

# Biosphere Six Streams Update: Trout For Lunch At Judges Creek

Submitted by Elizabeth Thorn, Chair, Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association

"As a boy, I went down to Judges Creek, caught Brook Trout and ate them for lunch. Delicious!" This story was shared with Neils Munk by one of the farmers working with the Biosphere Association on improving water quality on Judges Creek. Neils Munk, the Program Manager for the Biosphere's Six Streams Initiative, has been around the block. Several times. Yesterday, I was delighted to hear the excitement in his voice and his hope that the Brook Trout would once again become plentiful in Judges Creek.

The Biosphere and the farming community have now completed five new alternate watering systems on Judges Creek and we have the funds from Environment Canada's EcoAction Program and the Ontario Trillium Foundation to continue working in the spring. That means less phosphorus flowing into Judges Creek, into Little Lake and into Georgian Bay. The result: cleaner water for the cattle to drink and

cleaner water for us to swim and fish in! This season we have also completed 10 systems on Old Woman's River. The large pastures on Old Woman's River, akin to cattle ranges, contain very large herds of cattle so these systems too will make a huge difference to water quality on the Lake Huron side. You may have noticed the new systems as you have driven up Highway Six. These systems are funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

We have also completed more work on the Stokes River providing an alternate watering system by using an innovative approach suggested by farmer Don Ceaser. A large herd of cattle will use this watering system in the winter instead of accessing Stokes to drink -- many metres of fencing have been installed along the Stokes River. This project was funded by the Lake Huron Georgian Bay Framework for Community Action and Bruce County and Ontario Trillium Foundation.



Photo: Volunteers conduct an initial survey of Judges Creek in May 2013.