CREDIT RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Light Lines

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Recent CRAA work—we are busy!

Another busy year underway for CRAA, our crew and our countless volunteers.

Fishway (March/April)

Volunteers from CRAA operated the Streestville Fishway for the 16th consecutive year. Where does the time go. Steelhead numbers were up from last year slightly, but due to heavy rain just before opener we were unable to complete a proper mark/recapture population estimate. Based on the numbers seen at the ladder and winter fishing the run was likely around 2,500 steelhead in the

04/05 year class.

Adult steelhead transfer

CRAA moved 100 adult steelhead to Silver Creek this year under the guidance of MNR. This project started in 2004, but last year only 28 steelhead were moved due to poor runs and fishway conditions.

Spawning Survey

CRAA volunteers conducted many surveys, concentrating on Black and Silver Creeks. The sites have been logged in the GPS and follow up shocking will be done by CRAA in late August to determine YOY success.

Tree Planting

CRAA is completing our last year of the third phase, reforestation project. A full story will be in upcoming newsletters, as there is too much to tell in even one newsletter. We have hundreds of trees from 99-2000 in the 40 foot level and

well over 100,000 trees growing and making the Credit a colder river. The CRAA crew, with Mike Brady, Nick Karol, Dave Barron and Katie Illian planted in excess of 13,500 trees, including 1,400 transplants and 250 7' spruce and white pine. The hot, dry weather has kept the crew busy watering daily, but the successful tree guarding project is continuing.

Rogers Creek culvert ramp

A joint project with CRAA, CVC and TU has seen the completion of a rocky ramp to improve low water access past the cement culvert under King Road in Terra Cotta. The next CRAA project is the dam removal further up the stream

with CVC. Kudos to Jon Clayton from CVC for making both of these projects happen!

Children's Fishing Day—2005

CRAA, along with MNR, CVC, and IWFFC had a great day at Lake Aquataine in Meadowvale on July 9. Several hundred children were out to fish and many had a chance to tie flies and even catch some pan fish on those same flies!

Other recent actions by CRAA

?? Raising siltation concerns with government (ongoing)

?? Funding for Fish Barrier Environmental Assessment (MNR Minister)

?? Letters and depositions regarding Barber Mill and Brampton West expansions

?? Letters to Minister of housing for

In This Newsletter

Upcoming Events

August 13 - Rogers Creek Dam removal project. Bring waders! In Terra Cotta - King Road and Winston Churchill. Take Bricklane Road north and park at the end.

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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
Website : www.craa.on.ca

News and Announcements

Highlights within CRAA!

CRAA Membership Corner:

There has been continued strong support from membership and new memberships arrive every month. As members you are encouraged to bring new people aboard to be apart of protecting the Credit River.

CRAA Fund Raising Dinner

Those of you familiar with the CRAA chat board may already know CRAA has initiated plans to hold a fund raising dinner in 2006. Board regular Christine will be leading the event. **Volunteers are requested** to help in planning, finding donations and more. E-mail us at info@craa.on.ca to help.

New Membership Cards

New membership cards are enclosed this time. Sorry—the printer did not finish them in time for the last newsletter.

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

CRAA Steelhead Tournament Results

May 7, 2005 at Streetsville.

18 anglers came out to support CRAA and go for 6 hours of intense steelheading. Fish were heavily pressured and hard earned. When it was all said and done here were the results.

1st place: Dave and Matt- 102"
2nd place: Rich and Javier- 45"
3rd place: Sebastian and Paul- 43"
Largest Fish: 28" Caught by Paul

A huge thank you to Patrick, John and Brontechic for donating prizes, they were well appreciated. Thanks to Aaron and Dave for pulling it together again! Over $650.00 raised for CRAA!

Pink Salmon

By Brian Morrison

The pink salmon is indigenous to the Pacific Ocean and its tributaries from the Arctic Ocean near the Bering Strait, southeast to the Sacramento River in California, and southwest to Peter in the Great Bay in Asia.

Pink salmon were accidentally introduced in the Laurentian Great Lakes. The plan was to establish pink salmon populations in Goose Creek, a tributary to Hudson Bay. In January 1956, 513,000 pink salmon embryos and alevins from Lakelse River, Skeena River tributary, British Columbia, were brought to a hatchery in Port Arthur, Ontario (Now Thunder Bay), and then planted in Goose Creek. In 1957, 224,112 more juveniles were planted. In 1957 and 1958, no spawners were found in Goose Creek, and this was deemed to be a failed transplant. However, in 1959, two adult pink salmon were caught by anglers in the mouth of Cross Creek, on the Minnesota side of Lake Superior. Inquiries revealed that several hundred young pink salmon escaped into Lake Superior during the loading of an Otter aircraft in 1956 along with about 21,000 "surplus" fry were released down a drain from the hatchery after the rest had been taken to Goose Creek. The drain led into the Current River, a tributary to Lake Superior in Ontario. Presumably, some of those fry survived, reproduced at some unknown location in the fall of 1957, and two of their grandchildren strayed to Minnesota where they were caught in 1959. In 1969, the first pink salmon was found in Lake Huron and in 1973 one was found in Lake Michigan. In 1979 pinks were found in Lakes Erie and Ontario, completing their colonization of the five Great Lakes, with no assistance from humans after the first release.

There are several remarkable facts concerning the establishment of pink salmon in the Great Lakes. First, they would have been considered a vary unlikely species to survive there, as they migrate to saltwater immediately after emergence from the gravel, and freshwater populations are unknown in their native range. Second, they strayed extensively in the years and decades following the initial invasion. It is unclear if this is because pink salmon stray a lot when compared to other members of the *Oncorhynchus* genus in general, or if there is a greater tendency for salmon to stray in the early stages of colonization. Third, the apparently fixed 2-year life cycle so characteristics of the species changed. In 1976, the first even-year spawners were found in two rivers, and it

seems that Great Lakes pink salmon mature at 1 and 3 years of age as well as the more typical 2 years. This indicates that it is not the age at maturity per se that is fixed, but some linkage between growth rate and maturity. In their endemic range, it seems that all pink salmon grow at a rate that triggers maturity at age 2, whereas in the Great Lakes the trophic conditions are so different that growth rates can delay or even accelerate the maturation process. This provides a paradox, as pink salmon in their native range differ in size up to an eightfold range in weights, as demonstrated in one tiny creek in southeast Alaska. One final curiosity may be mentioned in the context of the Great Lakes pink salmon. The founder population, from the Lakelse River, not only failed to establish a run in Hudson Bay, but it had been among the populations that failed in Newfoundland and also failed in Puget Sound. Presumably, they thrived in the Great Lakes from some combination of good fortune and match between genotype, phenotype and local environment.

Crawford, S.S. 2001. Salmonine introductions to the Laurentian Great Lakes: an historical review and evaluation of ecological effects. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 132. 205 pp.

Heard. W.R. 1991. Life History of Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) 119-230. In C. Groot, and L. Margolis (Editors). Pacific Salmon Life Histories. UBC Press, Vancouver.

Quinn, T.P. 2005. The behavior and ecology of Pacific salmon and trout. 1st ed. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, MD. 378 pp.

Water Quality and Green Drake concerns...

The Green Drake is a very sensitive, important insect to the upper Credit River. In recent years their population has disappeared from the Terra Cotta section and recently reductions have been seen above the Forks to the Cataract. This has raised significant concerns over water quality and the impacts on aquatic insects and in turn trout and salmon. A study was initiated last year and is ongoing. For more information send an e-mail to CRAA and we will direct you to the researcher.

Barrier Study Update

By John Kendell

I recently had the opportunity to review the report completed for MNR for the study looking into barrier types and potential locations for the proposed migratory barrier. The study was done to assist in upcoming public consultation and examines the pros and cons of various barrier types.

The study leaned towards an electro-barrier, which has been used successfully on the Beaver River and many US rivers. Certainly from a cost perspective the electro barrier is the most attractive, as well as minimal impacts on the natural environment. Other options include bladder dams, permanent dams, and a selection of less likely alternatives.

Some people may be apprehensive about the electro barrier as an option based on the failure of the last barrier of this type installed in the Credit. However, it is important to understand why the old electro barrier failed. The barrier, which was built in (1989?) was built using 2x12 spruce boards holding the metal plates (anodes) to cross the bottom of the river channel. These were attached to cement parking curbs placed in the river bottom. Between the 2x12's, to create a smooth bottom and laminar flow, 18'x24' cement patio stones were placed. While the finished product was correct and initially worked very well, the construction methods were not remotely strong enough to survive the flows on the Credit River. Within 1 year the lower anodes were damaged by ice and the lower rows of cement patio stone were washed away. Little or no maintenance allowed further rapid damage to occur and the barrier ceased to function.

If an electro barrier is the final choice this time around, the groups involved including MNR, CVC, CRAA, TU, IWFFC are all committed to seeing this barrier works. With this in mind, there will be a much stronger maintenance and review component to any new barrier to ensure effectiveness. Knowledge of the river, particularly ice and spring flood damage is better understood and there are alternatives to combat this in the construction. The manufacturer had suggested to me back in 1994 to use steel railway lines, which come in 40' sections and can be bolted together to cross the river. These are obviously infinitely stronger than 2x12's, last forever, conduct electricity well, are inexpensive and readily available at any rail yard. A proper poured concrete base would also be necessary to create a smooth river bottom and allow for the adequate anchoring of the railway line while preventing erosion to the structure. A back up generator would also be an important component to ensure any power disruptions were covered, just in case.

An environmental assessment undertaken by MNR is the next step. CRAA has requested the Minister ensure the local MNR office is properly funded to carry out the EA to expedite the project.

We will keep you updated as these events unfold. Hopefully we will see a more rapid process for implementing the barrier, as the original management plan deadline of 2005 is passing us by!

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: _____.