



Light Lines

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HUGE TREES FOR THE RIVER!

By John Kendell

As noted in the last newsletter, on April 20 CRAA completed a tree planting of a new level by planting large trees along the river up to 35 feet tall! We did it again on May 25 in Glen Williams too, this time planting 28 trees at the Glen Williams Park on the banks of the Credit River. I know I wrote about this a few months ago, but the incredible scale of the planting needed an encore performance!

On April 20, 2002 43 CRAA volunteers planted the 75 large trees and over 1,000



CRAA volunteers planting many large white spruce trees.

Great Ontario Salmon Derby Donates \$10,000 to CRAA to help with the hatchery and conservation work!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

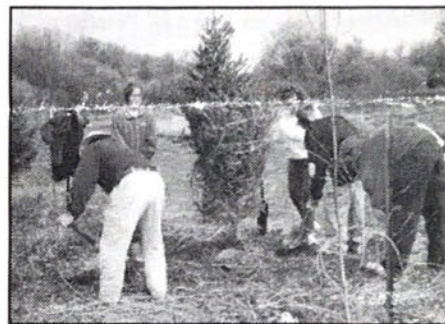
- CRAA's huge tree planting
- Fish Kill—May 25, 2002
- Brown trout radio telemetry update
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small trees in Streetsville Memorial Park. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion came out to help and lend her support behind the project. With the three big TV stations there we had a great media turnout and major clips on the 6 O'clock news!



CRAA volunteer Bill Large stands beside a 33 foot high green ash.

On May 25, 2002 we were short on volunteers, as only 6 CRAA volunteers were out to plant the 28 large trees. Fortunately, the Town of Halton Hills had already excavated the holes so all we had to do was plant the trees and place T-bars and wire them up. Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle came out to help on this important event as well.



CRAA volunteers planting another big spruce tree.

After beginning the summer with plenty of rain and cooler weather mother nature surprised us with the second hottest July and August on record and the driest August. EVER recorded for Toronto. The hot, dry weather has put all newly planted trees under some stress, but out of the 107 large trees CRAA planted, only 2 appear to have not survived from the Glen Williams site. CRAA volunteers including myself, Brian Morrison, Mike Brady, Pete Pettos and Matt Taggart all took some time to make sure the trees had some water to carry them through the hot weather. CRAA has a large gas powered water pump and fire hose to do the job.

Over the next two years CRAA intends to expand this project ten fold to ensure the many open sections of the lower and middle river are planted with large trees that can withstand ice, park use and other threats. All trees are protected from beavers with wire mesh and have t-bars to help protect them from ice damage. Thousands of smaller trees will also be planted from the headwaters down as well!



**Credit River Anglers Association
Light Lines**

Contributions are welcome from all members and non-members alike. Send your articles of interest, messages or suggestions to:

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News and Announcements

Fish Kill in the Credit

On May 24th and 25th the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) treated the Credit River with TFM3, a lampricide. The treatment was started at Cheltenham, rather than the usual Norval site because lamprey juveniles were found above the Norval Dam. Those of you who saw the river might remember the green tinge to the water, and we all want to forget the tragic fish kill that was caused by the treatment. While the total fish kill is unknown, it is reasonable to estimate the fish kill to exceed 20,000 fish, and possibly many more. On the evening of May 25th there were over 500 dead salmon parr and smolts above the Streetsville Dam alone. There were many reports to the CRAA hotline and website about hundreds of dead juvenile trout and salmon and some adult steelhead floating down the river while the water was Green. The reason for the fish kill, which to my knowledge has never occurred at this level before is due to the change in PH between day and night on the Credit River. During the day the PH is around 8.6, but at night it drops to 8.0. The strength of the TFM3 is related to the PH level, so when the PH dropped over night it caused the massive fish kill. Sadly, DFO did not know the PH level changed, although the information was readily available from the Credit Valley Conservation. On the other side – the lampricide is a necessary evil. Without it the adult salmon and trout would be decimated in the Great Lakes by the lamprey as they were 30 or more years ago.

Credit Valley Sanitary Sewer Extension

Back in June the Region of Peel released its plan to extend the Trunk Sanitary Sewer in the Credit Valley from Highway 401 to Huttonville. This option was chosen, even though it did not meet the best interests of the environment or the river. In the proposal there would be up to 5 crossings of the river with the sewer. This would be done by drilling a tunnel about 4m in diameter under the riverbed. The immediate construction would impact the rivers edge with machinery and massive deforestation of the riparian zone and future incising of the river (cutting downwards over time) may expose the sewer line. CRAA has sent a letter to the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Chris Stockwell requesting the sewer extension be bumped up to a higher level! Environmental Assessment. Trout Unlimited has also sent a letter to the minister and I would like to thank Mike Warrian, from TU's Ontario Council for his assistance in writing the letter to the minister.

CRAA Picnic

The CRAA Family Picnic was a great success! We had about 40 people out including many wives, girlfriends and children and everyone had a chance to wet a fly line for the trout in the ponds on the property. Once I gave Matt Taggart my secret pond fly he managed a couple big rainbows, up to 26", but then he went and lost the fly – oh well. A very special thanks to Bob Wolf for offering his beautiful property and fish for all of us to enjoy. Also, a very special thanks to Bruce Dobbin, another long time CRAA member who was chef – extraordinaire! Bruce not only barbequed up the usual hotdogs and burgers, but managed several pork tenderloins that were cooked to perfection. A special thanks goes out to Bruce's wife as well – it was her birthday the same day and she still allowed Bruce out to cook for us!

News and Announcements Continued

Steelhead Stocking

The morning of the CRAA picnic 22 volunteers made their way to the hatchery for an early start to stock our steelhead fry. Many hands make light work, and we managed to stock almost all the years hatch in one morning. Fish were stocked in the main Credit below the Papermill Dam and Black and Silver Creeks. With all the help the volunteers were able to spread the fish out at each stocking site to maximize survival. Many thanks to all the volunteers!

Great Ontario Salmon Derby Donates \$10,000.00 to CRAA

The Great Ontario Salmon Derby, formally the Great Salmon Hunt has donated \$10,000 to CRAA to help us in hatchery additions and conservation work. Chairman Walter Oster and Director Bill Doyle have been long time supporters of CRAA's conservation and fishery efforts and have made a wonderful effort to make sure money raised by the derby helps the local fishery! Funding this year has allowed CRAA to bring hydro to the hatchery for aerators and automatic feeders. This will greatly improve the growth and survival of Atlantic salmon, brown trout and steelhead that are raised annually in CRAA's hatchery.

River Watch

CRAA member Michael Flynn is heading up the revitalized CRAA river watch and with the help of some other new members will extend the watch to include sensitive sections of the upper Credit River, such as highway 24. The River watch crew will patrol Erindale Park during the salmon season to educate anglers and create a visible enforcement. The river watch patrols will also be done with the area Conservation Officer, Ian MaGee. The volunteer river watch is there to educate the public about legal means of fishing and make the fishing enjoyable for all. In the case of serious poaching problems they will collect evidence and pass it to the MNR for potential charges.

Fall Salmon Action is here!

By the time this newsletter reaches you the salmon will likely be in the Credit and most other rivers. This article is here to offer some places to fish and a basic how to and what NOT to do!

The lower Nottawasaga is best early, with most salmon done by September 10, but steelhead action starting. The Saugeen, Beaver and Credit are all best between September 10 and October 10 for salmon. Smaller rivers like Bronte and out east tend to run only after heavier rains bring up water levels. Bronte has had fresh runs of salmon as late as October 20 in the past.

Make sure the area you choose is open to fishing. Come September 30 most rivers close up, with the exception of small sections, such as Erindale Park.

Most other sections of the lower Credit are already closed, with the sanctuary coming in effect on August 15 of each year below Streetsville Park.

To fish properly you are best to target salmon in pools or deep runs where they are holding. When fish are in the rapids they are not likely to bite, unless you find them in a deep slot or pocket taking a rest. If you foul hook a salmon you should break it off or pull the hook out as best you can. I normally fish an eagle claw hook for salmon which is soft enough to bend open on 6 lb line to pull your hook free if you do snag a salmon. Fighting a snagged salmon is unethical and very unpopular with honest anglers.

Best baits include roe, single eggs, flies such as woolly buggers, nymphs and egg flies, small pieces of sponge to imitate an egg or two (8mm dia) egg. Some anglers do catch many salmon on spinners and plugs in rivers, but that is best on very large rivers like the Saugeen or Nottawasaga. In low, clear water of the Credit it is a recipe for snagging one fish after another unless your very care full. If water is high, it can however be very exciting.

Present your bait by casting upstream and allow it to drift drag free with the current into the holding area. When done the drift, retrieve your line from the pool slowly (as not to snag a fish) and repeat until your hooked up. A salmon hooked in the mouth almost always rises and head shakes first!

Credit River Brown Trout Telemetry Study

By Michael Zimmer

The Credit River brown trout telemetry study is well underway. The project started on May 15 with volunteer efforts from various conservation groups to help capture candidate trout by fishing for them. High water and cool temperatures did little to provide ideal conditions to capture the number of trout needed to cover the 350 mm or the 500 g minimum size. Five candidates were successfully angled out of the thirty required for the study. With the large degree of effort to catch the five candidates, it was decided to change tactics and electrofish for the remaining 25 trout. Electrofishing via punt and backpack provided the 25 trout in short order. As of June 14 the required thirty candidate trout had been successfully radio tagged and were ready for tracking.

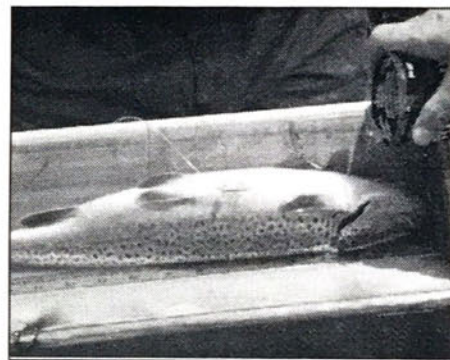
Tracking of the first batch of implanted trout was underway since May 28 and has already provided interesting information. Trout captured in the lower section, or Terra Cotta area, were already on the move having positioned themselves 1500 – 2000 m upstream in a matter of days. All trout appeared to

show signs of significant upstream migrations after release from their surgeries. Distances ranged from 50 m to approximately 5000 m. All tagged trout have also been located at least once and a majority have shown upstream movement indicating that the likelihood is high that all thirty transmitters are functioning and are attached to live trout. Monitoring of fish movements is continuing at an intense level with the hopes of locating each transmitter (and trout) at least twice per week during the summer period.

Twelve temperature monitoring stations have also been set up throughout the study area from the Credit River Forks down to Norval and include the lower reaches of the Little East Credit River and Silver Creek. Monitoring of temperature will assist in the future interpretations of trout movement to determine if a relationship exists. Water temperatures this past week (July 2-5) are peaking at just over 25.0 in the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park during the day and show little signs of cooling during the warm nights. Please

keep this mind if you intend to do some trout fishing in the upper Credit during the hot spells. If you can, postpone your trip to when nighttime temperatures go below 20.0 to keep the playing and handling stress to a minimum.

If you would like more information on the project or would like to help with the tracking for a half day or so please contact Mark Heaton @ MNR 905-713-7400 or Michael Zimmer @ 905-877-5191, ext-228.



A Credit River brown trout with a tag implanted—May, 2002.

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

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