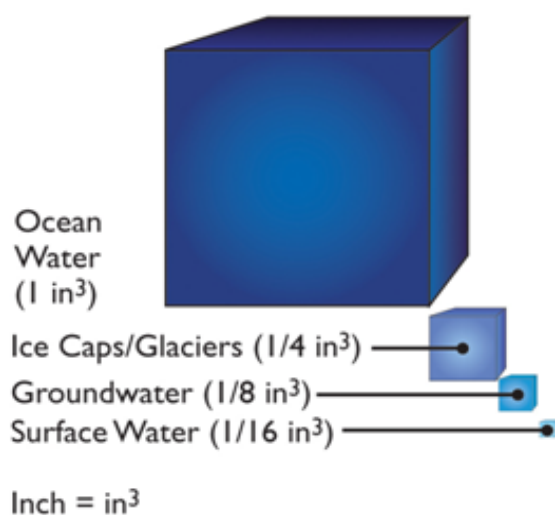


## The Earth's Water Supply

If the volume of water in the oceans is represented by a one-inch (2.5 cm) cube, a one-fourth inch (0.6 cm) cube would represent the water stored in the ice caps and glaciers. A one-eighth inch (0.3 cm) cube would represent groundwater, and a one-sixteenth inch (0.15 cm) cube would represent surface water.



### What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is one of those words that we hear all the time without really knowing what it means. In fact stewardship is a hard thing to define, but it is about how we are in the world: the way we care for it, respect it, live in it. It is about being actively involved in making the world be a place we want to live in. Our goals as stewards are to develop the skills necessary to make the changes we desire, and to organize ourselves and others to take action in a responsible, caring and knowledgeable way.

### Why Watershed Stewardship?

Ninety percent of the world's water is contained in salt oceans. Of the remainder, 69 percent is in the form of ice and snow. Freshwater for human use, found in lakes, swamps, rivers and underground, makes up only 0.008 percent of the world's water. In British Columbia we are lucky: we have streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries covering 1.25 percent of our province. But as the population grows, more and more of this available water is being contaminated by human development.

Many kinds of skills are useful to a watershed steward, but all stewards share some characteristics. A steward is worthy of trust, demonstrates respect for life, carries a genuine heart, embodies constancy of mind, and acts with autonomy.

### Stewardship...

- actively involved in caring for the environment

- 90% of  $H_2O$  is in the oceans  
- 0.008% of  $H_2O$  is freshwater

## **WATERSHED KEY TERMS...**

**Miramichi River Watershed:** This is the area of land where all the water on the surface flows into the Miramichi River and makes it's way towards the ocean.

**Tributary:** Is a stream or a brook or a spring that flows into a river (Miramichi River) and adds more water to it.

example: Renous River, Cains River, Dungarvon River, etc...

**Erosion:** Is when the current from the river or stream washes away the stream bank or river bank because there is NO vegetation (no plants, no trees, no bushes). Erosion is bad because it turns rivers and streams brown and muddy which suffocates and kills young fish and other aquatic organisms.

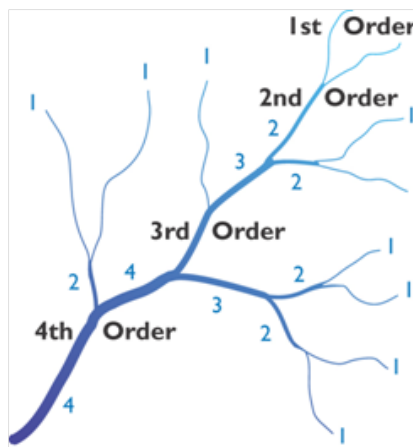
**Sediment:** Fine particles that are found on the bottom of a river stream (smaller than sand).

**Substrate:** The type of bottom a river or stream has (rocky, sand, mud, sediment or silt).

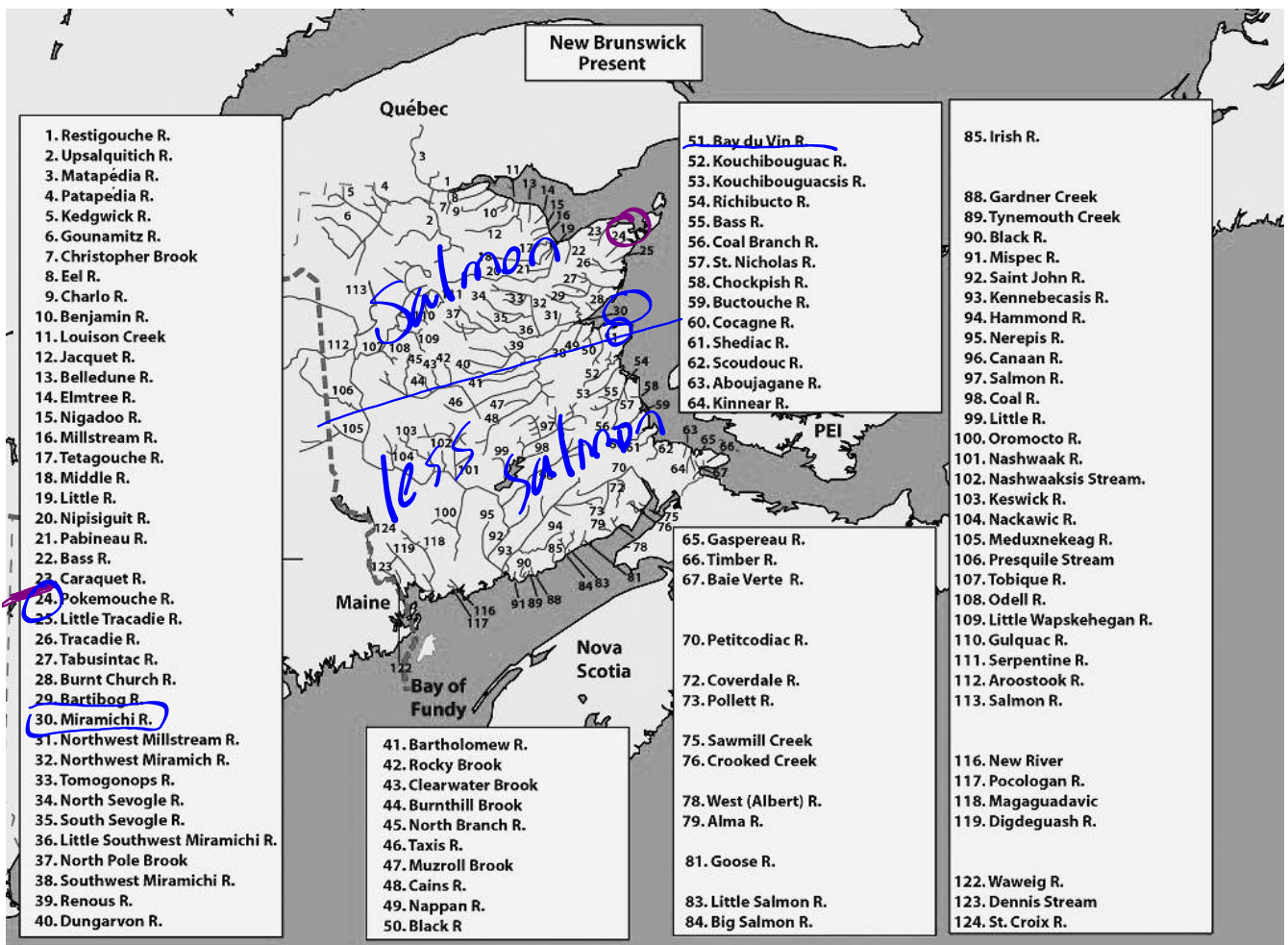
**Dissolved oxygen:** all water contains dissolved oxygen. We can measure how much oxygen water contains. Cold water holds more oxygen and is better for fish and other organisms.

## Stream Classification

Streams are classified by their size. The smallest streams are first-order streams. When two first-order streams meet they form a second-order stream. The place where the two streams meet is the confluence. The stream formed at the confluence of two second-order streams is a third-order stream. The process continues until the stream or river empties into a lake or the ocean. The place where the river system ends is its mouth.



*Headwaters*



## Let's Take a Tour of the Miramichi River System...

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Google Earth - Miramichi River System





<http://www.mreac.org/>

**NOTES - Miramichi Watershed.pdf**

## MISSION

The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee is a community based multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to the continual improvement of environmental quality of the Miramichi River ecosystem with emphasis on the Miramichi watershed.

MREAC will accomplish this mission by:

- Constructive consultation, cooperation and partnering with government, industry, municipalities and other stakeholders wherever possible.
- Supporting the advancement and application of scientific knowledge.
- Promoting and supporting an appropriate level of enforcement of environmental regulation.
- Active involvement in independent environmental monitoring.
- Promoting the responsible use of technology in environmental improvement.
- Celebrating and promoting the Miramichi River's environmental qualities and values as appropriate to sustain a healthy sense of pride and stewardship.
- Venturing beyond our ecosystem boundary when needed to understand external factors impacting our watershed, to gain useful knowledge and promote sharing of information and technological exchange.

## QUICK FACTS

**Location:** Northeast New Brunswick, Canada

**Eco Regions:** Maritime Lowlands, Chaleur Uplands and Northern New Brunswick Highlands

**Length of River:** Southwest Miramichi River is 250 km, stretching from Miramichi Bay to Boiestown, NB and Northwest Miramichi River is 122 km, when combined with the estuarine portion totals a length of 440 km.

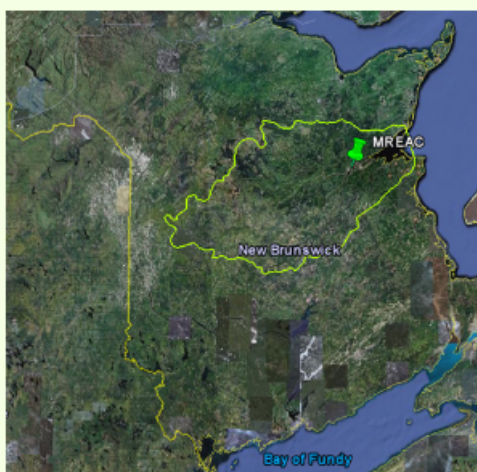
**Size of Watershed:** 13,465 sq km, 23% of New Brunswick's land mass, where 300 sq km is estuary and the remainder is freshwater

**Depth of River:** The inner channel averages 4 m in depth, where the navigation channel averages 6-10 m in depth

**Tides:** Estuary tides range from 0.2 - 1.2 m

**Population:** Approximately 57,000 people in the watershed, including 2,000 Aboriginals from 3 major First Nations Communities (2006 Census data)

**Geology:** Silurian and Ordovician rocks of the Miramichi Highlands, Carboniferous near the estuary shoreline and Sandstone found throughout the watershed





**Protected Natural Areas (PNA):**

- Bay Du Vin Island (PNA Class 2)
- Big Rocky Brook (PNA Class 2)
- Black River (PNA Class 2)
- Cains River (PNA Class 2)
- Dungarvon Whooper Spring Woodlot (PNA Class 2)
- Goodfellow Brook (PNA Class 2)
- Gover Mountain (PNA Class 2)
- Kennedy Lakes (PNA Class 2)
- Shinnickburn (PNA Class 2)
- Portage Island National Wildlife Sanctuary



American Eel

**Species At Risk (SAR):**

- Piping Plover (Endangered)
- Striped Bass (Threatened) *Special Concern*
- American Eel (Special Concern)
- Wood Turtle (Threatened)
- Brook Floater (Special Concern)
- Prototype Quillwort (Special Concern)



Wood Turtle

**Common Fish:** Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout, Sea Lamprey, American Eel, Alewife, Buleback Herring, American Shad, Rainbow Smelt, Atlantic Tomcod, Striped Bass, Dace, Chubs Sticklebacks, Flounder (Sand, Smooth and Yellowtail), and Capelin

**Crustacean/Shellfish:** Lobster, Oysters, Mussels, Quahogs and Soft-shelled Clams

**Wildlife:** Black Bear, Moose, White-tailed Deer, Bobcat, Coyote, Fisher, Beaver, Muskrat, Weasel, Rabbit, Raccoon, Skunk, Squirrel, Mink and River Otter

**Resource Utilization:** Mining, Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries, Peat Extraction, Ecotourism, Recreation and Tourism

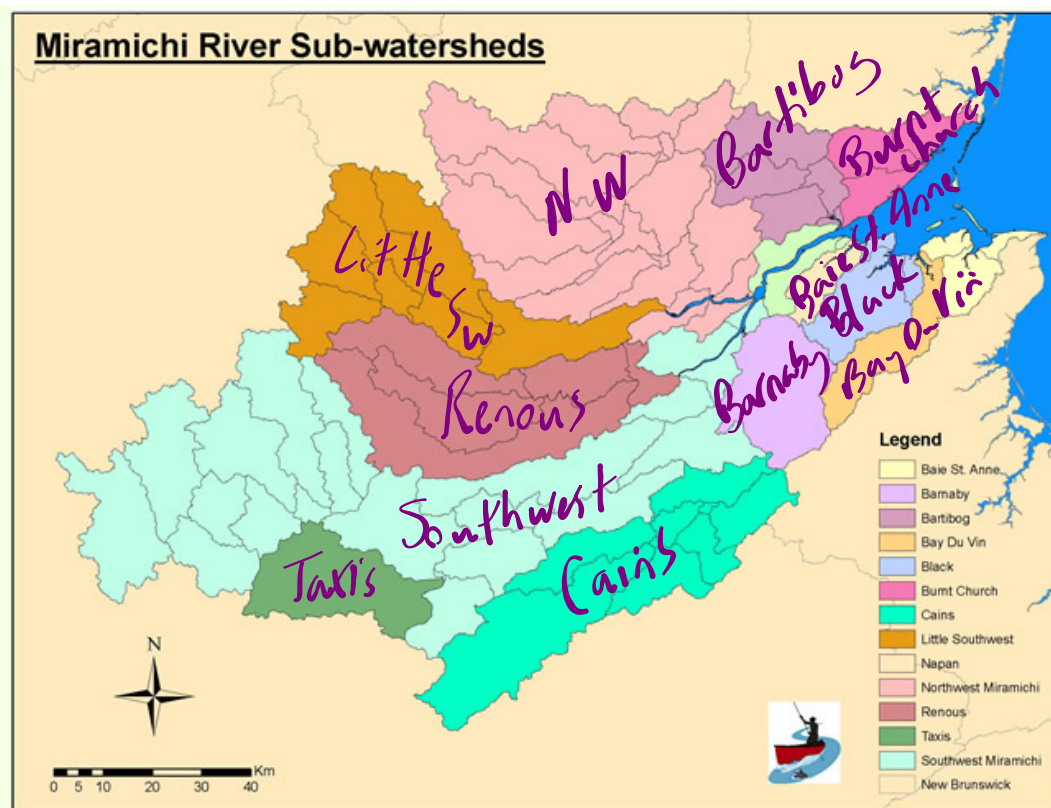


Kennedy Lakes

Data compiled from New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, New Brunswick Department of Environment, Statistics Canada, Environment Canada, COSEWIC and MREAC.

Header photos contributed by Nelson Cloud, Melissa Price and Kara Baisley

<http://www.mreac.org/subwatersheds.html>





CRI

<http://canadianriversinstitute.com/>

# Water Science of the First Order

Canadian Rivers Institute (CRI) is internationally recognized as the go-to source for advancing river, estuary, and watershed sciences and ecological sustainability.

Find out how the CRI can contribute to the success of your river, estuary, or watershed project.

## Attachments

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My Places.kmz

NOTES - Miramichi Watershed.pdf