



Executive Director's report

The year 2012 for the RRWMC is highlighted by the use and application of new technologies in our projects. Indeed, the use of LIDAR imagery (laser technology) acquired in 2011 helped to prepare scenarios for farmers of the St-Quentin area to address the problem of soil erosion in the watershed of the Five Fingers Brook. Second, we continued the three-year project which aims to acquire imagery of all watercourses identified as habitat for salmon (1500 km) with a technology that combined high-precision optical with thermal imaging. We expect to complete this exhaustive inventory in 2013. We also used the calculation of the equivalent cut area methodology developed in previous years to do a portrait of forestry in relation with watershed protection. The results will allow us to make recommendations to the 2012-2016 harvesting plan to limit the negative impacts of logging on the water regime.

In terms of habitat, we had the mandate to manage two major restoration projects, the removal of a logjam on the Jardine Brook and the bank stabilization at the Kedgwick Forks pool. With the participation of different agencies, we coordinated the planting of 1,000 trees to recreate approximately 200 m of buffer zone on the Restigouche.

The RRWMC continued the management of the Restigouche River Recreation program and Crown reserves water contract by hiring 8 people for the maintenance of sites used by canoeists and anglers. As specific work, we completed the new campsite at Two Brook on the Restigouche and planned the development of another one below the Gilmores Island. We also moved all equipment from Cross Point Island campground and closed the site because of major degradation. Restoration with tree planting and seeding of this site is planned for 2013.

The public safety plan including the RCMP and the Sûreté du Québec allowed continuing of joint patrols that took place on a regular basis during the summer. The visibility of this approach, information displays and media coverage and better targeted patrols seems to have reduced the conflicts amongst river users. Nevertheless, problems are always present such as littering and vandalism on campsites. It is in this perspective of unsustainable uses that the RRWMC completed a feasibility study with Gagnon Strategix consulting on the designation of the Restigouche River boundary waters. This study which included a stakeholder consultation, four public consultations and a meeting with the Listuguj Band Council was used to meet with government representatives. A management plan framework was also initiated, and a report to present to ministers was developed with a working group.

We also participated in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans surveys by providing a technician for the season and participating in the fall snorkeling count. We were involved in the Upsalquitch smolt wheel to take over the supervision of this activity in a near future.

The RRWMC was active in the following councils: Working Group for the integrated management of public forests Restigouche / Madawaska, Charlo Salmonid Enhancement Center (CSEC), the New Brunswick Salmon Council (NBSC) and the Matapédia-Restigouche Watershed Organization.

In financial terms, we did not hold a fundraising supper and the general financial results were slightly negative despite record budget over \$ 320,000. The number of employees in 2011 reached a total of 13: 2 students, 2 casuals, 1 part-time, 7 seasonal and 1 permanent for a total of 188 weeks/persons.

Thank you to all the partners for a great year and we count on your support in the coming years.

David LeBlanc, Executive Director