



Light Lines

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Status Report on Phase III of Rehabilitation Project

By Brad Gastle (crew leader)

Spring

Phase III of CRAA's rehabilitation plan was in full swing by late April, 2004. Early spring saw the transplanting of large caliper trees from a wooded lot slated for development. With permission from the landowners (Square One Mall) (CRAA) was able to obtain close to 1,000 large trees which would otherwise be destroyed. The majority of the trees were ash, beech and elm, ranging in size from 10- 25 ft. This proved to be an excellent opportunity for CRAA as the trees already have well established branch and root systems, the results of which provide instant benefits to surrounding habitat. Not to mention they are a cheap alternative in comparison to nursery stock of similar size. The transplant trees were essentially free costing little more than the labour to remove and transport them. CRAA transplanted trees from this site to various sections along the Credit River from Erindale to Norval. Follow up visits to the planting sites throughout the growing season showed excellent survival of the transplanted trees, upwards of 90%. To add diversity both in size and species to our planting sites, CRAA utilized many native species from our very own nursery and even more trees from our key Nursery supplier, Somerville Nurseries. A mix of Cottonwood, cedar, sugar maple, silver maple, red oak, bur oak, ash, spruce, white pine, white spruce, tamarack and willow were planted.

Site details of the project will be included in the upcoming newsletter. A basic outline is noted here to wet your appetite. Creditview meadows (shown in the photo below) was one of the largest sites undertaken. High eroded banks characterized parts of the site with little to no riparian cover. The work crew planted poplar whips in high densities along every accessible stretch of bank through this site. Silver Creek near the sewage treatment plant was another planting site planted upstream to the Mountainview Bridge in Georgetown. This site had a relatively intact riparian zone however some exposed sections needed planting. Poplar, eastern cottonwood and silver



maple were planted near shore and bur oaks were placed further back in upland areas of the valley. The north and south side of Steeles Avenue received a significant amount of the crews time too. This site has virtually no mature tree cover (as seen in the photo below). However there are thousands of smaller trees growing from past CRAA plantings at the site in the year 2000! Nevertheless this site received a healthy dose of trees, from the crew. Over 500 poplar whips and 1,000 other species interspersed throughout were planted along this stretch of degraded river. The Steeles Avenue section was planted with some 7,000 trees and willow cuttings in year 2000 and most of the area has done very well. One section, the south east corner had poor survival and trees planted this year did not do well. The other 90% of the site is now well planted

and follow up work will be done in the problem zone next year.

Summer

Most of the summer involved tending



to past and present planting sites; that is pruning, removing vines, knocking back weed/ grass and watering. Thankfully the watering was kept to a minimum thanks in part to mother nature who afforded us a very wet summer. Another major task undertaken this year was tree guarding. A new method was implemented this year, which we hope will prove to be a very effective deterrent to animal browsing. Metal lath (wire mesh) is now being used by CRAA to protect our trees. The diamond patterning is small enough to keep out rodents, rabbits and beaver. The metal is sharp enough, especially when cut as the hands of the work crew can attest to, this should discourage animals from trying to chew through it. The metal guards were reserved mainly for the poplar, but for all species in area with significant beaver activity.

See PHASE III pg 3

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Credit River Anglers Association
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Contributions are welcome from all members and non-members alike.

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News and Announcements

Highlights within CRAA!



CRAA Membership Information:

The many volunteers that run CRAA have been striving to keep the membership informed and active. However, with a few volunteers moving on and some new volunteer members aboard we have been slow at sending out the club newsletter and keeping you, the general membership informed. As a result, the executive board has agreed to extend everyone's membership by one year for free. We apologize for the delay and hope that more members will get involved to help out with the clubs day to day operations. Managing the projects and crew has consumed a lot of the boards time, but the fruits will be well worth it in the future!

New CRAA Secretary and Membership Director—Please welcome Rick Symanski, member since 1997 to the new role.

New CRAA volunteer Coordintor—Please welcome Blair Meisner.

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

HOOK, LINE & SINKERS
Fishing Tackle
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Ray Collesso (519) 766-HOOK (4665) email: hls@on.aibn.com
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ANGLING SPECIALTIES
A DIVISION OF FIVE CHAINS ENTERPRISES CORP.
325 Central Parkway West, Unit 42 (Corner of Confederation Parkway) Mississauga, Ont. L5B 3X9 Tel. 905-275-4972

WILSON'S
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61 Front Street East Toronto, Ontario M5E 1B3
(416) 869-3474 wilsons@ca.inter.net www.wilsonorvis.com

CRAA Lowville Park Volunteer Day

CRAA held a volunteer day at Lowville Park on Bronte Creek. Members, volunteers and the community were invited out to help plant trees in designated areas of the park. The day turned out to be a fantastic success, through hard work from everybody involved. 150 large white cedar trees 1.5 m tall and 100 potted white pine 1 m tall were planted in the designated areas along Bronte Creek. Each tree received a spot of mulch and a shot of water to help it on its way. Refreshments and prizes were given out the end of the day and satisfaction was taken in the healthy introduction of new trees into an otherwise manicured riparian zone.



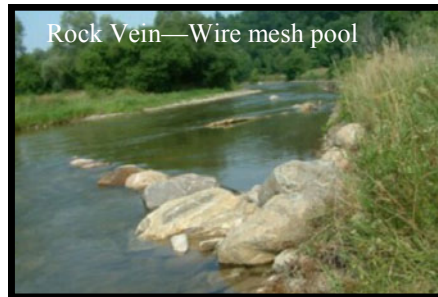
Advertise your business here!

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.

Erindale Park Boulder Placement—Summer 2004

This year represented the third and largest to date boulder placement project and the results were a tremendous success. The project area is located within Erindale Park in the City of Mississauga. The work area extends from the pond in Erindale Park (about 500m north of Dundas Street, Hwy 5), north to the south side of the Hwy 403 bridge. This encompasses the entire Credit River valley within the 3 km stretch of river. Members of CRAA implemented the boulder placement project during the week of August 23-27, 2004. CRAA worked in conjunction with members of Galcon Marine, City of Mississauga, Credit Valley Conservation and Ministry of Natural Resources. The focus of this project was to incorporate approximately 250- 300 boulders (1- 6 tonne) and large woody debris into identified sections of the river. Which in-turn will incorporate much needed pools, holding water and cover for the many resident and anadromous fish that utilize this stretch of river. CRAA prescribed the following remediation techniques based on the morphological characteristics of this particular stretch of the Credit River. As outlined by Rosgen (1996) the stream type is classified as a type C3, exhibiting some C1 characteristics. The habitat improvement structures chosen to be most suitable for this project were as follows; random boulder placements, J-hook rock veins, rock veins, wing deflectors, vortex weirs and floating log cover cabled to boulders. A very special thanks goes out to Mark Heaton

from MNR for encouraging CRAA to incorporate the logs into the pro-



ject.

To our knowledge, logs cabled into boulders in this manner has not been attempted in southern Ontario in this large scale. The cabled log technique is taken from that used by fish en-



hancement groups in BC and appears to be a great option for some of our more pressured urban streams.

Many members have likely seen the work first hand, hopefully having caught a few fish from around the structures or perhaps leaving a hook or two into some of the wood. The woody debris was added using heavy

stainless steel cable placed into a drilled hole in a large rock and secured with a construction epoxy. The wire is then fastened around the tree and locked in place with clamps. The cable is ½ inch, rated at 20,000 lbs tensile strength and the rocks used for this work exceeded 10,000 pounds so hopefully the river will have some difficulty moving the wood around.

The whole intent is to incorporate wood back into the lower river, where



it should exist, but frequent flooding caused by urbanization rips trees and root systems away, leaving bare eroding stream banks. Fish, both migratory and resident rely on wood for cover, spawning areas and protection from fishing pressure. The wood certainly was preferred by the fish, as the crew witnessed many salmon hiding under the logs in low water.

Reference: D. Rosgen, 1996. Applied River Morphology. Wildland Hydrology, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Phase III Tree Planting Update Continued

The poplar species are a pioneering tree and as such grow very aggressively in the short term. This is ideal for our reforestation purposes, we will protect and grow poplars in the short term to protect our long term species i.e. maples, oaks, ash etc. That is physical protection from wind, high waters, ice and debris. The poplars

can grow fast enough and large enough to provide protection in a short period of time (5- 10 years) allowing the longer living species time to mature and eventually overtake their guardian tree.

Additional planting occurred in locations throughout the watershed, in-

cluding planting on the West Credit River near Erin in two locations, many touch up planting work from Inglewood to Terre Cotta, and more intensive planting in sites through Glen Williams, Norval, Brampton and Mississauga.

Brown Trout News

Mike Zimmer completed his Master of Science degree of Biology at Guelph University studying the Credit River resident brown trout fishery. He has recently completed a follow up electro shocking day in early October to look at growth. The CRAA crew and director Peter Pettos were on hand to see this big fella, a **26.5" resident Brown** pulled from the Chan property at Sligo bridge (photo to right). Mike's study looked at the migration and spawning locations the resident brown trout use to assist in the planning for the migratory barrier to stop steelhead. Those who fish this stretch are sure that he wasn't there during the summer. These big resident browns move around in fall looking for a mate so he could be anywhere in the upper river come opener.

CRAA also operated the Streetsville Fishway this fall to lift brown trout. Apart from some bothersome



26.5" wild resident brown trout—Forks of the Credit



CRAA's returning migratory brown trout at the fishway

vandals opening the ladder and passing the early browns through, we did have a good fall. At the end of the season about 100 migratory brown trout have been measured and put over, with another 50 estimated to have past the ladder. Not huge numbers, but given the lower water and first returns of our fish that is good news! The brown pictured here with John (photo to left) is a **30" male** from the ladder in early October, 2004. Great work by Mike Tost at the hatchery to give us these beautiful fish of fall!

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 _____

Tel (Res) : _____ Tel (Bus) : _____

E-mail Address : _____

Yes! I want to volunteer for: _____