· CRAA - Newsletter

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URBAN FISHING '91 - SUNDAY JULY 7, 1991

This year after the success of Metro Fishing '90, CRAA has taken it upon ourselves to co-ordinate our own site in Mississauga. The date will be Sunday, July 7 and will take place at Port Credit Memorial Park (Lakeshore and the Credit River). We are hoping for a really great turnout from CRAA.

If you like, you may want to invite your son or daughter, dad or grandfather for a day out. This may be a great way for you to spend some quality time together and they can see what CRAA is all about. I know the once or twice a year I take my father fishing becomes one of the special times between the two of us that we rarely find time for but never forget.

Urban fishing is the new name for last years Metro Fishing Day. The purpose of the day is to encourage the fishing opportunities that are available right outside our doors. It is an opportunity to promote sportfishing an Alternative species fishing for the fun of it. Last year we had the chance to invite 30 handicapped children from Variety Village to try their luck. Only two of these children had the opportunity to fish before. All of the children had a great time and are looking forward to returning again to catch and release another fish. This year these kids will be fishing at a site in the Rouge Valley.

To make the Mississauga location really a day to live up to the reputation of CRAA, a day is planned to keep everybody interested. Guests for the day will include; Mississauga Mayor, Hazel McCallion; MNR Biologist, Jon Bisset, Alternative Species Consultant, Owen Vaughan; the Peel Regional Police Marine Unit with a water safety display; and an electrofishing demonstration by the MNR. Hopefully this day will not be paralleled by any of the other five sites across the Urban Metropolitan area.

For the CRAA member there will also be a big fish tournament with either a cash or equipment prize guaranteed to be in excess of \$100.00. Encourage other CRAA members to attend and lets all have a great day on the water. For those of you who are interested, there will be filleting demonstrations and who knows what other surprises will be in store for those who attend.

As well as the Mississauga site, we will also be helping OFAH man their location at Grenadier Pond in High Park. If we could assist with about ten volunteers it would be a great help.

If you would like to HELP WITH URBAN FISHING DAY please call me as I could use some help in making this the best day yet.

P.S. THIS INVITATION IS OPEN TO ALL CRAA MEMBERS AND NOT ONLY TO THOSE WHO ALWAYS OFFER HELP. COME ON GUYS, LETS GET INVOLVED.

Thanks and see you there, Elliot Snitman 440-1297 Urban Fishing Co-ordinator

A WARM WELCOME TO YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE

Elections for the Executive positions were held at the General Meeting on May 21. We've put together a short profile of each of the new Executive members to help you to get to know them a little better.

President: Ron Turalinski, 32, married.

Ron has been involved with the Credit River Anglers Association since its beginnings. Last year Ron was the V.P. of Operations and was the mainstay of our Fish Culture projects. Thanks to Ron we now have a functioning upwelling box, we have an established Rainbow Trout Lift in the spring and a Chinook Egg Collection in the fall. Ron has also been involved in a large number of other Credit River Anglers Association events through out the year.

Contrary to what many people think, Ron is not a Biologist, he's actually a Fire-Fighter. Looking at Ron's spare time interests and activities, its easy to see why some people have that impression.

Ron has interests in Chemistry and Biology and has an excellent understanding of environmental sciences. Ron has been following fishing technology for 15 years. He manages to wade through 10 - 12 Outdoor Magazines a month. He maintains an impressive collection of those magazines for reference, including an almost complete set of "In-Fisherman" magazines and videos.

Ron is a Part-time Charter boat Skipper in his spare time. He also enjoys spending his free time hunting for Ducks, Geese, and Whitetail Deer. Ron is member of Ducks Unlimited and the Ontario Sport Fishing Club.

Vice President, Operations: Dave Robertson, 46, married with 2 grown daughters.

Dave was one of the original "Clean Up" crew that led to the birth of The Credit River Anglers Association. Dave has been involved in various Credit River Anglers Association events and activities since its inception.

Dave was your basic Bass and Walleye angler until several years ago when he first tried Trout and Salmon fishing on Lake Ontario. Now Dave runs the "Breakaway V", a fishing charter boat, out of Port Credit. Dave enjoys getting the opportunity to help others experience this fabulous fishery.

Dave is a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and is one of the original members of the Ontario Sport Fishing Club.

Vice President, Administration: Simon Backley, 27, married.

Simon has also been involved in the Association since its inception. He was last years River Habitat Director, organizing several Clean Ups and a Tree Planting. Simon was the one who designed our Crest/Logo, and produced a number of our fliers.

Although he has fished for most of his life he has only been fishing "seriously" for 5 years. He has been Fly Fishing almost exclusively since Spring of '90. Simon now does most of his fishing on the Credit, due to the improved atmosphere created by CRAA.

Simon works as an Information Systems Consultant (Project Co-ordinator) for the CGI Group. He has also recently started up his own consulting firm "Skamania Enterprises".

He has stated that he is committed to the following issues - single hook barbless fishing for the entire Credit; sanctuary year round - 25m North and South of the Icebreaker; more emphasis on Conservation, and more Angling Education for the membership.

Simon is a member of Trout Unlimited, O.F.A.H, and The Izaak Walton Fly Fishermen's Club.

Secretary: Ray Webb, married.

Ray, you may remember, was our Secretary last year. He did such a good job that we're happy to see him back again this year. Ray is also familiar to many as Jake North. Ray is one of the original founding members of the Association. He was responsible for the forming of the Credit River Anglers Association into a corporation; establishing our non-profit status and writing our Constitution.

Ray moved from London (U.K.) to Toronto five years ago. Since that time he has written, field tested and commissioned an artist to complete the illustrations and paintings needed to fill a series of six different pocket sized, waterproof, dirt and tear resistant "F.A.C.T. Guides" for anglers (F.A.C.T. stands for Fish, And Catch Tactics).

Ray is a member of Trout Unlimited, Muskies Canada, The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, B.A.S.S., The American Fisheries Society, The Atlantic Salmon Federation, The International Game Fish Association and the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association.

Take a close look, these are average guys who happen to have common interests. Maybe you have the same interests, they sure could use your help in making the Association a success.

They're looking for Directors and Directors Assistants for the following areas - River Habitat; Fish Culture; Membership; Fund Raising; and Education. If you wish to become a Director or to assist a Director just let them know and they'll help you get to work.

SPRING EVENTS ROUND UP

Most of you will have to agree that this spring was one of the strangest ones on record. From torrential rains to heat waves, we saw it all! Several times this Spring the Credit either came close to, or actually crested the Icebreaker.

ICEBREAKER

Unfortunately, one of those days was on April 21 - the day of our "ICEBREAKER" event. The event was designed to be a fun day of fishing with other members and a celebration of the early season in Erindale Park. Late Saturday night, however, calls were made by the Executive and it was decided to call the event off. It was just as well, because checking the Park at 08:30 on Sunday I found 3 cars in the lot, freezing temperatures, the river about 3 feet below the top of the Icebreaker and looking a lot like chocolate milk. There was one consolation, however, I did manage to renew a membership from 1 diehard angler.

SPRING CLEAN UP

April 7 was an incredible day. The snow hadn't yet melted from the Collingwood Ski hills and we were all walking around getting tans in T-shirts. It was the day of one of the best Clean Ups we've had to date. All told we had 65 volunteers show up, including several families and the Parks and Rec Staff. We broke up into groups and set out with our garbage bags to tackle the job at hand. Thanks to our previous efforts the work seems to get easier every time, however, the Beaver carcass was pushing it a bit. Thanks to the person with a strong stomach!!

The cleanup gave us the opportunity to break in some of our new tools that we had purchased with funds from a Shell Canada grant. Included were shovels, rakes, claw hoes and walkie talkies.

Each person that registered their name to be a volunteer was given a "Certificate of Merit", this was created specially for the event. Thanks to Mary McGurk (now a member) who helped out by filling in names. In addition to the Certificates each volunteer was given a ticket to be turned in for a lunch and door prize draw for a Columbia "Big Horn" fishing vest. The draw was made by little Bonnie "Minnie" McKenzie and the winner of the vest was Hugh McShane.

Thanks to Donna McNair for donating the coffee and donuts and her skills as a registrar.

TREE PLANTING

This brings us to Saturday, May 11, another fabulous day. My sunburn kept me up for nights. This was the day of our tree planting, an event put together with Councilor Culham. Five hundred trees were trucked in by the Parks and Rec department and we started slogging away.

From the beginning it looked like we were in trouble. The ground was as solid as a rock, and sad to say the membership turnout was terrible. Only 9 members turned out including Al Vineberg's wife, Deb, and the kids, Raymond and Jamie. At one point members were outnumbered by non-members. Accolades go to Bob Small for his outstanding contribution.

In all 19 people turned out, although we only had that number of volunteers for about 1/2 hour. Those people managed to plant just over 300 trees, they deserve your gratitude. Its those people that maintain a good image of the Association and anglers in general.

We have to get a larger "core" group of members together to ensure that there is a future for angling in the Credit. We have had a great deal of good press in both the national and regional angling magazines because of your efforts. Chances are you haven't read an issue lately that doesn't mention what CRAA has been up to.

Think back to the Fall of '89 and remember what a state Erindale was in, now think back to Fall of last year. Quite a difference, wasn't it!! That's CRAA in action and we need your one more body to keep the train rolling. Come on and pitch in!! We don't bite and I promise you'll feel good about what you're doing to promote angling and to enhance the environment.

Simon Backley, V.P. Admin.

P.S. If you feel that you have the solution to our problems or just want to help out please write to us at our address c/o "EVENTS".

WANTED

As we continue to grow in size it has become necessary to manipulate large amounts of information and to produce professional documents. In order to relieve the pressure from individual members we are desperately in need of a computer for the Association.

We need access to word processing, desktop publishing and database functions to produce membership applications, newsletters, fliers, and to maintain our membership list. The following are the basic requirements;

IBM compatible 286 (AT) preferably with 1Mb RAM monochrome monitor keyboard
20Mb hard drive
3.5" 1.44Mb floppy drive
5.25" 1.2Mb floppy drive

WordPerfect Aldus PageMaker PCTools V6

If you or anyone you know of can donate this or a similar system, we would be very grateful. As we are a registered charity, we can also issue receipt for the value of the system. New or used, either would be fine. The donor would also receive recognition in our newsletter (if, acceptable to the donor).