

Today I would like to share with you the results of our Watershed Monitoring Day, on the eighth of June, with our previous Watershed Ambassador, Marykathryn Kopec.

She first took us down to Mountain Lake Brook, where we began by taking the water temperature, Dissolved Oxygen Level and PH, and studying the flow rate, the surrounding environment and the composition of the river bed.

Then we took a big net and stretched it across the river, weighing down the bottom with rocks. We began to kick up the bottom of the river, to disturb whatever creatures might be at the bottom.

We ended up finding a multitude of macro-invertebrates, including Mayflies, Midge Flies, Water Pennies, Dragonflies and others. Using a chart that listed the different types of species and their tolerance to pollution, we concluded that Mountain Lake brook, situated off Mountain Lake Road, has good water quality, despite the closeness to the road where we tested.

After this, for a comparison, we headed down to a second portion of Mountain Lake Brook near Burt Bennet's development site. Going through the same procedure as before, we discovered a much higher water temperature, slightly higher PH, and a very high amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. The water was also brown from all the silt in it.

We discovered a few species living in the water, but nowhere near the same number as before, and only one pollution intolerant species, a Water Penny. This left us no choice but to give the water quality a poor rating, but because of the Water Penny, the river might be recovering, and there is hope for the future.