

**MSA**  
CONSERVATION



MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION

# SALMON LETTER



## A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

*By Manley Price,  
Chairman*

Who would have thought 60 years ago when the first organizational meeting of a group of men who shared a love for the Miramichi River and a fear for its future, would be just one of many

meetings over the next years - heck, the next six decades? Probably not that small group of men who gathered in Blissfield that September evening in 1953. Those in attendance were Miramichi outfitters Eldred Bailey and Tom Boyd; sporting goods merchants D. Malcolm Neill and Harold Dunphy; guide and camp owner Clayton Stewart; Canadian camp owners J. Leonard O'Brien (who later became Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick), Rex Freeze, Dr. J.A.M. Bell and Frank Shute; and sportsmen and camp owners from the United States Ted Crosby, Clement Ford and George Mumford, Sr. To their credit and commitment, the Miramichi Salmon Association, Inc. was formally incorporated on October 8th that fall. The association established an office in Boiestown and hired a manager, Preston Griffin. The Board of Directors (comprising of those named above) elected Leonard O'Brien as its first President. Over the next eight years, that position was filled by Clayton Stewart, Malcolm Neill, and Eldred Bailey. In 1961, Jack T. H. Fenety took over as President and held that position for the next 35 years, until 1996 when Bud Bird succeeded him. Four years later, and after 47 years of leadership and management solely by volunteers, MSA employed biologist Mark Hambrook to become its new President. In making this announcement, retiring President Bud Bird was named Chairman, and to this day holds title of Chairman-Emeritus. The Chairman's role in the years since have been held by Carl Ash, Vince Swazey, Doug MacDonald, and myself. Over the years, the MSA Board of Directors has grown from the initial 12 men to who met in Blissfield 60 years ago to a Board of 64 men and women, from both sides of the border and beyond, who are still fighting on behalf of the Miramichi River

and the Atlantic salmon. Our directors and members can be justifiably proud of all that has been achieved since our modest beginning. It would not be fitting to reflect upon the mission of the MSA or even upon its existence, without looking back at its history.

But we also have to look to the future. We must continue to strive to be a dynamic force for conservation. By some standards, we are not a large organization in size, but we do have a strong core membership that is deeply devoted and dedicated to the Miramichi River. From its beginning, MSA has relied on individual membership dues as a primary source of funding which has supported the day-to-day association activities, along with a great amount of volunteer and donated assistance at fund-raising events. There is a great need to build our MSA membership - there truly is great strength in numbers as we advance the conservation theme. Do you know others who should be on the MSA team? If so, please advise and we will get a copy of this Salmonletter to them (with an application form enclosed!). Much has been done over the years and the Miramichi River is one of the few remaining major watersheds in North America that supports large returns of Atlantic salmon, and offers the opportunity for public and private fishing for this great species, but it continues to be a struggle every year to meet spawning requirements. Our future mission on the Miramichi will be a long and lasting one, so it is essential that we have strong financial support in place to sustain our cause in the years to come.

Next year, MSA's 60th anniversary on the river will be a time for celebration! Always in a "fund-raising" mode, it is only fitting to do some "fun-raising" too to mark this milestone. Following on the path of the Concert for Conservation to Kick Off the Bob Kenny Conservation Initiative held in May (details of that event later in this issue), we will also look at some new approaches that would be refreshing and appealing - maybe a lobster boil, dinner theatre, or other musical concerts. It will be time to look back at the achievements of the past six decades and to reassess challenges for the future. One thing is for sure, though - the river and the salmon need our help as much today as they did in 1953.



## SOME MSA NEWS TO SHARE

*By Mark Hambrook, President*



Reflecting over the salmon angling season to the end of July, it hasn't been as spectacular as last year. With the early spring, many people were expecting the salmon to come back early as well. Although there were reports of the occasional salmon being hooked in late May, it was no earlier than previous years. The numbers of salmon in June were fewer than the past two years and the run only began to pick up in early July and then subsided with only a trickle of new fish entering the river each day. The salmon were quite large this year, with many repeat spawners in the mix and the total number of salmon was similar to what has been counted over the past decade, with the exception of the great runs for the past two years. Grilse numbers were a little different. With the exception of 2009, grilse numbers were substantially below the normal for the past decade. In 2011, 90% of the salmon and grilse run had entered the river by the end of July which has become the norm for the past few years. We are now hoping that perhaps the fish may still come in and we need a substantial fall run to help bring the numbers up so spawning targets can be achieved. Hot weather in July has also compounded the problem and DFO has moved to close some of the major cold water pools in the lower parts of the river to protect the large numbers of fish that are congregated there.

In other news, the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre (MSCC) will be reducing the number of brook trout that it grows for private sale and has leased part of the facility to Breviro Caviar. This New Brunswick based company will grow and culture short-nose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for both meat and caviar. Atlantic sturgeon and short-nose sturgeon have played an important role in the history of the Aboriginal people of the Miramichi and today wild populations are species of concern throughout its range. Aquaculture has proven to be an effective way to provide the highly sought after benefits of sturgeon caviar and meat. In Europe, intensive stocking programs have also helped revive and sustain their native sturgeon species from becoming extinct. The sturgeon arrived at the MSCC over a three week period that concluded in July. These fish can be viewed by the public as part of the hatchery tour, subject to the operational activities and approval of Breviro Caviar.

The MSCC is maintaining its full salmon stocking program that has been in effect for the past several years and will also be involved in stocking sea-run brook trout in the Miramichi River. The revenue from the lease will be used to enhance the MSA field programs, and it will also lead to contemplate an expansion of the facilities at the MSCC to meet specific objectives that were not possible in the past.

On the kelt study front, in late April of this year, MSA and ASF collaborated to place ten pop-up satellite tags on large salmon kelts in the Northwest Miramichi. These tags store water temperature, depth and position of the fish and are programmed to pop off in September of this year, at which time the information will be relayed to a satellite and then to us. Should a fish die (the depth doesn't change for 2 days) then it will pop off and transmit the data. To the end of July, there have been five that have popped off, and one that returned to the Northwest Miramichi and has been recovered. The pop offs have occurred off the northeast coast of Prince Edward Island, near Gaspé and along the north shore of Quebec, in the Strait of Belle Isle and in Cabot Strait. The data will be analyzed, the migration path determined, and the locations where mortalities have occurred examined to determine if there is an explanation for the death of the fish. Stay tuned for more updates on this informative and interesting project.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### **We need your help – and your input - please!**

We always welcome submissions from our members for inclusion in the SalmonLetter. One of the contributions this publication can make on behalf of the heritage of the Miramichi is to collect stories and photographs to record the history of the river and to share with other interested parties.

Please send submissions to my attention at the MSA Fredericton office at:

40 Blizzard Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 8K2

OR e-mail me at:

jo-anne@miramichisalmon.ca

As well, if you have any items – flies, fly boxes, fishing equipment, prints, etc. – we would be pleased to include them in one of the MSA auctions or raffles. These contributions directly benefit the cause of salmon conservation by the financial results they create. All donations will be acknowledged by a tax receipt for the auction value. Please contact our office if you wish to contribute in this way.

With sincere thanks,  
Jo-Anne Linton



## AN INTRODUCTION TO NEW MSA STAFF



**WELCOME**  
*Stephen Tinning*

A recent addition to the MSA staff team, Stephen will be quarterbacking MSA's ongoing revenue and membership programs as well as the development and coordination of new revenue, membership and communication strategies and initiatives, including MSA's upcoming 60th Anniversary in 2013. Stephen will be working mainly from MSA's Development Office located in Fredericton at 40 Blizzard Street.

Stephen joins the MSA with 30 plus years of experience in conservation fundraising, having held and worked in many different roles and capacities for Ducks Unlimited throughout both Canada and the US. The skills which he developed in this field will no doubt be of great benefit and assistance to the MSA.

A native New Brunswicker, Stephen has a love for the outdoors and pursues a wide array of recreational activities throughout the four seasons; but his two real passions are fly fishing and wing shooting... "and probably in that order too" he states.

With his passion for the Atlantic salmon and the Miramichi River, and to his deep commitment to the conservation of these resources, we are pleased to have the benefit of Stephen's knowledge, expertise and experience. He is an ideal individual to help direct the MSA's future performance and we are proud to have him with us.



**WELCOME**  
*Robert Ginson*

A welcome addition to the Miramichi Salmon Association's South Esk office is Rob Ginson, the new Atlantic salmon biologist. Since commencing work with us in June, he has been very busy, with duties including conducting the field programs and supervising students, writing grant applications and reports, designing experiments, as well as working in the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre.

Born in Hartland, NB, Rob moved to Blackville in 2003, where he could enjoy many days of canoeing and fishing the Southwest Miramichi River, when he was not playing soccer, softball or golf, and in the winter months playing competitive hockey. After graduating from high school in 2005, Rob enrolled at University of New Brunswick and completed his undergraduate degree in Biology four years later. He spent 2 ½ years away from his home province working on his master's thesis project, and this spring, graduated from the Great Lakes Institute of Environmental Research, a department of the University of Windsor in Windsor, ON. His thesis project genetically characterized multiple eastern sand darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*) populations from various rivers in Canada and the United States. *A. pellucida* is a fish species in the perch family ("Percidae") and many populations across the species range experience conservation concerns due to human-mediated loss of preferred sand bar habitats. The results from his study are to be implemented in a species recovery strategy under the Canadian Species at Risk (SARA) program.

We are pleased to have both Stephen and Rob with us in the MSA family. Rob replaces Jenny Reid, who left the employ of MSA in May to take a position with Stantec in Fredericton so that both she and her husband can work in that same city. We sincerely thank Jenny for her contributions to the MSA during her six years with us, and wish Jenny, her husband Craig and their son Ryder all the best in their future endeavours. We look forward to seeing them from time to time on the river and at various MSA events.



## NASCO - UNITED NATIONS FOR ATLANTIC SALMON

By J.W. Bud Bird, MSA Chairman Emeritus

The conservation of wild Atlantic salmon became an international priority back in the 70's with the emergence of commercial salmon fisheries in West Greenland and in the Northern Norway sea. At that time, the fishing for salmon throughout the ocean had become so intense and out of control that international conservation efforts were either fruitless or non-existent. The North Atlantic had become an open territory for any one country to fish the salmon being produced by another, and harvests in the feeding grounds were huge and becoming unsustainable.

For example, in the north-west Atlantic the annual commercial catch in West Greenland was approaching 2,500 tonnes, with an additional 1,000 tonnes taken in the area of the Faroe Islands in the Northern Norway sea. Elsewhere around that ocean there were many other mixed stock interceptory fisheries where salmon produced by one country were being harvested by fishing fleets from other countries, including Canada. It became very clear that major conservation action was required, or there would soon be no salmon left at all.

Bringing together all of the salmon-producing nations of the North Atlantic Ocean that ratified the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1983, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) was created in 1984 under the mantles of the United Nations and its subsidiary offices dealing with the Law of the Sea. NASCO's first annual meeting took place that same year at the George Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland. Edinburgh has remained the location of NASCO's head office ever since that time and, up until his retirement in August this year, Dr. Malcolm Windsor has been NASCO's one and only Secretary. His dedicated leadership has long been recognized by his peers, and he was honoured in more recent years by being inducted into the Order of the British Empire.

Coincidentally, the 2012 annual meeting of NASCO was also held at the George Hotel in Edinburgh during the first week of June, with one of the most important orders of business being to initiate an international public search for a new Secretary. In the interim, NASCO will continue to be well led by Dr. Peter Hutchinson who has served as Assistant Secretary for many years, and who himself will undoubtedly be a candidate for the top job.

It is relevant and appropriate to borrow and paraphrase some of Malcolm Windsor's reflections about NASCO from his closing address to the organization just a few weeks ago:

*In its early years, NASCO meetings were totally dominated by negotiations for regulatory measures, and the competitive atmosphere among countries was frequently adversarial. Despite any initial acrimony, however, progress slowly was made when more predictive advice commenced being offered by participating scientists from various countries. The news about salmon stocks became worse and worse, but the relationships among member countries improved and grew stronger as they came to know and understand each other better. Subsequently over time, given the perilous decline of salmon stocks in every corner of the ocean, commercial salmon fishing was closed in almost all NASCO countries, and the previous large tonnage taken at Greenland and the Faroe Islands has now been reduced to zero quotas except for minimal subsistence fisheries.*

*As these conservation measures were taken the various countries did not sacrifice their sovereign rights to fish, but rather together recognized that common and cooperative action was essential in order to save the resource. In most cases it was felt the Atlantic salmon would return to its former abundance, but that has not happened. Instead, it has become ever more clear that salmon conservation at sea is a very complex and difficult problem for which neither a single cause nor a single solution has been found.*

*In the face of that grim reality NASCO has not stood still, but rather against very high odds over the past several years has launched the SALSEA program to further pursue the mystery of salmon mortality at sea. By bringing together the scientists of all NASCO countries; by gathering all past research data; by going to sea in scientific cruises to seek new information; by sharing the conclusions at a scientific salmon summit last October in France – the NASCO-SALSEA initiative has produced new knowledge and more predictive modeling tools to assist each one of its member nations in managing their Atlantic salmon resources to the highest conservation standards possible.*



## NASCO - UNITED NATIONS FOR ATLANTIC SALMON

*By J.W. Bud Bird, MSA Chairman Emeritus*

It is important to understand that NASCO is a forum among the governments of its member countries, and the process is formal and frequently slow moving. Its stated objectives are the conservation, restoration and rational management of wild Atlantic salmon stocks, a species which does not recognize national boundaries. NASCO is the only intergovernmental organization with this mandate, which it implements through international consultation, negotiation and cooperation. The Parties to the NASCO Convention are: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union (representing its twenty-seven Member States), Norway, the Federation of Russia and the USA.

In recent years, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Atlantic Salmon Federation from North America and the Atlantic Salmon Trust from the United Kingdom have been accredited to participate in NASCO meetings on an advisory basis, which has helped to advance the building of consensus among countries on the most pressing issues such as habitat, domestic fisheries management and the relationship between wild salmon and the aquaculture industry. While the NGOs do not cast a vote on any issues, they nevertheless contribute a compelling practical influence on NASCO deliberations.

The Canadian delegation to NASCO is headed by a senior official from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, at the present time Richard Nadeau, a Regional Director General with extensive experience from both Ottawa and Quebec; in effect, he directly represents Canada at the NASCO table. Offering him advice and assistance in this setting are two appointed Commissioners, of which I am proud to have served as one for the past six years, and my counterpart is Serge Tremblay, a senior Fish and Wildlife manager from the province of Quebec. The remainder of the Canadian delegation is comprised of representatives from each salmonproducing province, aboriginal communities, NGO groups and the aquaculture sector. This Canadian caucus convenes on a regular basis before and during NASCO meetings, and helps to review and develop Canada's policy positions on the various subjects arising from the NASCO agenda.

The 2012 NASCO meeting in Edinburgh included over one hundred scientists, policy makers and representatives of fourteen nations, as well as four intergovernmental organizations and eighteen non-governmental organizations. Probably the three most significant decisions for Canada arising from these deliberations were:

- (i) to extend, at least for three more years, the agreements with Greenland to maintain only a small domestic subsistence fishery of about 20 tonnes;
- (ii) to maintain the moratorium on all salmon fisheries in the Faroe Islands; and,
- (iii) to continue indefinitely the scientific cooperation among all NASCO countries for enhanced understanding of salmon stocks as practiced in the SALSEA research program. Such salmon research includes the stress of climate change, impact factors in fresh, estuarine and coastal waters, river habitats, barriers to migration, over-exploitation, and salmon farming.

In closing, I should also point out that the NASCO process generates some important and lasting benefits to both domestic and international salmon conservation that are not immediately visible or measurable. First, by bringing together federal, provincial and volunteer representatives in a single delegation, there is a unique opportunity to debate domestic conservation issues and to develop a cohesive and unified Canadian policy position. Secondly, at the international level, countries have commenced to compare and monitor the implementation plans for salmon conservation by their peers and colleagues from other countries, thus steadily developing a comprehensive standard of best management practices at work throughout the entire Atlantic salmon world. These are all factors that help to make NASCO an essential forum dedicated to the preservation of this single great fish – *the Atlantic Salmon*

J.W. Bud Bird



## A YEAR OF EVENTS ON BEHALF OF THE MIRAMICHI RIVER

### Looking Back



*Debbie Norton receiving award from l. to r. Mark Hambrook, Manley Price, Bud Bird and Boston Dinner Chair Jim Blackwell.*

**Boston Dinner** – a very successful 58th annual fund-raising dinner was held at the Burlington Marriott on February 4th, 2012 following a full and productive day of meetings of the MSA Board of Directors. Guest of Honour was Debbie Norton, who

since joining the Board of Directors in May 2003, has proven to be a force of active assistance in the affairs of the MSA, as well as some other Miramichi river organizations. Together with her husband Dale, they own and operate Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures on the Little Southwest Miramichi.

**Miramichi Ice Breaker** - To celebrate the arrival of another fishing season on the Miramichi, this 16th annual event held in Boiestown on Saturday, April 28th was a welcomed highlight of spring fishing life along the river. This event is intended to pay tribute to the people of the Miramichi – residents, outfitters, guides, cooks, lodge staff, anglers and conservationists – all who contribute to making this river and its salmon such valuable resources.

**Concert for Conservation** – A Fundraiser to Kick Off the Bob Kenny Conservation Initiative - an outstanding success - in more ways than one! The organization of this May 8th event was a result of major contributions of time and effort by the organizing committee, volunteers and all the wonderful and highly talented musicians! The support from the community was tremendous, evidenced by the large attendance of close to 600 guests at the Fredericton Playhouse and later for a reception at the Fredericton Convention Centre. However, it was because of MSA Director Bob Kenny that this event came together so nicely. Being passionate about many things – family, career, community, music, baseball (the Red Sox), salmon fishing and salmon conservation – the challenge was bringing all those passions together in a way that honoured Bob. In co-chair Greg's own words, *"A bunch of Bob's friends got together and looked for a way to recognize all that Bob has given to our community over the years. He's a very giving kind of person, so we thought we would like to do something to give a little bit back to Bob"*.

**Annual "Freeman Dunnnett Conservation Dinner"** - On May 17th another dinner was enjoyed in Moncton. The late Freeman Dunnnett, F.C.A. was instrumental in creating this annual MSA event in Moncton. He worked vigorously for the MSA almost to the day of his passing in March 2002. Throughout his life from its beginnings along the Miramichi River, Freeman was an avid angler and a committed conservationist. As with all our dinner events, MSA expresses sincere appreciation to all these supporters, particularly those generous donors who provided items for the auctions, raffles and special draws.

**Miramichi Salmon Classic** - The MSA was pleased to host its seventh annual "Miramichi Salmon Classic" from July 8th to 11th, 2012. MSA hosted a banquet on Sunday, July 8th at the Rodd Miramichi River, starting with a reception and silent auction at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner a wonderful roast beef buffet at 7:00 PM and concluding with a live auction to the enjoyment of 120 guests, including the 39 Classic registrants. The anglers enjoyed three days of angling on the Miramichi River on a rotation basis, allowing them to fish different pools each time on various branches of the Miramichi – and all seemed to have a great time! A wonderful lunch was provided on each of the three days – at Upper Oxbow Adventures in Red Bank; at Flo's Hide-A-Way in Derby Junction, Miramichi and a barbeque at the Miramichi Conservation Centre – all the while providing a common ground to share fishing experiences and tales!

**First Cast MSA** - This third annual First Cast MSA event, held July 28th and 29th, provided another opportunity for mentors and apprentices to be drawn into the sport of fly fishing. The first full day was held at the Miramichi Salmon Museum in Doaktown with a presentation and discussion of river etiquette and fly casting instruction on the banks of the Miramichi. The Sunday session was held at the camp of MSA director and First Cast MSA's Chair Paul Valeri, to which we owe a debt of gratitude, at his camp in Gray Rapids. As you can imagine, in order to outfit these adult participants and their young apprentices – fishing gear and equipment is always needed – so if any of our readers have any extra stored away in camps or basements, please consider donating them so that a new "angler" – someone who may otherwise not have the opportunity to enjoy this experience – can put them to good use.



## A YEAR OF EVENTS ON BEHALF OF THE MIRAMICHI RIVER



*Mentors and apprentices - First Cast MSA 2012*

### Looking Ahead

**Halifax Reception** – MSA will be hosting a reception at the Ramada Park Place Hotel in Dartmouth on Thursday, September 6th, 2012, the purpose of which is to invite current members from Nova Scotia, and their guests, to get together and learn more about the MSA mission and its commitment to and respect of the long history of the Miramichi River, taking every step to ensure strong runs of Atlantic salmon for future generations to enjoy. Attendees will also have an opportunity to bid on a fishing trip at a private camp on the Miramichi!

**Fredericton Conservation Dinner** - Welcome to the 17th Annual Fredericton Conservation Dinner, where we are again honouring an individual who has served the cause of conservation with great distinction. We hold our friend Betty Fitzpatrick in fond affection and with great respect as we honour a true “Face of the Miramichi”! Long a member of the MSA, and a key member of the Fredericton

Dinner Committee since its beginnings in 1996, Betty is truly a well known Miramichi personality and is a prime example of living an active, healthy and outdoor life, which is evident in the “joie de vivre” she exemplifies whether on the river, in the camps, at the hunting grounds or



negotiating a real estate deal. The Fredericton Dinner has always been a forum to pay tribute to greatly deserving people and there can be no doubt that the long and dedicated service of Betty Fitzpatrick, and of those honoured before her, have been well marked on the pages of MSA's history.

**MSA Board of Directors Meeting** – in Freeport, ME on November 3/4 with good attendance from both sides of the border, this is always a full weekend devoted to MSA constructive affairs. What MSA has been fortunate to create is truly an international force sharing a common cause and working towards it.

**Annual Autumn Run Dinner** – On Tuesday, November 6th, the annual Saint John Dinner jointly hosted by ASF/NBSC/ASF will take place at the Delta Hotel. This is wonderful gathering of salmon and conservation enthusiasts and a great opportunity to share your fishing stories from the season just passed. There is a lively auction of great items – you never know, you may be the successful bidder of a great fishing trip for the next season – and something to look forward to over the long winter months ahead. For tickets to this and any events, please contact Jo-Anne Linton at 506-457-2220 or email [jo-anne@miramichisalmon.ca](mailto:jo-anne@miramichisalmon.ca)

**Affiliate Events** -The MSA is always thankful for the close relationship with other organizations along the Miramichi watershed that holds the great history of its resources and its people in high esteem. It is because of this special partnership, we are pleased to advise that the NB Woodmen's Museum in Boiestown is holding its “Saplings Theatre Troupe” Dinner Theatre on September 9th performing “McCloskey's Dinner Store” at 1:00 PM; and on November 10th, back by popular demand, the “Miramichi Dicken's Christmas” Dinner Theatre at 6:30. Both are sure to be an enjoyable time and for tickets please contact the museum at 506-369-7214 or email [woodmen@nb.aibn.com](mailto:woodmen@nb.aibn.com).

As well, the Miramichi Salmon Museum in Doaktown will host its annual “Hall of Fame Award Banquet” on Saturday, September 15th, with an open house at the Museum from 4 PM to 5 PM, followed by a “Meet and Greet Reception” at 5:00 PM and Dinner at 6:00 PM at the Doaktown Curling Club. On this occasion, you will share in paying tribute to guests of honour in the persons of anglers Joan Wulff, (and her late husband Lee Wulff); outfitters Clinton and Daisy Norrad; guide and fly tyer Renate Bullock; and outfitter and conservationist Debbie Norton. For further information and tickets, please contact the museum directly at 506-365-7787 or email [museum@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:museum@nbnet.nb.ca). This will truly be a wonderful evening in honour of truly deserving women who have made valuable contributions in their common commitment to the Miramichi River.



## DR. JOSEPH F. SHERER, JR.

We are saddened to advise that MSA Honorary Director Dr. Joseph Forest Sherer, Jr. of Vero Beach, FL and Little Compton, RI, passed away peacefully on June 20th at the age of 93.

Fishing in the Miramichi since 1930, a member of the MSA since June 1958, a Director since 1981, and a Life Member since 1992, Dr. Sherer quickly assumed responsibilities and with his usual enthusiasm and determination, chaired the Boston Dinner for many years. As co-chair of the Endowment Fund Campaign, Joe was a leading force of the drive to build MSA's growing team of Life Members in the United States.



Born in Worcester, MA, Joe attended the Bancroft School, the Brooks School in North Andover, MA and graduated from Harvard College in 1941. He received his medical degree from Tufts Medical School in 1945 and completed a year of internship at Boston City Hospital. After discharge from the Army with rank of captain, Joe completed a residency at the University of Pennsylvania and obtained a Masters of Science degree from that institution in 1952. He then formed a urological partnership back in his hometown of Worcester where he continued to practice medicine for the next 35 years.

Between his pursuit of professional and community activities, Joe found time for his love of the outdoors. He spent many hours developing his gardening skills, the yields of which he often used in his cooking – yet another passion at which he became quite proficient. He was an avid skier, golfer, fly fisherman and upland game hunter. These latter passions were the driving force behind his many travels that led him to Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, New Zealand, Iceland and throughout much of the U.S. and Canada. His fishing interests led Joe to become one of the founding members of the Black Brook Salmon Club in Blackville, NB. He very much enjoyed everything about the camp and fishing on the Miramichi River and especially looked forward to spending time with the guides on the banks of the river, swapping stories, reminiscing about the past, and looking forward to fishing adventures in the future.

The plight of the wild salmon troubled Joe and he would often voice this concern. Serving on both the Board of Directors for MSA and the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Joe was instrumental in Black Brook's adoption of a "catch and release policy". He was also an early advocate for the rearing of Atlantic salmon fry in satellite tanks on the river, with the juvenile fish to be released into the river to augment wild salmon stocks. He definitely wanted to do his part to help leave a healthy river system for his children and grandchildren to enjoy. In fact, his son Joseph F. Sherer, III, who is on the Board of Directors of the MSA(U.S.) Inc. and his wife Catherine, as well as his daughter Adelaide and her husband Thomas Vander Salm of Salem, MA are also fishing enthusiasts. Joe, and his wife Suzanne, also an MSA Life Member, enjoyed a total of four weeks on the Miramichi River last summer. Indeed, Dr. Joseph Sherer, Jr. will be missed and will remain fondly in our memory as a committed and valuable Board member, friend and conservationist.

## MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION INC.

*www.miramichisalmon.ca*

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