



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

The Pitch Off, Plantagenet Springs

History

Excerpt from “*Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Province of Ontario, for the Year 1869*”, 36. Victoria. Sessional Papers (No. 58). Page 35.

PETITIE NATION RIVER SURVEYS.

The annual freshets in the South Petite Nation River are the cause of much damage to the inhabitants occupying tracts of land affected by the flood waters in the Townships of Alfred, North and South Plantagenet, Winchester, Mountain, Matilda, Williamsburg and others, and the municipal councils of several of these townships have petitioned at various times for surveys to be made, to devise plans for lessening the evils caused by these periodical inundations.

Ascending the Petite Nation, the first serious obstruction is found at the Plantagenet Springs in the Township of North Plantagenet, this is known as the “Pitch off” and is a ledge of flat limestone rock extending across the river with a dip up stream, forming a natural dam which raises the water two feet higher than it would be if the ledge were removed. At this place during the spring freshets, the rocks cause the accumulation of logs and driftwood which increase the effect of the natural barrier, and dam the water back up stream to such an extent as to overflow and cause much damage to the level fertile lands on each side of the river as far up as Moose Creek.



Cooling off on a warm summer day!

Excavating the Pitch Off

Excerpt from “*Interim Flood Reduction Project Plantagenet Springs*” McNeely Engineering Limited, August 1979.

- * Rock excavation to elevation 140.0 (bottom of existing channel) across the full rock outcrop except under the railway bridge piers. A minimum width of 100 metres is proposed which widens to 120 meters under the railway bridge to allow for the flow restrictions due to the islands under the piers.
- * Rock islands to remain beneath each C.P. Rail bridge pier. Islands to leave 0.6 metre clear around the pier and then extend down and out at a 2:1 side slope.
- * Construction of a temporary submerged weir to elevation 142.0 across the rock cut. The weir to be a 2 foot high concrete wall anchored to the bedrock. The wall can be given an alignment across the river to provide a more pleasing effect.
- * All excavated rock to be stored on land near the site for use as rip-rap in future bank stabilization projects.