



Highlights of Petitcodiac Riverkeeper's First 10 Years: 1999 – 2009

February 18, 2009

1999

February 18, 1999 – Launch of Petitcodiac Riverkeeper at the Village of Petitcodiac, New Brunswick, at the headwaters of the river system. Two volunteer Riverkeepers are appointed – Gary Griffin (Anglophone) and Daniel LeBlanc (Francophone). Armand Bannister becomes the founding Chairman of the Board of the organization. Michel LeBlanc-DesNeiges is recognized for his important contribution in getting the Waterkeeper Alliance to designate the Petitcodiac as its first Canadian chapter. A contest is launched to find a French name for “Riverkeeper”. Three initial priorities are identified: achieving fish passage at the Petitcodiac causeway, ensuring that no pollution discharges from the former riverside landfill and upgrading the treatment of the effluent at the Greater Moncton Sewage Treatment Plant.

March 1999 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper begins its research into the legality of the Petitcodiac causeway. Over 20,000 documents are received from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans through an Access to Information request.

April 1999 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper establishes a committee to study the cultural, historical and natural values of the Petitcodiac River system. Numerous unique features of the Petitcodiac ecosystem and the river's history are highlighted in a report which is later published and submitted to the Canadian Heritage Rivers' Board.

June 1999 – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. attends the christening of Petitcodiac Riverkeeper's first patrol boat at the old Moncton wharf before a large crowd lining the riverfront. A conference is given by Mr. Kennedy at a breakfast that gathers over 150 people from the community.

July 1999 – the French name for “Riverkeeper” (Sentinelle) is chosen.

September 1999 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper's logo is created and the organization's first website – www.petitcodiac.org – is launched.

December 1999 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper receives two legal opinions on the Petitcodiac causeway. Both suggest that the causeway violates the fish passage provisions of the federal Fisheries Act.

2000

January 2000 – Daniel LeBlanc takes on the role of sole Riverkeeper and is appointed Executive Director of the organization.

March 2000 – Riverkeeper unveils its Discussion Paper on Restoration Options and announces it favours a partial bridge span to restore the Petitcodiac. A postcard depicting three aerial photographs of the River in 1954, 1996 and 2000 is released – over 10,000 copies are printed and distributed in subsequent years and a major campaign is developed to achieve this objective. The image of the three aerial photos appears several months later on a large downtown Moncton billboard.

May 2000 – Riverkeeper unveils a public Declaration petitioning the Province of New Brunswick to restore the Petitcodiac. Over 5000 signatures are collected in subsequent years.

May 2000 – The Fort Folly First Nation becomes the first community in the watershed to officially endorse Petitcodiac Riverkeeper's position to replace the Petitcodiac causeway with a partial bridge. The communities of Salisbury, Memramcook, Dorchester, Elgin, Petitcodiac and Dieppe follow suit in subsequent months. By year end, 7 out of 10 communities in the watershed officially support Riverkeeper's restoration proposal. Moncton opts to remain neutral on the subject, while Hillsborough and Riverview declare being against the restoration of the Petitcodiac River.

June 2000 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper advises the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Herb Dhaliwal, of its intention to begin legal action to enforce the Fisheries Act and to have fish passage restored at the Petitcodiac causeway.

June 2000 – Riverkeeper publishes a document listing 96 reports studying the effects of the causeway on the Petitcodiac River over the past 40 years. The caption of the report reads: Petitcodiac – Canada's Most Studied River. In March of 2001, 36 additional reports are added to this list bringing the total to 132.

July 2000 – With the assistance of the Environmental Bureau of Investigation (EBI – later to become the Lake Ontario Waterkeeper), Petitcodiac Riverkeeper begins its investigation into the ongoing effluent discharges at the former City of Moncton riverside landfill. Samples of the leachate discharging into Jonathan Creek are collected and sent to an accredited lab for testing. An investigation into the discharge of effluent from the Greater Moncton Sewage Treatment Plant also begins.

August 2000 – The Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans appoints a Special Advisor, Eugene Niles, to advise him on the issue of fish passage at the Petitcodiac causeway in response to Riverkeeper's letter dated June 2000. Petitcodiac Riverkeeper participates in this process by sharing its legal evidence.

November 2000 – Leachate samples collected at the City of Moncton former riverside landfill are found to be toxic and lethal to fish. Riverkeeper files an official complaint and hands over its evidence to the Enforcement Division of Environment Canada, who takes over the investigation.

November 2000 – A senior researcher from the Canadian Museum of Nature announces that the Petitcodiac causeway has caused the first known extinction of a clam species in Canada – the Dwarf wedge mussel.

2001

January 2001 – Riverkeeper produces a substantive 18 page report, which it submits to the Niles Review, outlining the Fisheries Act implications on the four options proposed in the Niles Draft Report. Riverkeeper’s report demonstrates that the only viable, long-term option available to meet the fish passage objective is the “partial bridge span” option.

February 2001 – Riverkeeper unveils a 14-page report and an educational poster entitled 250 Years of Anecdotes on the Petitcodiac Tidal Bore during National Heritage week. French Officer de Léry's 1750 description is the oldest written account of the Petitcodiac tidal bore traced during this study. Riverkeeper’s document is also the first detailed report on the Petitcodiac River tidal bore published in 50 years.

February 2001 – Eugene Niles submits his final report to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, suggesting that replacing the causeway with a partial-bridge is likely the “ideal option” to restore free flow at the causeway and the tidal bore, but also recommends studying two other options: replacing the fishway and opening the causeway gates. He recommends that immediate action be taken to commence an Environmental Assessment.

March 2001 – Fisheries and Oceans Minister Herb Dhaliwal, responding to the Niles Report, announces that the Status Quo is no longer an option in regards to the operation of the Petitcodiac causeway. He invites the Province of New Brunswick to quickly begin an Environmental Assessment, with the federal government, to determine the ideal long-term solution to this problem. The Minister reiterates the Department’s position on the need to have free flow conditions in the Petitcodiac River.

March 2001 – Four generations of activists fighting to restore free flow to the Petitcodiac River meet at the causeway. High school student Naomi Thériault, long-time river activist Gary Griffin and the last Fisheries Officer to work on the Petitcodiac River, Conrad Bleakney, join Daniel LeBlanc for a photo. The fight to save the Petitcodiac River, which began in the mid-1960, is considered to be the longest standing environmental battle in Canada.

May 2001 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper opens its first office at a street front location on Botsford Street in downtown Moncton.

June 2001 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper organises its first of two successful watershed clean-up activities in 2001, in five streams with over 120 volunteers, which results in the removal of approximately 17 tons of debris.

June 2001 – Riverkeeper Daniel LeBlanc is elected to the Waterkeeper Alliance Board of Directors, presided by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to serve as its “international” director.

August 2001 – A wetland next to the new Riverview marina is filled at the eve of a regatta event. Riverkeeper files an official complaint with the New Brunswick Department of the Environment. An investigation takes place and the Town of Riverview is ordered to restore the wetland.

September 2001 – Six months following Minister Dhaliwal’s declaration and with no word on any follow up action, Riverkeeper announces its intention to begin its legal action against the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans for failing to force the Province of New Brunswick to provide unimpeded fish passage at the causeway.

October 2001 – Four Atlantic white-sided dolphins are trapped in the river mud at low tide just below the Petitcodiac causeway gates. Three are freed in a dramatic rescue while a fourth dies before a crowd of hundreds of spectators lined along the riverbank.

October 2001 – A week after Riverkeeper’s September announcement, Ottawa announces that it has reached an agreement with the Province of New Brunswick to commence a 3-year, \$3 million environmental impact assessment on restoring fish passage at the causeway. Riverkeeper informs the federal government that it will put its legal action on hold until the details of this study are released.

November 2001 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper becomes the first environmental organization in Greater-Moncton to obtain Canadian Registered Charity status. Riverkeeper also organizes its first successful membership door-to-door drive enlisting 200 new members.

December 2001 – “Chocolate River Santa” pays a visit to Riverkeeper’s office to assist the organization with its fundraising efforts.

2002

February 2002 – Enforcement Officers from Environment Canada announce that they have laid charges against the City of Moncton and three other accused parties related to toxic leachate being discharged into Jonathan Creek and the Petitcodiac River.

March 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper completes two detailed reports, a web site section and an educational poster dedicated to the issue of abandoned dams in the watershed. The first report entitled “Reclaiming Free Flow – An Information Guide on Removing Small Abandoned Dams” is an 80-page step-by-step guide aimed at assessing the decommissioning of abandoned dams in the Inner Bay of Fundy. The second report entitled “Assessment on Decommissioning the Abandoned Humphreys Brook Dam” is a 65-page report on the feasibility of removing this abandoned dam located in Moncton. Public consultations are held in March on these findings and the recommendation made to proceed with a detailed assessment for this project.

March 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper launches a 15-minute video, produced and donated by Ontario’s Soft Science film company and entitled “New Brunswick’s Petitcodiac River – A Quest for Survival”.

March 2002 – George Wybouw replaces Armand Bannister as the Chairman of the Board of the organization.

March 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper completes the first phase of a joint project with the Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group to rehabilitate Halls Creek, the watershed’s most polluted streams. A detailed 100-page report is researched and published, which describes the major environmental problems facing these urban streams. A list of remedial actions that need to be taken in order to protect and restore them is presented.

May 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper organizes its first of two successful watershed clean-up activities in 2002, in eight streams and with over 100 volunteers, which results in the removal of 14,380 lbs. of debris.

May 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper organizes four river performances in the watershed in May and June (River Prayers) featuring the renowned dancer-choreographer Lee Saunders and a traditional aboriginal prayer group from Big Cove. The events take place in Petitcodiac, Moncton and Memramcook (Beaumont). Over 100 people take part.

June 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper organises a national action alert to protest against the Province’s proposal to reintroduce the Status Quo as a potentially viable option once the 3-year, \$3 million EIA on the future of the river is completed. After a large public outcry the Province later drops this proposal.

June 2002 – An oil spill flowing downstream from Halls Creek into the Petitcodiac River is discovered, and tracked down hours later by the Riverkeeper, discharging from a large storm sewer pipe located along Humphreys Brook. Samples of the effluent are collected by Riverkeeper at this pipe, tested and found to be toxic to fish. An investigation ensues and the source is found in Caledonia Industrial Park.

August 2002 – A Petitcodiac Riverkeeper staff member, Georges Brun, discovers textile mill effluents discharging in Humphreys Brook while on patrol, following up on the oil and sewer spill earlier in the summer. Samples are collected, tested and found to be toxic. Riverkeeper’s evidence is submitted to Environment Canada’s Enforcement Division which begins its own investigation.

September 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper wins the 2002 Canadian Environmental Award for its work in protecting Canada’s wildlife species and their habitat.

October 2002 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper receives an Excellence Award from the Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce for its leadership on environmental issues in the community. This marked the first time that the local business community recognised an environmental group working to restore the Petitcodiac River.

October 2002 – As a result of growing public pressure, two municipalities formerly against the restoration of free flow at the Petitcodiac causeway, Riverview and Hillsborough, change their official position to “neutral” and join Moncton in vowing to support the final results of the Environmental Assessment once announced in 2005.

November 2002 – An 80-page report on the legality of the Petitcodiac causeway, researched by EBI and a pro-bono law student from the University of Toronto, is prepared at the request of Petitcodiac Riverkeeper.

2003

January 2003 – L'École Amirault in Dieppe wins the first annual Petitcodiac River Award for its yearlong program dedicated to learning the cultural and natural heritage of the river. The first annual list and a 10-page report of the watershed's “10 Worst Polluters” list is also unveiled. The top three “polluters” identified are all government or public agencies and include the Province of New Brunswick (Petitcodiac causeway and other causeways in the watershed), the Greater Moncton Sewage Commission (insufficient effluent treatment at the Sewage Treatment Plant) and the City of Moncton (toxic effluent discharges from the former landfill and other sewer connections).

February 2003 – A second phase of a detailed assessment on removing the abandoned Humphreys Brook dam in Moncton is completed. This included a topographical survey, a sediment management plan, a deconstruction plan and a fish survey. Riverkeeper carries out a public consultation during the study and subsequently approaches the owners (Tandem Fabrics Ltd.) and obtains permission to proceed. The City of Moncton and other prospective partners are approached to fund the decommissioning project.

February 2003 – New Brunswick Environment Minister Kim Jardine announces the commencement of the Environmental Impact Assessment process to find a permanent solution to fish passage issues at the Petitcodiac causeway, but the provincial government refuses to commit to any follow up once this study is expected to be completed in 2005. Petitcodiac Riverkeeper announces it will leave this process until the Province of New Brunswick commits to a follow up project. Riverkeeper Daniel LeBlanc attempts to throw a snow ball across the 100 metre frozen river channel to prove the organization's point that the river – 90 % narrower at this point, is in crisis.

March 2003 – Riverkeeper visits the Legislative Assembly in Fredericton and delivers educational kits on the Petitcodiac River to all 55 New Brunswick MLAs. The package includes a list of “Top 10 Good Reasons” to commit to the restoration, along with a list of the “Top 10 Most Common Excuses” given against taking action.

March 2003 – Ronald Babin replaces George Wybouw as the Chairman of the Board of the organization.

May 2003 – With two weeks left in the provincial election, all three political parties pledge to take “swift action” on the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment once it will be completed in 2005. Riverkeeper announces it will return as a full participant in the EIA process.

June 2003 – Riverkeeper celebrates the first Canadian Rivers Day event by organizing a canoe-kayak excursion on the tidal Petitcodiac River from the Belliveau-Village wharf. The organization unveils its two new kayaks, made possible thanks to a donation from last November's edition of the Moncton World Wine Festival.

July 2003 – The Petitcodiac River is named Canada's Most Endangered River by Earthwild International and Wildcanada.net. The news receives regional, national and international attention: the Globe & Mail, National Geographic web site, Canadian Geographic and all major New Brunswick news media.

September 2003 – The City of Moncton pleads guilty to charges of discharging toxic leachate into Jonathan Creek and the Petitcodiac River, is fined \$35,000 and agrees to an estimated \$700,000 remedial plan at the site.

September 2003 – Environment Canada Enforcement Officers lay charges against a Moncton construction company in connection with toxic discharges from Tandem Fabrics Ltd., a textile mill, discovered by Riverkeeper in the summer of 2002. The construction company is later cleared of these charges.

December 2003 – Tandem Fabrics Ltd. complies with an Environment Canada order to fix the cross-connection which caused toxic textile mill effluent to discharge directly into Humphreys Brook in 2002 and perhaps as far back as many decades, at a cost of several hundreds of thousands of dollars. The City of Moncton also completes repairs on problematic sewer infrastructure cross-connections in this area of the city which caused toxic effluents to discharge directly into the brook.

2004

January 2004 – Environment Canada is awarded the 2003 Petitcodiac River Award for its work in assisting our organization to solve two long outstanding toxic discharges in the river system, at the former Moncton landfill and the textile mill on Humphreys Brook.

March 2004 – A detailed assessment on removing the abandoned Navy Dam in Riverview is completed. This included a topographical survey, a sediment management plan, a deconstruction plan and a fish survey. Riverkeeper carries out a public consultation during the study and subsequently approaches the owner (Town of Riverview), the Department of National Defence and other prospective partners to fund a \$300,000 project to decommission the abandoned dam.

March 2003 – Michel Desjardins replaces Ronald Babin as the Chairman of the Board of the organization.

April 2004 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper continues to provide detailed comments in conjunction with the causeway Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. At an important technical workshop on fish passage in April, experts leading the EIA process provide conclusive evidence that after thoroughly researching various fishway passage facilities around the world, they have concluded that only free flow (permanently opening the causeway gates or replacing the

causeway with a partial bridge) will allow unimpeded fish passage at the Petitcodiac causeway. The results of the scientific research presented at this workshop confirm what activists have worked nearly 40 years to demonstrate.

April 2004 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper launches the first two of a four-part Petitcodiac Renaissance poster series, exploring opportunities associated with the restoration of the river: *Tidal Bores of the World* (a project to renew the tidal bore attraction once the river is restored), and *The Monument* (a project to recycle the gates of the causeway into a large public sculpture once the causeway is dismantled).

April 2004 – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. returns to Moncton (Shediac) along with 10 other members of the Waterkeeper Alliance Board of Directors, to participate in their annual board retreat. Before a crowd of 600 people at the Moncton High School, Kennedy delivers a passionate speech urging the community to embrace the historic river restoration project. He also vows to return in order to surf the Petitcodiac tidal bore once the river is restored.

May 2004 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper prepares and files six sworn affidavits with the Petitcodiac EIA process, submitted by veteran fishermen who fished the Petitcodiac River prior to the causeway being constructed. This was the first time that sworn testimony was submitted as evidence in the causeway case.

June 2004 – The last two of the four-part Petitcodiac Renaissance poster series are unveiled in June, *The Wall* (a project to transform the riverside landfill into an observation point of the river) and July, *Unforgettable Fire* (a project to commemorate the opening of the causeway with a large fireworks celebration and concert).

September 2004 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper unveils a comprehensive watershed map on its web site, to increase awareness surrounding its various tributaries and streams.

2005

January 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper presents the 2004 Petitcodiac River Award to the region's arts community for its generosity and long-standing support towards the Petitcodiac River cause.

April 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper organises an Earth Day (April 22nd) sunrise ceremony on the Petitcodiac riverfront, lead by aboriginal leader Carlos Gomes and in partnership with the Northrop Frye Literary Festival. Riverkeeper also organises a Petitcodiac River canoe/kayak run from the Village of Petitcodiac to Salisbury in April.

July 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper intervenes to have Fisheries and Oceans successfully certify that fish are present in two Mapleton Park streams earlier identified as “drainage ditches” by the Planning Commission and the City of Moncton, in an attempt to reverse a decision made by City Council to transfer over 23 acres of public parkland to a private developer.

September 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper organises the first ever *Downtown River Run*, a 10 km canoe/kayak excursion from the Moncton public wharf to the causeway, attracting over 20

participants. Riverkeeper Daniel LeBlanc also co-hosts, with board member Terry Dixon-Parker the “Voices from the Marsh” evening in Hillsborough, on September 2nd, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the “Battle of the Petitcodiac”.

September 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper makes a public presentation to Moncton City Council to call on them to reverse its decision to transfer over 2 acres of public Riverfront parkland to a private developer. Riverkeeper meets Downtown Moncton Inc. to encourage them to undertake a comprehensive “visioning” exercise associated with future riverfront developments. Riverkeeper also works with SOS Eau Water on a court injunction regarding this transaction.

October 2005 – The option to restore unimpeded fish passage at the Petitcodiac River causeway (replace the causeway with a partial bridge) is recommended as the preferred option in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report finally released in early October. This recommendation will spell the end of the headpond and the return the Petitcodiac River to full tidal flow. Riverkeeper submits detailed comments to support the findings of this 2,386-page long EIA Report.

November 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper researches, co-drafts and produces a 16-page Special Report on the river entitled “Rise Again, Petitcodiac”. Over 50,000 copies of this souvenir edition are printed and distributed throughout the watershed. The publication is also used as an educational tool in schools and other public presentations. The Special Report is featured online for a one year period at Canadaeast.com.

November 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper researches and completes an educational poster on the Petitcodiac River’s marine species highlighting the watershed’s fish, marine mammals and fresh water mussel species. Over 50,000 copies of the poster are printed, inserted in the Special Report and distributed throughout the watershed.

November 2005 – Moncton City Council and Hillsborough Village Council vote to support the findings of the EIA Report that recommends opening the causeway. Nine out of ten municipalities in the watershed now support the restoration of the Petitcodiac River. The Town of Riverview, despite pledging to support the final conclusions of the EIA in October 2002 and again in June 2003 after the municipal elections, turns back on its promise and resumes its fight against the restoration of the Petitcodiac River.

December 2005 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper’s four year door-to-door campaign reaches an important milestone when canvasser Jean-Marc Dugas enlists the organization’s 700th member. Since the fall of 2001, over 10,000 homes in Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview have been canvassed to solicit new members and gather support for the restoration.

2006

January 2006 – The Province of New Brunswick is awarded the 2005 Petitcodiac River Award for its role in leading the historic Environmental Assessment which concluded that the causeway must be replaced by a partial bridge. Despite numerous attempts to present this award to the Province, Premier Bernard Lord refuses this invitation.

January 2006 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper canvasses all 12 regional candidates in the federal election campaign, receives 12 out of 12 responses, 11 committing to champion the Petitcodiac River and to act swiftly to fund the recommendations of the EIA once elected. The one candidate that declares himself to be against the restoration of the river and who resides outside of the watershed near St-John, Rob Moore, is elected. He has since played an active role in the Harper Government's decision to reverse a 25 year old position, of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to advocate for free flow conditions in the Petitcodiac River.

January 2006 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper joins the fight to oppose the development of a third rock quarry along the Memramcook River.

April 2006 – The Beaubassin Planning Commission recommends to the New Brunswick Minister of the Environment not to approve the proposal to develop a quarry along the Memramcook River. The Minister ultimately decides not to follow the Commission's advice and proceeds to grant the approval.

April 2006 – The City of Moncton decides not to proceed with the sale of a parcel of public parkland on the riverfront and announces a visioning exercise for the downtown and riverfront.

April 2006 – GEMTEC Engineering is found guilty of Fisheries Act offences in the Moncton landfill case, an investigation initiated by Riverkeeper in 2000 and subsequently prosecuted by lawyers working with Environment Canada.

June 2006 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper's founding Riverkeeper and Executive Director, Daniel LeBlanc, announces he will be stepping down at the end of this summer after seven and a half years at the helm of Canada's first Riverkeeper chapter and one of New Brunswick's most prominent environmental organizations. A special event is organized to recognize Daniel's extraordinary contribution to the cause of the Petitcodiac River.

September 2006 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper canvasses all candidates and parties running for the provincial election in the watershed. All Liberal and NDP candidates respond to the survey, while none of the Conservative candidates answer the call. All the political parties promise action to restore the Petitcodiac River, while only the Liberal and NDP parties include it in their platforms. Liberal leader Shawn Graham visits Moncton during the campaign to announce that his government will deliver on this promise if elected.

September 2006 – Moncton City Councillor Steven Boyce is appointed as the new part-time Riverkeeper, and Jodie Hambrook as the new part-time Executive Director of Petitcodiac Riverkeeper. They succeed Daniel LeBlanc who steps down as the founding Riverkeeper and Executive Director.

November 2006 – Steven Boyce announces his resignation as Riverkeeper in order to devote his energies more fully to pursuing a battle regarding oil and gas exploration that has erupted in the City of Moncton's watershed and to pursue other environmental issues in the political arena. The Riverkeeper Board accepted his resignation with regret. Michel Desjardins, voluntary Chairman of the Board, steps in as the primary spokesperson for Petitcodiac Riverkeeper until such time as a new Riverkeeper can be appointed.

2007

February 2007 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper presents the 2006 Petitcodiac River Award to the Mascaret monthly publication to recognize its active role in promoting the Petitcodiac River cause in the region.

March 2007 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper reacts with disappointment to Finance Minister Victor Boudreau's budget speech.

July 2007 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper files an application in Federal Court demanding that the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans take all necessary measures to force the Province of New Brunswick to allow for the unimpeded passage of fish at the causeway in accordance with Article 20 of the Fisheries Act.

August 2007 – New Brunswick Supply and Services Minister Roly MacIntyre and Health Minister Michael Murphy announce the Province of New Brunswick's intention to restore full tidal flow to the Petitcodiac River by replacing the causeway with a 280-meter long bridge, before a packed crowd in downtown Moncton.

November 2007 – In an affidavit filed with the Federal Court in Fredericton in connection with Riverkeeper's legal action, the federal government announces that it has completed its review processes under the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Fisheries Act, and has decided to issue their respective approval in relation to replacing the causeway with a 280-meter long bridge.

December 2007 – Riverkeeper announces that it has filed additional documents in the Federal Court to compel Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn to order the restoration of fish passage in the Petitcodiac River.

2008

January 2008 – Tim Van Hinte is appointed as the new Riverkeeper and Executive Director of Petitcodiac Riverkeeper.

February 2008 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper presents the 2007 Petitcodiac River Award to Peter Etheridge for his long-standing campaign to have the Inner Bay of Fundy designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

March 2008 – Michel Desjardins' four-year term as Board member, including three years as Chairman of the Board and two years as the primary spokesperson for the organization comes to an end.

June 2008 – The New Brunswick Department of Environment orders a stop to a uranium prospecting drilling operation in the Turtle Creek protected watershed. Christian Thériault, a local citizen living near the Turtle Creek area, alerted Petitcodiac Riverkeeper of the suspected violation, who then files an official complaint.

July 2008 – New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham makes a historical announcement at the Moncton Riverfront Park by committing \$20 million in funding towards completing the first two phases of the estimated \$68 million project to restore full tidal flow to the Petitcodiac River.

September 2008 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper receives the Phoenix Award from the New Brunswick Environmental Network, recognizing the group for “their triumphant effort to restore the Petitcodiac River through community leadership and relentless, strategic and purposeful work at all levels”.

September 2008 – Some 30 volunteers join Riverkeeper and the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance in a large clean-up exercise in Humphreys Brook, removing a ton of debris.

October 2008 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper registers a formal complaint to Environment Canada concerning untreated sewage discharges at the Greensboro Subdivision.

October 2008 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper launches River Watch project to recruit and train volunteers to monitor local waterways and report pollution in the watershed. The project includes a youth educational program aimed at students between Grade 6 and 8, to raise awareness about clean water and watershed issues among youth.

November 2008 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper commences work on developing a new web site for the organization, to be launched in the spring of 2009.

December 2008 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper calls on the federal government to commit funding to one of the most important environmental infrastructure projects in New Brunswick history.

2009

January 2009 – Petitcodiac Riverkeeper registers a formal complaint with Environment Canada concerning the delays in implementing the Jonathan Creek Restoration Project related to the former City of Moncton landfill.