

When St. John's dentist Dr. Robin Gamble tells his fishing buddies of a Brown Trout he caught that was "this big," he doesn't have to gauge the distance between extended hands, as most anglers do. Robin, of 20 Reeves Place, with son Richard proudly looking on, displays a Brown Trout he landed

this past summer "within a 20-mile radius of St. John's. This fish weighed close to eight pounds, but Dr. Gamble says he lost another the same evening which was just as big. Having a fish mounted is one sure way of silencing the skeptics. The job was done by a taxidermist in Nova Scotia.

Brown trout weighing 7lbs 4 oz caught on Green Caddis Fly June 12th, 1981 within 15 miles of St. John's

Trout In and Around St. John's

A Brief, Inaccurate and Incomplete Summary

Robin Gamble | April 2021

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Introduction

The information I have is based on 40 years of fishing around St John's. Some of the information is thus 40 years old and may well be inaccurate, however it is often the case that things have not changed much. Hopefully, the information will at least provide a starting point for individual exploration. There are several factors that seem to influence the presence and abundance of trout. I use these to assess the likelihood of good fishing in any particular pond.

Trout Species

There are two main trout species around St John's Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout. They do not coexist well browns displacing the rainbows with one exception noted later.

The Rainbows take the fly vigorously and usually leap repeatedly. Inspection shows a silvery fish with a pink blush or stripe down its lateral line, black spots on the dorsal and caudal fins radiate in distinctly regular rows. There are spots on the tail.

The browns are more confusing. A type of brown trout from Loch Leven was introduced. Well fed in productive waters with shrimp this fish is silvery with a tendency to jump when hooked. It has black and red spots. The sea run brown trout fit this description as do some pond dwelling populations. The brown trout can also have a yellow or brown colour on its sides and underbelly red and black spots. All types have square tails [no fork] and a large mouth which extends back behind the eye.

Mud trout or brook trout around St John's are in a few ponds inaccessible to introduced trout. Often they survive in the small streams as well. They tend to be small and don't jump when hooked. The lower fins have distinct white edges with a black line the remaining fin being dusky orange.

Fisherpeople fishing the Beachy Cove Watershed may hook and land a slab sided fish with large scales, a small mouth and a sloping forehead- a whitefish. This fish doesn't jump when hooked, it is apparently good to eat.



Yes, it is a trophy rainbow. If I am asked for the source pond I will have to lie to preserve a friendship. This fish was well over 3 pounds I seem to remember being told six pounds. The pink side markings are faint and the spots extend onto the tail.

Most of the other ponds in the area have populations of Brown Trout examples of which are pictured below.



The two pictures above were taken from the same spot a week or so apart. The walking stick is 4 feet long and the orange tape is every 8 inches. Comparing the pixel count gave a figure of 41 inches for the larger brown trout in the first picture. Sadly it appears that in the last two years the trout in that streams pond have

completely disappeared. Anyway the pictures do prove that given the chance to grow in the right conditions the long lived browns/ loch levens can do very well.

I plan on outlining the brown trout ponds in the area but I would like to comment on the ponds just north of the area. Half moon brook and its associated ponds are reputed to contain brook trout. Shoe Cove brook and its ponds are a mystery to me. The ponds and streams around Bauline are also outside my range and I have no idea which species predominates.

Several of the streams may be of interest to fishermen for whom small trout in a small river present a particular challenge and pleasure.

Piccos brook has a rainbow trout population Broad Cove Brook supports brown trout as does Rennies River and Waterford River. Rennies river is bordered by public walking trails which makes fishing it problematic. There is the possibility of hooking walkers on the backcast in the lower sections. Sea-run browns can be encountered at the outflow of Quidi Vidi lake where it runs into the sea. The Waterford is famous for its sea run trout and is a very pleasant river to fish as it is fairly productive. Unfortunately cormorants have taken up residence at Bowring park pond in the last few years. Since then the trout that could be seen in large numbers in the river are no longer evident. Further information on sea trout can be found in the anglers guide Newfoundland and Labrador which lists the rivers where they occur, under brown trout season dates.

TROUT

RAINBOW TROUT

Rainbow trout waters include a group of ponds and connecting streams in the Bauline, Portugal Cove, Torbay and Green's Harbour areas. Season dates vary for scheduled and unscheduled rainbow trout waters as outlined.

Please note that in Bay d'Espoir the following rivers: Hughes Brook, First Brook, Salmon River (East Bay), Northwest Brook, Southeast Brook and Little River are open year-round to rainbow trout and daily bag limit does not apply.

SCHEDULED RAINBOW TROUT WATERS	
BAULINE	Baird's Pond and tributary streams.
	Freshwater (Motion) Pond and tributary streams.
	Ocean (Long) Pond and tributary streams.
	Brock's Head Pond and tributary streams.
	Funnel Pond and tributary streams.
PORTUGAL COVE	Beachy Cove Pond and tributary streams.
	Clement's Pond and tributary streams.
	Hugh's Pond and tributary streams.
	Northeast Pond and tributary streams.
	Blast Hole Pond and tributary streams.
	Hogan's Pond and tributary streams.
	Mitchell's Pond and tributary streams.
	Oliver's Pond and tributary streams.
	Picco's Pond South (Neary's) and tributary streams.
	Western Round Pond and tributary streams.
	TORBAY AREA/ MIDDLE COVE AREA
Little Gallows Cove Pond and tributary streams.	
GREEN'S HARBOUR AREA	Unnamed stream flowing between Scotch Pond and Green's Harbour.
	Scotch Pond and tributary streams.
	Coopers Pond, excluding stream from Black Duck Pond to Coopers Pond, and tributary streams.
	Cross Pond and tributary streams.
	Little Coopers Pond and tributary streams.

SEASON DATES FOR SCHEDULED WATERS	CONDITION
June 1–September 7, 2020	All species of trout may be retained in scheduled rainbow trout waters, Shoal Harbour River and Lower Shoal Harbour River as part of the daily bag limit.
September 8–October 7, 2020	Rainbow trout may be retained in scheduled rainbow trout waters. Shoal Harbour River: coastal water to a point 25 metres below dam.

TROUT

SEASON DATES	NON-SCHEDULED RAINBOW TROUT WATERS	
Summer fishery: May 15 - September 7, 2020	BAULINE	Bauline Rocky Pond.
		Three Corner Pond.
Middle Three Island Pond.		
Great Pond.		
Three Island Pond.		
Goose Pond.		
Middle Pond.		
Axes Pond.		
Northwest Pond.		
Winter fishery: February 1 - April 15, 2021		TORBAY AREA/ MIDDLE COVE AREA

BROWN TROUT

SEASON DATES	CONDITION
February 1 - October 7, 2020	NON-SCHEDULED WATERS
	Princeton Brook, Bonavista Bay: coastal waters to the head of Princeton Pond.
	Robin Hood Pond, Port Rexton: mouth up to Route 230.
	Colliers Bay River, Long Cove, Thornlea area: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.
	Chapel Arm River, Trinity Bay: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.
	Spread Eagle River, Trinity Bay: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.
	South Dildo River, Trinity Bay: mouth upstream to upper side of bridge on Route 80.
	New Harbour River, Trinity Bay: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.
	Hopeall River, Trinity Bay: mouth upstream to outlet from Cobner's Pond.
	Green's Harbour River, Trinity Bay: mouth to head of Scotch Pond.
	Whiteway River, Trinity Bay: mouth upstream to first pond.
	Heart's Delight River, Trinity Bay: mouth upstream to first pond.
	Heart's Content Brook, Trinity Bay: mouth upstream to first pond.
	Harry's Pond, on Salmon Cove River, Conception Bay.
	Island Pond Brook, Conception Bay: mouth to head of Rossiter's Pond.
	Shearstown River, Conception Bay: mouth to 1 kilometre upstream, excluding that portion 6 metres above the Conception Bay Highway Bridge, downstream 6 metres below the Conception Bay Highway Bridge.

TROUT

BROWN TROUT		
February 1 - October 7, 2020	North River, Conception Bay: from Newell's Road, downstream to bait-and-spinner signs near railway trestle.	
	South River, Conception Bay: from 'the Motion', down to bait-and-spinner signs near Route 70 highway.	
	Avondale River, Conception Bay: mouth to power line.	
	Indian Pond, Holyrood, Conception Bay: mouth to head of Indian Pond.	
	Colliers River, Conception Bay: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.	
	Seal Cove River, Conception Bay: mouth to head of Seal Cove Pond.	
	Lower Gullies River, Conception Bay: mouth upstream to Conception Bay Highway.	
	Kelligrews River, Conception Bay: mouth upstream to Conception Bay Highway.	
	Manuels River, Conception Bay: mouth upstream to falls.	
	Topsail River, Conception Bay: mouth upstream to culvert on Topsail Beach Road.	
	Quidi Vidi River: harbour entrance upstream to the dam below Quidi Vidi Lake.	
	Waterford River: mouth upstream to where river exits Bowering Park.	
	Stone Ducky Brook (Bay Bulls): mouth upstream to dam.	
	Witless Bay River: mouth upstream to 25 metres below the power house.	
	Cape Broyle River: mouth to 1 kilometre upstream.	
	Mobile River: mouth upstream to power house.	
	Aquaforle River: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.	
	Chance Cove River, Southern Shore: mouth to 1 kilometre upstream.	
	September 8 - October 7, 2020	SCHEDULED WATERS
		Shoal Harbour River: coastal waters to a point 23 metres below dam.
Salmon Cove River, Conception Bay: mouth to 1 kilometre upstream.		
North River, Conception Bay: mouth to 1 kilometre upstream.		
South River, Conception Bay: mouth to 1 kilometre upstream.		
Renews River: mouth to Southern Shore Highway.		
Biscay Bay River: mouth to Flat Rock Pool.		
Salmonier River: mouth to Vicker's Road.		
Colinet River: mouth to The Whirlpool, head of Colinet Pond.		
North Harbour River, St. Mary's Bay: mouth to spawning channel at SAEN road.		
Northeast River, Placentia: mouth to 30 metres below the fishway.		
Southeast River, Placentia: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.		
Come by Chance River: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.		
Pipers Hole River: mouth to ½ kilometre upstream.		

TROUT

BROWN TROUT
ADDITIONAL MEASURES
Retention of brown trout permitted on these scheduled salmon rivers June 1–October 7, 2020. Only brown trout may be retained on these scheduled rivers from September 8–October 7, 2020.
Valid salmon licence required when angling for brown trout on scheduled salmon rivers at all times.
Barbless hooks required only on scheduled portions of rivers.

Special Trout Management Areas

Season dates, bag limits, possession limits and length limits may vary in special trout management areas.

Unless otherwise specified, the daily bag limit for special management areas of insular Newfoundland is six trout or 0.9 kgs + one trout, whichever limit is reached first.

The possession limit is the daily bag limit.

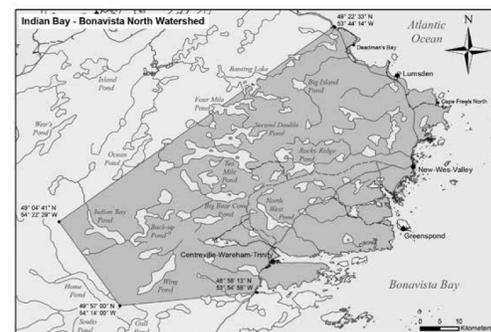
MIDDLE BROOK WATERSHED and INDIAN BAY – BONAVISTA NORTH (INCLUDING TRIBUTARY STREAMS AND CONNECTING PONDS)

Summer Season	Labour Day	Winter Season
May 15 - August 8, 2020	September 4 - September 7, 2020	February 1 - April 1, 2021

Indian Bay – Bonavista North Watershed Special Trout Management Area. Effective 2019, the Indian Bay Special Trout Management Area will be extended to the following area: Anchor Brook in the north along the coast line to Trinity Brook then west for 23 kilometers to the east side of Home Pond, then NW 17 kilometers to a point approx. 5 kilometers NW of Indian Bay Pond then NE 57 kilometers to the outflow of Anchor Brook. Any ponds enclosed by these boundaries will be considered part of the zone. See map below for further detail.

MIDDLE BROOK WATERSHED PONDS

Rodney Pond	First Burnt Pond
Butt's Pond	Black Duck Pond
Square Pond	Second Burnt Pond
Pussells Pond	



Nutrients

Water quality “Nothing grows in distilled water” {John Gibson friend and fish biologist}. He was emphasising that a fertile ecosystem in a pond capable of supporting a vibrant trout population requires nutrients as a foundation of the food chains. A productive pond will have water that is not too acidic or too alkaline. That is a Ph of 7 to 7.5 is great. Very acidic below ph 6 from peat bogs etc. is problematic. The least affected by acidity seem to be the mud trout or speckled trout. Excessive agricultural fertiliser and or very heavy sewage outfall will cause

dense algae overgrowth. The breakdown of the dead algae in winter causes oxygen depletion and this can result in fish deaths. Brown trout and rainbow tolerate pollution better than native mud trout. Generally, the Avalon pond systems are acidic and poor at sustaining large trout populations. Notable exceptions are ponds or pond systems adjacent to, farmers' fields where fertiliser runoff is not excessive, farm manure storage areas and or ponds with lots of cabins with old and leaky septic systems.

The rate of growth can be spectacularly affected, trout in Butlers pond were reported to take 5 years to reach 10 inches in length [half a pound?]. Trout in Long Pond reportedly took 2 years to reach 18 inches in length [2 pounds]. Salmon fry introduced to Kenny's pond were 10 inches long at one year i.e.. five years growth in one year. A trout with a small head and a relatively large body has been well fed. A slinky trout with a large head relative to the body has been short of food.

Habitat

Several things about habitat seem to influence trout abundance. There must be a stream for the trout to lay eggs in. The stream must have some gravel areas to allow the trout to dig a gravel bed to lay the trout eggs in. Ideally there would be a long enough stream to allow the tiny fry to live and grow before migrating to the ponds. Thus ponds that have had their streams buried under culverts are likely to be devoid of trout though sticklebacks may thrive. A good example was Kenny's pond which had one large trout when netted. The salmon fry introduced for the growth experiment have long since died of old age. It is a safe bet that there are no trout in Kenny's pond. The streams are buried and any trout can't breed.

This brings me to headwater ponds, the stream out of them is small and the spawning gravel is often sparse or nonexistent. The spawning success is often limited. This small number of trout have little competition for food from their few brothers and sisters. These few fish tend to have unlimited food and grow rapidly. Thus, if I were looking for large trout to catch, I would look hard at headwater ponds. But only if I were content to spend a lot of time catching a few very large fish would I choose such a pond.

Pollutants can change the fishing dramatically and suddenly. Pesticide leaking into a stream, excess of fertiliser, chlorine from swimming pool cleaning and massive siltation from construction, have all been implicated in fish kills in the St John's

area. It is not always obvious that a fish kill has taken place. It is worth keeping in mind if the fishing quality changes dramatically.

Predators

Predators can change a good pond into a very poor one. Fishermen can fish out a pond of mud trout quite quickly. They are somewhat easier to catch than rainbow and brown trout which for better or worse are harder to catch. Some recent winters have been mild with little ice on the ponds which has curtailed ice fishing. This has resulted in more available fish for the summertime angler. A larger proportion of anglers put back some of the fish they catch which helps maintain the stocks. Occasionally one hears of a pond or stream being netted and a stark absence of fish lends truth to the rumour.

There was a lovely picture in the local paper showing a Bowring park cormorant swallowing a two-pound trout. Certainly in the last few years ten or so cormorants have appeared over winter in Bowring park. The previously abundant trout are no longer evident.

Otters are famous for cleaning out mainland bass ponds before anyone knows they are there. I have seen otters around Torbay and there is no reason to suppose they do not affect trout populations in the same way. From what I have been able to learn otters live and hunt in small family groups. They eat a quarter of their own weight in fish a day. They are often active at night rather than in the day. They apparently empty a pond of trout in a couple of days and then move on travelling several kilometers a day. I can think of several ponds in the St John's area which have changed from excellent to devoid of fish only to recover in later years. I now suspect otters were the likely culprits. I recently walked the Holyrood shoreline and watched three separate mink swim from shore successfully dive for fish and return to shore. Osprey can be seen fishing for trout all summer over various ponds in the city. I often feel that an osprey is a good sign of a great trout pond, they like a good food supply as much as any other creature.

Locating a pond

If I am looking for a new place to fish I will look for a pond with a source of nutrients and a decent spawning and rearing stream.

I use maps to locate the ponds and their nearest roads. The Howley building in St John's is open to the public and has for sale an excellent range of maps and aerial photographs. The topographic map for St Johns is 1N10 I was lucky enough to get larger scale 1N10 abc and d but I think they are out of print now. I still find these maps give a very clear idea of access and location despite their age. Google earth can update and refine the information but I find the maps more useful. The interconnecting ponds of a watershed are much easier to see. This is important as if there are no natural barriers such as high waterfalls the same trout species is often found throughout the watershed.

Access is very variable, some good ponds are right beside the road others have paths and tracks leading to them. One increasing problem is the surrounding of a pond with houses or cabins making access a problem. No one wants to be tramping through a person's back yard to fish. I feel that ensuring access to ponds is something outdoor organisations should look at.

Trout diet and some useful flies

Caddis flies are extremely common and come in a variety of colours from green to brown to black. The nymphs swim vigorously to the surface and scurry across the pond surface making a distinct wake. The trout make splashy noisy rises as they slash at the escaping insect. Imitating the nymph and floating fly can be very productive. Pictures of the dry fly imitation and the insect are below. A gold ribbed hares ear is a good imitation of the nymph.





Hexagenia Limbata is the Latin name for the massive yellow mayfly that hatches in July. It is the most spectacular of the many mayflies that hatch over the summer. The body is over an inch long and a White Wulff is often used to imitate it. Many other mayflies are evident throughout the season on most ponds.

Shrimp or amphipods are responsible for the orange colour of the flesh of rainbow and brown trout. They are particularly abundant in some fertilised ponds and in the estuary areas where they are often referred to as sea lice. They can be green or light brown and an imitation can be very productive. A picture is shown below.

CUBBY'S AQUATICS

Amateur aquarist and mollusc enthusiast.

JUNE 27, 2017 BY CUBBY

Freshwater Amphipod – Species Profile

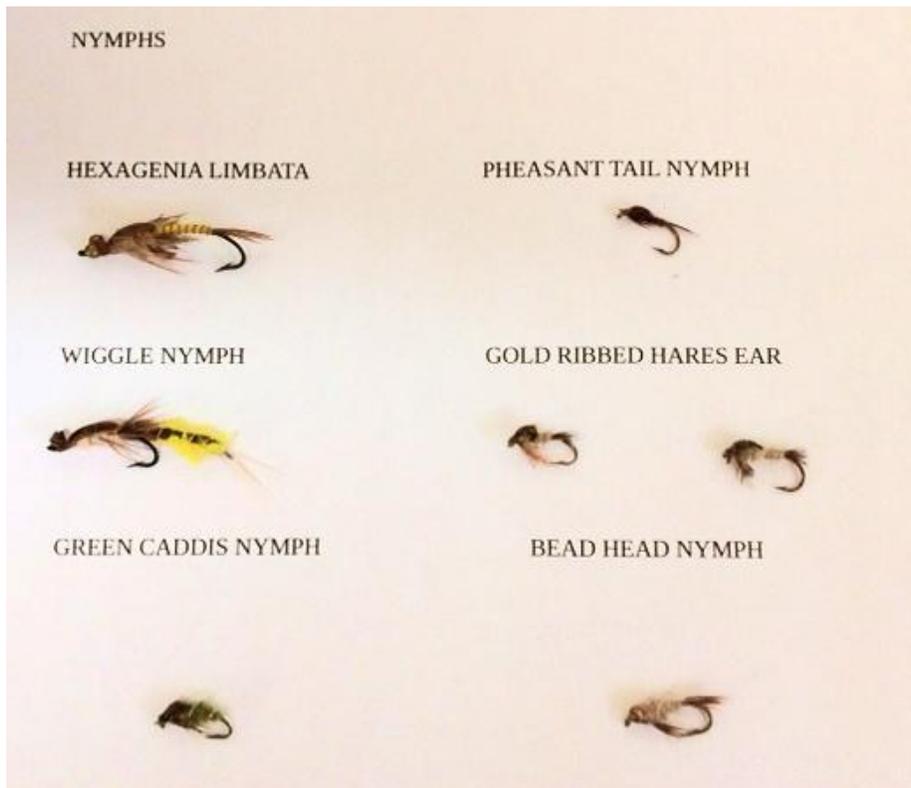


Freshwater Amphipod 'Scud'. Source: [wikimedia](#).

Also called "scuds" or "side-swimmers", amphipods is a collective term for many species of aquatic crustaceans. Many amphipods you will find in the freshwater aquarium hobby are of the genus Gammarus or Hyallela. There are also numerous saltwater species.

Other insects worthy of mention are leeches and dragonfly nymphs. Forty years ago fishing Murray's pond it was not uncommon to find the trout full of dragonfly nymphs. Often the belly would actually be distended by them. A wooly worm seems to replicate a dragonfly nymph. A marabou leech was very effective in some ponds.

I have imported photographs of flies I find useful, the selection is in no way complete, but it is a useful starting point if you are new to fly fishing or new to the area.



The next picture is of wet flies I have found useful.



Dry flies that I use although I am not a big dry fly enthusiast.



There are some notable omissions in the dry fly photograph. An elk hair caddis dry fly is very useful for skimming across the surface imitating a hatching caddis. Also omitted are standard dry flies such as Adams, Humpy and a host of mayfly imitations which are very popular and successful. I myself from personal idiosyncrasy or an accident of fishing experiences rarely use dry flies.

Equipment

Many bank anglers use a spinning rod and a 2 inch bit of broom handle. They attach to the line close to the broom handle section a couple of droppers. That is flies on 5 inches of leader tied to the main fishing line. It is an effective way of fishing ponds that often have trees to the shoreline and it avoids the problem of backcasting into branches. Personally I have always used the traditional fly rod and can only advise on that approach.

Fly rods are an individual choice but a nine foot for a seven weight line is a good starting point for pond fishing in this area. It is worth noting that some of the most successful fishermen use very inexpensive gear.

Waders are useful enabling me to get away from the bank and trees to cast a fly. Some ponds are shallow enough that wading a considerable distance from shore is possible and a tangled backcast is not an issue. I find an adjustable wading stick indispensable. The adjustable feature makes car transportation easy. My own poles are sturdy aluminium that are no longer made so I can't recommend them. For wading out in a pond the support when I slip has kept me upright uncountable times. The ability to feel for boulders and drop offs when wading chest deep is a great way to prevent a dunking. I no longer use a foldable staff the friction grip sections are joined by an elastic cord. I found the tip would get stuck and the sections would separate which was disconcerting. I prefer a rubber or wooden tip which are much quieter than a metal one. I have a metal hook called a carabiner S biner the top is taped closed to my fishing vest. I hook the sticks strap in the bottom hook and flip the staff out of the way over my left shoulder. I find this better than a cord tying the staff onto my vest but it is possible I will drop the stick and lose it someday.

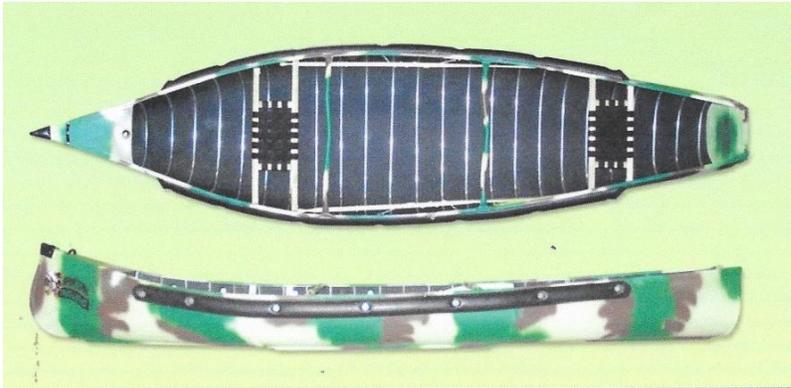
I have an inflatable fly fishing vest. It is very useful late in the evening when the cold starts to be a problem. Inflating the vest adds an extra layer of insulation and extends fishing time. When I fall in the water I find the vest keeps my head up out

of the water. It also presses on my chest waders stopping water from getting in. I will probably mention the value of such a vest when using a belly boat or a canoe.

Belly boats are essentially a tire inner tube with straps to sit in. I used one for several years and I think it worthwhile to point out some drawbacks that I noticed as well as the advantages. On the plus side they are relatively cheap, they are light, they allow an angler to get away from the bank and they are quiet. On the negative side they are not as cheap as they appear. A special pair of flippers has to be purchased and a pair of Neoprene chest waders is also necessary which adds to the expense. The neoprene helps with warmth as dangling in cool water is not surprisingly chilling. The neoprene floats which is important if the strapping clip gives way and the angler slips down or if the boat punctures. The flippers are very difficult to walk in and walking backwards to enter and exit the pond is the best approach. Losing one or both flippers can leave one stranded in the pond. High winds can make it very hard to swim against the air flow. The neoprene waders need to be very high on the chest or water can lap over the back wetting the fishermans clothing. It is worth noting that the boat can tip over if you lean out too far. If that happens there is an awful tangle of straps, stripping basket, rod, and line. Needless to say if this happens you will be very glad of your life vest. I wouldn't entertain going out in a belly boat without one.

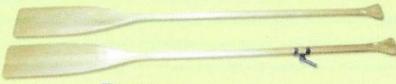
I carry a compass in my life jacket/fishing vest which served me well one night. I was fishing for rainbow trout late into the evening and I had swum several hundred yards from shore. Well the wind changed and the fog came in nice and thick. When that happens the moon and stars are gone the shore lights are gone the road sounds are muffled. Further it is impossible to tell if you are going round in circles or in the wrong direction. Constant course correction to due south on my compass got me back to my gravel launching area.

Some of the more recent inflatable pontoon boats with a frame and oar locks seem to be a big improvement on the belly boats. They allow one to sit higher above the water whereas the belly boat tends to keep one lower in the water. Canoes are a more traditional alternative. I have pictured below a canoe I currently use.



14' Square Stern

Centre Length: 11'6" (3.51 m)
 Beam: 38" (96.52 cm)
 Centre Depth: 13" (33 cm)
 Transom Width: 15" (38.1 cm)
 Weight: 44 lbs. (19.96 kg)
 Weight Capacity: 850 lbs. (385.55 kg)
 Max. HP: 3
 Foam Seats: Standard
 Web Seats: Optional
 Keels: 3
 Persons: 3

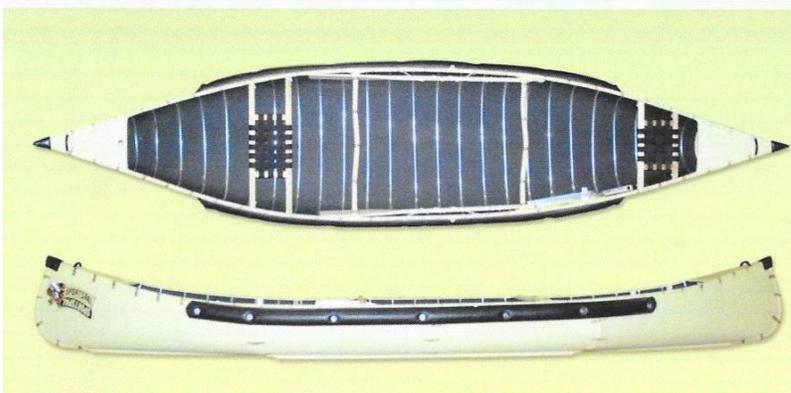


PADDLES

Sportspal paddles are manufactured from laminated wood which provides added strength and resistance to warping. Paddles are 60" long with a 6" wide blade. One set of paddles complete with oar locks is included with every Sportspal Canoe.

SAIL KIT

This deluxe accessory converts your Sportspal canoe into a sleek craft in a matter of minutes. Each kit consists of 45 square feet of sail, a mast, boom and spar constructed from lightweight aluminum, two leeboards easily attach to the canoe's thwarts, nylon line, mast stub and mast support.



16' Pointed

Centre Length: 15'6" (4.72 m)
 Beam: 38" (96.52 cm)
 Centre Depth: 13" (33 cm)
 Weight: 58 lbs. (26.31 kg)
 Weight Capacity: 1,000 lbs. (453.59 kg)
 Max. HP: 3
 Web Seats: Standard
 Keels: 3
 Persons: 4

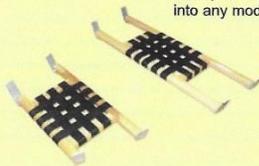
CANOE SEAT CUSHION

Lightweight padded foam seat in a rugged water resistant nylon attaches securely to the webbed seats. Adjustable side straps make installation a snap.



WEBBED SEATS

Marine varnished hardwood seats with waterproof nylon webbing. Can be fit into any model of Sportspal Canoe



YOKE

Spruce carrying Yoke.



The saving grace of this type of canoe is the foam flotation on the outside of the craft. Often referred to as sponsons they are extremely buoyant, and it is possible to sit on the side of the canoe and not tip it. Another plus is when the waves are getting high the foam sponsons are lifted up by the waves that would otherwise swamp the boat. The foam lining makes the boat quiet and acts as flotation should

a capsizing occur. The oar locks are great, it is possible to row into a considerable headwind that would stop a paddled canoe from progressing. The craft weighs 40 odd pounds so it can be moved by one person.

Disadvantages are it won't fit in most cars. A large station wagon or van with the rear door ajar can work. Foam pads are tricky to use when carrying a canoe on the roof. I use a roof rack with two horizontal bars that come to the edge of the car body. I can then walk up to the side of the car and slide the canoe onto the bars. I use clothes line and turnkeys and metal safety hooks to attach the canoe to the car. I use a bit of red tape as a warning at the tail of the canoe. If I can take the canoe and shake the car without the canoe moving I am happy to drive. The cost of the roof rack and attachments was approx 350 dollars three years ago.

I have mentioned noise with respect to wading staffs and boats. The great importance of stealth was emphasised to me by the incident that I recall as follows. A group at the Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland (SAEN) had arranged to view the behaviour of brown trout in the fluvarium. The plan was to pull hookless flies through the viewing pool and observe the trout behaviour. The lads with the fly rods approached the pool as we watched underwater. Before anything had happened every trout in the pool went mad rushing to hide. Some minutes later the flies appeared. The vibrations of the fishermen walking over the ground had spooked the fish.

Watersheds and Ponds

I have made maps outlining the watersheds of the St Johns area. I have labelled them and given my experience as to their fish population. The maps I have used are old revised in 1972 but they are of a nice scale. Some of the maps are smaller scale e.g. the waterford river. I would advise checking the maps against google earth or a newer topographic map. A lot of roads and houses have been built since 1972. Some waters scheduled as rainbow waters have no rainbow in them. Some rainbow watersheds have not been labelled as scheduled but are called unscheduled rainbow trout waters. The scheduled ponds have an extended season in the fall and start later i.e. June 1 to Oct 7. The non scheduled season is the same as the brown and mud trout the season ie. Feb 1 to April 15 and May 15 to Sept 7. These are changeable so it is worth checking before setting out. Having stated the rules I have to say I have never encountered a fisheries officer while trout fishing.

PORTUGAL COVE MAIN RIVER WATERSHED

Strangely, three ponds from this watershed are not listed as rainbow trout ponds: Millers Pond, Murray's pond and Butlers Pond. Several connected ponds are listed as scheduled rainbow trout waters which is misleading as most support only brown trout.



Western Round pond is a classic headwater pond with a reputation for having a few very well fed large trout. The presence of adjacent farmers' fields probably helps.

Piccos pond south has benefitted from Dick Whittaker's efforts to place spawning gravel at the outlet stream. Brown trout can be expected in these waters.

Western pond I have always regarded it as too shallow to be worthwhile fishing.

Murray's Pond and Butlers Pond are private waters connected to Murray's pond fishing club. The population is of brown trout. Rainbow trout were noted to be slow growing in Murray's and Butlers according to Scott and Crossman they reached 12 inches and 9.9 ounces at six years of age. I would expect the browns which have now replaced the rainbows to mature at the same pace.

Millers and Clements ponds are reported to have browns. Access is a little difficult due to the summer residences along the pond's margin.

Northeast Pond is fairly isolated from the other ponds and a dirt track leads to it. I would expect rainbow trout. It is definitely on my list of ponds to try.

Blast Hole Ponds are not on this map; they did drain into this system and held a good population of rainbow. Despite protests from local fishermen the pond was designated a water source and reservoir. It was thus placed out of bounds for anglers. I don't know if the spawning stream was cut off or if the population manages to survive. Blast Hole ponds can be seen on the map on the next page.

BEACHY COVE BROOK WATERSHED

Beachy Cove Brook Watershed is shown on the map in the previous section. These ponds can be accessed from Thorburn Road and Broad Cove Road. Mitchell's, Hogans and Hughes pond interconnect and I am assuming all three have rainbow, brown, mud and whitefish. I have caught all four species in these linked ponds. Yes I did type whitefish it was apparently an introduction years ago. There is easy access from the road which runs close to each of these ponds. It is worth noting that Hogans pond is 36 feet deep which is deep for this area. If you believe as I do that trout take less well in warm water. Then it is likely that this large volume of water will warm more slowly than a shallow pond. Thus as the summer wears on the larger deeper ponds may prove to be more productive.

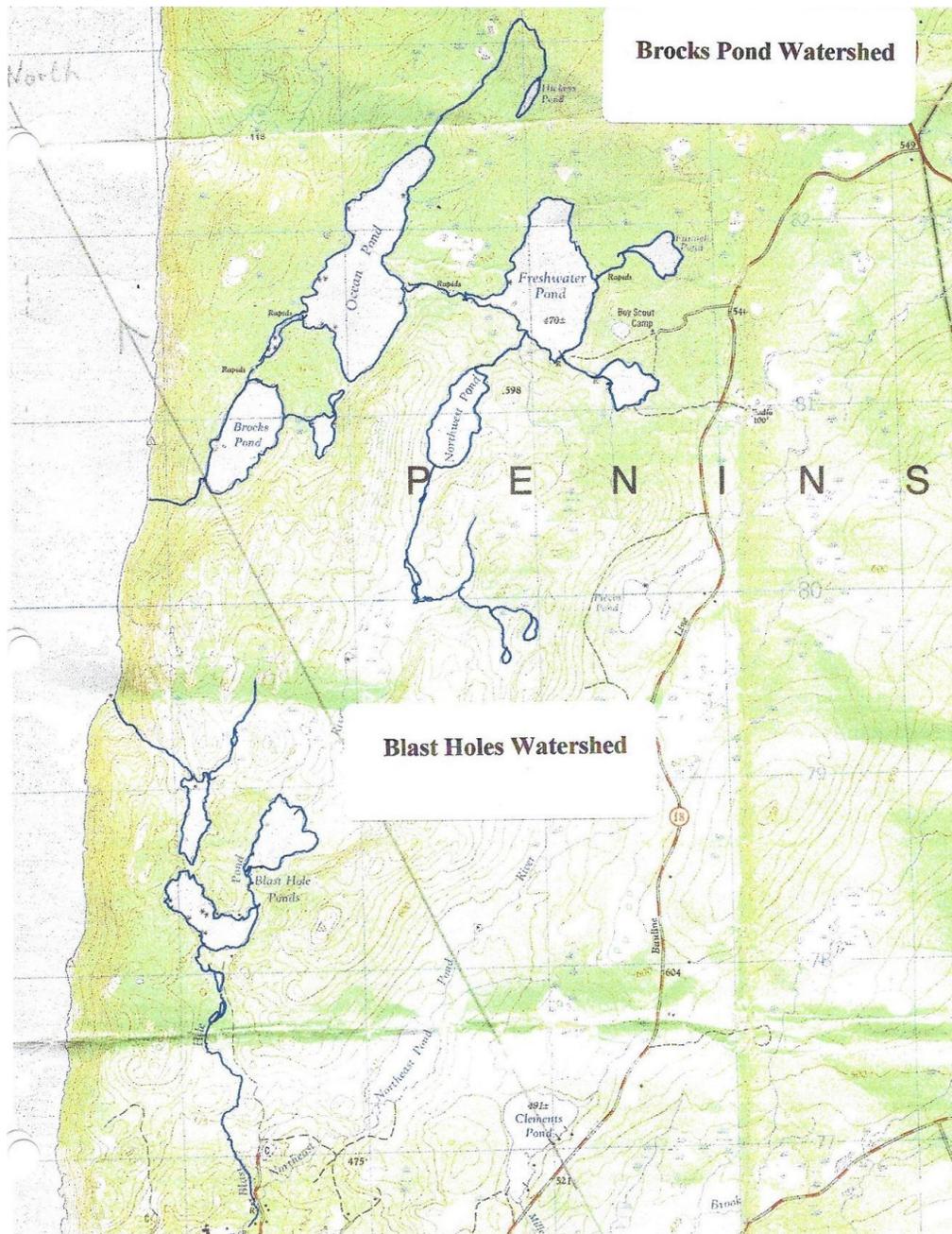
Oliver's pond is a bit separate from the others and is a headwater pond it was well known to contain rainbow trout and I would expect that to still be the case. The

connecting stream is long and steep so Olivers may well be an isolated population of rainbows.

Two small ponds Beachy Cove Ponds are at the downstream end of the watershed. There is a farm with a herd of cattle nearby and I suspect the water is enriched with runoff from manure piles. There was a massive overgrowth of water plants in the shallow ponds when I explored them. There was so much vegetation that the ponds were unfishable. That may still be the case. Given that amount of plant growth the possibility of abundant insect life and very fat trout should be considered.

BROCKS POND WATERSHED

The whole system is dominated by rainbow trout. The access is from the Bauline line via dirt tracks. The track to the now destroyed scout cabin is just drivable. I suspect there is access from Portugal cove to Brocks pond. The countryside is rugged with a dirt road to one cabin on Freshwater and paths to other ponds often barred by fallen trees.



Brocks pond contains rainbow trout but you are more determined than I am if you manage to reach it let alone fish it.

Ocean pond has rainbow trout and I have caught mud trout in the run-in area from Freshwater pond. Worthy of note is the beautiful waterfall on the stream running from freshwater pond. If there is any amount of water the falls are delightful enough to almost make the muddy steep path worth the effort never mind the fishing.

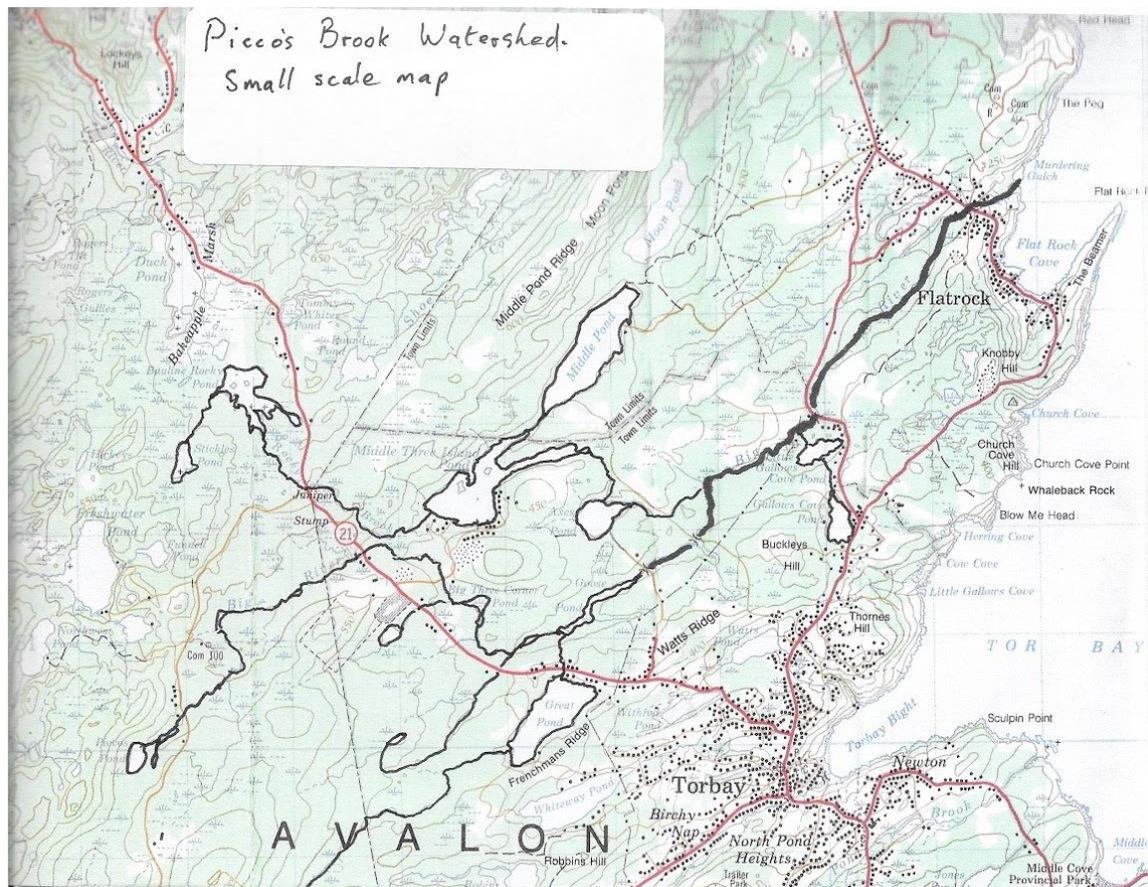
Freshwater is a very deep pond over 100 feet and so deep that there is oxygen depletion at the bottom of the pond. The fishing is sparse and the fish have small bodies compared to their heads. Trails to the two cabins on the pond are visible on Google earth.

Northwest pond should have a small population of good sized rainbow but it is a good walk in and not easy fishing from the banks with a fly rod.

Funnel pond is hard to fish from shore but has a nice healthy rainbow population as does No Name pond which is nameless on the map.

PICCOS BROOK WATERSHED

Piccus Brook Watershed is, along with the Brocks pond watershed, a stronghold of the rainbow trout.



Bauline Rocky pond looks accessible on google earth via dirt road. When I explored it years ago I did not find that access. There is a farmers field adjacent which bodes

well for fertilisation and productivity. It is as the name suggests notable for the many rocks protruding through the surface.

Middle Pond, a headwater pond noted for large fish, has good access from the road. It is a deep pond with a ridge across the southern third. The location of the ridge can be pinpointed by rowing onto it late at night and wedging the boat on the just submerged rock. Excitement can be had by getting out of said boat freeing it from the rock and jumping in while pushing off. Please see wearing a life Jacket in earlier pages.

Middle Three Island Pond has good access from a dirt road and can be good fishing.

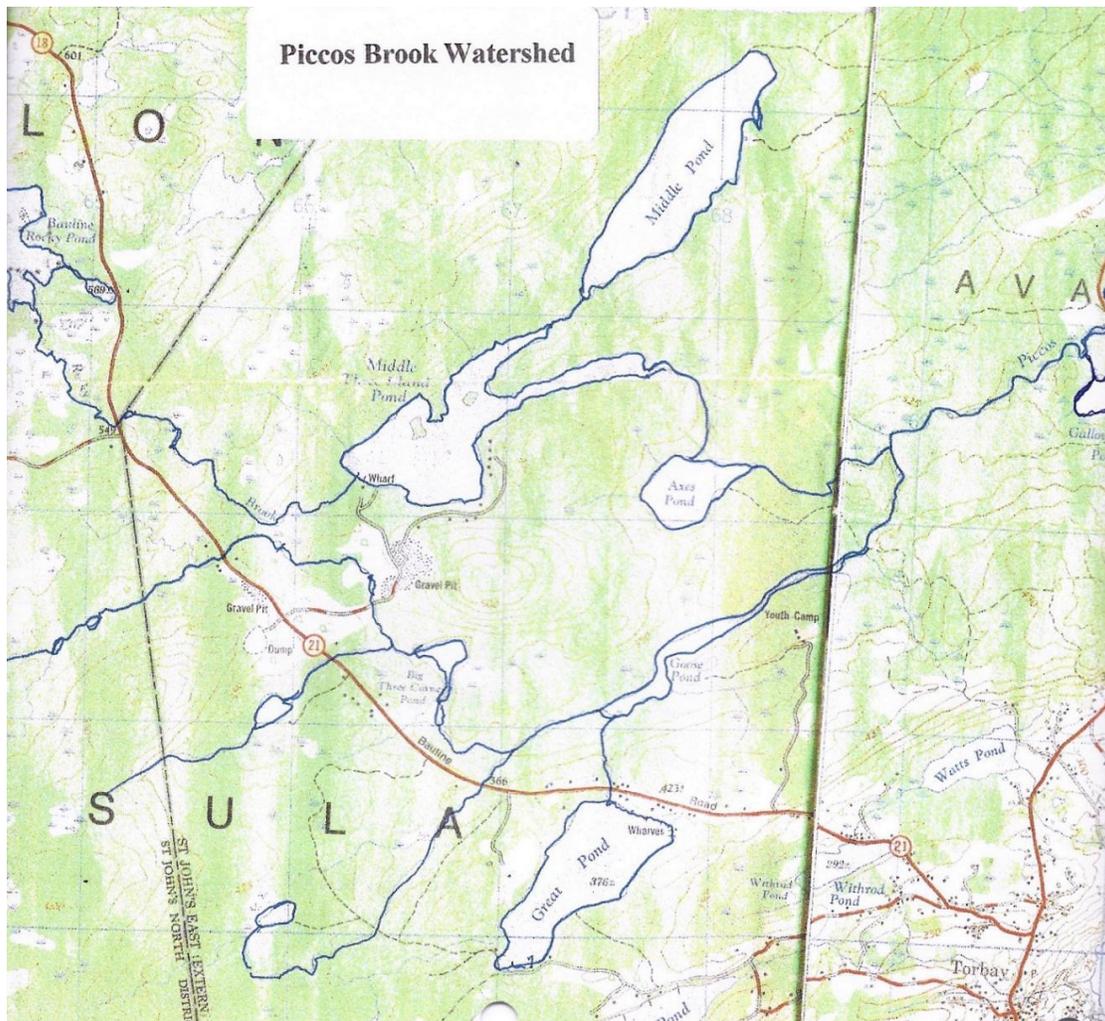
Axes Pond tends to be prolific but not large fish. There seems to be access from the north trail but I have not checked it out. The old southern trail which led to a scout cabin is very rough and the bridge / culvert at goose pond is washed out. There is a lot of loose gravel by the culvert for anyone attempting a fording.

Great Pond enjoys some fertilisation from farmer's fields. A heavy algae bloom has ruined fishing some seasons. But the fishing can be good. There is a farmers road to the south of the pond, the last two hundred yards to the boat launch area are extremely rough. Motorised craft are banned from the pond and large rocks impede access to the pond

Goose Pond is very shallow as it is 4 feet deep at the north end and is essentially marsh for a lot of its length; it is not on my list of favourites.

Big three corner pond is very shallow, more so than Goose Pond it is not on my list either.

Gallows Cove South Pond I had recent reports of a sudden absence of feeding fish, within a day or two the fishing went from good to bad. Rainbow ponds can be very fickle but I suspect a predator {otter} in 2019. The pond is just by the road and is very accessible. This pond is just off the eastern edge of the large scale map.



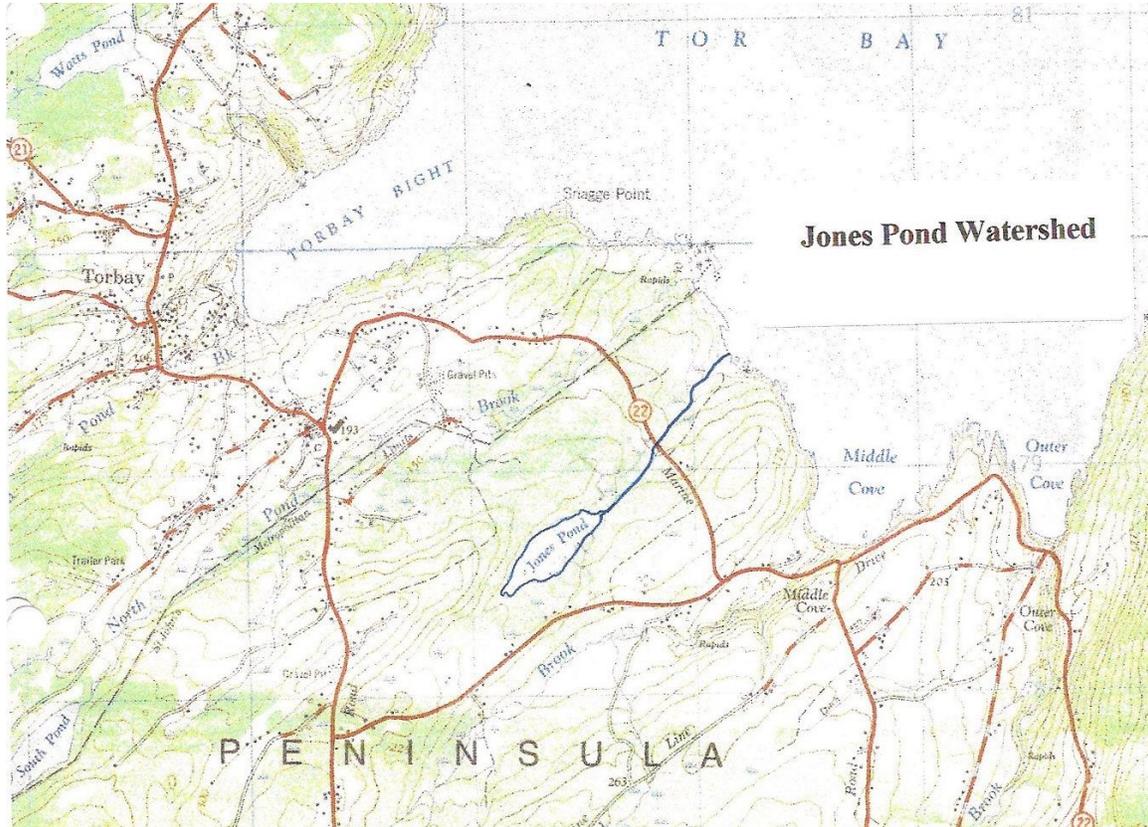
Gallows Cove Pond North is just partially on the eastern margin of the large scale map. It is joined to South Pond by a stream of 200 yards or so. The new bypass road comes close to the run out of this pond and this stream should provide an access point to the pond. I have not yet discovered easy access to it.

I almost forgot Piccos Pond is the headwater pond just west of the Bauline line. It can be seen on the Brocks Pond watershed map. I am at a loss to explain how it has escaped my attention over the years. The pond undoubtedly contains rainbow trout.

JONES POND WATERSHED

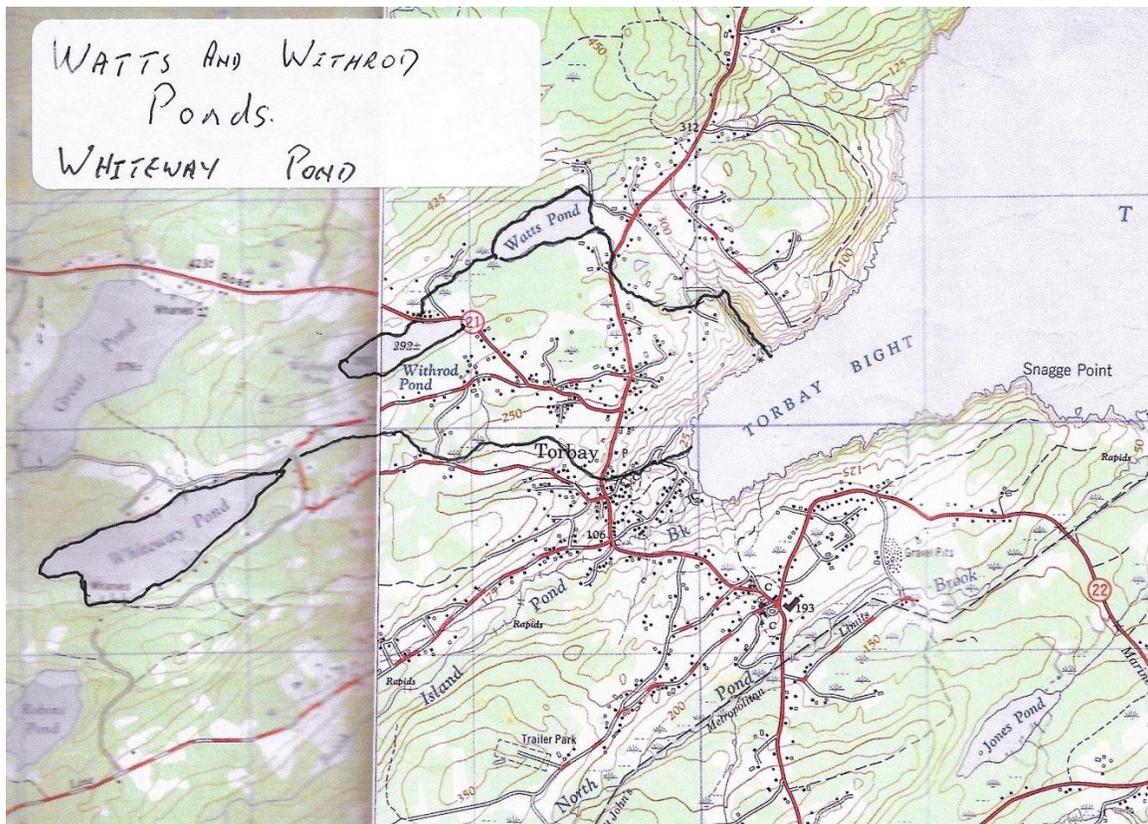
Jones Pond map, is inserted below, has access via a gravel trail from the housing estate otherwise it is surrounded by houses. I used to fish for the rainbows which displayed all the features of rapid growth in a fertile pond. The fishing collapsed

completely and I have not fished it for some considerable number of years. It is very difficult to fly rod from shore, flotation is very useful. It is a small shallow pond.



WHITEWAY, WITHROD AND WATTS PONDS

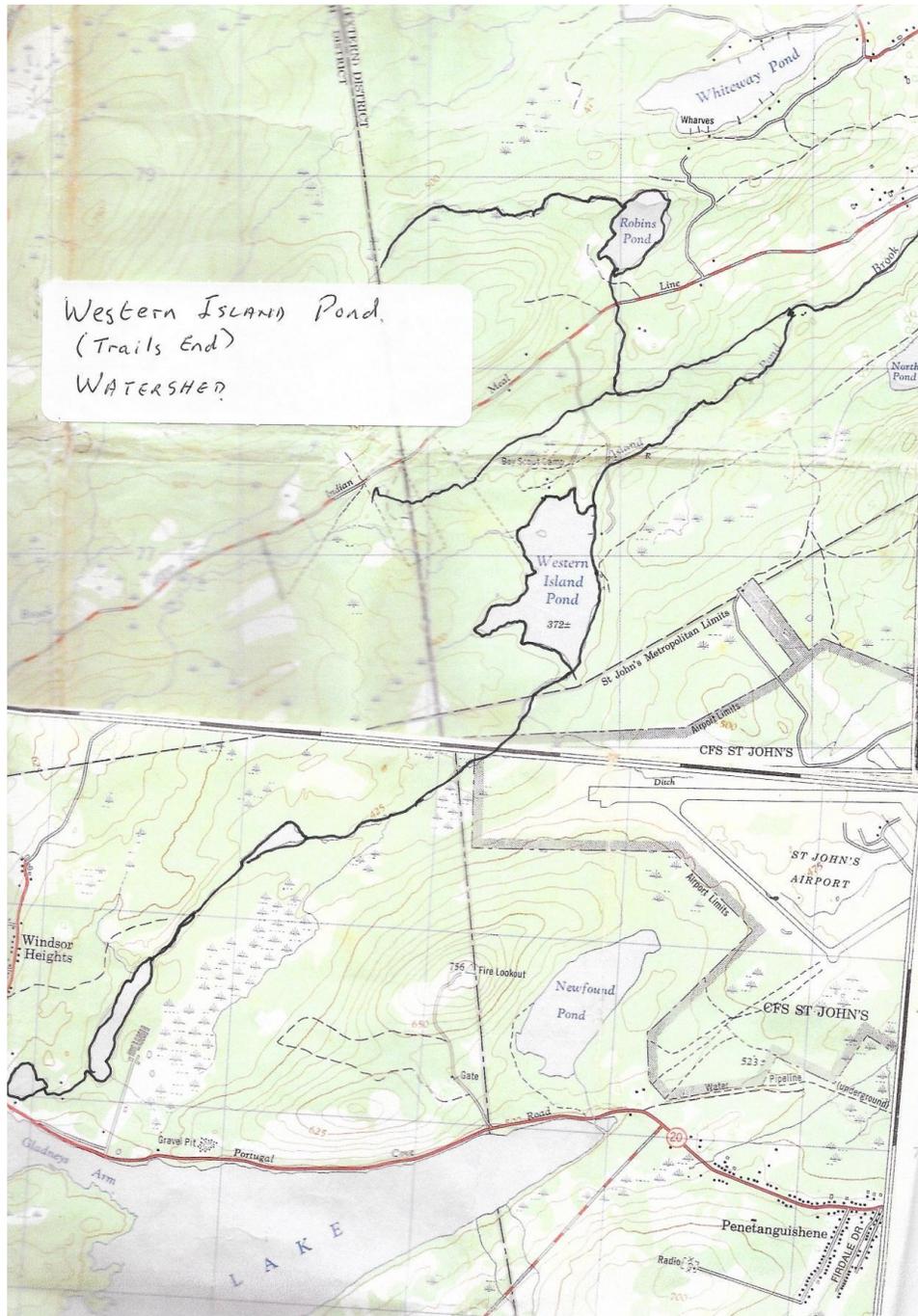
These are all brown trout ponds Watts and Withrod have both given me good fishing both are easily accessible from the road and contain fat healthy trout. I recently checked Withrod as a cabin owner reported a sudden absence of rising trout for a period of months.



I suspected the new culverts from the Torbay bypass but inspection showed these to be passable to fish. I expect the fishing to come back as population fluctuation seems almost normal. Predators i.e. otters or pollution seem the most likely causes to me.

WESTERN ISLAND POND WATERSHED

The system extends to the old pig breeding station near Windsor Lake.

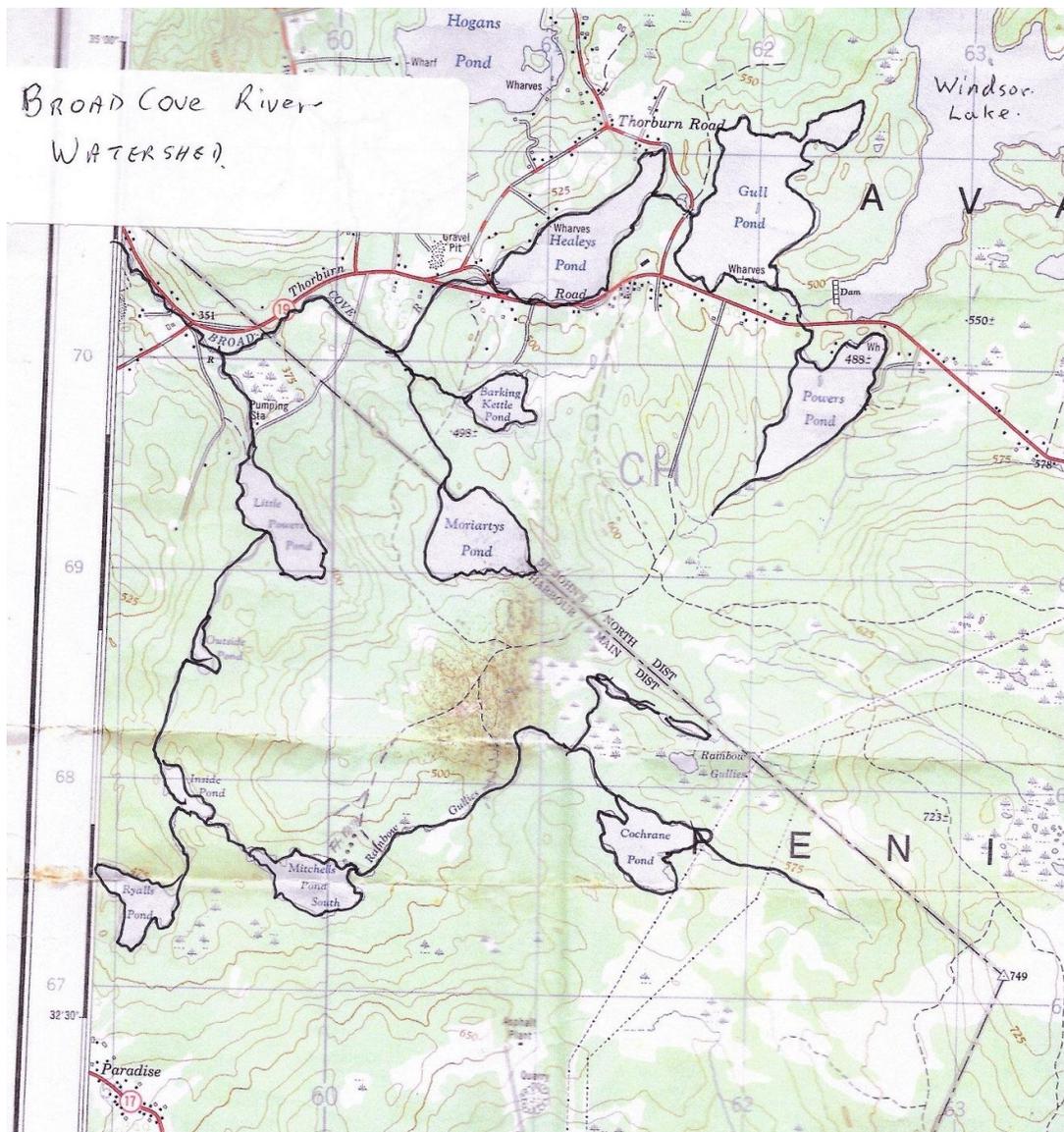


The associated manure caused all the ponds to suffer an algae bloom every summer. The ponds turned green. This fueled a massive growth of amphipods or shrimp which fed the trout. Robins pond by contrast had the clearest water of any pond I have fished, long fine leaders were the order of the day. It was unaffected by the pig farm. All the fish in the system were silvery. This would lend credence that they were a loch leven strain of Brown Trout. If it was just the shrimp abundance

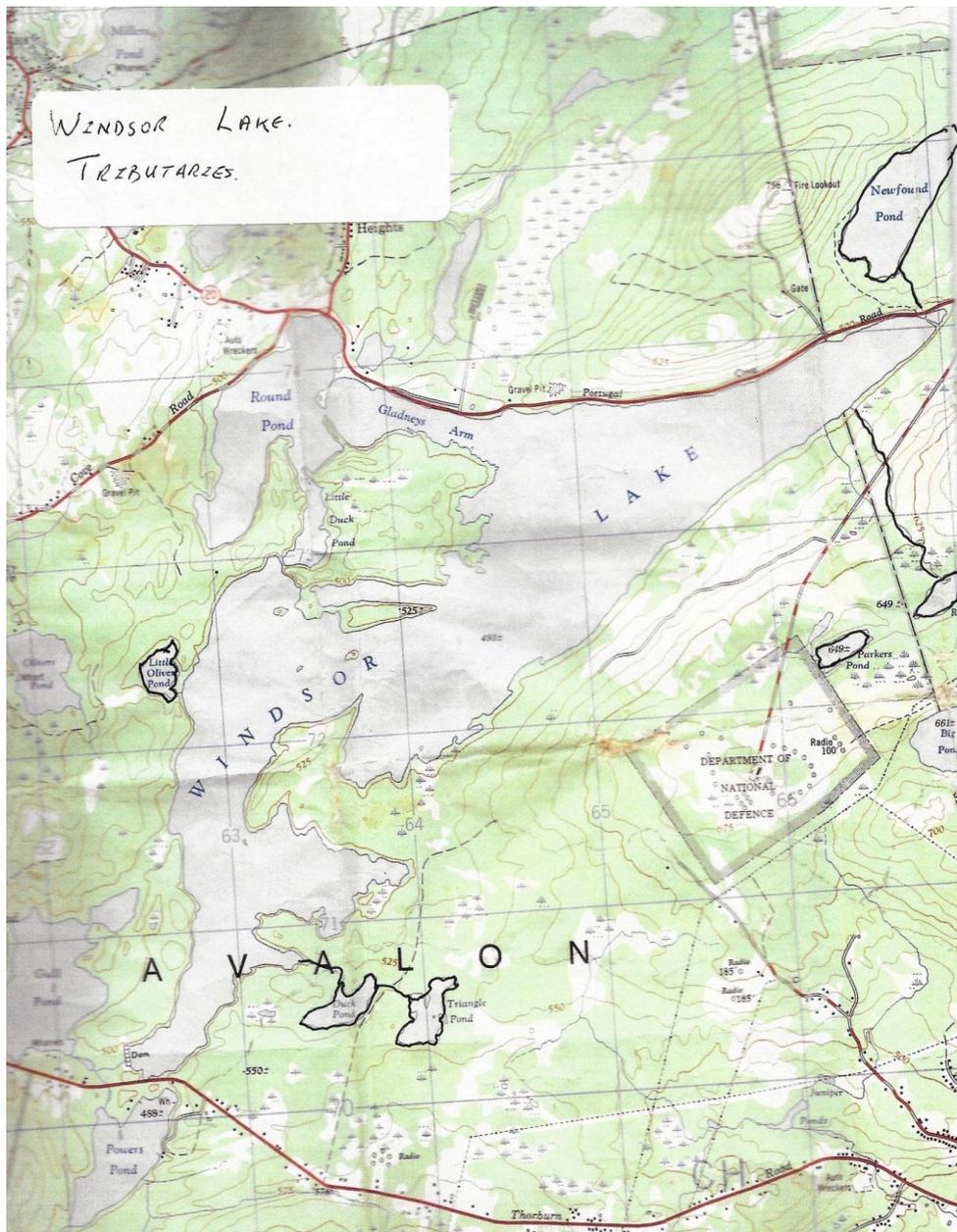
then a difference between Robins pond trout and the rest would be expected. Housing estates now edge up to Western Island pond and Robins pond. For routes of access a more recent map or google earth should enable you to reach the waters edge.

BROAD COVE RIVER WATERSHED

This is a brown trout system Gull pond and Healeys pond are easily accessible from the road. Powers pond used to be accessible by a trail from the road near the run out stream. I remember these ponds as having nice fat brown trout. Rainbow Gullies I checked out for rainbow trout only to find browns with large heads looking rather malnourished. Little powers pond was similarly populated.

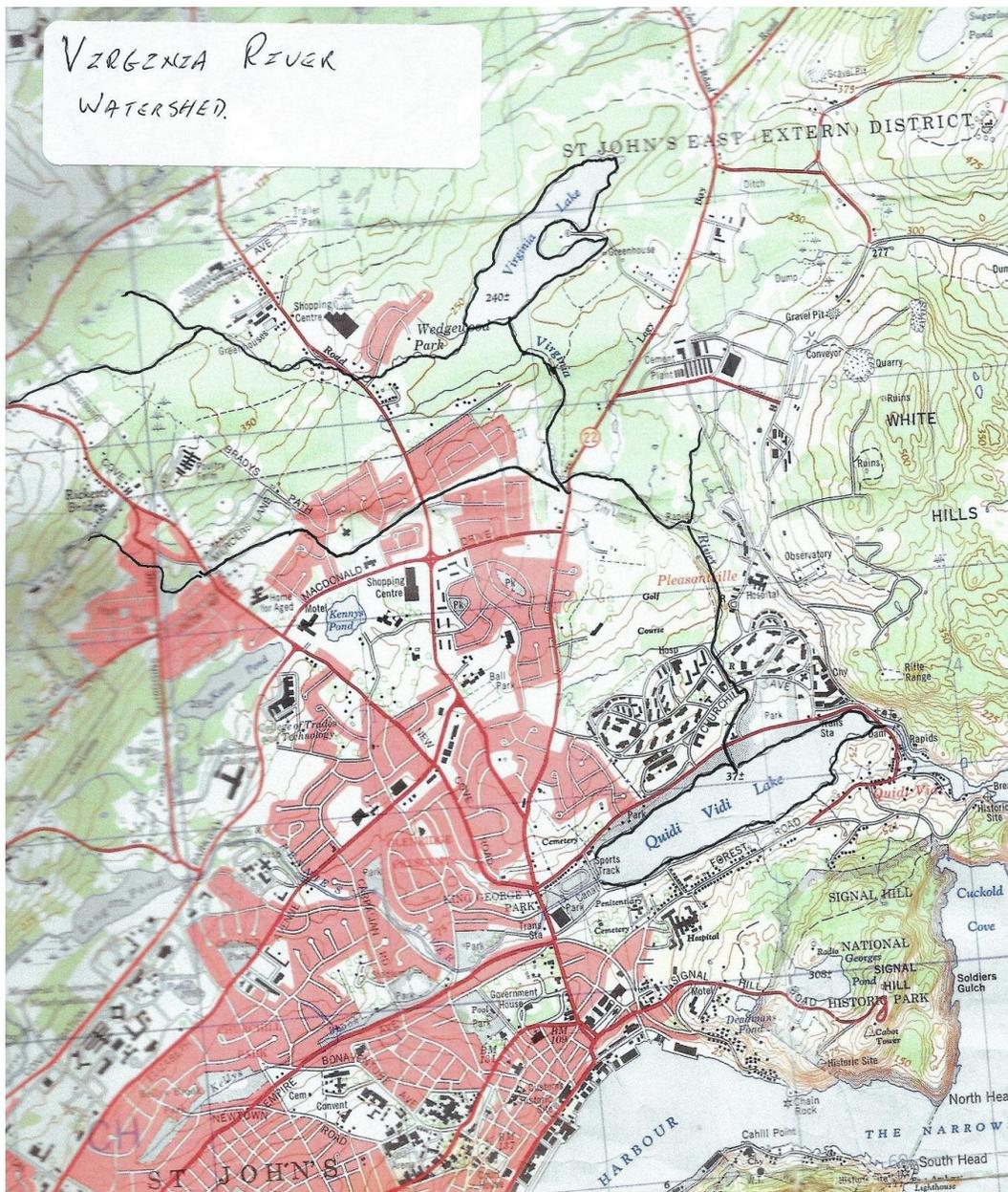


Windsor Lake is a water supply, the Salmon Association of Eastern Newfoundland made several overtures about opening it up to fishing to no avail. St Johns is the exception, most places allow fishing on their reservoirs. St John's goes one step further and prohibits fishing on tributary streams and ponds. Triangle pond is very shallow and Duck pond has a rather skinny brown trout. Parkers and Little Olivers have browns. Newfound Pond had a very healthy population of large trout which could be observed at spawning time. Something has devastated this population virtually no trout were evident for the last two years i.e. 2019 and 2020.



VIRGINIA RIVER WATERSHED

A lot of the tributary of Virginia river from Ridge Road to near Logy bay road is buried in a culvert. Enough river remains above ground to support a healthy trout population which was and probably still is the highest trout density in the world. Virginia Lake is accessible from the walking trail on the south side of the pond.



The pond is unusual in that the ground is owned right to the water line/ shoreline. Most ponds have a 33 feet buffer zone around the margins which is not privately owned. From the well worn path to the waters edge I suspect a good bit of fishing

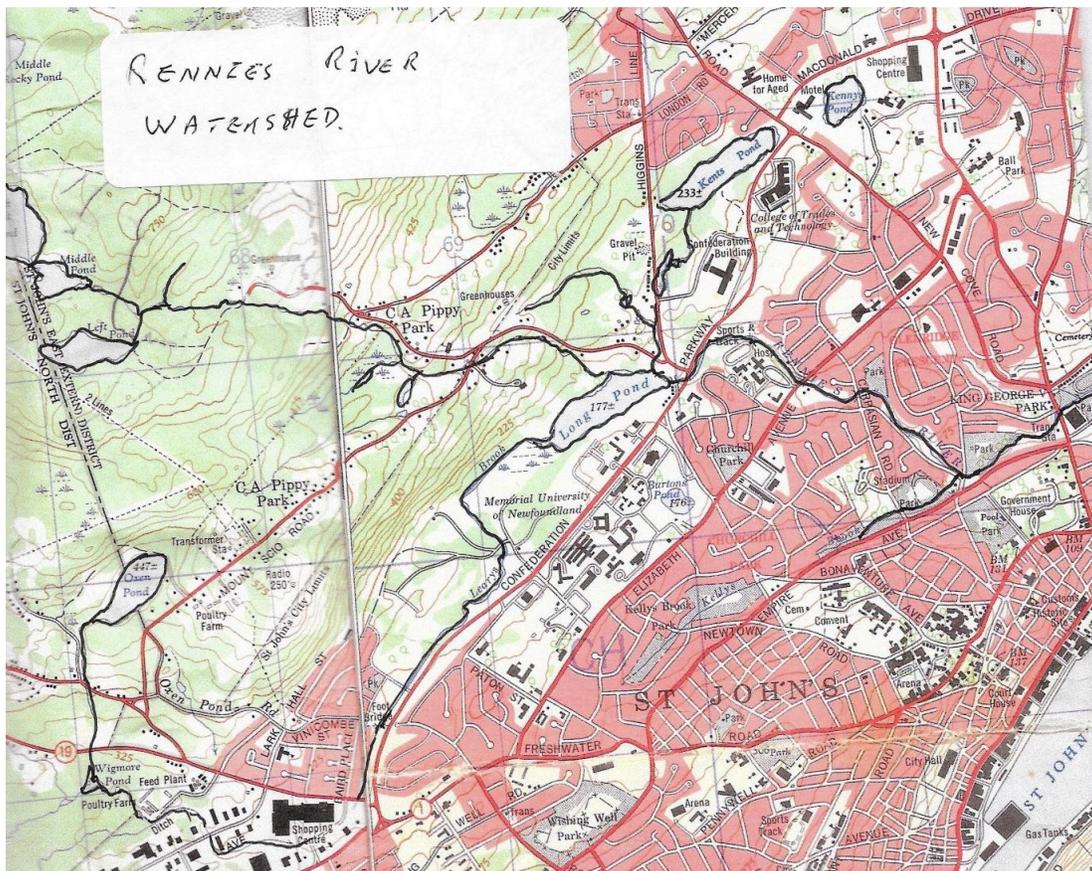
goes on. The stream itself is quite nice to fish, angling spots need to be chosen judiciously to avoid catching people with a backcast.

Quidi Vidi Lake has a fair amount of lead in the sediment I am reliably informed. Other activities such as walking and boating make fishing a bit of a challenge. Both ponds and the stream have brown trout populations.

Below the pond a fishway enables salmon and trout to bypass the concrete weir / flood control mechanism. A population of sea trout populates the river and estuary. In the spring they head into the saltwater to fatten up and in the fall they return to lay eggs in the streams. An effort has been made to restock salmon in Quidi Vidi and tributaries how successful it will be, remains to be seen.

RENNIES RIVER WATERSHED

The bits of Rennie's river that have not been buried in a culvert have often been channelized and bordered with a concrete block wall. If the St Johns web site - Rennie's river flood mitigation project is allowed to go ahead the rest of the river will suffer the same fate.



The plan has been stalled in environmental assessment since 2014. This plan envisages a weir at the end of Long Pond but no fishway is mentioned as far as I could see. This plan is separate from the bike plan although the plans do overlap in proposing concrete walls along the river.

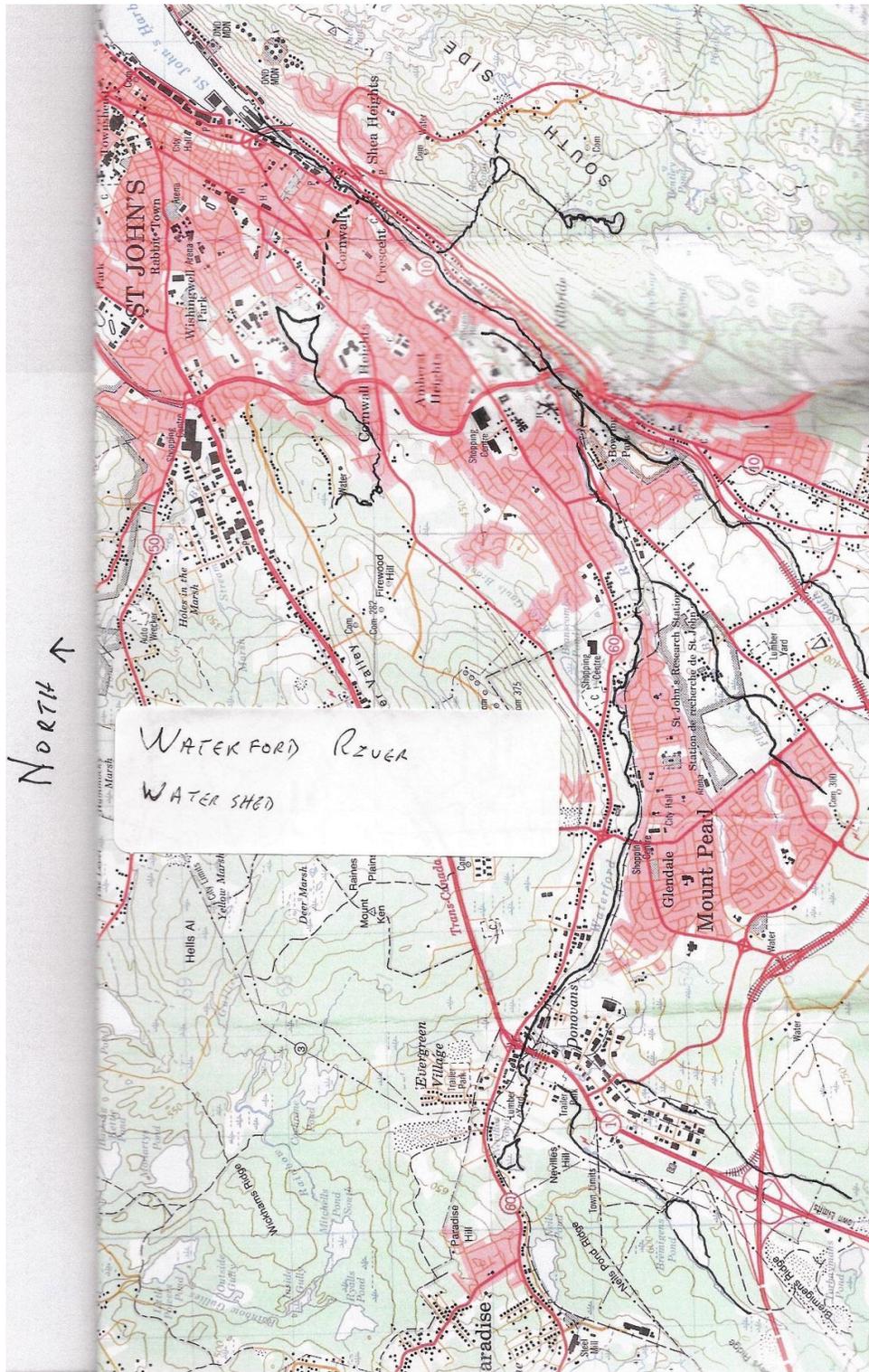
Sadly, all the effort SAEN members put into explaining flash flooding after tarmacking and advising on mitigation such as dry wells and wetland retention, looks to have been for naught. A concrete lined straight drain is the fate advocated by the city. The result may well be attractive to some but I won't be walking by the River let alone fishing it after that happens. In the meantime the trout population hangs on remarkably well.

If fishing Long pond a black leech pattern works well. The river from the health Sciences to Long pond can be good. The river was moved and once flowed through a bog here, the straight line and right angle give a hint of that. The banks have deep treacherous bog holes and at least one angler needed help getting out of one of these pits. A cell phone and a life jacket are not a bad idea. Brown trout are the predominant species and have been famously abundant but I don't know how long the population can survive the various pressures. Oxen pond is a bit of a mystery. It is within the botanical gardens and I don't know if they have problems with fishing the pond. I suspect that entry through the gardens would at least cost the garden admission fee. It is at present nicely remote from buildings and roads. Kent's pond has a few large brown trout, all the spawning and rearing streams have been culverted except for 30 yards of stream. This area will receive some spawning gravel in the next few months. Hopefully that will be enough to better populate the pond with trout. Kenny's pond has had all its tributaries culverted and has no trout but does boast a fine stickleback population.

Three Pond Barrens and Nagle's Brook thanks to SAEN and John Gibson has a population of mud trout. The impassable culverts in Pippy Park were replaced and spawning gravel was placed in the early 1980s. The trout, up to 10 inches long, can be seen spawning in September. Lots of trails in Pippy Park lead to the three ponds. {Left Pond Middle Pond and Big Pond}

WATERFORD RIVER WATERSHED

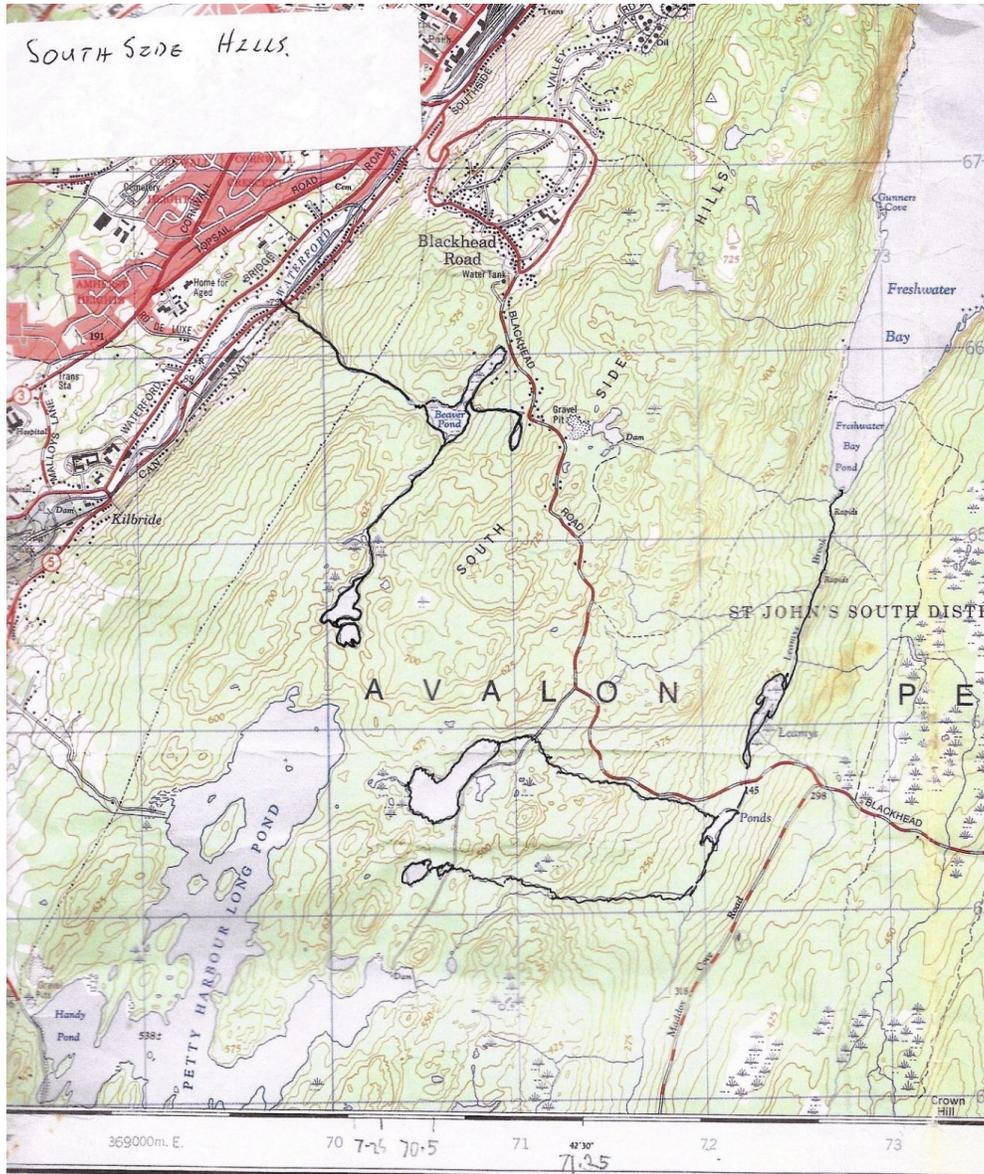
The Waterford has a healthy population of Brown Trout although I suspect the cormorants resident in Bowring Park Pond have depleted the numbers. There has been a healthy run of sea run browns and a couple of salmon have been reported as well. Mundy Pond feeds a culvert which empties into the Waterford.



A stock of silvery Loch Lomond Brown trout inhabit the pond which still has some upstream spawning area. I don't know any information about the two mount pearl headwater ponds of the river.

SOUTH SIDE HILLS

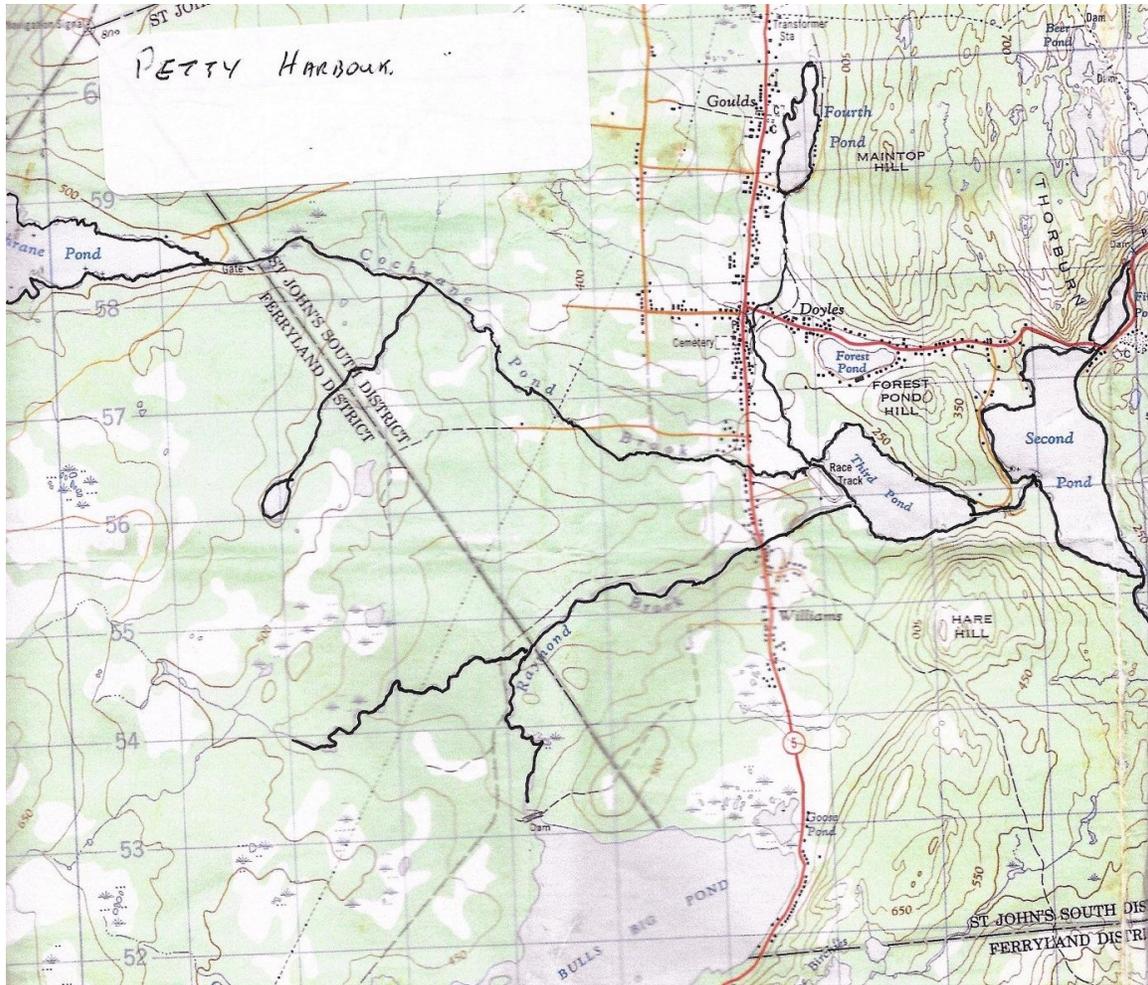
The south side ponds are recorded as receiving a plantation of Whitefish at the same time as Hogans pond.



Petty Harbour long pond is a reservoir and fishing is prohibited. The other small ponds have escaped my attention.

PETTY HARBOUR

Petty Harbour Ponds are a brown trout system. Third Pond was one of John Gibson's favorites. The good sized stream provided ample spawning and rearing area and the race track provided manure for enrichment. Third pond consequently had very large numbers of modest sized trout. Second pond also enjoyed an excellent reputation.

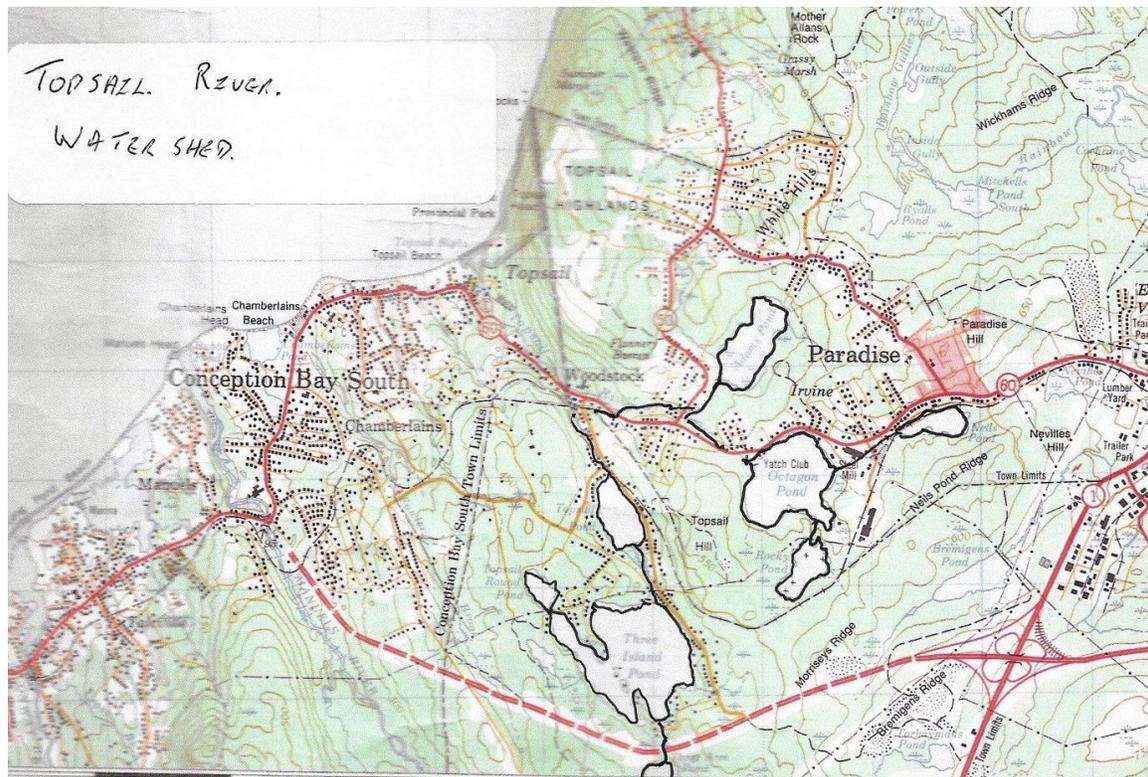


Cochrane pond is downhill from the poultry farm with its manure. I would expect this to be a source of enrichment. The poultry farm might well replace the closed race track as an enrichment source for the system.

Bay Bulls big pond is a reservoir and so is off limits. This is sad as I have memories of ice fishing there before it was a reservoir and having 20 pound test line broken after ten minutes trying to get the trout through the hole in the ice.

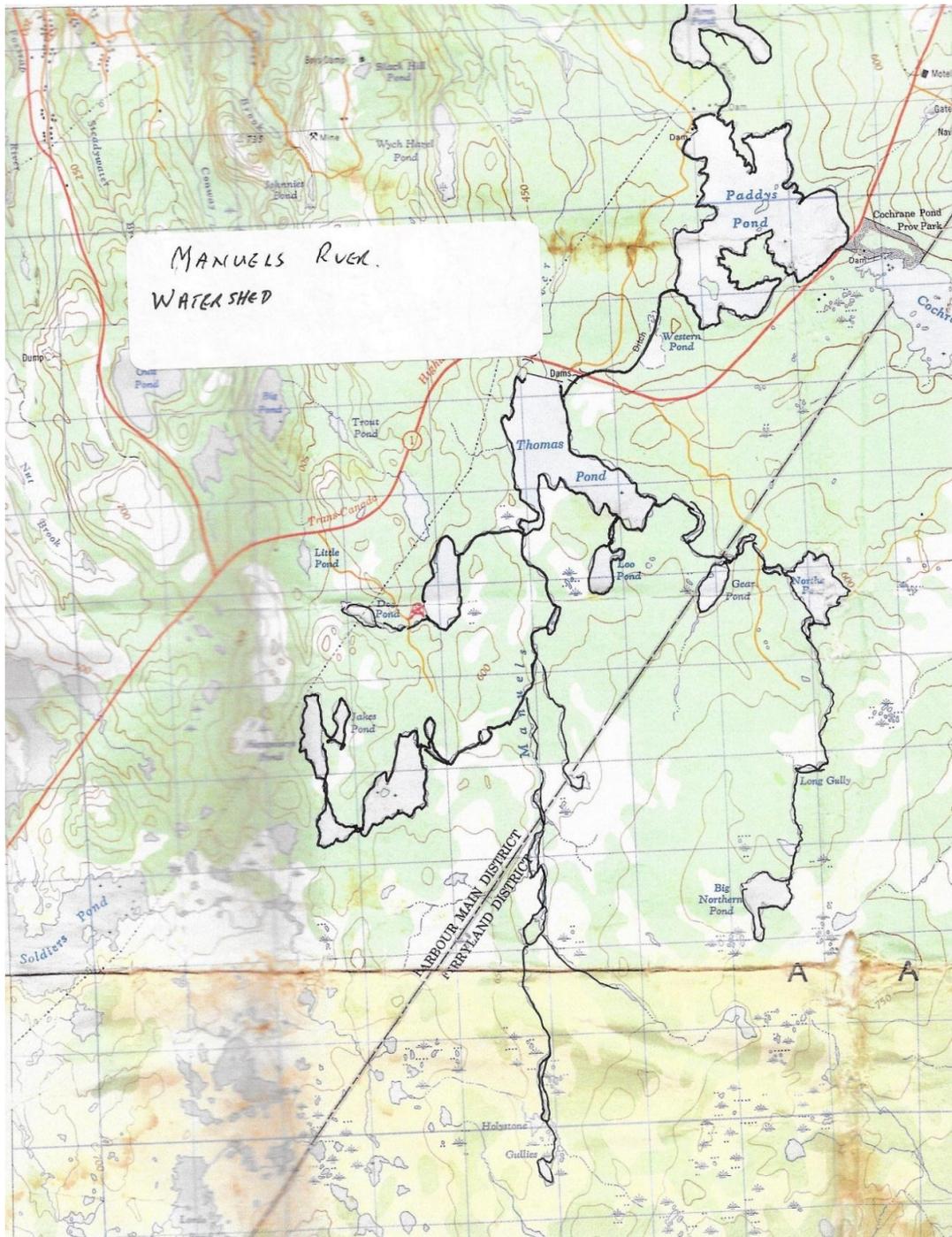
TOPSAIL RIVER WATERSHED

The scale is smaller on this map as it is on the Waterford map and Manuels river ie. one and a quarter inches to the mile as opposed to the other maps which are two and a half inches to the mile. Octagon pond has a sign up warning about not eating the fish due to contamination. The fish species are mud trout which can be seen spawning in the fall. Neils and Rocky ponds would also have mud trout I don't know if they have similar warning signs.



MANUELS RIVER WATERSHED

Large sections of Manuels River have been diverted with dams and Canals to feed the power plant on the Topsail River. Brown trout predominate throughout the system. Access via roads to the dams enhances road access. Paddy's pond can be reached by Fowlers road which is not on the map. Paddy's Pond near the Trans Canada Highway is busy with float planes and seadoos.



The other end of the pond seems less noisy. There seems to be some farming activity near Cochrane pond. On google earth it looks possible that some fertiliser may drain into Paddy's pond tributaries. Both Paddy's Pond and Thomas Pond have produced excellent brown trout. If there is a lot of winter ice fishing Paddy's Pond

trout population seems to be fairly hard hit. This is less of a problem in recent years as often the ponds have not iced up enough to allow for fishing.

Conclusion

In closing I hope these few notes will prove useful. I would also like to add that SAEN, the reader and I owe Rob Thomas a hearty thank you for refining and editing what was an unpolished document. It is vastly better for his efforts. Thanks Rob.

Robin Gamble

*Note some maps are 1 ¼ inches to the mile they have smaller background squares.
The maps of the St John's area are 2 ½ inches to the mile.*