



LIGHT LINES

Winter, 1999

Volume 10, Number 1

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

An exciting future of the Credit River and the great potential fishing opportunities out on our door step. After 12 Management Plan meetings the future is much clearer than ever before.

PUBLIC MEETING

CREDIT RIVER FISHERIES MGT PLAN

FEBRUARY 17, 1999 6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM

at the Credit Valley Conservation Office
1255 Old Derry Road, Meadowvale, ON.

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Protection of the existing fishery, that of brook trout, brown trout, steelhead and all the others was the top priority. Lets not loose what we already have. The second priority was improve these fish populations. For brook and resident brown trout the only way to improve population size is more habitat through stream conservation work and lowering water temperatures. To improve steelhead numbers and allow the population to become self sustaining barriers to migration (e.g. Norval Dam) and upper limits had to be dealt with.

I believe after all the meetings and information the new Credit River Fisheries Management Plan will not only address all concerns, but ensure all fish populations are maximized.

Steelhead will be allowed above the Norval Dam where water temperatures are cool enough for them to naturally reproduce. Silver Creek will become a very important nursery stream for

rainbows and we expect good to excellent reproduction through the main branch towards Inglewood.

Steelhead will be stopped by a barrier somewhere near Inglewood to prevent them from reaching the Forks of the Credit and the East Credit River. There are concerns that the steelhead may displace some of the brook trout in these reaches. Brook trout are the most sensitive specie and under the most stress from human activity. Imagine, brook trout once existed in places like Mullet Creek and Fletchers Creek. These creeks can barely support any fish now due to urban development and destruction of the natural stream system.

The final public meeting for the Credit River Management Plan will be held February 17th, 1999 at the Credit Valley Conservation Office, 1255 Old Derry Road, Meadowvale. **Your attendance is VERY IMPORTANT.**

The only question still not answered is the final location of the barrier to stop steelhead. The barrier was originally built upstream of Inglewood, just above the East Credit River. We have agreed the barrier should be moved downstream below the East Credit River (still in Inglewood). However, some want the barrier closer to Georgetown, even though the scientific evidence does not agree.

It is very important that your comments and ideas be heard. 10 years ago nobody voiced a desire for more wild steelhead in the Credit and the fish were almost lost. Don't let this happen again!

Credit River Anglers Association **LIGHT LINES**

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

Send your articles, messages
or suggestions to:

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Or call the CRAA 24 hr hotline at:
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President's Address

After 5 years heading CRAA I am pleased to see how much we have done and extremely excited about the future. The incredible amount of work so many people have put in is close to paying off for the fishery.

Our focus remains clear and ever expanding. Every year more members get involved to help CRAA reach our goals of a better fishery. As we near the completion of the Credit River Fisheries Management Plan the future looks bright.

It is great to see how far we have come over the past five years. It's even more incredible to think of where we are going.

Annual Projects.

Back in 1994 we completed our first stream rehabilitation work, on Huttonville Creek. This was truly the first stream work we had done other than the boulder placement. Every time I drive past the intersection of Mississauga Road and Highway 7 I'm proud of what was done. A young forest now grows along what was once an open field with tons of soil eroding into the small stream and into the Credit. Up to 1998 we managed to complete many small projects aimed at rehabilitating areas in serious need of work. Our conservation work was limited by budgets and fund raising.

In the spring of 1998 we first received a \$10,000 grant from the Toronto Star Salmon Hunt/Toronto Sportsmen's Club. This kick started an incredible year of fund raising and conservation work. Last year we spent over \$30,000 on conservation work in the form of materials, a truck for the summer work crew and student salaries. With a work force that peaked at 7 students we completed far more work than our previous 9 years combined. On top of the stream work we raised steelhead and Atlantic salmon in our hatchery. We also made many new contacts with land owners for future work and references.

This Year, 1999

This year we have an incredible year planned. We have already received a \$10,000 grant from the MNR's Ministers Office (John Snobolen) to help our work. We will also continue the boat launch fund raiser, CFIP and hope to receive grants from other groups like the Toronto Salmon Hunt again. The more money we raise, the more we can do. This past month I put together a major funding proposal request for the 1999 year. Hopefully we receive the money which will double our work crew and completed projects.

Your help is needed

As we continue to expand our projects we need more help with the club. We need you, as members to spare some time if you can. **Remember, many hands make light work.** If you have a little time to spare, call us and let us know. We need a couple members to follow up with existing members for membership renewals. We also need articles for the newsletter, surly you get tired of my writing. I know there are a few members with experience growing/planting trees. We need someone to help oversee the clubs nursery. It's not much work, we have the space from Sheridan Nurseries and can buy the soil/pots. We just need someone to oversee the activities including cuttings, potting and planting.

Conservation Work Days

There are only a few workdays planned so we can maximize our turnout. Last April we had 20 CRAA volunteers collecting cedar trees. We collected over 1,000 trees that day, up to 8 feet tall. That saved a weeks work for our summer students which saved the club almost \$1,400. Again, if you can spare a little time come on out to the posted workdays on the back page. Mark them on your calender.

1999 Conservation Projects



Date Project Details

- Jan-May** **Monitor and feed Atlantic salmon fry**
- March 20 to April 20** **Fish Ladder Operation for steelhead**
We will operate the ladder to collect 250,000 steelhead eggs and to tag, weigh and measure.
Meet at the fish ladder at: Weekdays at 5:00 PM, Weekends 8:00 AM and all day. Bring friends.
- March 20 to June 30** **Up-welling box operation for steelhead**
CRAA volunteers will monitor the up-welling box daily to pick dead eggs and clean egg trays.
Dead eggs must be removed daily to prevent fungus. Mike Tost needs a lot of help on this one.
- April 18** **Tree collection (cedars, poplar, willow, aspen)**
We will collect several thousand willow cuttings for live staking the following day. Meet at the Burnhamthorpe Parking Lot of Erindale Park.
- May 8 Tentative** **Tree Planting with Councillor Culham**
CRAA volunteers will join Mississauga Councillor David Culham to plant trees in Erindale Park.
Meet at the Dundas parking lot at 8:30 am. Bring a shovel and a friend or two.
- May 15** **Black Creek Conservation Project**
CRAA volunteers will plant 500 large cedars and willows at the work site. We will also place 20 cedar revetments and several small logs to add to the habitat diversity of this stretch. The section has a good population of brook trout, but the habitat limits their success and the shortage of trees causes the water to heat up. Meet at Stewarttown at 9:00 AM sharp.
- June 19** **Steelhead fry release days.**
We need 20 volunteers out to help to release 250,000 steelhead fry. There is over 35 km of river and we would like to release the fry into the entire section that they are allowed to maximize survival. Some crews will release fish from canoes while others will release them by walking the river. Meet each day at hatchery in Glen Williams at 8:30 AM. Bring waders.
- June 26** **Steelhead fry release days.**
Same as above
- July 3 Tentative** **Urban Fishing Days**
Volunteers will help the youngsters catch some fish at Lake Aquitaine in Meadowvale.
Meet at the Lake Aquitaine dock at 8:30 am. Bring your kids to fish.
- July 17** **Norval Section Conservation Project**
CRAA volunteers will place 15 large cedar revetments for cover and bank stabilization. We will also plant about 500 trees and build a large lunger structure. The work site will be below Highway 7. Meet at the parking lot of Nashville North at 9:00 AM

Call the CRAA hotline for more information (905) 608-0169