



# Light Lines

JOURNAL OF THE CREDIT RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
SPRING 2005 VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

## Moving Forward – The next Step

By John Kendell

I really don't know where the time goes. It seems like just yesterday we were starting our first big year, but that was 1998, and seven years later what we have accomplished is truly astounding.

Somewhere in excess of two million dollars worth of conservation work, much donated/in kind, but well over \$700,000 cash that CRAA has raised, applied for and used to make the Credit River, as well as Bronte and 16 Mile Creek a better place for fish and wildlife. Even now our amazing track record of large scale conservation work continues, with the 16 Mile Creek project that has just been funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. CRAA is also finishing our third and final year of Credit Rehabilitation Project—phase 3. CRAA is also involved in the WECARE project on the West Credit River spearheaded by CVC and TU. The

question is where do we go next?

The CRAA executive have some goals in mind, but I would also like to hear from the membership. While this is an issue that will be discussed at the AGM in May, I'd like to hear some other ideas from you.

Our priorities for the club are as follows:

- Steelhead access over the Norval Dam upon completion of the new barrier.
- Priority completion of the new barrier.
- Implementation of reduced limits on migratory fish in the Credit River.
- Storm water management projects, starting small and growing.
- Continued riparian tree planting in the few spots we have not planted yet!

- New regulations on Bronte for extended fishing opportunities with reduced limits.

Perhaps some of you have other ideas or know of other conservation or stream rehabilitation work that needs to be done. If you do, please let us know!

As always, we also need members to step up and help out with projects. We are all volunteers so the more help, the more we can accomplish. Simply send an e-mail to [info@craa.on.ca](mailto:info@craa.on.ca) and I will find something for you to help out with. Kids fishing day, fishway, clean ups, tree planting or other specific projects close to your heart!

## 2004—A Great Year for Trout and Salmon

As you likely remember, the summer of 2004 was not the best for sun tanning at the beach. Cold days, lots of steady rain, cool nights and only a couple days reaching the 30C mark. While it was not great for those who like the hot weather, it was perfect for

our favorite quarry, the chrome salmonids we spend much of our time chasing throughout the year.

The cool, wet weather was particularly invaluable to the Credit River. With past impacts of deforestation, agriculture and urbanization the river gets far too hot for trout below Norval most years. Not so in 2004. For the first time ever wild, young steelhead were caught electro fishing in August in most lower river sites, including Meadowvale and Erindale! In addition to finding many young of the year, yearling steelhead were also found at most study sites, showing the 2003 year class did very well and indeed flourished through their second year (2004). Rising smolts could be seen throughout the lower river in late

August for the first time since 1992!

This will give us increased runs in 2006 to 2010, and hopefully be al-



lowed to access cold water habitat between Norval and Inglewood.

### In This Newsletter

- The Next Step
- Volunteer Calendar
- News and Announcements
- 16 Mile Creek Project
- 2004 Great year for trout
- Steelhead Tournament
- Trout Tales (TRCA)



Credit River Anglers Association  
Light Lines

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

Send you articles of interest,  
messages or suggestions to:

Credit River Anglers Assoc.  
128 Queen Street South  
PO Box 42093  
Mississauga, ON L5M 1K8

E-mail : [info@craa.on.ca](mailto:info@craa.on.ca)  
Website : [www.craa.on.ca](http://www.craa.on.ca)  
Contributors to this newsletter:

#### CRAA Board of Directors

Chair : John Kendell  
Vice Chair : Brian Morrison  
Board : Mike Brady  
Board : Peter Pettos  
Board : Mike Tost

#### CRAA Executive

President : John Kendell  
Vice President : Mike Tost  
Treasurer : Jim Kendell  
Secretary : Rick Symanski

#### CRAA Executive Team

Membership : Blair Meisner  
Fish Rearing : Mike Tost  
River Watch : Dave Leschied  
Webmaster : Jerry Tusa  
Moderator : Brian Jowlett  
Moderator : Dave Leschied  
Moderator : Matt Taggart

#### Editor

John Kendell

## News and Announcements

Highlights within CRAA!



### CRAA Membership Information:

I'm pleased to see a continued support from many of CRAA's long time members, with many renewals coming back and the majority of our memberships and renewals are for 3 years at a time. Keep up the good work Rick. For those members who have moved, or are moving please be sure to send us your new address.

### IWFFC Fly Fishing Forum

You will notice we included the fly fishing forum brochure in this newsletter. The forum is a great place for new and learning fly fishers to attend some seminars and tying classes for a small fee. CRAA will have a booth at the event for the first time this year too.

### New Membership Cards

Enclosed with your newsletter is your *NEW* CRAA membership Card, in colour, with all names and dates printed. Hope you like it!

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

**HOOK, LINE & SINKER**  
Fishing Tackle  
"...A Fisherman's Paradise..."  
Ray Collesso  
(519) 766-HOOK (4665)  
email: [hls@on.aibn.com](mailto:hls@on.aibn.com)  
380 Eramosa Road  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1E 6R2

**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**  
"Toronto's Fly Fishing Centre"  
61 Front Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5E 1B3  
(416) 869-3474  
[wilsons@ca.inter.net](mailto:wilsons@ca.inter.net)  
[www.wilsonorvis.com](http://www.wilsonorvis.com)

## Trout Tales

Fisheries Studies and Conservation

**Toronto and Region Conservation's** scenic Glen Haffy Conservation Area plays host to "Trout Tales", a full day program designed to engage students in fun and informative activities all about fisheries ecology and conservation. A tour of the fish hatchery, where Glen Haffy staff raise more than 45,000 trout annually, will lead students through a trout's life cycle from egg to adult.

Students get active in "Let's Migrate" as they simulate the lives of trout on a spawning run up-river. The program also offers students the chance to try fishing in Glen Haffy's stocked ponds and learn the ethics of proper handling of fish and angling techniques.

For information and program bookings, go to [www.trca-education.ca](http://www.trca-education.ca) and check Investigating The Living City Spaces Programs or call (416) 667-6295

### 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](mailto:info@craa.on.ca) for details.

## Rainwater Harvesting—Rain Barrels

As local aquifers become depleted coupled with increasing pressures on municipal water supplies, which are treated with a variety of chemicals such as chlorine, an old technique of rainwater harvesting is returning in popularity. Generations ago, families saved water in barrels, ponds or cisterns for use in watering plants, washing clothes and even drinking (not recommended).

Rainwater that falls on the ground is used by plants or filtered through layers of soil. This naturally cleansed water recharges groundwater and sustains consistent flows in streams and rivers. Most of the rainfall that occurs in urban areas lands on impervious surfaces (i.e. roads, parking lots and roofs). Runoff from these surfaces flows into our storm sewers, sometimes causing sewer overflows and basement backups. Rain barrels help ease some of these problems. They store rainwater for later use, preventing clean rainwater from becoming polluted stormwater runoff.

Rain barrels catch rainwater flowing from eaves and provide one of the simplest, cheapest ways to conserve water and prevent it from entering storm sewer system. Rain barrels are able to:

- Save water for drought conditions (approximately 1,300 gallons)
- Provides plants clean, unchlorinated water
- Reduces electricity costs of running sump pumps
- Reduces water and sewage bills

- Slows water so it may be absorbed in soils and utilized by plants
- Reduces surface runoff, preventing stormwater pollution
- Helps prevent flooding
- Helps eliminate needs for costly sewage upgrades to handle excess flows

Rain barrels can cost \$60 to \$250 (plus shipping) when purchased off the internet or at a local garden supply store. Cost depends on size, style and additional desired frills.

Rain barrels can:

- Vary in size from 20 to 150 gallons (76 – 568 Liters)
- Be linked together to increase water capacity
- Be made from wood, heavy plastic, or even garbage cans
- Be incorporated into rain gardens or other gardens
- Hold free water for when you need it

When purchasing a rain barrel look for a unit that is equipped with an opening small enough to fit your downspout pipe, and comes equipped with a screen. The screen will filter out debris and prevent mosquitoes and other unwanted critters from breeding inside the barrel. If you do notice mosquito larvae in your rain barrel, add a few tablespoons of cooking oil (not motor oil) to the top of the water. This will smother the larvae as they come to

the surface to breathe. An overflow device should be utilized to direct excess water away from your home's foundation when the tank is full.

With proper care and maintenance, your rain barrel should last for many years. It may help save money on your water bills and will conserve water. To keep your rain barrel clean, you can wash it with mild soap and water. It is preferable to use biodegradable soap so that it will not damage your plants.

You must drain your rain barrel in the fall before temperatures drop below freezing, otherwise the barrel may crack. It is also recommend that you place your barrel in a shed or garage for the winter if you can. If you want to leave your rain barrel out all winter, it is important that it is completely drained and that the brass tap is left open in the fall. Ensure that melting snow will not drain into the barrel. If you leave your barrel outside in the winter, we recommend that you purchase a special diverter valve in this case.

If you don't have room for a rain barrel, you can still reduce your water use and help reduce the load on the sewer system by disconnecting your downspout from sewer systems. It's easy to do and ensures that rainwater ends up on your lawn or garden instead of down the sewer.

## 16 Mile Creek project

### *More great news!*

CRAA has just been granted \$78,700 over an 18 month period from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to spearhead a comprehensive study on the 16 Mile Creek watershed in direct partnership with the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

16 Mile has been in the shadow of Bronte Creek for past research so little recent data and knowledge exists

for the watershed. We know the river supports a wild steelhead run, resident brown trout and native brook trout. However, the system is also suffering from many severe environmental issues, including 1 km of cement channel through Milton, impacts from many ponds and Lake Kelso, water taking, sewage and massive urban development in both Oakville and Milton. This funding will allow a complete analysis of the system by a biologist working at HRCA office

internally, along with seasonal staff to assist in site analysis. It is an invaluable first step to future rehabilitation and conservation measures on 16 Mile Creek. Thanks OTF!



## 2005 CRAA Volunteer Days

To help you find the project site CRAA will have several Volunteer Day signs posted along the road and parking areas.

April 3-12 Streetsville Fishway Lift

April 23 Tree Planting - Meet at the parking lot on the east side of Creditview Road, just north of the Credit River bridge (500 m north of Britannia Road). 9 AM start.

May 7 CRAA Steelhead Tournament

May 28 WECARE Tree planting - Erin. Check out CVC website for details.

July 16 Silver Creek Garbage Clean Up - Meet at Cedarvale Park (Mountainview Road and 8th Line, Georgetown) at 9AM

August 13 Rogers Creek—Dam removal and bypass. Further details in the next newsletter.



## Spring Steelhead Tournament

The 2nd annual CRAA steelhead tournament is coming soon on May 7, 2005!

CRAA will be hosting a catch and release steelhead tournament on the Credit River with a field limited to 30 anglers, divided into 15 teams of 2. Less experienced anglers will be teamed up with more experienced anglers by draw to give new members a chance to learn some new tricks too!

Patrick, a member of CRAA has managed to raise \$1,000 for prizes through his and other business owners he knows! Thanks to Patrick for giving the tournament a big head start. Other prizes include lots of tackle donated by Hook, Line and Sinker in Guelph by member Ray Colleso. More prizes include framed fish pictures donated by CRAA, a gift certificate from Advanced Taxidermy and more prizes are in the works!

The cost is \$25.00 per angler with all proceeds going to CRAA rehabilitation work. The tournament starts at 6:30 AM in Streetsville Memorial Park. You must sign up in advance for this event. Spaces are limited and filling quickly.

Email CRAA member Dave Barclay who is running the event at: [barclay3283@hotmail.com](mailto:barclay3283@hotmail.com) or [info@craa.on.ca](mailto:info@craa.on.ca) to register and arrange payments. More information is also available on CRAA's chat board, including rules at [www.craa.on.ca](http://www.craa.on.ca) and click on the CRAA Message Board link.

## 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.

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

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Res) : \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Bus) : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I want to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_