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. Lillian invited me to visit with her and Floyd to hear the story behind the founding of the MSA. We had a great chat that cold February morning. Floyd is originally from Blissfield (between Doaktown and Blackville), Lillian (nee Curtis) is from Keenan near the mouth of the Cains but they now live in Fredericton. Lillian's first cousins are the well known Miramichi writers and story tellers Wayne and Herb Curtis.

Not only did I learn about the early days of the MSA from Floyd and Lillian, but they then proceeded to take turns telling stories about the old days on the river.

Floyd showed me his first guides license issued in 1952. He eventually became head guide at Wasson Bar but also worked for Russell and Swim in the woods and at the mill. He fondly remembers guiding sports by poling "Bill Swim" boats, built from pine boards and plywood, and pointed at both ends.



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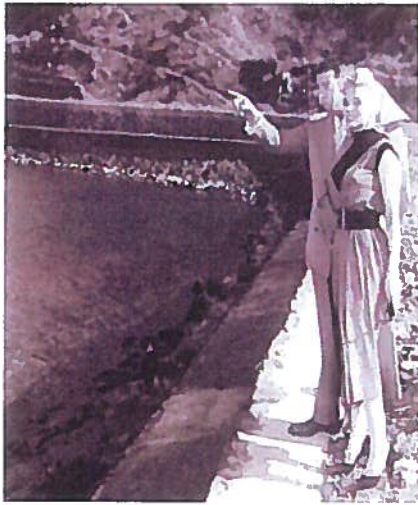
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## HISTORY LESSON...continued

On his living room wall is a painting of the Wasson Bar pool by the famous American artist Henry McDaniel who often fished at Wasson B camps with his wife Louise. McDaniel used a photo of Floyd and another guide sitting on the river bank chatting to create a painting titled "Guide Talk".

Lillian's grandmother Maude Campbell (Gran) made a chocolate cake every day of life. She clearly remembers Gran talking about the day guide Max Gillespie brought a couple (who weren't having much luck at Doctors Island where they were staying) over to fish the Campbell family pool in Keenan. It was cold and rainy. Max took the gentleman fishing but the lady stayed in the car. Maude felt sorry for her so she invited her inside to get warm and enjoy a snack of hot tea and fresh cake. For the next couple of hours Maude Campbell had a delightful conversation with an attractive and friendly blonde lady who turned out to be Marilyn Monroe. Her gentleman friend was New York Yankee center fielder "Joltin" Joe DiMaggio. During the "Yankee Clipper's" tenure with the club they won nine World Series championships.



*Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe*

Floyd treasures "his" 9-foot Orvis bamboo rod though it is a "bit short". A sport left the beautiful rod behind at Wasson Bar. He called Floyd a week later asking Floyd to keep it for him until he returned next season – but the sport never did show up. Floyd is still hanging on to that rod for the unnamed sport just in case, but he does admit to having used it a few times.

Lillian's father Eldon Curtis was a guide for Charlie Wade. One day a sport gave Eldon a huge tip (\$2.00) as reward for a week of excellent guiding. But Eldon couldn't bring himself

to accept such a large amount of money even though his family could have used every penny of it. Instead he returned the tip and told the sport "you might need this before you get back home". Lillian's mother never forgave her husband.

Speaking of money, Floyd showed me a rate card from the Griff-Inns in Boiestown from back in the day when Clayton Stewart was the proprietor. A sport could rent a cabin with hot and cold running water for \$2.50 per day, \$7.00 with meals, \$18.00 with a guide. A ten-day, 55-mile wilderness canoe trip from Half Moon to Boiestown cost \$20.00 per day.

Thank you Floyd and Lillian. It was a privilege to visit your home and hear your stories.



*Floyd and "his" Orvis Rod.*

Editors note: People like Floyd and Lillian have tales to tell that provide priceless insights into the history of salmon fishing on the Miramichi. If you have stories like theirs, please write them down and send them to the MSA Fredericton office and I will be pleased to include them in a future newsletter. Or you can provide the names of people with adventures to share and we will follow-up with them directly. Photographs are welcome too, especially if you can provide information such as date taken, location and the names of people in the photos. Thanks Greg.



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## MSA ANNUAL BOSTON DINNER *A Wonderful Mid-Winter Gathering*



Guests receiving shadow box awards recognizing levels of the Lifetime Sponsorship Program. front row (l to r) Kevin Harris, Gordon Moulard, Paul Valeri, Peter Howell, Jerome Farnsworth, Peter Canoni, William Pounds. back row (l to r) David Wilson, William Brice, David Hashey, Eric LeDrew

For what has become a traditional mid-winter reunion, the Boston Dinner was held on February 2nd at the Marriott Hotel in Burlington, MA that brought together over 200 guests for an afternoon symposium and evening that proved to be an achievement, both socially and financially. On this occasion, fellow anglers, conservationists and friends gathered in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Miramichi Salmon Association and as part of this milestone, witnessed the official launch of MSA Campaign

60! An address was delivered to the audience by MSA chairman emeritus, J.W. Bud Bird, who stressed the importance of leadership by anglers in the mission to protect and preserve the Miramichi Salmon in perpetuity.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Dinner Chair Jim Blackwell, who has contributed immensely of his time and expertise. Jim does not hesitate to tribute the hard-working committee for the success of this dinner. He particularly took time to express thanks to long-time MSA Director and member, Larry Hunt, who is stepping down from the committee after eighteen years of dedicated service, twelve of those years as Boston Dinner Chair. Upon learning that he was to be acknowledged at the dinner, Larry stated,

*"My service on the Dinner Committee was born out of a respect for a river and a magnificent game fish. I trust in some small way these resources are better off for my efforts. The work, the friends and the memories are the best recognition one can have."*

As part of the evening's itinerary, we were pleased to present awards to many members who have provided significant financial gifts over time that deserve special recognition through MSA's Lifetime Sponsorship Program. All contributions count towards levels of \$5,000 up to \$250,000.

### NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Please take note that the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Miramichi Salmon Association will be held at the Woodmen's Museum, Boiestown on Saturday, April 27th at 3:00 PM. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please also note that on the previous day (Friday, April 26th), a joint Miramichi Watershed Management Committee Meeting (MWMC) and MSA meeting will be held featuring guest speakers delivering remarks of issues of concern in and around the Miramichi watershed. Please join us. Check the MSA website for further details.

### SPECIAL RAFFLE

Access 908-4 Tip Flex Rod, Hydros Large Arbor Reel, Fly Box and Flies could be yours! Just complete the raffle stubs enclosed and return to the MSA office on address shown. Or go on line at [www.miramichisalmon.ca](http://www.miramichisalmon.ca) to enter. Tickets 3 for \$10. Draw Date November 2, 2013. You could be the lucky winner!



# MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION SALMON LETTER



Volume 18, Issue 1

MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION

March, 2013

## MIRAMICHI MSA WELCOMES NEW LIFE MEMBER



It is with great pleasure to welcome Mary Mann, Senior Manager of Government Relations of International Paper of Washington, D.C., as a new MSA Life Member. Mary's special gift is a significant contribution to the MSA Endowment Fund; even more importantly, her presence on our membership roll clearly adds to the underlying strength of the MSA's conservation influence and representations.

*"I have visited International Paper's Rocky Brook camp several times and believe it serves as a great example of IP's legacy to sustainability", Mary stated upon being presented her Life Member Certificate by Manley Price. "I believe the work of the MSA, and their leaders like Manley Price, mirror the IP commitment to sustainable practices to preserve the incredible river. The Miramichi River is a very special place."*

The Miramichi Salmon Association is constantly working to build its membership. There is great strength in numbers, and every member, whatever the category, can help. Each membership is an extremely valuable addition to the MSA roll. Like its members, MSA respects the long and rich legacy of the Miramichi River and its precious resource, accepting the responsibility to help sustain that heritage. We are grateful to Mary – and each one of our members - for your commitment. Thank you.

## MSA MOURNS THE LOSS OF A GREAT FRIEND

It is with great sadness to have recently lost another close friend and supporter of the Miramichi Salmon Association with the passing of William M.R. Mapel, of New Castle, NH, formerly of Darien, CT on January 23, 2013, peacefully at home with family by his side.

For many years, Bill was a valuable member of MSA's Board of Directors, and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his ever smiling face and genuine concern for the Miramichi River and its Salmon. His fellow board members will remember his input and wonderful way of striking up a good discussion around the table. It was always evident that Bill held a great passion for salmon conservation, which was further verified when in his obituary, published in the New York Times, stated that it was his wish that contributions be made to the Miramichi Salmon Association.

Bill was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University in 1953. Employed as Senior Vice President of Citibank in New York for 33 years, Bill took great pride in mentoring and inspiring those who worked under his leadership. Upon retirement, he served on numerous corporate and non-profit boards, including MSA, Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation. Bill was a golfer and avid salmon fisherman, taking his pursuit of the sports all over the world.

We will always appreciate the valuable contribution Bill made over so many years and will continue to honour the memory of this fine man we had the pleasure of knowing and working with.



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## The Perfect Angling Partner *by Squirrel Tail Vickers*

It's been a year without my old fishing buddy, the one who smoked too much, shared my most personal stories with strangers, never netted my fish on the first try, couldn't keep the fire burning in camp, and always waded right into the middle of our "holding pool." Could anyone be a bigger loser? But I was the one who lost when he passed.

His death got me to thinking about what credentials should a perfect angling partner possess. I offer my findings to you, hoping they will help find this mythical being.

Your partner must:

1. Be blind to your personality quirks and deaf to your political incorrectness.
2. Have been born with a fly-rod in-hand.
3. Be ready to go when you arrive.
4. Always place you ahead of any business obligation.
5. Pack the best meats, sweets, and beverage for your trip.
6. Be able to read a map or compass when you get lost.
7. Have a current GPS system (not one that is 20 years out of date).
8. Pretend to be interested in your stories.
9. Have Mark Twain's gift of story-telling.
10. Have all the culinary skills of Julia Child and Gordon Ramsey.
11. Refuse to hit the sack until the kitchen is spotless.
12. Be unable to remember how to count in cribbage.
13. Always have extras of the "right" fly."
14. Always land fewer and smaller fish than you.
15. Never flush the toilet when you are replacing the drainage pipes under the camp.
16. Without a moment's hesitation, stretch the truth about the number and size of the your fish.
17. On those few times when the fishing is fabulous, be able to convincingly explain to your significant other why you must stay at camp a few more days because "it is not safe to travel."

Now if your partner has all these attributes, stay on guard, save this treasure be stolen from you!

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### The MSA Trust For Planned Giving

Planning today what your conservation  
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For more information, contact the  
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