



Light Lines

JOURNAL OF THE CREDIT RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2008

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

Norval Fishway and Migratory Species Barrier

Actions today benefit the future of the fishery

Norval Fishway Project

John Kendell

I am very pleased to announce we have a final design selected for the Norval Fish Ladder. After a year and several meetings with MNR staff and engineers and the engineers CRAA has retained to design the ladder we came to a final design selection in late July. The new fishway will be built on the west side of the dam in the location of the existing fish ladder that does not work.

The new ladder will be a combination of a cement ladder similar to the Streetsville ladder in size and style, with a rocky ramp-step-pool channel below entering the plunge pool below the dam. The fishway will permit manual operations in future if we need to separate fish such as Atlantic salmon or to use the ladder for egg collection or for research. It will provide a vital tool for fisheries management in the Credit River.



The Norval fishway will look similar to Streetsville.

How important is the ladder? 99% of trout and salmon reproduction occurs upstream of the Norval Dam on the river! Without fish passage there will be no wild migratory salmonid fishery in the watershed. Steelhead, brown trout and

Atlantic salmon rely on passage north of the Norval Dam to access spawning grounds!



John Kendell and Wayne Vierhout with a pair of steelhead ready for transfer at Streetsville.

A very special thank you to the Reed family for their continued support of CRAA's work to build a new ladder to improve the fishery. If all goes well we will have a design and be ready to build before the end of the year!

Migratory species partition barrier

On May 29, 2008 the first public meeting for the Migratory Fish Barrier was held in Terra Cotta. The engineers retained by CRAA and MNR from Totten Sims Hubicki (TSH) arranged the meeting and display information as outlined in the MNR Environmental Assessment Act.

Roughly 20 people attended, from CRAA, TU, IWFFC and several private landowners. The next public meeting is set to occur in the early Fall – likely in September. The next public meeting will present the final location and alternative. The engineers are working hard to synthesize all the information and evaluation criteria to develop a final recommenda-

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Beaver River Electro Barrier is an option!

tion for the barrier location and the type.

Several private land owners came forward and expressed interest in having a barrier on thier property. Access to private land is most likely needed and is seen as one of the major constraints on the barrier location.

Stay tuned! Once the final public meeting is complete and the 30 day waiting period we hope to proceed to final design and implementation.



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

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messages or suggestions to:

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Bronte/16 Mile Team Leaders

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News and Announcements

Highlights within CRAA!



Upcoming Tree Planting:

Saturday October 4th 2008, 9am at Sprucedale Park in Milton.

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

HOOK, LINE & SINKER
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Advertise your business here!

Wilson's does not offer the 10% discount to members but is a financial sponsor for the CRAA tournament.

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www.wilsonstontario.com

Recent Membership Activities

Wayne Vierhout, Membership Director

CRAA has realized a significant membership increase due to the 2008 Sportsman Show where many new members were signed up and old memberships renewed.

If you are a new or renewing member please make sure CRAA has your email address since email communication saves trees and club funds for stamps.

For those of you that are due for renewal watch for renewal notices this fall.

CRAA Hatchery News

Joeseeph Ward, manager

CRAA volunteers including Joe, Fraser, Peter and others are hard at work every day, year round at the CRAA hatchery; feeding fish, performing maintenance, cleaning tanks and watching the fish. The current number of fish at the hatchery are:

- ◆ 45,000 steelhead fry
- ◆ 12,000 brown trout parr
- ◆ 6,000 steelhead smolts



Completion of Fletcher's Creek Redside Dace Project

Derek Konieczny

Volunteers with the Halton Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship installed the educational sign and planted 20 native trees and shrubs. The project was very well received by citizens walking along the trail and several children helped in the tree planting. The sign should receive lots of attention and is located in a very visible but off-trail location.

Thank you to everyone for your assistance in making this project possible.

There is likely going to be another round of funding for Species at Risk and we would like to install the same sign at several more locations further downstream. Possible locations include central Brampton and south of Steeles Ave.

Green Drake Status Report. By: Henry Frania

CRAA's executive team are pleased the 2008 budget had enough extra cash to permit CRAA to donate \$500 to Henry Frania for his vital research on the decline of the Green Drake in the upper watershed.

Henry Frania

There is now some indication that the nervous system is the initial target of the presumed toxin that is killing nymphs of the Green Drake mayfly on the Credit River. The evidence is that at least some of the nymphs that became moribund just a few days after being transplanted to the Parking Lots site on the Middle Branch of the Credit last summer apparently suffered considerable damage to the suboesophageal ganglion, one of the nerve centres that contributes to the stomodeal nervous system, which controls and receives input from the mouthparts and gut. It is significant in this regard that nymphs which sickened quickly, either did not resume feeding after being transplanted, or soon ceased to do so. It remains to be demonstrated, however, that such individuals always sustain damage to the nervous system.

It is now possible to reconstruct for as far back as the 1930's, how the Green Drake used to be distributed on Ontario trout streams, both in relation to the physical environment, and also in terms of where the Gordon Quill, and Pink Cahill mayflies, as well as the Brown Drake, *Ephemera simulans*, used to be abundant. It can be seen that the Green Drake, along with the Pink Cahill, were common on what W. E. Ricker (1934) classified as the middle "swift trout stream" section of small rivers such as the Credit. Moreover, based on written accounts by F. P. Ide (1935) and others, and also label data from specimens in the insect collection at the Royal Ontario Museum, it is apparent that at least until the 1950's, the Green Drake also occurred "in countless numbers" in the rapids of the Ottawa River at Ottawa, and the St. Lawrence River at Montreal; whether they still do is doubtful. Thus, it is all the more unfortunate that in southern Ontario at least, the Green Drake is now fast disappearing even from its last refuges in the upper parts of trout streams such as the Credit River.



Fish Ladder and Transfer Highlights 2008

Richard Szymanski

Another spring has come and gone and I can't recall one that has had so many records broken. Records including total fish transferred, total fish lifted and most consecutive weeks lifting, the last transfer date being May 8, 2008. I was very surprised at all of the volunteers who showed up on a regular basis this year. It was very nice to have all that extra help, especially on those busy nights. We were all very excited at all of the exposure CRAA was getting from the media (City TV, The Mississauga News, CBC, Global News, Fairchild Media, and Rogers cable 10) about the important work that has been done in getting steelhead access into better spawning waters. Another key moment this year was when the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honorable Donna Cansfield paid a visit to the Streetsville Fish Ladder to experience what is involved in a typical lift and transfer.

At the end of the Spring season we ended up lifting a total number of 1800 fish, close to 1000 of those were transferred up into Black and Silver Creeks. No one had realized how many Steelhead were making it over the Streetsville Dam by themselves until we noticed a lot of unclipped and untagged wild fish as well as hatchery fish jumping at the dam in Norval. By our observations, we estimated the number of fish jumping was around 800. These were comprised of both Fall, Winter and Spring run fish. When we added up all of the numbers, we got a rough estimate that last years run of fish was around 2700. These numbers should only get better as the years go on. Another highlight this spring was the return of 2 fish that had 2 tags already meaning that this was their 3rd time returning to spawn in the credit another first from CRAA!

The Credit River Anglers Association would like to say thank you to all those who gave up their free time to come down and put something back into the fishery that we all love so much.



CRAA's 4th Annual Steelhead Tournament By: Justin Elia

On behalf of the membership of the Credit River Anglers Association (CRAA) we would like to extend our thanks for your support of the fourth annual CRAA Steelhead Tournament. The event was a fantastic success and has begun to grow dramatically thanks to support from our many sponsors. The event started as a small fund raiser for CRAA and in the next few years we hope it will grow into a tremendous success and become a key source of conservation fund raising for CRAA.

This year was limited to a field of 50 and 48 anglers took part on a wet and cloudy Saturday morning. The weather was wet, the river was high and off colour, but everyone had a great time and there were many prizes to be won. The event aims to partner an experienced steelhead angler with a less experienced angler in teams of two. This follows a pro-am style and is great for education and getting more people involved in the sport. Every person in the tournament received a door prize and many prizes were awarded by draw at the end. Prizes for first, second and third placed teams were awarded, and a prize for the largest fish of the day. Fishing was tough, with quite a few hooked, but only 6 entered.

What a close finish with 4 inches separated first place and third place. The top prizes went out to the following participants:

First Place with two fish and a total of 36 inches was Mike Crowell and Ryan Campbell.

Second Place with one fish and a total of 34 inches was John Kendell and James Howell.

Third Place with two fish and a total of 32 inches was David Leschied and Anthony Davis.

Biggest fish went to John Kendell with a 34 inch male.

What a beauty!

CRAA is one of Ontario's leading conservation groups, having completed over 3.5 million dollars worth of stream rehabilitation, tree planting, stocking and more within the Credit River, 16 Mile and Bronte Creek watersheds. CRAA is a non-profit, Ontario registered company, with a dedicated ALL VOLUNTEER board of directors and executive. None of our executive receives any pay so every dollar CRAA raises goes directly into stream rehabilitation and conservation work. With over 5,000 members and supporters CRAA has a great deal of migratory anglers supporting our work. This provides our sponsors with a targeted audience for their products who assist in supporting our non profit, conservation work.

CRAA raised roughly \$1,000 from the 2008 tournament. This money is vital to cover costs for operating the Streetsville fish ladder, transferring adult steelhead by aerated tank and truck 30 km upriver past the next barrier and to our fish hatchery operation. While the MNR does provide funding for roughly half of this important work through CFWIP grants, CRAA is left with fundraising to cover the balance. Without CRAA's hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours every spring and fall steelhead would be only a memory on the Credit River. CRAA lifted a record 1,800 steelhead this year at Streetsville and transferred over 900 to prime spawning tributaries where natural reproduction rates are among the highest in Ontario.

**Report Atlantic salmon catches
to CRAA or MNR!**

E-mail : info@craa.on.ca

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.

Membership Fees: 1 year \$10.00 3 years \$30.00 Lifetime \$100.00 (Please enclose cheque payable to CRAA)

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ Postal Code _____

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

E-mail Address : _____

Yes! I want to volunteer for: _____