



Light Lines

JOURNAL OF THE CREDIT RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
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2005 in review, another exciting year for rehabilitation

The following is from CRAA's 2005 Conservation Report, written by 2005 crew leader and CRAA director, Mike Brady.

Launch Ramp Program

Mitch Hames from CRAA managed the launch program again this year with good results. Revenues were up roughly 10%, due mainly to the hot summer. Early summer activity was very high with a combination of good fishing and nice weekend weather at Port Credit. Net profits were also up over last year with higher revenues and lower labour costs with the input of a co-op student from Georgian College. The program continues to be vital in supporting CRAA's rehabilitation efforts through fund raising.

Transplanted Trees

The 2005 work season began in early May with transplanting of large Ash, Beech and Elm trees from the wooded lot adjacent to the Square One shopping



complex. A small excavator was hired to dig up trees for a one-week period (see Figure 1.0). Approximately 1500 large trees were excavated within this period. They ranged in size from 3-10m in height. The rehab crew used the CRAA truck and trailer to transport the



trees to various planting sites (see Site Descriptions). As the transplants are done during early spring the trees remain dormant and survival is exceptionally high, up to 97%! These trees also have the advantage of established size and are proving effective deflectors/protection from ice and debris for smaller trees. Results from previous transplants have proven to be extremely positive, and this year the transplant trees appear to be doing just as well.

Tree Guarding

Tree guarding, like last year, proved to be the most involved project undertaken by the rehab crew this year. A new tree guarding method, which was implemented on a large scale last season, and continued into this season was the use of a wire mesh used in the construction trade. Metal lath, which is used as a sub-floor for ceramic tiles, has proven to be a relatively cheap and effective way to deter animals. The metal lath, is cut to size and wrapped around the tree and secured with plastic electrical zip ties to hold the guard together. Brush mat spikes are used to peg the tree guard to the ground effectively

eliminating the ability of mice and small rodents to get beneath the tree guard, and preventing beavers from sinking their teeth into the tree.



Planting the Streetsville Dam Island

In June the crew planted the island above the Streetsville dam with a dozen mature white spruce. Each tree weighing 500 pounds was a task to move to the island, but we managed easily with some ingenuity. Trees were lowered into a canoe using the fishway winch and paddled to the island. The tree was then dragged to a planting site on the island, a hole dug and the tree placed with t-bars and beaver mesh. Solar heating of the head pond is a major problem and this will assist in planting smaller trees on the site in future by adding protection from flooding and ice.

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Credit River Anglers Association
Light Lines

Contributions are welcome
from all members and non-
members alike.

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News and Announcements

Highlights within CRAA!



CRAA Membership Corner:

CRAA's membership continues to hold steady. We are open to suggestions on how to improve the membership. Please send any suggestions to Rick Symanski via CRAA e-mail or in writing to CRAA's address.

CRAA 16 Mile Creek

CRAA's 16 Mile Creek project is well underway with the second phase of funding coming through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. A staff hired to develop a re-habilitation plan under the direction of HRCA has made many excellent land owner contacts and the list of projects is growing.

Bronte Creek Team

CRAA members Aaron Shirly and Tony Bolger will be working with CRAA director Brian Morrison to develop and implement more projects on Bronte Creek. Watch the CRAA chat board for posts about the next event on Bronte too!

CRAA Members receive a
10% discount at the retailers
listed below!

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Fisheries Management Plan CRAA kicks in \$4,000.00

The FMP has been a key component to CRAA's work since we initiated the process about 7 years ago. The process is slow, but the outcomes are important. The MNR has organized a committee to ensure the implementation of the FMP that has been ongoing since 2002 when the plan came into effect.

Improved access to steelhead and migratory browns in addition to segregation of the resident fishery are the priorities to us as anglers. As a result CRAA has been pushing hard to proceed with the proposed barrier. In November 2005 the MNR earmarked \$8,000.00 for the start of the EA process, which should take about 14 months to complete. Once finalized the next step will be to build the barrier and open access to the fish.

CRAA has put in \$4,000 of our conservation funds to increase the funds available to the EA and to speed up the process. We are hoping other groups strongly interested in the development of the barrier will do their best to match CRAA's contribution. The next meetings will be in January 2006 and March 2006.

Advertise your business here!

If you would like to support CRAA, or have your business card advertised in *Lightlines* please contact us at info@craa.on.ca for details.

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Rogers Creek Dam and fish bypass.

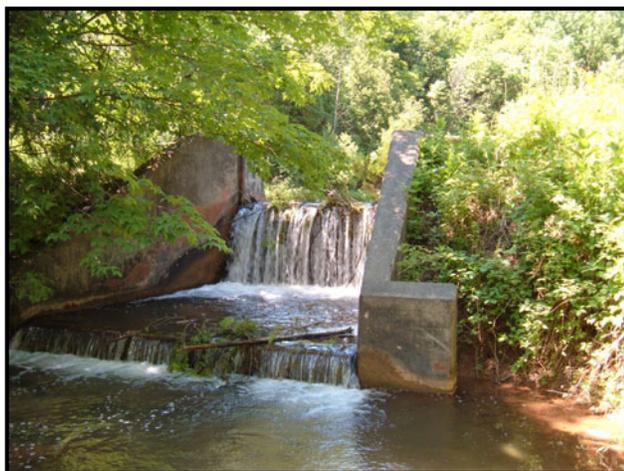
In June CRAA joined forces with TU and CVC to build a rocky ramp at a cement barrier under King Road. The process went very well, with a strong turn out and a job well done. The photo shows everyone getting their feet wet.



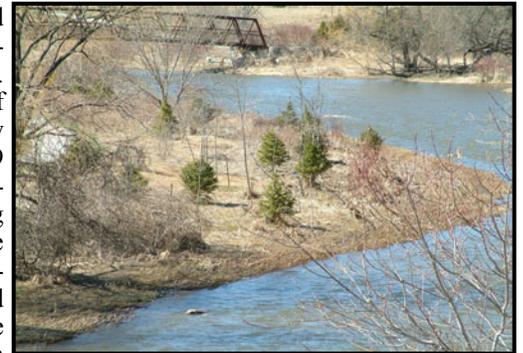
On a hot day in August CRAA with CVC continued the draw down of the dam on Rogers Creek. At the start of the season the dam was six feet high. The original plan was to build a rocky ramp, but after review we all felt best to have the dam removed fully over a period of time. A crew from CVC and CRAA removed two sluice gate boards in July. Another board was removed in early August. The three boards, drawing down about 24" reduced the pond surface by 95%. The CRAA crew planted wild grass seed in the exposed pond bed, consisting of deep silt.

On CRAA's work day in August we placed very significant amounts of woody debris along the edge of the developing stream channel to prevent erosion of the silt now exposed. Ten trailer loads of material were brought to the site by CRAA's crew donated by Sheridan Nursery. The material was fastened to the ground using anchors and cable. Silt in the lower portion of the pond exceeded five feet in depth so the process of full removal will be slow. After the work day the next board in the dam was lifted slightly and removed in late August. Four boards remain, of which 2-3 will be pulled in 2006.

A Review of Past Planting Work



With 2005 coming to an end CRAA has planted roughly 200,000 trees, a truly astounding number for a volunteer community group, especially since most work has been done since 1999 to 2005. This section will highlight some of the sites we have planted in the past and show the exciting results. Sections of river with few trees in 1999 now have rapidly growing forests. The Eastern Cottonwoods and Poplars have led the way in



growth as expected, with trees planted in 1999-2000 exceeding forty feet tall in many sites. However our plan of planting various species has paid off as maples, ash, pine and spruce, as well as many others have established and are flourishing. The Transplant project has also been a great success with many large trees establishing in areas where small trees alone failed to survive.

Crew member Nick beside a forty foot poplar planted as a baby in 2000!

Forest for the river in Glen Williams, at the Hancock farm. Planted in 1999 by CRAA.



CRAA Annual General Meeting

February 23, 2006

<p>The CRAA Annual General Meeting will be held on February 23, 2006 at the offices of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, second floor.</p>	<p>Credit Valley Conservation Office 1255 Old Derry Road West Mississauga, ON</p>
<p>February 23, 2006 Start : 6:30 PM Finish : 9:30 PM</p>	<p>Follow Creditview Road North, turn right onto Old Derry Road just north of the 401 and you will find the CVC's driveway just west of the Credit River.</p>
<p>The meeting will consist of a review of recent club works with a Powerpoint presentation, an update on the hatchery, Fisheries Management Plan and more.</p>	<p>Light refreshments will be available.</p>

CRAA 2006 AGM Proxy

If you are unable to attend the AGM but wish to include your voice please fill out this proxy and mail to CRAA's address on page 2 of this newsletter.

I, _____ of _____, being a member in good standing of CRAA hereby appoint John Kendell, Chairman of CRAA, or failing him the CRAA Secretary, or _____, as my proxy to attend and act on my behalf at the AGM held on February 23, 2006 at the offices of the CVC. I hereby direct the said proxy to vote as follows on the following matters, namely:

____ FOR or ____ AGAINST or ____ Withhold from voting for acceptance of the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2005.

____ FOR or ____ AGAINST or ____ Withhold from voting for the election of executive and directors and any other business properly brought forward at the CRAA AGM.

Member Name : _____ Signature : _____ Date : _____

Membership and Renewal Information

Are you concerned about the future health of the beautiful Credit River and Bronte Creek watersheds including all their tributaries? Do you enjoy fishing, hiking and other activities in the valleys? Do you want a cleaner river, better fishing and a cleaner environment for the future? Then you should join CRAA NOW. CRAA's address is on page 2.

New Member Fees: **1 year \$25.00** **3 years \$55.00** (Please enclose cheque payable to CRAA)
Membership Renewal : **1 year \$20.00** **3 years \$50.00**

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ Postal Code _____

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E-mail Address : _____

Yes! I want to volunteer for: _____