

Rick Answered: Juvenile salmon, especially parr (aged 1 and 2), are capable of moving long distances (kilometers) both upstream and downstream and into tributaries and reaches where adults don't typically spawn. Young-of-the-year (fry) are more likely to move in a downstream direction (with the drift) which is probably a reflection of their reduced swimming ability - a function of their smaller body size.

Another possibility in small tributaries like the Nashwaaksis Stream is that the spawning adults may have come into the stream late in the fall, stayed only long enough to spawn and then emigrated back to the main river so you may not have spotted them, especially if the water levels were high. While working on streams in the Miramichi system, there were years when spawning adults did not enter the stream until the first week of November, and then only stayed long enough to spawn before re-entering the main river (less than 2 weeks) for the winter.